



HERITAGE HERALD

Issue Number 73, December 2021 • www.heritageleague.org
Periodical of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF)

Heritage League Returns to Savannah

By Irene Hurner



Three 2nd Air Division WWII veterans were at the center of action in the League's hospitality room. Don O'Reilly (305th, 491st & 44th bomb groups), Max Minear (491st BG) and Allan Hallett (389th BG) happily enjoy the comfortable setting and attentive environment. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

Our first Heritage League stand alone reunion was held in 2006 near Savannah in Pooler, Georgia, the home of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. For me, attending our reunion this year in Savannah was almost like going home. I enjoyed staying along the river, watching the many ships loaded with containers go by, and appreciated the free ferry which took us to the other end of the waterfront, passing the statue of the Waving Girl and her dog.

There was only one rainy day. It didn't bother us, as we had a most enjoyable hospitality suite where people gathered to watch football games, the World Series, put together puzzles, snack, and most of all, to visit.

The Heritage League annual business meeting, held Thursday evening, October 28th, was well attended, and, via the power of Zoom and the internet, others were able to join also including WWII vets Earl Wassom (466th), and Jim Lorenz's wife Mary, representing Jim Lorenz (466th). Richard Middleton, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust of the Second Air Division (USAAF) in Norwich, England, brought us up to date regarding the current schedule, the blessing of the *Roll of Honor*, and expected activities in the coming months. I continue

to marvel at the changes in technology which makes the world an ever smaller place. Our very competent slate of officers was reelected for a two-year term. The Heritage League board is comprised of caring individuals committed to the mission of honoring and remembering the accomplishments of the veterans of the Second Air Division. When looking at the officers names, there are many who have been in office ten, fifteen, or more years. I so appreciate this dedication. Without all of those who volunteer in so many ways, the League's mission would not be accomplished. I thank them all.

(continued on page 2)



This year marks the museum's 25th anniversary. A proud American flag is reflected on the garden entrance from its post at the end of the garden's reflecting pool. The grounds provide a serene setting containing countless markers and memorials recognizing crews and their organizations. It is also the location of the special Memorial Day ceremony placing 26,000 flags memorializing 8th Air Force fallen. A British-themed Chapel also occupies the grounds. Photo: Doug Dovey.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE —Marybeth Dyer



*We are all “flying high.”
I don’t mean that literally,
but emotionally, yes.*

As I am writing this message to you, some of us in the Heritage League have just returned from our 2021 Convention in Savannah. We joined the 8th AF Historical Society in late October of this year. It was so wonderful to see all of our friends in person and talk with the Veterans who attended. In this Herald, you will see some great pictures and writings about this reunion.

For your information, here are some of my takeaways from our trip to Savannah:

- The more you attend the more you cherish the time with your friends and especially the Veterans. The hugs, the catching up and the excitement was amazing because we haven’t seen each other for a long time. It made this reunion much more special.
- You never know who you will meet. I met two wonderful couples, both were 458th BG second generation like me and it was their first reunion. It was such a pleasure to hear their stories and most important

it was fun to know we had something in common. Could it be that our Dads met at some point or just knowing that they were at the same base. Cool stuff!!

- Cherish those stories. We had three—2nd Air Division Veterans sitting on the couch in our hospital-suite talking about their experiences and telling stories we had never heard. We recorded some of it. That won’t happen much longer. More cool stuff!
- Finally—what I learned on this trip is that we all need each other to keep this legacy going. Our family stories are all we have and if we don’t share and thrive the stories will be lost. And that can’t happen.

If you were in Savannah, it was so nice to see you. If you did not attend, please think about joining us next year. We will be in Boston with the 93rd BG, October 6-10, 2022. More information will be coming soon. Come and share your story and bring your family.

It is time to renew your membership for 2022. Our renewal form is included in this *Herald*. Please also consider for your future generations to sign up.

Finally, our lives are filled with busy moments and events. Take some time to remember a Veteran and thank them for their service. It will mean the world to them.

Table of Contents

Heritage League Returns to Savannah	1	Nose Art— <i>Perils of Pauline</i>	20
President’s Message	2	Minutes of HL Annual Meeting	21
Special Memories & Friendships	4	Kids’ Corner	24
Savannah Reunion Photo Spread	6	Remembrance Day—Over There	25
Enchanting Savannah	13	In Honor Of/Folded Wings	26
News Bites	14	History Snapshots	28
Birthday Vets	15	Dream Flight—Don O’Reilly	29
Fateful Mission of <i>Lady Be Good</i>	16	Videos We Like	30
Silver Star & Legion of Merit	18	Amazon Smiles	30
News from American Library	19	Heritage League Calendar	31

(Heritage League Returns to Savannah, continued from page 1)

A special award was presented by VP of Volunteers, Brian Mahoney, via Zoom, to Chris Clark thanking him for his many donated hours. Chris resigned as a protégé because of health issues. As a footnote: the entire board was present at our reunion.

Friday saw attendees ride buses out to the Mighty Eighth Museum. Walking the grounds, looking at the markers memorializing the many bomb groups, remembering the League’s 2006 moving service while visiting the Chapel of Fallen Eagles, wandering through the exhibits, and watching the demonstrations brought back memories. This year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the museum. So many things have changed, but the mission of remembering hasn’t. Before we left, there was a WWII vet question and answer panel. Each of the four vets had interesting stories to tell. Everyone laughed when Don O’Reilly told how he lost his stripe because he was shooting behind his superior officer’s head at a fox with his pistol while in a jeep. He missed the fox.



Savannah's tribute to Florence Martus—a statue along the river. During late 1800s, accompanied by her dog, she was known as the friendly greeter. She waves, welcoming arriving ships and wishing safe passage to departures. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.

At the Rendezvous Dinner later that evening, not only was Don given a birthday cake by President Marybeth Dyer, but Beverly Tomb somehow found a stuffed fox to present to Don. We all had another laugh, and wished Don an upcoming happy 100th birthday.

Again this year there were first time attendees. How great to have people come join us. I may have missed visiting with some first timers, but those who I spent time with include: Yvonne Caputo (author of *Flying with Dad*) and Kirk Walters (467th), Greg Hurner and Erin Gilbert (453rd), and Sara and John Grivas (458th).

People traveled from near and far to be in Savannah. Among them Matt Minear accompanied his grandfather, Max, from Florida. David Long came with his uncle Allan Hallett. Karen Merrell, Larue and Bud Carpenter, family of Oliver Morris (453rd) (“Mo” was 100 years old last July) were there from south Texas, along with many others from all over the country. Karen and Larue said that they had a wonderful time and look forward to the next reunion in Boston, Massachusetts.

There were twelve WWII vets who attended the reunion of the 8th AFHS. Three of those were from the Second Air Division: Allan Hallett, 389th BG top turret gunner; Max Minear, 446th BG ball turret gunner; and Don O'Reilly, military policeman in 305th BG (a 1st Div B-17 base), 491st BG (accidental bomb dump explosion destroyed this base), and the 44th BG. Don says that he is the only vet he knows of who served on three different bases and two divisions. It was great fun to watch the three fellows sit on the couch in our hospitality room commenting on the games they were watching, and listening to their war stories.

WWII vet Ted Kirkpatrick, a flight engineer and, according to Ted, the last of his 379th BG, (The Grand Slam Group), 527th Squadron, 1st Division, visited several times. I learned that he, as a B-17 flight engineer, was qualified in all the positions of the crew except radioman and navigator. Ted, at 98 years old, is still active and a Colonel in the Commemorative Air Force.

I was most honored to be asked by Allan Hallett to be his escort at the candle lighting ceremony before the banquet on Saturday evening. Back at the table, I gave him a peck on the cheek and thanked him. Allan looked at me and said, “I’ve known you a long time, and this is the first time you’ve kissed me.” I was speechless, and that is saying something for me.

One other memorable thing happened on Sunday morning: Marybeth Dyer and I accompanied Don O'Reilly to mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint John the Baptist. Afterwards, Don was speaking to Most Reverend Stephen Parkes, Bishop of Savannah, and said that he would be one hundred years old in two weeks. Marybeth took a picture of the bishop giving Don a special blessing. 🙏



Heritage League past President Irene Hurner accompanies veteran Allan Hallett for the memorial candle ceremony at the gala dinner. The ceremony was presided by Heritage League former President Beverly Baynes Tomb. Photo: Craig Dubisher. 8AFHS.

Special Memories and Friendships

By Sue Risley



Heritage League treasurer Sue Risley checks on her Vets Don, Max, and Allan during the active and lively events in the hospitality suite. Sue mentioned that Max has no shortage of stories. Photo: D. Dovey.

