



HERITAGE HERALD

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Periodical of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF)

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler !

by Sue Risley and Marybeth Dyer



At left, great friend of all 8th AF WWII organizations, John Gilbert attended from Cawston, a village near Norwich, England. With 466th BG Gold Star son Ralph Winter, second from right, and 466th veteran far right he lit candles in pre-banquet ceremony. Photo: Brian Mahoney.

New Orleans...What a place!!! People know it for great music, awesome architecture and friendly people. Ernie K. Doe once said, "I'm not sure but I'm almost positive that all music came from New Orleans." We felt that experience when the Heritage League joined the 8th AF Historical Society (8th AFHS) in New Orleans for our annual convention on September 27th through October 1st.

We spent two days at the National WWII Museum. The Museum is ranked as the #1 attraction in New Orleans by Trip Advisor and named by USA Today as the #1 Best Place to Learn US Military History. The Museum is also

designated by Congress as the official WWII museum of the United States. We got a chance to see all aspects of the war. We started with the 45-minute movie, *Beyond All Boundaries*, in The Solomon Victory Theater. We saw the major highlights and low lights of this time in history. It really brought in perspective the tasks and goals

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Remembrance 2017

by Allan P. Hallett

I had no idea at this time in my life I would be returning to England. My wife Jean and I have been back many times with the 2nd Air Division Association (2ADA) and had wonderful memories of our time spent there. One in particular being the parade celebrating the 50th Anniversary of VE Day in 1995. I thought nothing could top that, but this trip I just returned from with Beverly and Doug Tomb, celebrating Remembrance Day in England comes pretty close.

I flew from Boston to Washington DC so we could fly over together making it easier. At Heathrow, we took a cab to Madingley Hall, a manor house converted to conference center/B&B that is close to the American Cemetery. The next morning was the Veterans Day ceremony at the Cemetery where Beverly and I had the honor of laying wreaths, hers for the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division, and mine for the 389th Bomb Group. At the reception in the Visitor Center before the ceremony, it was known that I had served there in the 8th Army Air Force, so I got to shake hands with a Three Star General, Richard M. Clark,



Veteran Allan Hallett, 389th, pleased by reverent display of Roll of Honor in the American Chapel at St. Pauls, London. A page is turned each day, revealing some of the 28,000 Americans operating from England, killed in action during 'The War.' Photo: Joe Dzenowagis.

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PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES



It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as president of this wonderful organization for the past four years. Thanks to all of you for your support, and especially to the Executive Board who have been a pleasure to work with and have become wonderful friends, too. I'm delighted to pass the torch to the very capable Mike Simpson as the new Heritage League President.

I will continue as a voting Governor of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library Trust representing the Heritage League. In that capacity, I traveled to Cambridge, Norwich and London again this November to celebrate Veterans Day and Remembrance Day, and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Governors.

I'm delighted that a veteran of the 389th Bomb Group was able to travel over with us!

Joining seventy-seven (77!) World War II veterans at the combined 8th Air Force Historical Society / Heritage League Reunion in New Orleans in September was a very special experience. I'm sure you will enjoy the photos and write-ups about the reunion in the upcoming issue of the Herald. I also thank Malinda Gautreaux and Syria Mougrabi from the Kenner, LA chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution who came to the Hilton the first day to serve as a local welcome committee as our veterans arrived.

—Beverly Tomb (Outgoing President)



I'm honored to assume the mantle as President of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF). We've got some great things in the works for the Heritage League—you'll hear more about that in the future. Besides being the President, I'm also the webmaster so please check often as information about projects and happenings are posted on our website: www.heritageleague.org

We're embarking on a new term of service with a bunch of new folks and I foresee great things happening. We're looking into our reunion planning for next year as well as planning a trip to England in 2019. More on that to come in both the Herald and on the website.

For those of you who don't know about me, I'm the son of a former 2nd Air Division airman. Dad passed away telling me nothing about his service other than he flew with the actor Jimmy Stewart and flew in B-24's. With that scrap of information 35 years after my father's death, I learned that he actually flew with Stewart on several missions with the 445th Bomb Group.

I served in Vietnam as a Green Beret advisor to a Cambodian infantry company. After a back injury prevented me from staying in Special Forces, I went back to school and, upon graduation, entered the Air Force. After leaving the service I worked as a DoD contractor for many of the major defense contractors—Boeing, Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics to name a few. I'm now retired and working as a webmaster for 3 websites.

I'm pleased that Beverly will remain as our representative to the Memorial Library Trust as a voting Governor. She's done an excellent job in the past and has established a rapport with our friends "across the pond."

—Mike Simpson (New President)

(continued from page 1)

these men and women endured and even though they did not think about it, they were so incredibly brave. If you haven't had a chance to visit this wonderful museum, it should be added to your bucket list.

The Convention included tours of the City and Plantation Tours where you could view the beautiful houses around the city. It was a must see for sure.

The Heritage League hosted a hospitality suite at the hotel. We had lots of fun chatting, reminiscing, telling stories and learning about our Vets. We also enjoyed a few cocktails and just a place to relax and unwind with friendly faces.



453rd venerables Perry Kerr (left) and Mo Morris with 453rd daughter and Heritage League stalwart Irene Biel Hurner. Photo: Beverly Tomb

We had our Rendezvous Dinner on Friday night, where we did our traditional candle lighting ceremony passed on to us by the 2nd Air Division Association. For the first time, we used our brand new can-

dleholder designed and made by our own Chris Clark. It will be a tradition we will definitely pass on for years to come.

On Saturday afternoon, we held our annual Heritage League Meeting. We covered our accomplishments for the year and voted on a new slate of officers for the next two years. A special thanks to Beverly Tomb, for doing such a fantastic job as President. Beverly will still be active on the Board as a Past President and Governor with the Memorial Library. The minutes of this meeting will be in a future Herald. Here is the slate for the 2017-2018 Executive Board:

President	Michael Simpson
Vice President	Art Peterson
Secretary	Colleen Mersman
Treasurer	Susan Risley
Membership	Marybeth Dyer
Volunteers	Brian Mahoney
Communications	Lisa Niehoff
Past Presidents	Beverly Tomb
	Irene Hurner
	Billy Sheely Johnson

For the first time, we have mentees that will be involved on the Board learning different jobs and responsibilities. Our 'protégés' are:

Vice President	Jim Birmingham
Membership	Barbra Figueroa
Communications	Doug Dovey
Volunteers	Chris Clark

We are most grateful for their work and contributions. We are always looking for volunteers who are interested in being mentored. Please contact one of us if you'd be interested.

