



# HERITAGE HERALD

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



## Together in Boston: The HL & 93rd BG Convention 2022

*It was a memorable occasion with a historical setting we will not forget! By Irene Hurner*

The Heritage League held its first standalone convention in 2006 near Savannah, at Pooler, Georgia. One event was a memorial service with the 93rd Bomb Group Association at the Chapel of Fallen Eagles on the grounds of the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth. The service was very special, and those in attendance

agreed that the two groups should meet together again. Sixteen years later saw members of the two groups travel to Newton, Massachusetts. This was the culmination of two years planning for the convention committee, as our original date was set for 2020. But, as for so many other activities, the convention (continued on page 3)

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## Holiday Meals—Hosted by 448th Bomb Group, Seething

*By Pat Everson, Seething Digest*



*Editor's note.* It was the Fall of 1943 and Americans were just arriving at their new Seething Airbase. During that period, the author was a school child, and she relates her memories of American sponsored holiday events.

### Foreword

To understand our excitement and why we had so many questions, one must understand that in the 1940's our village had no electricity even though our house was new in 1933. We had no telephone, and our one radio had a large battery, so it was only used for news or a few programs. Our only heating was from a coal fire. Cooking was done on the (continued on page 11)

### Heritage League to England & Normandy this July

July 22-28, 2023 with optional visit to Normandy beaches and cemeteries. July 29-August 2.  
Deadline for deposit, February 1, 2023. Registration form due May 15. See pages 21-26

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

—Marybeth Dyer



"You can never have too many friends" my mom used to say. Well, she was right. Those of us who attended our Boston convention with the 93rd BG found that out. We learned a lot about each other for sure. We created relationships and friendships and appreciated how each organization worked and found out that we had so much in common. We became friends.

One highlight was the memorabilia room where we shared our Veterans' stories. At the Memorial dinner, we honored those who had lost their lives for our freedom and viewed my favorite, the welcome video. We had several Veterans say hello to us via video presentations. Although they could not attend the event, we felt their presence along with our special Veterans in attendance—Allan Hallett and Don O'Reilly.

We accomplished so much (see our Boston Convention article in this *Herald*). Thank you, Jim Root and John Marx and the entire 93rd BG organiza-

tion for a wonderful time in Boston. It was a pleasure working with you and I hope we can do it again real soon.

Now that Boston is over, we will be putting our full attention on our July 2023 Heritage League/392nd BG Convention with an add-on tour of Normandy. Information is in this *Herald* and on our website at: [www.heritageleague.org](http://www.heritageleague.org). If you are interested, we ask that you register ASAP and place a refundable deposit so we can get an idea on how many will be attending. We are holding it in July, hoping to see 3rd and 4th generations attend so they may experience where their relatives and friends served. It is a lesson they will never forget.

Our 2023 Membership drive began December 1st. Please don't forget to renew your membership. The Renewal form is in this *Herald* and, of course, on our website. Please consider sharing that form with your relatives and friends. We are always looking for new members who can appreciate our mission and legacy.

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.

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### COVER PHOTOS:

Top: Heritage League and 93rd Bomb Group Association members surround veterans Allan Hallett (389th BG) and Don O'Reilly (305th, 492nd, 44th BGs) before the banquet dinner. Photo: L. Priestley.

Bottom: In the first months of their arrival at Seething, 448th BG personnel hosted holiday meals for locals and RAF airmen assigned there during activation. AAF photo from 448th BG collection.

(Together in Boston, cont'd from page 1)

had to be rescheduled to October, 2022. One Heritage League member, Doug Tomb, actually grew up in Newton, just eleven minutes from Boston. So, for him, it was going home. For the rest of us, visiting the Boston area, and Boston itself, was an experience which we had looked forward to. It was a perfect time of year to see the leaves change color.

The arrival for many began a few days before Friday, October 7th to allow for adjusting to the time change. Registration and a Welcome Dinner were the first events. After welcome remarks by Heritage League President Marybeth Dyer, and 93rd President Jim Root, introductions of those present were made with each person giving a bit of background. Each group has traditions that the other doesn't, so this was a great opportunity to share ideas, answer questions, and get to make new friends, while enjoying time with those whom we haven't seen in a year or more. 93rd members' storyboards lined the perimeter of the room with pictures of veterans, crews, and other photos. Heritage League members also contributed memorabilia of their veterans, so this made for an interesting and informative display for all attendees to enjoy.