Reflecting back on my visit to Savannah, there are so many things to think about. What comes to mind first is friends. I have met some of my dearest friends through the Heritage League. When my father, J. Audley Risley, 446th Bomb Group, first connected me to the League, I was hesitant to get involved. I am so grateful that I stuck it out because of the friendships that I have cultivated. The last year has been a tough one for me since I lost my partner in October of 2020, but my League friends have been with me through it all. I was presented with a picture of Dave and me at our Heritage League convention in Washington, DC—there



Stories with dialogue. Three Heritage League board members in active conversation with our three Vets in the hospitality room. Photo: D. Dovey.

were some tears flowing.

I also made new friends in Savannah. One was veteran Max Minear who was also in the 446th and knew my dad. I had met Max at what is now the American Library in Norwich on one of the 2nd Air Division trips back to England and it was nice to reconnect. We had a lot of great conversations in the League hospitality suite along with his grandson Matt. Max had a lot of stories about his service to our country in WWII as a ball turret gunner, and later as an ordinance disposal technician. If you ever think you have a tough job, spend a few minutes with Max. You'll leave that conversation thinking you've had it pretty easy.

The day spent at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force was very special too. I had a long talk with my dad at the 446th bomb group memorial. The first time I was at the Museum was with my parents at the Heritage League's first stand alone convention in 2006.



Vet Max Minear and grandson Matt speak with Sue Risley after the Heritage League annual meeting. Sue's father and Max were friends during the war. Photo: D. Dovey.

It was a beautiful day to walk around the Memorial Gardens of the Museum, remembering what the Heritage League is all about—perpetuating the memory of the Second Air Division and honoring the efforts and sacrifices of its members during WWII.

It is always difficult to leave the conventions. Even though we have Zoom to connect with people there is nothing like spending in person time with them—especially in the hospitality suite. I'm counting on seeing everyone in Boston next fall. 🕊️



Ralph Winter (president of 392nd Association and Gold Star son) with past Heritage League president Irene Hurner (453rd) after the annual meeting. Looking forward to the next evening event on the schedule. Photo: Doug Dovey.



A reunion to be pleased about. It was great to return to Savannah beams Treasurer Sue Risley and President Marybeth Dyer. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Looking sharp! Veterans Ted Kirkpatrick (379th) and Don O'Reilly (305th, 491st, 44th) are assembled with the other nine veterans after the gala dinner. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.

Our three Vets maintained their attentiveness due to a setting conducive to swapping stories and conversation. Oh yes, the NFL game on the screen also helped! Brian Mahoney, in the corner, is well involved in researcher talk with Matt Minear (Grandson of Max Minear). Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Savannah Reunion 2021



8th Historical Society reception desk and friendly welcoming team. (L-R) Anne Marek, Society President and Treasurer; Eleesa Faulkner, Vice President; and Rick Marek. Photo: D. Dovey.



Heritage League Vice President Jim Birmingham (458th) and President Marybeth Dyer (458th), cousins, are pleased the annual meeting is over. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



8th Historical Society managing director, Debra Kujawa, works the audience at one of the reunion presentations. David Long (a Vietnam Vet), and Heritage League member and nephew of WWII Vet Allan Hallett, adds his comments during the Q&A session. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.



Michael Webster, associated with the 56th Fighter Group, makes a comment at a reunion Q&A session. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.



Savannah's water taxi provided pleasant transportation from the hotel to the main river front area. Photo: Craig Dubishar.



466th Bomb Group colleagues Beverly Baynes Tomb with Jim Melnyk converse after the annual meeting. Photo: D. Dovey.



The reunion host hotel: Marriott Savannah Riverfront. Marriott Hotel photo.



After the annual meeting concluded, Marybeth Dyer and husband Steve are pleased about the success of the event. Photo: D. Dovey.



Heritage League's annual meeting was held Thursday afternoon, October 28th. Attended by almost 30, it was a room-based event also attended by several on Zoom. HL Past President and VP for Volunteers Brian Mahoney is in the first row with veteran Max Minear and his grandson Matt. The minutes of the meeting are contained in this *Herald* on page 21. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Three members at the Heritage League meeting are looking forward for the next event—open bar before for the buffet dinner program on the legacy of 8th Air Force at Hunter Airfield. (L-R) John and Sara Crivas (458th), with Kim Whitney (93rd). Photo: D. Dovey.



Heritage League Vice President Jim Birmingham (458th) and 389th Vet Allan Hallett share comments at the conclusion of the annual meeting. What's for dinner? Photo: Doug Dovey.



Reunion Day Two

National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force President and CEO Scott W. Loehr welcomes reunion attendees and veterans to the facility on Friday, October 29th. He is leading the effort to broaden the museum's outreach to more groups. Photo: Craig Dubishar 8AFHS.



Located among the many monuments in the Museum's memorial garden, the 448th BG, Seething, presents its story movingly: *'...some were so young, just out of High School but most in their late teens or young twenties, eager to do what they could to PRESERVE FREEDOM. Combat Casualties: 146 bombers, 460 aircrew lost, 950 prisoners of war or evaders.'* Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



The American flag at the end of the Museum's reflecting pool adds a solemn prominence to the memorial grounds. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.



A B-24 capping one of the museum's Chapel stained glass windows represents the 93rd Bomb Group. Displayed with the group emblem are two significant medals awarded to its personnel. The Medal of Honor (left) was awarded posthumously to Lt.Col. Baker, operations officer, for his actions on the 1943 Ploesti mission. The other medal is the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to many aircrews during the war. For more about the DFC, see last July's *Herald* 72. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.



Interior of the 8th Museum Chapel of Fallen Eagles. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.

A plaque near the Chapel bell tower is dedicated to 'all who served and in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice flying B-24 bombing missions in all combat theaters during World War II to preserve our freedoms.' Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



At the signals officer's tent, the re-enactor attentively demonstrates use of hot line to inform headquarters warning them of enemy air formations back then. Heritage League VP Brian Mahoney, at rear, inadvertently demonstrates the communications posture of current times (Head drooped. Let's see, do I have data? Where is Hdqs web page? Siri, what is their number?). Former president Beverly Tomb observes. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Re-enactors 'signals bivouac' set up in front of the museum's Chapel. They actually slept there overnight! Photo: Doug Dovey.



A P-47 is highlighted in a 1943 Life Magazine (only 10 cents!) as presented by a re-enactor on the museum grounds. The 2nd Air Division had four groups which flew the P-47 at various times. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.



Vet Don O'Reilly had earlier shared his war-time story about attempting to shoot a fox while on jeep patrol (he lost a stripe because of it). We presented a symbolic 'fox' to him at the rendezvous dinner. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Former Heritage President Irene Hurner with her son Greg, and Erin Gilbert sharing some history in front of *Fightin' Sam*. The bombardier/gunner station behind them was known as the greenhouse. Later B-24 types came equipped with a movable gun turret. Photo: Craig Dubishar 8AFHS.



Vet Ted Kirkpatrick, B-17 flight engineer, sole representative of his 379th BG, was a lively and welcome guest in the Heritage League hospitality room. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.



B-24 *Fightin' Sam* on display in the 8th Museum. Was Vet Don O'Reilly's current look inspired by this art? According to the bomb symbols, the aircraft is credited with 38 combat missions. Previously on loan from the American Air Museum in Britain, the museum recently received its title and will commence restoration work. Photo: D Dovey.



Savannah is known for its many squares in the residential areas. One of them, Chippewa Square, is where the film *Forest Gump* featured Forest on the bench with his box of chocolates. The draping Spanish moss makes for a serene setting. Of course, the movie company used their own bench for filming. Photo: D. Dovey.

Reunion Day Three



The Six Pence Pub provided a fitting British atmosphere for our conventioners. Many movie crews and stars filming in Savannah frequented here. If a pint would only cost 'six pence' today! Photo: Doug Dovey.



Visiting the town, Larue and Bud Carpenter with Karen Merrell (middle) (family of 'Mo' Morris, 453rd) came across pumpkin man preparing for Halloween the next day. Photo: Doug Dovey.



The audience of over 300 at the reunion finale gala dinner stand for the opening ceremony. In the foreground is the table containing the memorial candles. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Enjoying the gala dinner setting, Vet Allan Hallett with Historical Society Secretary and Heritage League member Travis Chapin (both 389th BG) and Travis' wife Ginny. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.



Dressed for the occasion, the officer re-enactors attending the Gala dinner. Photo: Doug Dovey.

It was great to see and visit with our WWII veterans. We were elated that eleven made it to the gala event on Saturday evening October 30th, and saddened over those who couldn't be with us. Photo: Doug Dovey.