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The Saturday banquet was most impressive. We are always amazed when they take the WWII Veteran photo and how many of our special Veterans still come. There were 77+ that attended. Our special recognition goes to the Heritage League and 2nd Air Division Veterans who attended. Here they are:

Robert Birmingham	(458 th)
Robert Hall	(489 th)
Allan Hallett	(389 th)
John Hildebran	(453 rd)
Lewis Huisman	(453 rd and 389 th)
Elmo Maiden	(466 th)
Sam Mastrogiacomio	(445 th)
Ollie "Mo" Morris	(453 rd)
Don O'Reilly	(491 st and 44 th)
Joseph Reus	(445 th)
Earl Wassom	(466 th)
Frank Youngquist	(466 th)

To end a very special convention, everyone was bussed to the WWII Museum, where we had the banquet and ceremonies in the US Freedom Pavilion:

The Boeing Center, with a B-17 over our heads (we're lucky it didn't fall on us!) along with other planes and the front of a B-24 on the side. The atmosphere was amazing and the food was delicious. We were entertained with music and singing that brought us back to the 1940's. It was a night we will never forget.

It is this once a year event that brings us all together for several reasons. To spend time with the Veterans we have left and together, grow our community to pass on the legacy of what these Veterans did for our freedom. That is what we are all about and that is what we want to share.

Please mark your calendars for the 2018 Convention. The Heritage League will be joining the 8th AF Historical Society again in Dayton, OH, October 10-14, 2018.

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler—"let the good times roll"—is New Orleans' motto, which is carried out by the city's joie de vivre. It is no wonder New Orleans is called the Birthplace of Jazz and a great place for a convention.



Elmo Maiden, 466th BG pilot introduces his children Tom Maiden and Nancy Maiden Shattuck in the 466th BG Hospitality Room. Their spouses Rebecca Maiden and Bob Shattuck. Awaiting their turns for introductions are: Jim Melnyck (466th son), Frank Bostwick (466th veteran), Cynthia and Earl Wassom (466th veteran) at back right. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Outgoing President Beverly Tomb and continuing Membership VP Marybeth Dyer, sharing info with 466th Widow Rhoda Leopold. Marybeth shared encouraging statistics on both new and continuing Legacy Members, virtually offsetting the inevitable loss of our Heritage Life Members (2AD veterans). Photo: Brian Mahoney.



Researchers Chris Clark (489th/44th) and Annette Tison (392nd) are very active supporters and members of The League and the 8th AFHS. Photo: Brian Mahoney.



4 generations! Down front is 489th veteran Robert Hall. Standing L – R: Olivia Koester (great granddaughter), Angela Koester (wife of Scott), Sharon Dobson (daughter of vet), Scott Koester (son of Karen), Sally Lung and Karen Koester (both daughters). Photo: Brian Mahoney.



Steve Dyer chats with LaRue Carpenter, daughter of 453rds Mo Morris, as John Gilbert (from UK) and Ralph Winter (453rd Gold Star son) review Annual Member Meeting papers. Photo: Brian Mahoney.

Strong finish. Beverly Tomb ends her 4 years as League President, but continues as the American appointee Memorial Trust Governor. Photo: Brian Mahoney.



Scott Koester, grandson of Robert Hall (489th vet), at left, and Martha Pedersen (44th) are both recent and active Legacy Members. Photo: Brian Mahoney.

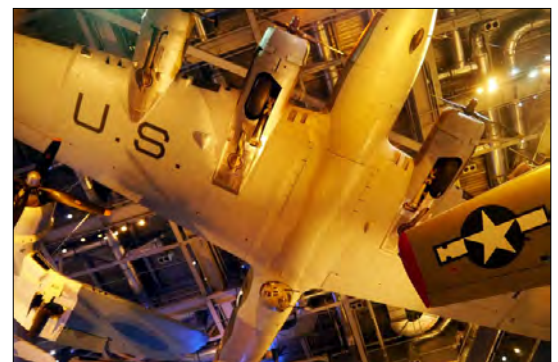


New Orleans DAR members welcome a California member. Barbara Lang Betts (left), widow of Bert A. Betts, 458th BG B-24 pilot and a DAR member in California, arrives at the 8th AFHS and Heritage League reunion to a welcome by two local Daughters from Kenner, LA: Syria Mougrabi and Malinda Gauthreaux (far right). The welcome committee was organized by Heritage League then-president and DAR member in DC, Beverly Baynes Tomb (between Barbara and Syria).

Jim Birmingham is the lucky son of Bob Birmingham (facing away) a 458th vet. Photo: Brian Mahoney.



New protégé and outgoing VP for Volunteers, Chris Clark (489th/44th), outgoing President Bev Tomb (466th), Past President Irene Hurner (453rd), ever-continuing Treasurer Sue Risley (446th), continuing Membership VP Marybeth Dyer (458th), new VP for Volunteers Brian Mahoney (492nd/467th) and new Secretary Colleen Mersman (44th/491st) near the B-24 nose-section at the WWII Museum. Photo: via Brian Mahoney.



Authentic decorations. Navy Corsair, B-17 and wing of P-51 suspended over banquet hall of the WWII Museum. Photo: Brian Mahoney.

(continued from page 1)

Commander, 3rd Air Force, Ramstein Air Base, Germany (also a former commander of the modern 8th AF—Eds), and had several pictures taken with him. I also met the cemetery Superintendent, Rich Cobb and Deputy Superintendent Jerry Leffler and several other Military and Civic officials.

A USAF Chaplain walked me to my front row seat for the ceremony. General Clark mentioned me during the ceremony as a WWII veteran who was present and had served nearby. It was quite chilly and windy, but we skipped looking around the cemetery and survived just fine. We warmed up over lunch at Three Horse-shoes with Alex and Colin Mann and DAR member Leda Hayton and her husband Phil.