## The Schedule

Saturday morning saw everyone up and moving early for the bus ride to the American Heritage



Cooler temperatures with sunny skies produced fall colors throughout the Boston area and added an historic atmosphere to our visit. We couldn't ask for better conditions. Photo: J. Root.

Museum on the Collings Foundation property to witness "Battle for the Airfield," a World War II re-enactment. I have known re-enactors, but this was my first actual attendance at such an event. The day was perfect, and sitting on the slope above the field gave everyone a good view. Afterwards, three World War II veterans participated in interviews with questions presented by a moderator, and then additional questions were asked by the audience. The panel included our own veterans Allan Hallett (389th), and Don O'Reilly (491st, 44th). We also had time to look at the various military equipment on display, before boarding the bus for our hotel. The last part of our day included another bus ride

to Boston's Little Italy, and Filippo Ristorante for a delicious dinner served family style. No one left hungry! One thing that we all learned from our bus driver, is that the three tunnels in Boston which go under the river came to be known as the "Big Dig." The bus driver thanked all those who pay taxes as they helped pay for the project; the federal government contributed millions of dollars (and a large over budget cost as well).

Sunday included a more relaxing schedule with a day at the hotel. It began with a non-denominational religious service, and then the two groups' annual business meetings before lunch. Our Heritage League meeting included participation via Zoom by the Chairman of the 2AD Memorial Trust, Group Captain



John Marx, 93rd BGA Vice President and 93 BG Gold Star Nephew, briefs the assembly on event background and upcoming schedule. Note the personal story boards surrounding our dining/main meeting room. Photo: B. Mahoney.

(Ret) Richard Middleton and Dr. Linda Sheppard from the American Library on the condition and activities of the newly renamed Library. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Martha Pedersen for her efforts in keeping us connected with our veterans. After lunch, there were two educational sessions. One was a talk given by Yvonne Caputo about her book, *Flying with Dad*. She is also the new president of the 467th Bomb Group Association. Congratulations, Yvonne! The second session was a question and answer

session with World War II veterans, Allan Hallett and Don O'Reilly. As usual, these fellows entertained us with stories and answered our questions. 93rd members said that they were extremely happy to have our veterans join us, as this was the first reunion of the 93rd BG without at least one veteran.

The final activity for the day was the Memorial Dinner which was preceded by the presentation of the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 4th generation R.J. Huntley wearing his Cub Scout uniform. The singing of the national anthem was led by Brian Mahoney. Last, there was a candle lighting ceremony by the 93rd Bomb Group and the Heritage League. The ceremony included a script, written by Brian Mahoney and read by Sue Risley.

Candle lighters included Heritage League past-presidents, veterans Allan Hallett and Don O'Reilly, 4th generation R. J. Bedus and Ryan Marx, current or-



Veteran Allan Hallett (389th, Hethel) offering his views at one of the convention's education sessions. Photo: M. Dyer.

ganization presidents Marybeth Dyer (458th) Jim Root (93rd). Before the retiring of the colors, a demonstration by John Marx's grandchildren, who are 4th generation attendees, the correct way to fold a flag. A tradition of the 93rd is to set a table for the missing men, as our veterans will not be forgotten. A red rose laid at each table setting and was quite poignant. Each attendee was presented with a challenge coin made especially for the convention with the HL logo on one side and the 93rd logo on the other.

On Monday, we boarded a bus to go explore Boston with its old Quincy marketplace and to begin to follow the Freedom Trail. We visited the Charleston Navy Yard and the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) before returning to the hotel for our final dinner. One unexpected thing happened that evening at the hotel. Marine Staff Sergeant Taylor happened to be in the lobby to pick up recruit Brandon Elias, when he saw our group arrive. S/Sgt. Taylor asked about the occasion and immediately asked to speak to our WWII veterans. He found Don O'Reilly sitting at a table in the Charles ballroom and proceeded to spend

about a half hour asking questions. When S/Sgt. Taylor and recruit Elias left, they thanked our veterans for their service and remarked that this had been a most memorable event for them.