From Left to Right: Dr. Martin Raber-bombardier; Bill Hennessey (447th); Teddy Kirkpatrick (379th); Gordon Fenwick (401st); Alfred Dusey (447th); Allan Hallett (389th BG top turret gunner); Max Minear (446th BG ball turret gunner); Don O'Reilly (305th, 491st, 44th MP); William Yepes (303rd) now deceased; Bill Roche (452nd); Edward Earl Zesch (34th waist gunner); Missing from photo but at the reunion: Bud Haedike (452nd)

Enchanting Savannah

By Martha E. Pedersen

This year we joined with the 8th Air Force Historical Society. Savannah provided an enchanting backdrop. Day One's schedule included a Historic Savannah trolley tour. It was chilly and the skies threatened to rain. Fortunately, the rains waited until later in the day and we had an interesting and dry tour. Here are a few of the places that captured my attention.

Early in the tour we passed the George Washington cannons in a park on Bay Street. In 1791, upon the President's return to Washington, he sent two cannons to Savannah and the Chatham Artillery as a gift. After being captured by patriots and later buried beneath the armory for protection during the Civil War, the bronze guns known as 'George and Martha' were proudly displayed on Bay Street in Savannah where they can be seen today.

Along the waterfront is a metal sculpture of the Olympic flame. When Atlanta hosted the 1996 Olympics, Savannah hosted the Olympic Yachting events. As a former Girl Scout, I was interested in Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace and subsequent home.

Day Two's schedule included the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. Martin

Raber, WWII Bombardier, explained the operation of the Norden Bombsight while standing close to the nose section of the City of Savannah (B-17). A Norden Bombsight was visible in the plane. I learned that the museum is planning a 68,000 square foot expansion. They are looking for a B-24 to add to their collection.

Re-enactors were inside and on the grounds. I spent a significant amount of time talking with one re-enactor, John W. McCaskill, who was dressed as a Tuskegee Airman Captain. We talked about the differences between Europe and the United States in the 1940s and about how we need to remember our collective past and learn from it.

The Q&A with some of our WWII veterans rounded out the afternoon. Those jeeps look nothing like the one I owned in the 1980s!

Breakfasts and dinners were a great time to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. That was easily my favorite time: sharing a meal, sharing our stories. Being surrounded by old friends and feeling like we were together last month instead of two years ago. This is what our community is about. 🌿



The draping Spanish moss provides a unique relaxed-air surrounding to the historically preserved homes in the residential area. Photo: Doug Dovey.

The bronze cannons on Bay street known as 'George and Martha' were sent by President George Washington and Martha after they returned from their visit to Savannah. Photo: Craig Dubishar 8AFHS.



A super freighter makes passage along the Savannah River, passing our hotel and adding a dynamic commerce feel to the reunion setting. Savannah is one of the few deep water ports along the East coast which can accommodate the largest ships. Photo: Craig Dubishar. 8AFHS.

News Bites

Heritage League Board Meets with Mighty 8th Museum CEO

During the Savannah 8th AFHS reunion, members of the Heritage League executive committee, past and present, met with the CEO of the Mighty 8th Museum. The meeting was both informative and pro-



Past and present presidents of the Heritage League assembled for a photo in the League's hospitality suite. Still plenty of work to be done! (L-R) Current President Marybeth Dyer (also 2011-13), Beverly Baner (2013-17), (guest Scott Loeher), Irene Huner (2000-04), Brian Mahoney (2005-11), Vicki Warning (1988-90). Photo: Doug Dovey.

ductive. Mr. Scott Loeher, museum CEO, explained the museum now has authorization to fully develop the B-24 *Fightin' Sam* on display and have raised funds to expand the museum and **add a full size B-24**. He explained the museum is also endeavoring to broaden their outreach to a wider range of veteran associations ranging from WWII to present day 8th Air Force personnel. We were encouraged by Scott's interest in advancing ties with the Heritage League

Heritage League enhances connection with two fighter groups

Heritage League is pleased to increase activities with two of the Second Air Division's fighter groups. We have been in contact with individuals associated with these groups.

56th Fighter Group



The 56th moved among bases at Horsham St Faith, Halesworth, and later Boxton England. Flying the P-47 Thunderbolt, they are credited with more enemy aircraft destroyed in aerial combat than any other Eighth Air Force

56th Fighter Group's most notable ACE was Francis 'Gabby' Gabreski. Pictured here among his P-47 and crew chiefs. Photo: National Archives.



fighter group. The 56th produced 39 aces led by Frances 'Gabby' Gabreski with 28 kills.

At the Savannah reunion, Heritage League welcomed a next gen with interest in the 56th Fighter Group. Michael Webster has researched the Group and is interested in uncovering new information on it. He spent time with us during the reunion to help uncover new items about his connection with the past.

4th Fighter Group

The 4th Fighter Group, Debden airfield, was created from three squadrons which formerly were



with the RAF. Transitioning from the Spitfire to the P-47, later the P-51, the group was the first fighter group to fly combat missions over German airspace, the first to escort bombers over Berlin, and the first selected to escort bombers on shuttle bombing runs landing in Russia. The group was credited with 583 aerial victories and 469 destroyed on the ground. The 4th FG produced 81 aces. Pilot Don Gentile was the group's leading ace with 19.83 kills.



4th Fighter Group's most notable ACE was Don Gentile. Here pictured on the wing of his P-51 Shangri-La. Photo: National Archives.

(continued on page 20)

Happy Birthday VETS!

The Heritage League is pleased to acknowledge our Veterans' birthdays who have recently, or are about to celebrate their 'special day.'

HELP! We have been able to get photos of some, but not all of our Veterans who served in the 2nd Air Division. We strive to highlight more Veteran birthdays as a regular feature but we need your help as we do not have photos of all. If you have a fairly recent photo of your Vet, please email it with '2AD VET Birthday' in the subject line to: ddovey@hotmail.com.

Our country is filled with much promise for tomorrow's generation, all because it was shaped by legends like you who risked your lives every day defending our nation. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** We honor you and thank you for our freedoms today. 🇺🇸



392nd BG waist gunner Havey Naber, aiming high as he reached 103 years this past November. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Alan Carlton, 389th BG pilot and former POW marks 102 years this January. Photo San Diego Union Tribune. Photo: Doug Dovey.



453rd BG pilot Russell Neatour turned 99 years last October. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Ray Gulick, 466th BG, Attelbridge bombardier, veteran of 30 combat missions, reaches his 101st birthday this April. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Happy in his Savannah reunion hat, Don O'Reilly, military police 305, 491st and 44th Bomb Groups is full of smiles marking his 100th this past November. Photo: Craig Dubishar, 8AFHS.



P-51 fighter pilot Charles Screws marked 100 years last December. His legendary 361st Fighter Group, was part of 2AD. Bomber crews were glad to see their 'little friends' as vital escorts through enemy skies. Photo: Doug Dovey.



Bob Birmingham, a nose gunner/bomb toggler from 458th BG at Horsham St Faith. Looking sharp for his 96th last December. Photo Jim Brimingham.



Stanley Goldstein was assigned to 466th BG, Attelbridge. Pondering the morality of bombing, he views the RAF manual. He marks his 99 years this February. Family photo.



Jim Lorenz, a 486th BG pilot, reached 98 years last December. Photo: Mary Lorenz.



389th BG Hethel top turret gunner Allan Hallett is our youngest Vet birthday of this group. He will celebrate his 96th this April. Photo: Doug Dovey.

Whatever you guys are doing—keep it up!

The Fateful Mission of Lady Be Good

Ditched in the Desert

by Brianna MacLean (interview of Steve Dummitt, Lake Linden, MI. MJMN TV)



Lady Be Good flew on one engine for 16 miles before belly landing after the crew bailed out. Photo taken 16 years after the mishap. Photo: National Archives.

Editors Note: The last Heritage Herald highlighted a great YouTube video on “Lady Be Good,” a B-24D ditched in the Libyan desert after their very first mission. Here, we present the tragic story of this crew. Although this bomber was not assigned to the 2nd Air Division, it is a compelling B-24 tragedy highlighting the multitude of challenges bomber crews faced. The next Herald will contain the story about the recovery effort of crew remains some 16 years later. Had they survived, this crew would likely have been assigned to the infamous raid to Ploesti of which three 2nd Air Division Groups participated later that year.

On April 4, 1943, nine crew members of the 514th Squadron took off from an airstrip near Benghazi, Libya. This would be *Lady Be Good*’s first and final mission to Naples, Italy. As they took off, a large sand storm ensued at the airfield that would last over eight hours. They flew across the Mediterranean Sea but eight of the aircrafts turned back because the weather was so bad. Being their first mission, *Lady Be Good* elected to continue; they wanted to do their very best.

They were one of two airplanes that reached the target area but were unable to drop due to darkness. As they turned around to return to base, they didn’t realize there was a tremendous tailwind. No doubt the jitters of their first combat mission were in play. They also lost what they call their radio detection finder and, as a result, they didn’t realize they had already crossed the Mediterranean and made landfall.