Then on to Norwich. Our driver was Colin Mann, a person who takes very seriously driving returning veterans or their families around to where their old bases were. We can't thank him enough for all the driving he did for us, plus the Trust Governors who also gave us rides around Norwich. In Norwich, we stayed at the Maids Head Hotel, which is close to the Norwich Cathedral. I've always wanted to stay there.

A pre-Remembrance Day ceremony was held the next day at Hethel, the base where I served with the 389th BG. The Lotus Car Co. Factory is now next to the flight line and all the other buildings are gone except the rundown combination Gymnasium and Chapel. The land went back to the owner Tim Howlett. He let Fred Squires and his volunteers clean it up and restore it to a point that, with the addition of two Nissen Huts, is turning into quite a nice Museum. Sadly, Tim died, but his wife Anne has taken an interest in it. It was a special honor to lay a wreath at my old base, at a Memorial built around the base of the flagpole flying the American Flag. It was good to see old friends again, like Fred Squires and Kevin Waterfield and his son Matthew. It

was a day well spent, and the Museum is well worth a visit.

We had a special, impromptu dinner at the Maids Head with David and Jean Hastings and Joe Dzenowagis. Joe had brought photos for them from ten or more years ago and we shared many happy memories. Beverly even brought down some American candy for David when he mentioned the treats given him by the airmen during WWII.



Doug Tomb, Jean Hastings, Beverly Baynes Tomb, veteran Allan Hallett, and Trust Governor Emeritus David Hastings, enjoying great meal (and company!) at Maids Head Hotel near Cathedral. Photo: Joe Dzenowagis.

The next morning (Sunday), Remembrance Day Ceremonies were held with a wreath laying at the War Memorial in front of the Norwich City Hall. I took part in this one also, and Beverly escorted me to make sure I didn't fall flat on my face. Good news,

I didn't even stumble! We met Lord Mayor David Fullman and other dignitaries in the Lord Mayor's office before the wreath laying, while Doug Tomb, Joe Dzenowagis and several Trust Governors watched from the balcony. And we saw librarian Libby Morgan processing in with the St. Peter Montfort choir. A service followed the ceremony at the Norwich Cathedral where Beverly and I had reserved seats down front. Every service I have ever been to at the Cathedral has always impressed me. Then off to lunch at the Cathedral cafeteria, where I met Tom Eaton's wife Robin. Doug had to leave after this to get back home to work.

During the next few days, I was invited by Memorial Trust Chairman Richard Middleton to attend the Memorial Trust Annual Meeting. There, past Trust Chairman Matthew Martin eulogized Bud Koorndyk, a fellow 389th BG friend, who left \$30,000 to the Memorial Library in his will. Beverly gave a nice report on the progress of the Heritage League, and after the meeting, I met several other Americans: Ron Packowitz from the US Embassy, DAR member Laurie Atkins, and American Scholar at the library, Don Allen. We also made a short visit to the Memorial Library, a nice place to have

spent more time. Later, I went back to Hethel with Colin Mann to check out a few things I had donated to the museum there, and Beverly went with Paul Hindle to Attlebridge (466th BG where her father was a pilot) to see the beginnings of a Visitors Center that Paul is spearheading.

On Wednesday, the 15th, we went down to London by train and checked into the Marriott Hotel, then found the men's haberdashery section of the city and I found a new all wool hat. The next day, we met Richard Middleton at the RAF Bomber Command Memorial, and then walked to the nearby RAF Club for lunch. That was a very special treat! Later that day, a special service was held in the American Memorial Chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral, beyond the High Altar. I had a chance to meet and shake hands with The Very Reverend David Ison, Dean of the Cathedral, before he presided over the service. We then stayed for the Choral Evensong service, with special seating in the choir. Peter Chapman, MBE, former Lay Canon at St. Paul's arranged for us to all have dinner at Cote Brasserie nearby. I have to admit all the places we ate at, the meals were fine. At times, the appetizer was big enough for me.

St. Paul's was the last of all the events planned for us in England. You might say, "Mission Accomplished." I cannot thank Beverly enough for urging me to go, and for her time spent making all the arrangements, and bringing me back all in one piece. It seemed that I was the only 8th Air Force Veteran there, so I had no one to share the spotlight with. If I would go again, who knows? Joe Dzenowagis, Jr. was there taking a lot of pictures, so we are hoping to see what he comes up with.



'Young Joe,' as his 467th friends call him, has been documenting 2ADA events and 467th reunions, with help from three siblings and his late parents, 'forever.' He works his magic again, getting good chortles out of David Hastings and Allan Hallett (389th vet). Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Goodbyes. Allan with 467th son and documentary Joe Dzenowagis, Jr., and Governor Andrew Hawker. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Alan (at right) enjoys meeting Robin Eaton, left, a continual fan of the 2ADA and Heritage League. Her late husband Tom was a long-serving Trust Chair. Photo: Beverly Tomb.

Matthew Martin, recent 2AD Memorial Trust Chair, 489th vet Allan Hallett, Current Chair Richard Middleton and Governor David Sisson touring Library. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



In the very heart of Norwich. Various regionally identified UK Military units participate in Remembrance Sunday wreath-laying for British and American units and campaigns. Guild Hall left, marketplace stalls (center), and Cathedral (back right) are all iconic, timeless memories for returning 2AD veterans and their descendants and admirers. Photo: Joe Dzenowagis.

489th veteran Allan Hallett at Hethel Remembrance ceremony with Fred Squires, one of our many UK friends who 'never forget.' Photo: Joe Dzenowagis.



Albert Palmer Remembered

by Catherine Thompson



Late Al Palmer welcomes 453rd granddaughter Gretchen Hurner Derbidge on her November 2015 visit. Photo: via Irene Hurner.

Albert Palmer was born and brought up and worked in Norwich all his life.

By chance on a ride out on his Harley Davison around twenty years ago, he arrived at Hethel an airbase for the USA during the Second World War. Construction was going ahead to renovate the 389th gymnasium and chapel into an exhibition of WWII artifacts and memorabilia. After realizing the potential of the work going on to establish a museum, he asked if he could help. His knowledge of identifying uniforms and medals was way beyond anyone at Hethel.

As time went on, his mates, who were also volunteers, began to ask for his advice when placing military artifacts on display. They knew he would have the answer or find it. He was known as a historian for the 389th Bomb Group at Hethel and, as the Exhibition grew, he set up a reference library in the newly constructed Nissen hut. The Exhibition of uniforms and medals are a tribute to Albert. He also bought a jeep to add to his interest and commitment to the veterans of WWII.

He made many visits to reunions in America with his wife Sue, making many friends along the way. Albert was a private individual and went quietly about his business. But, he was also a great friend and will be sadly missed.

On June 21st after fighting a sad illness, Albert passed away with his wife Sue and family by his side.

Thanksgiving at Memorial Library

by Danielle Prostrollo, UEA American Scholar

As an American studying in the United Kingdom, I often have to search out and create opportunities to experience the traditions and holidays I grew up celebrating, my favorite of which is Thanksgiving. Since beginning my time as an American Scholar with the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich, I have been afforded many opportunities to do exactly that—to share these traditions with the library patrons and general public.

On Monday, 20 November we hosted a small afternoon gathering consisting of a short talk about the origins of Thanksgiving in America, given by my fellow American Scholar Don Allen, followed by a short social hour of autumnal desserts which I baked from ingredients brought back from America (and, admittedly, a few from my local supermarket). For the event, I wanted to recreate the pleasant, easy atmosphere of post-feast mingling with some traditional desserts and flavors while allowing people to learn about the origins and meaning of the holiday. Don's talk touched on the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock, the relationship between the Native Americans and the settlers, as well as the political path that the holiday took in order to become recognized as a national holiday.

To accompany the stalwart pumpkin pies, I baked sweet potato pies, gingerbread quick bread, and candied pecans, which were enjoyed with tea and coffee. This intimate event, which sold out in a matter of days, was a great opportunity for both a bit of learning and a bit of fun!



In true spirit of American Thanksgiving, Library staffers served pumpkin pie and brownies. Photo: Donald Allen.



Heritage League's Volunteer Program

MISSION BRIEFING

by Chris Clark, Program Protégé &
Brian Mahoney, VP for Volunteers

'Matchmaking' is not mentioned in the Heritage League Mission Statement, but henceforth will be a method for fulfilling that important and inspiring mission. Sorry, though, this is not about romance, even though it will happen 'online.' We want to match your skills and time limits, to tasks that will fulfill the League's mission in meaningful ways.

In the past, we have tapped the energies of our membership mostly by word-of-mouth. (In my own case, I was first brought on board in 2002 because we needed an Editor, and because I could not resist Irene Hurner's legendary 'asking'!) Have you noticed that when you ask specific individuals to do specific things, they usually say yes, and get right on it?

We now have a program in place to 'harvest' everyone's 'volunteer profile' as well as 'task descriptions' from the Executive Committee's current wish list, and quickly see good matches.

We have set up a part of our FileMaker database to hold these two types of information—available volunteers and desired tasks—and more effectively apply your interests and energies to specific work that increases our mission fulfillment.

Our 'base'—our membership—has been generous whenever we have asked for donations, and this certainly encourages the efforts of all who presently serve in varied roles. It is time to step up the number of practical ways we implement mission, honoring and remembering the service and sacrifice of 2AD personnel in WWII. This new program enables that growth, so matchmaking really is in our mission!

Please tell us about you as a volunteer. Go to <http://heritageleague.org/volunteers.html> and fill out the online form! I will end with small sample of our current wish. Possibly one of these 'has your name on it!' We may already have a match for you on our long and growing list!

- layout artist to help with our newsletter
- Memorial Day flowers program helper
- regional social coordinator: mini-reunions brought to our veterans!
- quality-checking OCR text of scanned historic Second Air Division Association Journals
- helping the Memorial Library transcribe guest logs from Red Cross hospitality sites in England
- curriculum development for WWII and airpower education at primary- through collegiate levels
- website development and maintenance
- WWII research in support of lead-article writing (for the Herald and the web)

Shopping Alert



The Heritage League is participating in the Amazon Smile program. The idea is simple: you shop Amazon Smile and they donate a portion

of the proceeds to the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division—USAAF.

Here is how it works: visit <http://smile.amazon.com>. Log in with your Amazon account username and password. If you don't have an account, create one.

Select the (charity) Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division—USAAF.

In the future, whenever you shop Amazon, shop smile.amazon.com, the Heritage League (name) will be on the top.

Best part—every eligible purchase is a donation. It's easy and we all win. Thanks for your support.

Lost... and Found?

Friendly Norwich cabbie gave Beverly a challenge: reunite this cap. Left in his cab recently, with its owner! Bev is holding it until claimed. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



We appreciate the generous gifts from members inspired by an individual to whom we are all connected. We wish to thank members who have given the Heritage League recent contributions as follows:

IN HONOR OF

Robert Birmingham (Shary Whalen)

IN MEMORY OF

William Berry, Pilot (E. Bud Koorndyk)
Francis P Birmingham, (Julie Vree)
Francis P. Birmingham (Shary Whalen)
Francis P Birmingham (Marybeth Dyer)
Francis P Birmingham (Misc. contributions)
William L Brooks (Vicki Warning)
James L. Bruner (James Bruner)
Hap Chandler (Brian Mahoney)
Maurice Earl Chapman (Louanne Burch)
Ralph and Rachel Dimick (Anna Dimick)
George A. Ferrell (Magaret Ferrell)
R.D. Grumbach (Paul Grumbach)
James V. Goar (Debbie Beigh)

Frank Hanzalik (Donna Desai)
Capt. Dean H. Hart (Katherine Hart)
Ruth Helmer (Bruce Helmer)
Myrtis Howell (Clarence Nordan)
Oak Mackey (T. Basom)
2nd Lt. Elmer R. Morgan (Russell Morgan)
Arnold Piskin (Hannah Piskin)
Daniel J. Reading (Elaine Mecklenburg)
Lt. Col. J.A. Risley (Steve Risley)
Leo W. Ryan (Geraldine Suskin)
Stanley Stupski (Cathy Stupski)
Arthur H. Vanderbeek (Clare Vanderbeek)