They had passed the

coast and didn’t know exactly where they were!

Lady Be Good flew for two hours past their base, southbound into the middle of the Sahara desert. Starved for fuel, the engines quit and the pilot ordered the men to bail out, believing they were over the water. What they didn’t realize was that the *Lady Be Good* would continue to fly. She actually flew for another 16 miles on one engine landing belly up in the sand.

Lady Be Good had flown 400 miles past its base. The crew never made it back to the aircraft or a populated area. They walked an astounding 78 miles from where they made their parachute landings, but all the crew perished in the middle of the desert. For sixteen years, *Lady Be Good* and its crew were thought to have been lost at sea until 1959, when British geologists working for D’Arcy Oil Company located the plane’s crash site.

By 1960, eight of the nine men’s remains were found in the Sahara Desert. The mystery of *Lady Be Good* was no longer a mystery and eight of her men were finally able to be laid to rest. The radio operator



Another view of the wreckage site of *Lady Be Good* provides us a different perspective of the impact. The crew flew some 400 miles past their landing base near Benghazi, Libya before bailing out. Photo: National Archives.



Lady Be Good. The tail gun turret with 50 cal's pointing up. Photo: National Archives.

was never found.

It just so happens that one of the propellers from the aircraft is on display in front of the fire station at the town of Lake Linden, Michigan, where the plane's radio operator, Technical Sergeant Robert E. LaMotte, was from. The display is a continual reminder of the hazards our WWII airmen faced.

By permission: Newscast video courtesy of WJMN TV, 2021, Marquette, MI. Nexstar Media Inc. See the video at: <https://www.upmatters.com/veterans-voices/the-tragic-story-of-wwii-aircraft-lady-be-good-that-took->



Propeller from *Lady Be Good* on display in front of the fire station in Lake Linden, Michigan. The plane's radio operator grew up there. Photo credit: WJMN [prop], U.S. archives

[the-life-of-a-lake-linden-man/](https://www.upmatters.com/veterans-voices/the-life-of-a-lake-linden-man/).

Editors note: the YouTube video of Dick Campbell's comprehensive story introduced in the last Herald is at: https://youtu.be/qpYlqP4_OVc.

In the next Herald, we will run the story about the recovery of the crew 16 years later. 🙏

Award Metals Series—Part III

The Silver Star and Legion of Merit

This article covers two awards which are generally at the same level of precedence. It is the third report in our series concerning medals awarded to airmen during World War II. The series will conclude with the Medal of Honor scheduled for this summer's Heritage Herald. First, the Silver Star.

The Silver Star



The Silver Star is the U.S.'s third-highest award exclusively for military operations involving conflict and ranks fifth in the precedence of military awards below the Medal of Honor, below each Service's Cross (Army's Distinguished Service Cross; Navy Cross; and Air Force Cross), the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (awarded by the Department of Defense), and the Distinguished Service Medals of the various branches of service.

It is the highest award for combat valor that is not unique to any specific branch. It may be given by any one of the individual services to not only their own members, but to members of other branches of service, foreign allies, and even to civilians for 'gallantry in action' in support of combat missions of the United States military.

The Silver Star is considered a rare award, bestowed on fewer than 1 in every 250 veterans of military service. Historian Roger Freeman has noted 817 were awarded to 8th Air Force airmen (out of 350,000) with additional 47 oak leaf clusters awarded.

Established during World War I

The award was established by President Woodrow Wilson as the 'Citation Star' during World War I, and was awarded solely by the U.S. Army, though it was presented by the War Department to members of the U.S. Navy and Marines. The Citation Star was retroactively available to those who distinguished themselves while engaged in military operations as far back as the Spanish-American War. (Subsequently, it was awarded for gallantry to Civil War heroes who were similarly cited for gallantry in action.) The Silver Star Medal remained exclusively an Army decoration until August 7,

1942, nearly a year after World War II began. On that date, the Silver Star Medal was expanded by an Act of Congress for award by the Navy Department for actions on or after December 7, 1941.

References:

<https://homeofheroes.com/silver-star>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Star.

Legion of Merit

The Legion of Merit is second below the Silver Star in precedence and next higher than the Distinguished Flying Cross. It is typically presented only to senior command or staff, with occasional exceptions.



According to Roger Freeman, only 207 were awarded to 8th Air Force airmen with an addition two oak leaf clusters.

Created in 1942, the Legion of Merit Medal is granted to individuals who demonstrate an exceptional level of meritorious conduct. It may be awarded either to members of the United States Armed Forces or to members of foreign military and political bodies. The Legion of Merit award is generally reserved for wartime feats but may, in rare cases, be granted during peacetime to recognize especially difficult or notable service. Additionally, the award may be given in recognition of the sustained performance of notable comportment or accomplishments.

Reference: <http://www.militarymedals.com/medals/legion-of-merit-officer>.



News from the American Library, Norwich



Local officials preside over the re-dedication of the Library 'Roll of Honor' exhibit last September. Photo: from American Library video.



*By Orla Kennelly,
Memorial Trust
Librarian*

The Norfolk Public Library is gradually easing COVID attendance restrictions as we progress through the Fall, and we hope to be moving the remainder of our furniture and display cases back during the coming months.

Roll of Honor re-dedicated

Due to COVID restrictions, the library had an abbreviated ceremony to re-dedicate our refurbished 2nd Air Division 'Roll of Honor' room last Sept. 28, 2021. The Roll contains names of almost 7,000 Second Air Division airmen who perished during the war. Richard Middleton, Chairman of the 2nd Air Division Trust Governors, presided over the ceremony with the Bishop of Norwich, Lord Mayor of Norwich, Sheriff of Norwich, County Counsellor and a small group of invited guests. A larger dedication for the renamed and refurbished Library will occur at a future date. Please visit our YouTube channel to view the ceremony at: <https://youtu.be/1RyMrVrYreQ/>.

Welcome: two new scholars and staff

Our University of East Anglia (UEA) American Library scholars are now with us.

Lauren Cortese has arrived from Charleston, South Carolina, and is enrolled in our inaugural three year school program. She joins Suzanne Solomon who has been reappointed to the library scholarship program.

We have had some changes in our staff recently. We said goodbye to Tom Fullam who has departed for a supervisor post at the Norwich Castel Museum and Art Gallery. We welcome two new staff members Michelle Zielonka and Amanda Ironside. Michelle, originally from California, studied at UEA, met her husband, and settled in East Anglia. Amanda moved here from another Library division and will serve as relief staff. She grew up in a RAF family stationed at local bases which also had USAF units located there, thus giving her an insight of U.S. military and culture.

Upcoming webcast events

Coffee afternoon, a Zoom web-meeting with Library staff. On the 2nd Saturday of every month at 16:00 GMT [11am U.S. Eastern time] join Jane and Linda as well as other 2nd Air Division friends. These informal get-togethers are a chance to chat, reflect and remember. Numbers are limited to ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate. For your invitation, please email: americanlibrary@norfolk.gov.uk.

The 2nd Air Division Archive: "American Women at War." Saturday March 12th 18:00 GMT [1pm U.S. Eastern time]. This event is part of the Norfolk Library programme to celebrate Women's History Month. Explore photographs, letters and documents illustrating their experience in East Anglia during WWII. In this talk we will explore the experience of these women during their time in East Anglia through these archival sources. We will also consider the experience of WAC Evelyn Cohen who was based at Old Catton, Norwich and later played a key role in establishing the library and archive as a living memorial in Norwich. For more information and reservations: <http://americanlibrary.eventbrite.com>. 🐦

Nose Art—A Perilous Journey for ‘Perils of Pauline’

By Lisa Niehoff

Heritage Herald Series on Aircraft Nose Art

Editor's note: We are pleased to introduce a new Heritage Herald series exploring aircraft nose art. This will be included in future editions thanks to Lisa.



First, a brief recap as to the origins of nose art. We can trace aircraft art back to World War I. Those symbols identified its unit and was usually painted on the aircraft's rear fuselage. During the Second World War, its artistry shifted to reflect the bomber crew's zeal and dedication. I consider it the golden age of nose art.



The B-24's first flight was December 29, 1939, from Lindbergh Field, San Diego. Happy 82 years! 18,484 were built until production ended in 1945. Photo: Aviation Week and Space Technology.

Pauline...A Perilous Journey

'Perils of Pauline' was painted on B-24H Serial No: 42-95162 assigned to 467th Bomb Group 790th Bomb Squadron, Rackheath Airbase; 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force. The name 'Perils of Pauline' was likely inspired by the 1914 American melodrama film *The Perils of Pauline*. A damsel facing danger, in distress? Yes, very much so and the crew was likely inspired to portray her style of avoiding perils. They paid a crew chief to paint it while they were stationed in Florida prior to their deployment to England. It depicts Pauline in a position of strength, possibly keeping perils at bay.