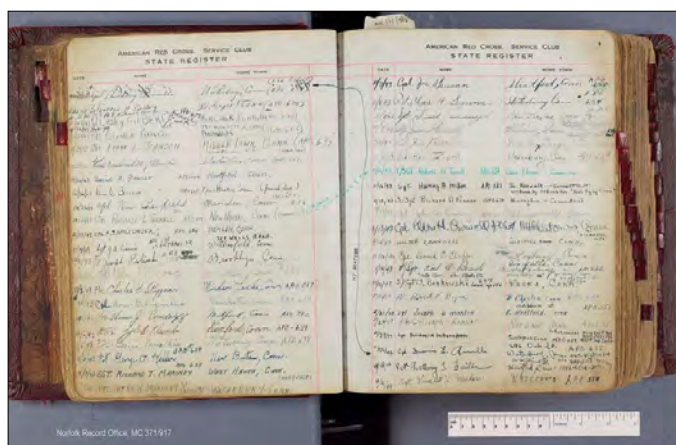
—Folded Wings—

<i>George Ferrell</i>	03/29/17	458 th
<i>Robert G. Ellison</i>	08/16/17	466 th
<i>Lewis Stubits</i>	08/17/17	467 th
<i>Lawrence B. Mc Nary</i>	10/15/17	389 th

A Volunteering Opportunity for 2AD Memorial Library

by Libby Morgan, Trust Librarian

The American Red Cross Service Club at the Bishop's Palace in Norwich opened in 1943 to provide American servicemen visiting the city a home away from home where they could enjoy refreshments, recreational activities, and a place to stay. The state registers of the American Red Cross Service Club for Bishop's Palace are a lasting testament to the important role the Red Cross played in bringing together servicemen and aiding their general welfare.



If pages could talk. A spread in the Red Cross state-by-state register of visiting American service members is subject of volunteer project based at 2AD Memorial Library. Photo: courtesy of 2AD Digital Archive.

Each of the four surviving registers is arranged alphabetically by American state name and details the American servicemen who visited the Club between 1943 and 1946. Service personnel would sign the current register on their first visit to the club, giving their name, date of visit, home town, and Army Post Office number. They would sometimes also provide their service number, rank, full home address, bomb group and squadron numbers, and even scribble notes to their friends. Servicemen could consult the registers to find contact details of other serving personnel from their home state and use the APO system to initiate correspondence.

Contained within the pages of these unofficial registers is most comprehensive list of American servicemen in Norfolk during World War II. This makes them an invaluable

resource for those researching family history and the social history of American servicemen in Norfolk.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help transcribe the state registers of the American Red Cross Service Club at the Bishop's Palace. This will involve working with digitised copies of the registers, online at: <http://www.2ndair.org.uk/digitalarchive>. If you are interested in helping, please email us the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library: 2admemorial.lib@norfolk.gov.uk

American Cemetery—Normandy

Story and photos by Beverly Baynes Tomb

While on a vacation river cruise with my husband Doug, we visited the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer on Sunday, October 22, 2017. I was honored to participate with two WWII veterans in a ceremony at the Memorial there, placing flowers at the foot of the statue “Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves.” The ceremony was arranged with the cemetery staff by our cruise line, Ama Waterways. The US National anthem was played on the carillon while visitors stood facing the American flag and the expanse of white grave markers and beautifully manicured grounds. Then, we three participants turned and picked up the flowers and walked to the base of the statue to place them. The sounds of a bugle playing taps closed the very emotional and fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of those commemorated at the Normandy cemetery.

Before and after that ceremony, instead of touring the visitor’s



Vivid reminder. 150mm German gun above Omaha Beach, one of scores of tactically placed light and heavy guns that barely failed to repulse D-Day Allied landing.

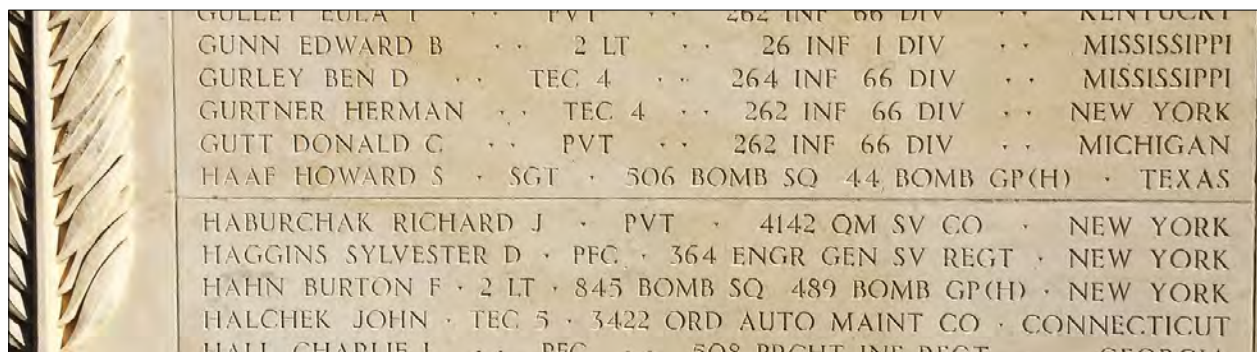
And yet, it persisted! ‘LesBraves,’ commissioned for the 60th anniversary of D-Day, was seen as a temporary installation by sculptor Anilore Banon in 2014. It lies in front of the strategically key village of St. Laurent-sur-Mer.



center, I found and photographed as many 2nd Air Division grave sites on the west side of the memorial and names on the Walls of the Missing in the semicircular garden on the east side of the memorial as I could before our bus left for the next stop. Many thanks to Brian Mahoney for emailing me, on short no-



American Governor of 2AD Memorial Trust, Beverly Tomb, at one of scores of Second Air Division gravesites she visited while at the Normandy American Cemetery. Here she gives respect to Leo J. Manley, 467th BG, KIA August 13, 1944. 9,385 American KIAs total at this cemetery. Photo: Doug Tomb.



Missing heroes. Wall of Missing lists 44th BG airman Sgt. H. S. Haaf (center) and 489th Lt. B. F. Hahn (3 rows lower). These are but two of 14 2AD commemorated at Normandy, and another 100 in graves there.

tice, a list of names from the Heritage League database, sorted several ways, so I was able to find them. At each grave or name on the wall, I spoke the name aloud, and thanked them for their sacrifice to assure our freedom.

The other stops by our bus that day allowed us to step foot on Omaha Beach and gather a bit of sand to



Solemn testament. "The Allied forces landing on this shore liberate(d) Europe June 6th 1944."

bring home, to walk into and around German gun bunkers at Longues-sur-Mer, and to visit the museum in Arromanches highlighting the incredible artificial "mulberry harbor" created there within days of the D-Day landings to supply the allied troops as they pushed into the continent to liberate France.

Our tour guide was wonderful, giving us background information on D-Day during our bus ride from the ship and sharing visuals of the traps set on the beach by the Nazis, visuals of the gun bunkers, and maps of the beaches so we were well-informed when we arrived.

It was incredibly special to visit the D-Day sites for the first time. My visit was more poignant knowing that 114 Second Air Division souls are buried or commemorated at the Normandy American Cemetery among the nearly 9400 buried there, and the over 1500 on the Walls of the Missing. Having a chance to pay respects to many of them and participate in the memorial ceremony made the experience a highlight of my vacation. While the lives lost are sobering, I'm very grateful for the successful outcome of D-Day, and for the freedom we enjoy because of it.

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

by Beverly Tomb

We are delighted with the support and donations for the Heritage League's Flower Fund. Are you wondering where those flowers go?

Here's the list of the 13 American Cemeteries overseas for which we order flowers or wreaths on Memorial Day.

These commemorate 2AD personnel KIA in the European and Mediterranean Theatres, 2,104 are in marked graves and 1,438 are listed on Walls of the Missing.

- 1-Ardenne (France)
- 2-Cambridge (England)
- 3-Epinal (France)
- 4-Florence (Italy)
- 5-Henri-Chapelle (France)
- 6-Lorraine (France)
- 7-Luxembourg (Belgium)
- 8-Netherlands (Netherlands)
- 9-Normandy (France)
- 10-North Africa (Tunisia)
- 11-Rhone (France)
- 12-Sicily-Rome (Italy)
- 13-Brittany (France)



All of the 44th Bateman crew went MIA on the Foggia, IT mission of 16 August, 1943, flown from N. Africa. Our 2017 flowers photographed to overlap the name of Sgt. Adolph Agguire, one of the gunners. Photo: via Brian Mahoney.

Choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Tour the US in April

by Beverly Tomb

The Choristers (boys age 6-13) of St. Paul's Cathedral in London England will be touring in the US during April 2018. With many thanks to Peter Chapman, former Chorister and Lay Canon at St. Paul's and to Angela Palotai, Music Department Administrator & PA to the Director of Music, we have the schedule to share, so that you can make plans to hear them when they sing near you!

Why is St. Paul's Cathedral so special? As many of you know, it includes the American Memorial Chapel beyond the High Altar at the very east end of the Cathedral. The space was rebuilt after being destroyed in the Blitz and is dedicated in its entirety to the American dead of WWII, as a gift from the people of Britain. At the heart of the chapel sits a huge, 500-page, leather-bound book; a roll of honor listing the names of the 28,000 Americans stationed in the UK who gave their lives throughout the War. For many years, Peter Chapman has organized a special November Remembrance Service in the American Chapel for the Governors of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust and friends. Peter also arranged for a Remembrance Service there as part of the Heritage League Reunion in 2014 when we visited Norwich and London. Let's welcome the Choristers when they come to a US city nearby!

Thursday 12 th April	Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati
Friday 13 th April	Concert in Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati
Saturday 14 th April	Concert in the Cathedral of St Philip, Atlanta
Monday 16 th April	Concert in World War 2 Museum, New Orleans
Tuesday 17 th April	Concert in Park Cities Presbyterian Church, Dallas
Thursday 19 th April	Concert in St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Houston
Saturday 21 st April	Concert in St James' Cathedral, Chicago
Sunday 22 nd April	Morning service in St James' Cathedral, Chicago
Monday 23 rd April	Concert in Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis
Thursday 26 th April	Concert in Philadelphia

What I Remember—

A Letter from 492nd BG Veteran Robert L. 'Bud' Thomas

One day in 1944 the 8th A.F. was "stood down" because of bad weather, but our crew was called down to fly a mission. Our original 492nd bomb group had been disbanded and we were completing our time with the 36th Bomb Squadron (H) located at Cheddington. This was a radar countermeasures unit sponsored by the R.A.F. The British assigned us to do some "foxing the Hun." We flew a radar 'screen' over the North Sea and continued our diversion onto the continent. The "Limeys" enlisted our aid in all kinds of "spoofs." That day, I think we were about the only ship out.

Sailing out at about 10,000 feet, we were to 'impersonate' the 8th A.F. forming up for a normal daily mission. In addition to our own crew we carried a lieutenant who had written a script intended for the Jerries to intercept. We were given sheets of paper, with lines to read at his direction: normal crew talk, plus some cussin' that was usually kept off the air. All went well except for getting back down somewhere in Western England.

It occurred to me that there are so many stories like this that may not have been told. Just a few: watching Cologne being firebombed; hearing buzz bombs but not the supersonic V-2 rockets; planes icing up or losing engines; the King's fir tree farm at North Pickingham (at the end of our runway), and a big airfield in East England, Manston, for crippled returning ships. It had two big crossed searchlights at

the end of the runway. Planes would fly through and on final approach gasoline lights would be ignited so you could see down the very long runway—about 8000 feet. It had another grass runway (for belly landings). Anyways, a lot of fine books cover most of this.

I seem to remember reading one of my magazines where many of the records of WWII were photos put on microfilm. They were in a Washington storehouse. They were lost in a fire. So, it seems to me that a lot of history of WWII A.F. was lost. (Good news, Bud. The fire was of personnel records, in St. Louis, in 1972. The other stuff is all still fine and available in the National Archives.—Ed.)

The sights I remember somehow need to be told from feeble old brains like mine. Only the people who were there (and still alive) can fill in the blanks, so to speak. It will take some good writers to tell these tales. Many of my memories were episodes that only took minutes—or sometimes just seconds. Sometimes it makes me wonder: are they all true or just a bad dream or something? Sometimes I wonder if I'm making some of this stuff up. I was co-pilot on Bert E. Young's crew. I loved these guys. There is so much to tell, but time won't allow it. Thanks for reading.