The crew knew that dangers would face them, but did not know when or how it would impact their lives directly. It was August 5, 1944. They departed from Rackheath as part of a 24 aircraft mission to bomb the MIAG aircraft components factory near the airfield at Braunschweig-Waggum, Germany. It was their 32nd mission and they had avoided peril so far; three more missions and they could go home! After she crossed the initial bombing point, *Perils of Pauline* was hit by flak, rendered unflyable, left the formation and turned east. German records reported only two survivors, Pilot 2nd. Lt. David E. Love and Engineer S/Sgt. Collins, were transferred to Dulag Luft at Oberursel on August 6, 1944.

Sadly, unlike our movie heroine, the crew could not avoid the critical peril. You can read the entire archive report referencing Pilot Love: U.S. Forces 1941-1945 at: <http://aircrewremembered.com/love-da-vid.html>.

(News Bites, continued from page 14)

The 4th Fighter Group association is looking into coordinating future activities with the Heritage League. The Heritage Herald will occasionally run some of their past newsletter stories as they make decisions about the future of their Webpage. Six of their WWII vets are still active. Two of their pilot vets reached the 100 year mark recently: Bob Hills from 334th Fighter Squadron last September and Joe Joiner from the 336th last October.

Minutes of 2021 Heritage League Annual Meeting—October 28, 2021 (Unapproved)

President Marybeth Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:31EDT during the 8th AF Historical Society reunion in Savannah, Georgia, and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Read by Beverly Tomb and Doug Dovey.

Pledge of Allegiance

Jim Birmingham led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Anthem/God Save the Queen

Sung by Mieka Dovey, daughter of Board member Doug Dovey, with accompaniment by audience.

Report of Memorial Trust of the Second Air Division USAAF and American Library

President Dyer introduced Richard Middleton, Chairman of the Memorial Trust of the Second Air Division USAAF via Zoom. The Trust's assets recovered extremely well during the year. At the end of September, the value stood at £5.5 million (approx U.S. \$7.55 million). Good work by the brokers, CCLA, was helped by another outstanding act of generosity from a veteran. William S. Jameson, a navigator with the 458th Bomb Group, left over £135,000 (U.S. \$185,000) in his will last year. The Trust is extremely grateful.

The Governors authorized a significant project to examine ways to improve access to and increase the use of the 2nd Air Division Archive. They also granted funds to establish a writing competition, where authors would use material from the archive in their work. The main city library recognizes the key value of our American Library. They acknowledged it provides a platform to tell the story of America and that of the 2nd Air Division in a new way and, in so doing, will continue to meet the remit of the veterans and provide a place of cultural exchange between people in the USA and East Anglia.

Our Walker Scholarship for study in the U.S. was awarded but unfortunately the recipient had to return to the UK for medical reasons and so we are reviewing the situation. Two new intern scholarship scholars were named.

Richard also summarized Orla Kennelly's American Library report, who could not be present. The American Library reopened from the COVID shutdown April 22, 2021 under a limited attendance policy. A ceremony to re-dedicate the 2nd Air Division 'Roll of Honor' was held last Sept. 28, 2021 presided by the Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher. Personnel changes: Tom Fulham left the team so there is a vacancy to be filled. Michelle Zielonka is a new relief team member who will be working digitization and copyright subjects. Amanda Ironsides is new to the team and will aid in local history resources. The scholars for 2021/2022 are Suzanne Solomon and Lauren Cortese.

New resources for the Library were highlighted: 2nd Air Division Education Packet, New Friendly Invasion Packet, Bomb and Fighter Group Info Sheets, WAC Info Sheet, Station Hospital Info Sheet and Ketteringham Hall HQ Info Sheet.

This season's schedule for Library activities include: Webcast Coffee Afternoons, an open discussion of topics of interest; Reading Across the Pond book group; Digital Library Tours; Women in the War Conference; and Conference with Daughters of the American Revolution.

Secretary Report

- Colleen Mersman presented the minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting for approval.
- Brian Mahoney made motion to approve. Jim Birmingham seconded the motion.
- Minutes for the 2020 Heritage League Annual Meeting were approved.

Treasurer Report

- Sue Risley reported that the funds in the Flower fund were high because we couldn't place any flowers due to COVID-19.
- Amazon Smile has continued to bring in funds so keep shopping!
- Sue is working on bringing in Zelle as a payment option. Largest expense for the past year was the Heritage *Herald* layout and printing. A volunteer for layout would be a great help with our expenses.

VP for Volunteers

Brian Mahoney and former Protégé Chris Clark are developing a database to match volunteers to tasks. This has been done with the help of an online form from our website. There have also been some additional referrals from the membership renewal forms.

Our 'Greatest Generation' project, to make newsletters of 2nd Air Division veteran organizations searchable in an online and searchable collection, has completed phase one, survey of available newsletters. We now know what is potentially collectible and actually available. The newsletters should be accessible early in 2022. Related to this effort, the ExCom voted to host websites of related 2AD organizations that are about to go offline.

Membership Report

Marybeth Dyer reported, as of August 1, 2021, the League had 339 total members consisting of 69 Honorary Life Members (HLM), 258 Legacy members, 12 Regular members.

Communications VP Report

Doug Dovey highlighted four platforms to communicate with our members and the general public:

--*Heritage Herald*, published 3 times a year. We are striving to make it more relevant for follow-on generations and friends interested in the WWII European air campaign. New features such as KIDS' CORNER, a review of online *Videos We Like*, calendar of activities including bomb group events, and historic event dates of the War are broadening our content.

--Website of the Heritage League which is overseen by volunteer Nancy Hildebrandt. The site is improved to be more user friendly and also allow access by mobile devices. It is an easy way to view past issues of the *Heritage Herald* and *Journals* of the 2nd Air Division Association.

--Facebook page for the Heritage League managed by members of the Heritage League Executive Committee.

--Zoom webcast of our Annual and Board meetings. Last years annual meeting was broadcast on Zoom and saved to YouTube. This years meeting included Zoom participants. Our board meetings are held on Zoom the first Thursday of each month and members can request an invite to board meetings via our Website. The next annual meeting will be held October, 2022 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Nomination and Election of officers

Brian Mahoney presented the slate for the 2021-2023 Executive Committee.

Brian asked for any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. The following officers were voted in:

President- Marybeth Birmingham Dyer

VP-Jim Birmingham

Secretary- Colleen O'Reilly Mersman

Treasurer- Sue Risley

Membership VP- Marybeth Birmingham Dyer

Communications VP- Doug Dovey

VP for Volunteers- Brian Mahoney

Report of the Delegate Committee

Irene Hurner presented the report which states: The Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) is a non-profit, non-political organization composed of U.S. veteran's families, friends, and supporters. The veterans themselves are honorary members. It is registered with the Internal Revenue Service under Tax Code Section 501C(3). It's TIN is 36-3590698. As such, all voting members present are official delegates. The reasonable cost to such attendees is construed to be a charitable contribution and may be deductible by those who itemize deductions on their annual income tax returns. The Heritage League cannot provide advice on these matters. Members are advised to seek their own professional advice as may be needed. The convention Chairperson will make a finalized list of all regular members of the League who attended the meeting, and publish that list with the minutes in the *Heritage Herald*. Irene Biel Hurner made a motion to accept the Delegate Committee report, to declare all regular members attending the annual business meeting be declared official delegates, and that it be so documented in the minutes of the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Brian Mahoney. Motion carried.

Special Recognition

The Executive Board recognized protégé' Chris Clark by reading a certificate plaque appreciating and thanking him for all his volunteer and research efforts.

Adjournment

Marybeth Birmingham Dyer reported that the 2022 convention will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on October 6-10. Meeting adjourned at 6:33EDT

Attachments: Attendance list and balance sheet ending 6-30-2021.

Attendance List for Heritage League Annual meeting
Thursday, October 28, 2021
Savannah, GA and Zoom

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Bomb Group</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Allan Hallett	389	yes, HLM
Don O'Reilly	44, 491	yes, HLM
Max Minear	446	yes, HLM
Sara Grivas	458	no
Kim Whitney	93	yes
Dale Hudson	93	no
Travis Chapin	389	yes
Ginny Chapin	389	no
Steve Dyer	458	yes
Vicki Warning	466	yes
Kurt Warning	466	yes
Laurie Huntley	392	yes
Matt Minear	446	no
Bud Carpenter	453	no
LaRue Carpenter	453	yes
Karen Merrill	453	yes
Steve Jordon	466	no
James Melnyk	466	no
Marcia Melnyk	466	yes
Martha Pedersen	44	yes
David Long	389	yes
Ralph Winter	392	yes
Marybeth Dyer	458, ExCom	yes
Jim Birmingham	458, ExCom	yes
Susan Risley	446, ExCom	yes
Colleen Mersman	44, 491, ExCom	yes
Brian Mahoney	467, 492, ExCom	yes
Doug Dovey	44, 392, ExCom	yes
Beverly Tomb	466, ExCom	yes
Irene Hurner	453, ExCom	yes
<u>Online via Zoom</u>		
Richard Middleton	2AD Trust Governor	
Earl Wassom	466	yes, HLM
Ed Zobac	445	yes
Rose Zobac	445	yes
Chris Clark	44	yes
Bob Books	392	yes
David Mercado	491	yes
Norm&Priscilla Canfield	491	yes
Mary Lorenz	466	yes

Heritage League of the 2ADA Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison As of June 30, 2021

	Jun 30, 21	Jun 30, 20
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Saving/ Cash Accounts		
Checking - 53rd - NEW	3,152.60	2,824.49
Savings - 53rd - NEW	55,021.16	56,300.37
PayPal Account	6,771.00	2,359.14
Total Cash Accounts	64,944.76	61,484.00
Total Checking/Savings	64,944.76	61,484.00
Other Current Assets		
Exchange	50.00	50.00
Total Other Current Assets	50.00	50.00
Total Current Assets	64,994.76	61,534.00
TOTAL ASSETS	64,994.76	61,534.00
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Restricted funds		
Greatest Generation Project	5,360.00	0.00
So Cal / D-day luncheon	374.40	374.40
Flower Fund	3,852.86	3,017.86
8th AF Historical Society	50.00	50.00
American (Memorial) Library	3,740.00	4,840.00
Total Restricted funds	13,377.26	8,282.26
Total Other Current Liabilities	13,377.26	8,282.26
Total Current Liabilities	13,377.26	8,282.26
Total Liabilities	13,377.26	8,282.26
Equity		
Net Assets	53,251.74	55,610.57
Net Income	-1,634.24	-2,358.83
Total Equity	51,617.50	53,251.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	64,994.76	61,534.00



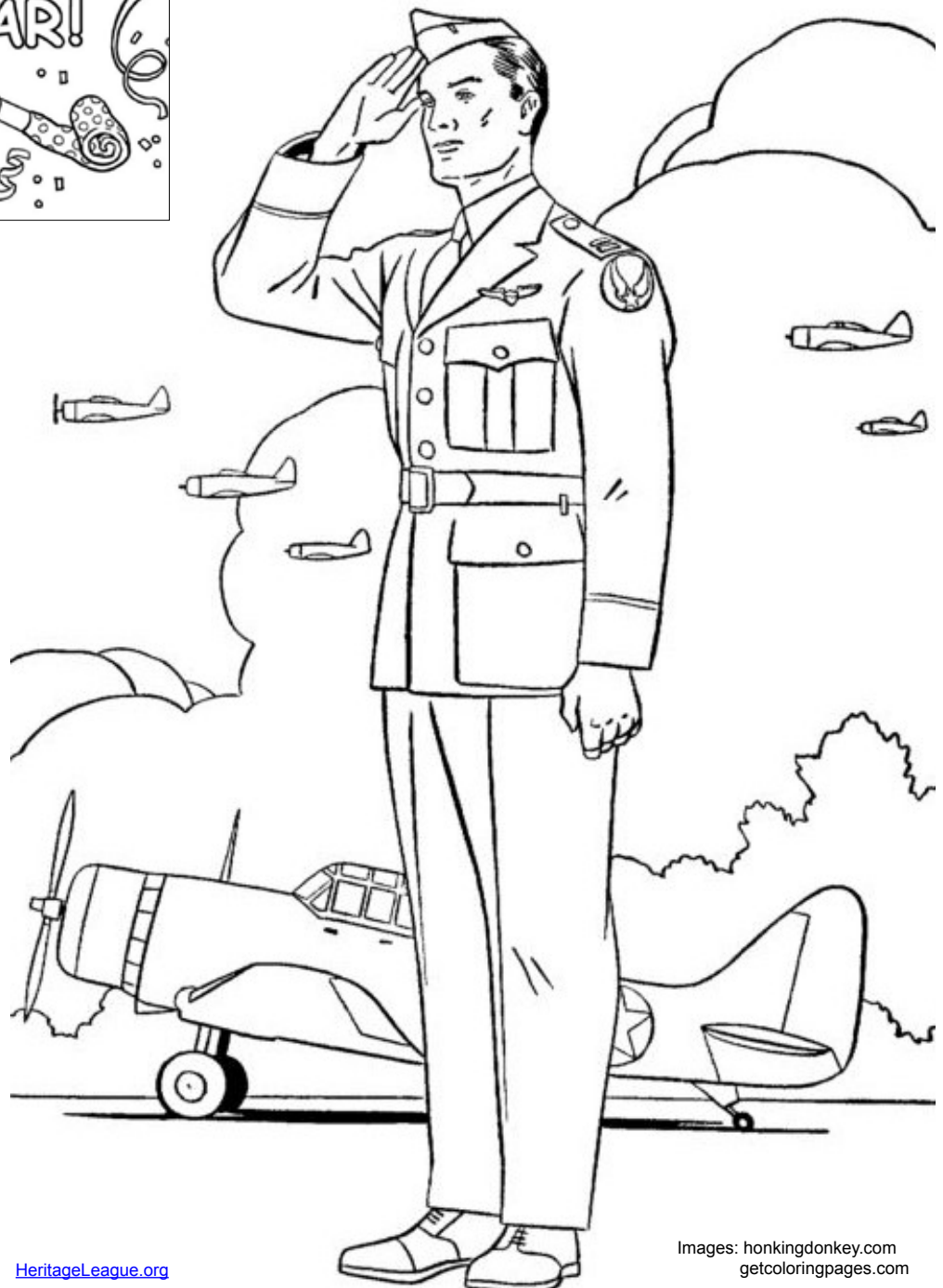
Your Heritage Leagues executive committee officers were reinstated for their next two year term. Pictured are future and past committee members. Back row from left: Marybeth Dyer, President; Beverly Baynes Tomb, Past President and 2nd AD Memorial Trust Governor; Scott Loehr, President/CEO of Mighty 8th AF Museum (visiting, not on the board); Brian Mahoney, VP for Volunteers. Front: Jim Birmingham, Vice President; Irene Hurner, Past President; Vicki Warning, Past President; Sue Risley, Treasurer; Doug Dovey, Communications VP. Unfortunately, they could not complete the problem of solving the puzzle on the table before them. Photo: Doug Dovey.

Kids' Corner—a Vintage WWII Coloring Page

The Heritage League hopes your holidays were happy. Please share your colored drawing with family and friends. We hope this helps with your understanding of our ancestor's service with the Second Air Division during WWII. Our Heritage League mission is to educate our next generations about the actions and sacrifices of our veteran ancestors in the Bomber and Fighter Groups of the Second Air Division in England.



Instructor pilot salutes a flight of students passing the airfield



Note the aircraft in this coloring frame. They are T-6 Texans, which our pilots flew during advanced training. After this phase they were assigned to their bombers and fighters. This trainer has similar lines to the P-47 fighter used to escort our WWII bombers to their targets. The 56th Fighter Group flew these fighter aircraft (there is a picture of a P-47 in the *News Bites* section of this *Herald*, page. 14. Can you find it?). A total of five fighter groups belonged to the 2nd Air Division along with 14 bomber groups.

Coloring hint: training aircraft were usually painted yellow.

Remembrance Day—Over There

Remembrance Day in Britain is observed the Sunday before November 11, when we observe Veterans Day here.

Halesworth

The fallen were remembered here in Halesworth today. To our 489th Veterans, families and friends we send our greetings to you all on Remembrance Sunday. We hope you are all keeping well. The names of the air-



Halesworth maintains three monuments on behalf of the three groups stationed there during the war. They were the 56th Fighter Group, 489th Bomb Group and 5th Rescue Squadron. The ceremony included an aircraft flyover dropping poppies and was attended by a group of USAF active duty airmen. Photo: Marjorie Shiers.

men from the three groups who served on our Airfield who lost their lives during WWII were read aloud whilst current serving airmen from RAF Lakenheath and the people of our village walked between St Peter's Church, Holton, and Halesworth Airfield.

Just before 11 am we attended the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Holton churchyard after which we went into the church for the Remembrance Service. The short service at the airfield included the laying of the poppy wreaths and a fly past of a vintage aircraft from which a stream of red poppies fluttered down onto the airfield. The day was overcast, wet and drizzly—typical November weather.