(Mr. Thomas, a 98 year-youngster, answered the Heritage Herald request for letters from veterans. Thank you for sharing memories from WWII. If other veterans have a story to share, please send them to me, Christopher Clark, Volunteers Protegé. Contact information is on the back of The Herald.)

RENEWAL / APPLICATION FOR HERITAGE LEAGUE OF THE 2ND AIR DIVISION (USAAF)



We strongly encourage you to pay through PayPal. It is safe and secure way for you to pay your membership and contributions. LOG ON TO <http://www.heritageleague.org/> Otherwise

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Dues for friends and relatives of 2nd Air Division Veterans , check one:

- ☐ PDF Newsletter via Email -*provide email address above*- \$20
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2nd Air Division Veterans are eligible to be a Honorary Lifetime Member; check one:

- ☐ PDF Newsletter, via Email -*provide email address above*- \$0 (free)
☐ printed Newsletter via regular mail - \$30

(If the cost of the printed newsletter causes a hardship, please let us know)

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution to the Heritage League operations \$ _____
 Contribution to 2nd Air Division Memorial Library(Norwich,UK) \$ _____
 Contribution to Flower Fund for Cemeteries \$ _____

If you like, we would be pleased to note your contribution as...

In Memory of (deceased) _____

OR

In Honor of (living person) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME AND TALENT

We are very appreciative of the strong fiscal support you have shown for The League and related entities. Would you also be able to share your time and talent with us?

At <http://www.heritageleague.org/volunteers.html> you can fill out a form that lets our expanded Volunteer Program pair you with work that supports our mission!

Happy Holidays
from your
Heritage League Executive Committee

We are so very grateful for your membership and support. We are extremely indebted to all the 2nd Air Division Veterans past and present. We will always be so thankful for their missions and service. Please help us continue our work by encouraging all generations in your family to join us in our mission. I especially hope you will join me in perpetuating the great legacy of the Second Air Division! The Heritage League affords you a practical way to show how much you value the memory and lessons of our esteemed veterans, as a member or even a volunteer.

If you are looking for a year-end tax-deductible donation, please consider the Heritage League. We are a 501(c) (3) organization and would appreciate the support. We can also facilitate donations to the Memorial Library in Norwich England.

Please mark your calendars for the 2018 Reunion. The Heritage League will be joining the 8th Air Force Historical Society again in Dayton, Ohio, October 10-14, 2018.

SHOPPING ALERT: --Heritage League is part of the Amazon Smile program. If you designate us as your charity, Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to our organization. Log on to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division USAF. It's easy and we all win...thanks for the support.

Our 2018 Annual Membership has begun. We want to thank you for your ongoing membership and hope you will consider renewing your commitment to the Heritage League. If you have not renewed in awhile, we hope you will come back. We have missed you.

2nd Air Division Veterans- Your membership is free and you are considered an Honorary Lifetime Member. (HLM). You will be receiving the Herald by email. In the event you want a printed copy of our newsletter, we ask for \$30 donation per year. If the cost of the printed newsletter causes a hardship, please let us know. We will make sure to accommodate you.

Please complete the membership form NOW and mail your check to the address on the form.

If you wish to use PayPal, visit our website at www.heritageleague.org. You are welcome to sponsor a member. Please feel free to copy our membership form.

The Heritage League is always looking for volunteers. In the coming year, we will use new ways to ask you how you might volunteer with us in fulfilling our exciting mission. We will be asking for volunteers for convention support, planning regional get-togethers and outings, support with the publication of "The Herald" among other 'opportunities'. We encourage everyone to get involved. Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

You can also find more information on our website, www.heritageleague.org.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We value your membership and participation.

Sincerely,

Marybeth Dyer (458th BG), VP- Membership
6410 Valley Oak Plaza
Martinez, CA 94553
925-387-5283
smbdyer@sbcglobal.net

2nd Air Division Memorial Library Heritage Open Days

Remembering the past....Inspiring the future...

by Jenny Christian, 2AD Memorial Trust Library Manager



Decorations for Heritage Open Days in 2AD Memorial Library. Photo: American Scholar Donald Allen.

During the 7th–10th September the Memorial Library took part in the ‘Heritage Open Days’. This annual event is England’s largest festival of history and culture bringing together organisations and events all over the country.

For four days in September, there is the opportunity to visit historic buildings or parts of buildings and places that aren’t normally open to the public, and it’s all free! The library, of course, is open six days every week, but our involvement provided the opportunity to show some films from our collection and we also displayed items of memorabilia including some uniform jackets for the children to try on.

This year we were included in ‘The Norwich Heritage Hunt’, a trail through the city, stopping off at different venues and meeting important characters from Norwich’s past. Starting at The Forum, important characters from Norwich’s past were at various points along the trail, all with a story to tell. The Memorial Library played host to ‘Major Gently’, Justyn Keeble, USAAF Intelligence Officer. The trail ended at the Cathedral and children could collect a certificate and enjoy various activities.

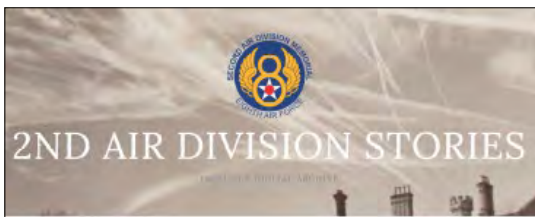
Take a look at our Facebook page. <http://www.facebook.com/2ndair.org.uk> It was great fun and we were thrilled that many of the visitors were people who hadn’t discovered us before. On behalf of the library staff very best wishes to you all.



In honour of Heritage Open Days, we were visited by ‘Major Gently, USAAF Intelligence Officer’, Justyn Keeble. Here he is with a fellow service-person, Lisa Ortiz, who is pictured on the right. Lisa is the daughter one of our former UEA American Scholars, Linda McCarthy. (Both of the individuals are re-enactors modelling authentic period uniforms.—Ed.) Photo: courtesy Memorial Library.

2nd Air Division Stories Blog

by Libby Morgan, Trust Librarian, 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, Norwich, England



archive.

You’ll find the blog online at <https://2ndairstories.com>, and if you’d like to be notified when a new story is published scroll down the page and click the red “Follow” button.