Over a dozen serving American airmen and women joined us for our act of remembrance today. They traveled from RAF Lakenheath and we were so honoured to have them here with us.

With our best wishes to you all, Marjorie Shiers and Friends of the 489th BG, Halesworth, UK.

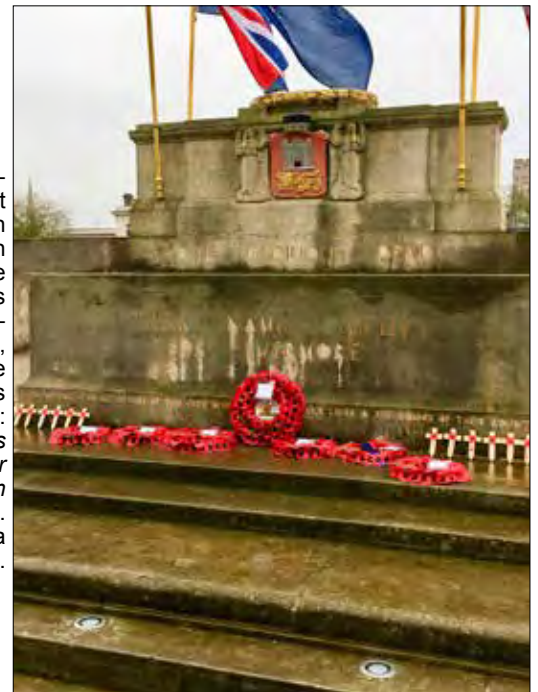
Norwich

Remembering the 6,881 fallen souls of the 2nd Air Division, as well as those from all wars, were the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Governors at a reduced ceremony at the War Memorial in front of Norwich City Hall. The 2nd Air Division wreath was positioned by Suzanne Solomon.

Governors of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust assemble to present the symbolic wreath. (From right to left) Suzanne Solomon; Governor Richard Middleton, Trust Chairman; Governor Tony Hammer and wife; honor the wreath placement ceremony on behalf of the Trust. Photo Andrea Middleton.



The War Memorial in front of the Norwich City Hall with Remembrance Day wreaths on Sunday November 7th, in Britain. The monument is inscribed with: *Our glorious dead. Their name liveth for evermore.* Photo Andrea Middleton.





The Trust's wreath with attached message stating: *In memory of the 6881 men of the 2nd Air Division who gave their lives in World War II.* Photo: Andrea Middleton.

Seething

James Barber from the 448th BG memorialized the fallen from Seething field via a Facebook post of a remarkable photo composition by S. Robinson. With it, he added: *At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.*



Seething (444th BG) control tower and nissen hut museums in the background with additional elements artfully incorporated by photo artist S. Robinson.

**We appreciate gifts from members
inspired by an individual to whom
we are all connected.
We wish to thank members who have
contributed to the Heritage League**

IN MEMORY OF... *Donors*

John Nacey (466th)

Susan Nacey

—Folded Wings—

<i>James E. Petersen, Jr.</i>	11/06/10	453rd BG
<i>Ernest W. Goode</i>	01/14/14	389th BG
<i>Lee Dotson</i>	03/13/14	445th BG
<i>Robert E. Patek</i>	2014	458th BG
<i>Edward J. Reilly</i>	01/27/15	93rd BG
<i>Joseph E. Johnston, Jr.</i>	07/23/15	44th & 491st BG
<i>Robert B. Harris</i>	12/06/15	389th BG
<i>George L. Harlow</i>	12/15/15	445th BG
<i>Dr. Leonard R. Howell</i>	02/19/16	389th BG
<i>William G. Smith</i>	03/16/16	445th BG
<i>Don D. Levine</i>	09/09/16	453rd BG
<i>Robert J. Grunton</i>	2016	44th BG
<i>Thomas J. Edginton</i>	03/14/17	392nd BG
<i>Thomas A. Flaherty</i>	04/10/17	44th BG
<i>John C. Rowe</i>	03/31/17	448th BG
<i>Robert C. Moore</i>	02/24/18	466th BG
<i>John W. Merrill</i>	12/19/18	389th BG
<i>Joseph H. Reus</i>	07/07/20	445th BG
<i>Lloyd W. Krume</i>	01/11/21	489th BG
<i>Robert L. Thomas</i>	06/23/21	492nd BG
<i>George Insley</i>	06/16/21	44th BG
<i>Wilford Kay Craig</i>	09/04/21	492nd BG
<i>Charles F. Sewell</i>	Unknown	458th BG

Folded Wings Report

Please report the death of a member or spouse and provide a copy of the newspaper obituary if possible.

Name of deceased _____ Unit/Sqdn. _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Date of death _____ Survivors _____

Reported by _____

Address _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Please return to: Marybeth Dyer, 6410 Valley Oak Plaza, Martinez, CA 94553

or Email to: smbdyer@sbcglobal.net



Membership Application/Renewal for Heritage League

Please help us continue our work by encouraging all generations in your family to join in our mission.

Please RENEW ONLINE and pay through PayPal. It is a safe and secure way for you to pay your membership and contributions. LOG ON to <https://heritageleague.org/membership/> **OR** return this page with your check, payable to the Heritage League Membership, 6410 Valley Oak Plaza, Martinez, CA 94553. If you have questions, please email: smbdyer@sbcglobal.net.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME AND TALENT. We are very appreciative of the strong financial support you have shown for The League and related entities. Would you also be able to share your time and talent with us? You can fill out a form at: <https://heritageleague.org/volunteer/> that lets our expanded Volunteer Program pair you with work supporting our mission!

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____
 ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE (_____) _____
 CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____ @ _____

(If you receive the newsletter by email, please make sure you provide your email address)

NAME of related 2nd Air Division Veteran _____ VET Birthday Date: _____
 Their Bomb Group or Unit No. _____ Their relationship to you _____

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

____ PDF Newsletter via Email—provide email address above—**\$20** \$ _____
 ____ Printed Newsletter sent by US mail—**\$30** \$ _____

2nd Air Division Veterans are eligible to be an Honorary Lifetime Member (check one).

____ PDF Newsletter, via Email—provide email address above—**\$0** (free)
 ____ Printed Newsletter sent by US mail—**\$30** \$ _____
 (If the cost of the printed newsletter causes a hardship, please let us know)

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS (*We are a tax deductible 501(3)(c) organization*)

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

HISTORY SNAPSHOTS THIS TIME-FRAME IN 2ND AIR DIVISION'S PAST

— compiled by Doug Dovey
art credit: Ron Cole **



December

- 1939-First flight of the B-24. December 29, 82 years ago.*
- 1941-Pearl Harbor Hawaii attacked by Japanese forces. December 7, 80 years ago.*
- 1941-Hitler and Mussolini declare war on the United States. December 11.*
- 1942-Nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect. December 1.*

January

- 1942-Eighth Air Force activated at Savannah Army Air Base, GA. January 28.*
- 1943-The Casablanca Conference began; plans for a combined bomber daylight offensive against Germany were established by Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker. January 14.*
- 1943-USAAF bombers mount first all American mission in German airspace (53 B-24s and B-17s) to Wilhelmsaven (93 BG). Three aircraft lost. January 27.*
- 1945-Eighth Air Force celebrated its third birthday with a 1,000-plane raid on Germany. The Eighth flew more than 250,000 bomber and 210,000 fighter sorties to deliver 518,000 tons of bombs and destroy 13,000 enemy planes by this time.*

February

- 1942-VIII Bomber Command Headquarters established in England under Maj. Gen. Eaker. Feb. 23.*
- 1944-VIII Bomber Command redesignated as 8th Air Force. February 23.*
- 1944-Big Week. Maximum effort missions, also known as 'Operation Argument,' to suppress German air superiority in preparation for the future land invasion. February 20-25.*

March

- 1944-Missions to Berlin were the most costly 8th AF missions of the war. March 6.*
- 1945-American aircraft bomb Berlin in one of the largest raids of the War. March 18.*

April

- 1942-Dolittle bombing raid on Tokyo. April 18.*
- 1945-Final 2nd Air Division combat missions in Europe and last combat losses, April 25.*
- May 1945-VE day in Europe. May 8.*

July

- 1942-First American bomber raid to German occupied France. July 4.*
- 1943-President Roosevelt announced the end of coffee rationing which had limited people to one pound of coffee every five weeks since it began in November 1942. July 28.*

** Art Credit: <https://roncole.net/collections>

Veteran Don O'Reilly Receives his Dream Flight

by Doug Dovey

An organization named Dream Flights inaugurated a service this past summer honoring military veterans and seniors with the **Adventure of a Lifetime**: a flight in a Boeing Stearman. During their 'Operation September Freedom,' Heritage League veteran Don O'Reilly (305th, 491st, and 44th Bomb Groups), who celebrated his 100th birthday in November, received his flight this past Labor Day. He described his experience by mentioning that the thrill was equal to the flights he took in a B-17 and B-24.