If you’d be interested in joining Nathaniel and becoming a 2nd Air Division Stories researcher and blogger I’d be delighted to hear from you. Just send an email to libby.morgan@norfolk.gov.uk to find out more.

You might like to follow our Memorial Library blog as well—Which features posts written by our two American Scholars about everything that’s happening here at the Memorial Library <https://2ndair.wordpress.com>.

To accompany the 2nd Air Division Digital Archive <http://www.2ndair.org.uk/digitalarchive/Dashboard/Index/6> we have a new blog called 2nd Air Division Stories—created for us by Memorial Library volunteer Nathaniel Sikand-Youngs, a student at the University of East Anglia. The blog aims to tell the story of the 2nd Air Division in Norfolk during WWII, uncovered from the documents in our digital



ANSWERS TO YOUR TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

-by Pete O'Tube, Expert

Dear Mr. O'Tube,

Among my dad's pictures is one of a fully landed Liberator that seems to have veered off the runway and plowed a pretty good furrow in the grass, with its nose. He labeled it "Cat E" with no explanation. Could it have been a B-24 with a name, but not yet sporting it in nose art?

—Margaret Noonan Alia

Dear Marge N. Alia,

You can call me Pete! Like the aircraft mechanics working at their hardstand, who usually got away without saluting if they were in the middle of a procedure, I am pretty informal. Hollywood overdoes the saluting thing, especially considering that the bulk of USAAF personnel had been civilians recently, and the focus was more on specialty training and competence, than military formalities. They were in the middle of a war.

That photo could have been taken, many times, at any of the B-24 bases. Nose gear on the Lib was a weak point, and a hard landing, or sinking into soft earth at any speed, not battle damage, were the usual culprits.

Ever wonder what happened next to this plane? Once runway operations had stopped, ground personnel would have gone to the scene with suitable tow vehicles, and in this case, a few big, tough rubber bladders that could be inflated under strong point on the wings or fuselage, then assessed for 'triage' steps—First Aid—that would allow it to regain the thick runway, peripheral track, or hardstanding, on its own three 'legs.' Nose wheel failures would not be fixed in the field, usually. A heavy tow truck with a long crane (or boom), fitted with a sling that pinned into engineered hard-points on either side of the nose, would get it to a repair location.

What happened to it next depended on its assessment by an authorized crew chief. If the plane seemed like

it could be properly repaired at the base in under 36 hours, it was "Category A." If it could still be done locally, but would take more than 36 hours, owing to complexity or need to order parts from afar, it was "Category AC." At your typical base there were about a dozen support units attached, including a 'Sub Depot.'

'Category B' indicated that specialized skills needed to effect the repair were not available at the base ('sub-depot'), but were at the Strategic Air Depot (SAD) for the 2nd Air Division, located at Watton, Army Air Field #376. This was a large base, home to 3SAD's two Air Depot groups (31st and 46th) as well as the 25th BG. (More on them in next letter.) It pretty much overwhelmed the town of Griston, to accommodate its large population of specialists.

I bet you know where this is going... 'Cat E' on the photo tells us that this poor wreck was deemed to be beyond economical repair. I doubt that it would have been allowed a plane name, and have some trouble imagining that a combat crew would want such a name.

— Categorically yours, Pete

Dear Pete,

The bottom margins of many official USAAF photos have, in white handwriting right in the photo, information that is partly discernible, usually the bomb group responsible, and the date. I am not sure what to make of "25BG(R)" on the rare picture of a target before, or well after a bomb strike.

No bombs in the picture... so how was it a 'bomb group'? I have never seen it mentioned in connection with any of the three wings of the 8th.

*—Curiously yours,
Norman Vestal Gaitor*

Dear N. 'Vesti' Gaitor,

Not unlike the 801st (later 492nd) 'bomb group,' the 25th had missions regarding reconnaissance, weather scouting, and spooky operations. Like the Carpetbaggers, their true mission was everything but bombing. From the official postwar history of the USAAF:

Constituted as 25th Bombardment Group (Reconnaissance) on 17 Jul 1944. Activated in England on 9 Aug 1944. Served with Eighth AF until V-E Day. Used various aircraft, including B-17's, B-24's, B-25's, B-26's, P-38's, and L-5's. Operations included reconnaissance over the waters adjacent to the British Isles and occasionally to the Azores to obtain meteorological data; flights over the Continent for weather information needed in planning op-

erations; night photographic missions to detect enemy activity; and daylight photographic and mapping missions over the Continent. Occasionally engaged in scout missions to target areas for last-minute weather information that was furnished to approaching bomber formations, on-the-scene visual evaluation of bombardment strikes, and electronic-countermeasure missions in which chaff was spread to confuse enemy defenses during Allied attacks. Moved to the US, Jul-Aug 1945. Inactivated on 8 Sep 1945.

Check out <https://rafwatton.info/a-brief-history-of-the-25th/> You will also find some unexpected info on their commander, Elliot Roosevelt.

Stay under the radar,
Pete

95 Year-Old WWII Vet Receives Diploma

*Article by Bambi King-Pettus Post
Beeville Bee-Picayune, Beeville, TX
(Submitted via Larue Morris Carpenter,
daughter of Oliver Morris)*

On May 27, Pettus had its graduation for the 2017 graduates. Not only was it a special day for all the seniors who would be starting off their life into adulthood, but it was also a momentous occasion for Oliver "Ollie" Morris, who—at the age of 95—received his high school diploma!

Mr. Morris chose to forego finishing high school in order to join the Army Air Corps and fight for our country in WWII. It's always an honor to see Mr. Morris at the school's past Veterans Day programs receiving recognition for his service to our country. Not only will he receive our praise and accolades for his service, but also for his tireless dedication to obtaining his education. At 95 years young, he's a great example that anything is possible, no matter your age. Congratulations, Mr. Morris!

Editor's note: To quote Bo Bennett- 'A dream becomes a goal when action is taken toward its achievement.' Congratulations, Ollie, for a job well done!



Oliver L. Morris was awarded his High School diploma during the graduation at Pettus this past Friday (May 26, 2017) evening. 'Mo' was the oldest veteran there that morning, having served in World War II and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross among other medals during his time in the Army Air Corp. Photo courtesy of: Jason Collins/Beeville Bee-Picayune.

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