Background

Dream Flights is a non-profit organization established and dedicated to honoring seniors and military veterans to give back to those who gave. They want the wishes of our heroes to come true and inspire them to share their stories with flights in a Boeing



Don O'Reilly received an unexpected call last September from Dream Flights with an offer for a flight in a WWII era Boeing Stearman trainer. Don couldn't resist the offer as we see him pictured here.



The Labor Day flight was two months before Don's 100th birthday. Stearman biplane, the same aircraft used to train many military aviators in the late thirties and early forties. To date they have made 5,133 flights, 891 of the flights during 'Operation September.'

The foundation was created in 2011 by Darryl and Carol Fisher out of their love for seniors and the aviation world. They collect, preserve and share the stories of how Vets survived through times of great strife to remind us of our shared humanity, our connection to each other and the value of listening. They hope Dream Flights will close the generation gap and open us up to a clearer understanding of ourselves and our world.

Join their national effort to locate and honor as many World War II veterans as possible with free Dream Flights. More info at: <https://dreamflights.org> or phone (775) 291-2835. 🛩️



Adventure of a lifetime. Veteran Don O'Reilly (305th, 491st, 44th BGs) said it was as good as his past flights in the B-17 and B-24. At left photo, Don signs his name to the rudder concluding the Dream Flight experience.

Videos We Like

by Lisa Niehoff

For this issue we feature 'newsworthy events' of interest.

Dedication of the 2nd Air Division Roll of Honor at the American Library, Norwich

YouTube, 22 minutes. Richard Middleton, Chairman of the 2nd Air Division Trust Governors, presides over the dedication of the refurbished *Roll of Honor* display. The 'Roll' contains the names of almost 7,000 Second Air Division airmen who perished. This event was attended by the Bishop of Norwich, Lord Mayor of Norwich, Sheriff of Norwich, and the County Counselor. Due to Library pandemic restrictions, the ceremony was limited to just a few, and a larger dedication for the refurbished and rebranded American Library will occur at a future date. Note: ceremony doesn't begin until 4 minutes after the video starts: <https://youtu.be/1RyMrVrYreQ>.

A memorable discussion with our Veterans at the Heritage League 2020 Annual Meeting.

YouTube, 3 hours. Held last October 2020, the meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID restrictions. In three parts: discussion with our three veterans (which is fantastic), the annual meeting, capped by a video tour of 467th BG site restoration at Rakheath England. View the YouTube video via our Heritage League.org website at:

<https://heritageleague.org/watch-our-10-2020-annual-meeting-on-youtube>. 🐦

Shopping Alert

The Heritage League participates in the AmazonSmile program. The idea is simple: you shop AmazonSmile, and it donates a portion of the proceeds to the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division—USAAF. Here is how it works: visit <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Log in with your Amazon account username and password. If you don't have an account, create one. Select Heritage League of the Second Air Division as your designated charity.

In the future, whenever you shop amazonsmile, 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 the support and KEEP SHOPPING!



Heritage Herald Staff

Published three times a year, the *Heritage Herald* is the official publication of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF). The mission is to educate future generations about the sacrifices of our forebears of the bomb and fighter groups of the 2nd AD in WWII. Membership is open to all those who follow this ideal.

Doug Dovey, Virginia, Managing Editor
ddovey@hotmail.com

Thomas Chang, New York, Layout
tctomchang@aol.com

Brian Mahoney, Maryland, Director
researcher@brianmahoney.com

Lisa Niehoff, Iowa, Assistant Editor
lisa@huxcomm.net

Dallas King, Indiana, Photo Editor
dwk1927@gmail.com

John Pittman, Nevada, Researcher
jmpittman12@gmail.com

Spring/Summer 2022 Heritage Calendar

Upcoming Events of 2nd Air Division Interest

April

Easter Sunday, April 17

2nd Air Division Trust Governors' mid-year meeting. TBA April, Norwich England.

American Library of 2nd Air Division re-dedication ribbon cutting ceremony, TBA April-May timeframe. Norwich.

May

Seething Airfield Control Tower Museum. May 1. Home of the 448th Bomb Group, the Seething Airfield Control Tower Museum opens for select Sunday visits. Info at: www.448bombgroup.co.uk.

467th BG Association annual reunion. Salt Lake City, Utah. May 4-9. Reunion will include a special B-24 dedication ceremony on May 6 (see below). Info at: www.467bg.com.

B-24 Dedication at Wendover, UT. Special ceremony to recognize USAAF aircrew lost in stateside training accidents (over 15,500). May 6. Sponsored by the 467th BG Association, a scratch built 1:20 Liberator model will be dedicated at historic Wendover Airfield. Info at: www.467bg.com.

93rd BG Hardwick Museum opens for the season on the 3rd Sunday of each month. May 13. Info at: www.93rd-bg-museum.org.

Memorial Day. May 30. **26,000 Flags of Fallen ceremony** at Mighty 8th Museum, Georgia. www.mightyeighth.org. Heritage League wreath placements at ABMC cemeteries. As of this printing, it is not known if American Battle Monument Cemeteries will be open for wreath placement ceremonies. The Heritage League wreath program will be at the ready if they open for public events.

July

Airshow at Old Buckenham. July 30-31. Tickets go on sale December 2021. Contact www.oldbuckenhamairshow.com or email: airfield@oldbuck.com.

October

Heritage League reunion with 93rd BG Association and annual meeting. Boston, MA. October 6-10. More info TBA.

8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion. Washington, DC, Crystal Gateway Marriott. October 19-23. www.mightyeighth.org.

General 2022 activities

American Library. Monthly webcasts. The Library continues a regular web-based activity 'Coffee Afternoon' the second Saturday of every month on Zoom at 11am U.S. Eastern time [16:00 British time]. Hosted by library assistants Jane Appleton and Linda Sheppard, it is an opportunity for 2nd Air Division families and friends on both sides of the Atlantic to get together. Email for an invite at: americanlibrary@norfolk.gov.uk. Additional library presentations can be found at: www.Americanlibrary.uk.

Mighty 8th Air Force Museum weekly webcasts. 'Target for Today' lecture series digging into the history of the Eighth Air Force. It broadcasts each Thursday at 2pm ET via 'Mighty 8th Vimeo' or 'Mighty 8th Facebook'. More info at: https://www.mightyeighth.org/events/target-for-today-2/?event_rdate=20211125140000%2C20211125150000.

453rd Bombardment Group Museum & 8th AF Heritage Gallery, Old Buckenham. Open all year on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm, and by request other days. Contact: James Clarey, Museum Curator by email: curator@453museum.com. Telephone: 01366 386119.

2022 notable occasions

25th anniversary of American Air Museum, Duxford

75th anniversary of USAF

80th anniversary of American forces arrival for European campaign

Side Note: 25th anniversary of National Museum of Mighty 8th Air Force was this year, 2020

Also, check the following websites for more information:

<https://www.americanlibrary.uk/>

<https://www.mightyeighth.org>

<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/upcoming/calendar/>

<https://www.8thafhs.org/>

<https://www.abmc.gov/>

<https://aomda.org/en/content/ceremonies/>

Heritage League of
the Second Air Division (USAAF)
Marybeth Dyer (458th BG)
6410 Valley Oak Plaza
Martinez, CA 94553
www.heritageleague.org/

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID

2021-2023 Heritage League Executive Committee

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

Executive Vice President
Jim Birmingham (458th BG)
7325 Edgehill Road
Greendale, WI 53129
jbirmi@aol.com

Secretary
Colleen Mersman (44th/491st BGs)
2240 Summerlin Dr.
Aurora, IL 60503
cpmers88@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Sue Risley (446th BG)
682 Slade Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
(847) 571-4405
sue.ris13@gmail.com

Communications VP
Doug Dovey (392nd/44th BGs)
PO Box 821
Yorktown, VA 23672
(757) 206-3724
ddovey@hotmail.com

VP for Volunteers
Brian Mahoney (492nd/467th BGs)
823 Whitelock Street
Baltimore, MD 21217
(202) 232-1423
researcher@brianmahoney.com

2AD Memorial Trust Governor
and Past President
Beverly Baynes Tomb (466th BG)
2212 Grayson Place
Falls Church, VA 22043
(703) 241-4152
bnbtomb@gmail.com

2ND BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, 8TH AIR FORCE



Past President
Irene Hurner (453rd BG)
46400 San Antonio Valley Road
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 200-3265
ihurner@hotmail.com

Membership Protégé
Barb Figueroa (458th BG)
3225 Dayfield Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207
barbfigueroa927@gmail.com