Before saying good-bye, the convention committees, groups' officers, and other interested attendees met to review what was learned from the co-op gathering. Those in attendance felt our meeting was great, we learned from each other, made new friends, and enjoyed the camaraderie. Reinforcing the group's reunion review was a note by Heritage League member Dave Long stating that everyone working together "made for a seamless event and for our time together, we all became one."

Tuesday and Wednesday were two full days of add-on sightseeing following the Freedom Trail, visiting the site of the Boston Tea Party with a



Heritage League and 93rd BGA members join vet Don O'Reilly. Continuing clockwise: Vicki (past Heritage League President) and Kurt Warning, Sue Risley (HL Treasurer), and Mary McGuire (93rd). Photo: M. Dyer.



Veteran Donald O'Reilly (44th, 491st, 305th BGs) addresses the convention during opening introductions. Behind him is the 93rd BG story board. Photo: M. Dyer.



Boarded and ready to tour Boston and navigate. Veterans Allan Hallett (top turret gunner) and Don O'Reilly (MP) are in the lead and ready to go. Photo: D. Dovey.

most enjoyable tour of the ship given by actors in costume. Veteran Allan Hallett was chosen to play one of those who threw tea overboard. We then visited several historic sites including Lexington, and Concord, the Minute Man Visitor's Center and statue, the Lexington Battle Green Site, the Old North Church, Paul Revere's House, Longfellow House, Harvard Square, and were given a chance to stroll Boston Commons. In our short time in the area, leaves went from just beginning to turn, to a full on 'peak color' display.

Heritage League and 93rd BGA members join vet Don O'Reilly with his daughter Colleen Mersman

(HL Secretary) to his left. Continuing clockwise: Vicki (past Heritage League President) and Kurt Warning, Sue Risley (HL Treasurer), and Mary McGuire (93rd). Trees near the Minute Man monument and on the path to the visitor center at Concord were among many colorful vistas of orange and gold among the green.

Dave Long's note highlighted what I think is a fitting conclusion to my story. "When we gathered as a group, I saw a lot of heroes in the room. Anyone who honors a veteran or person serving in the military is a hero to me. When you honored my uncle (Allan Hallett), you were doing it also in honor of someone in your family."

That is exactly what we all were gathered to do.



To honor the lost and missing, ten place settings were set at the banquet representing the airmen manning the typical B-24 crew. Photo: L. Priestley.

*We will not forget!*



Ten candles represent the ten crewmen manning a typical B-24. Heritage League and 93rd each provided five symbolic candle lightings honoring those killed or missing. Photo: L. Priestley.



Watch out Brian Mahoney (HL VP for Volunteers)! There is no time for smiles as a Sherman tank breaks out of the woods behind you as the Collings Museum mock airfield attack begins. Photo: D. Dovey.



The counteroffensive begins. British infantry with American tanks move to prevent German advance at the simulated airfield at Collings Museum grounds. Photo: M. Dyer.

## Day Two Collings Museum and Field Trip



A major threat to our bombers, the German 88mm antiaircraft gun on display at the Collings Museum. Known as Flug Abwehr Kanone 36, many considered this the single greatest weapon of the war. Museum placard states it destroyed 6,400 Allied aircraft and damaged 27,000 from its "Flak" anti-aircraft fire. Designed in Sweden, over 20,000 were built during the war. Photo: D. Dovey.

A major threat to our bombers, the Messerschmitt Me-109 fighter on display at the Collings Museum. It was the backbone of the German fighter force and had more aerial kills than any other aircraft of WWII. It also was the most produced fighter in history, with 33,984 produced. Photo: D. Dovey.





Pointing to the 392nd BG commemorative coin, R.J. Huntley undoubtedly recalls an additional purpose of these as "challenge coins;" whose rules of use were briefed earlier by the Heritage League president. Those not possessing their coin when challenged, face the expense of supplying a round of beverages. The Heritage League coin is on left with 93rd BG on right. Photo: D. Dovey.



Sharp Air Force Junior ROTC cadets post the colors to begin the banquet. Their unit is based at Cape Cod. The Stars and Stripes being posted waved proudly over the American Military Cemetery near Cambridge England. Photo: L. Priestley.

## Day Three Meetings



Marine Staff Sergeant Taylor was at the hotel to pick up a new recruit but had to stop what he was doing when he caught sight of our Vets. Here, veteran Don O'Reilly (former MP at Grafton Underwood, Metfield, and Shipdam bases) speaks about his experiences at the three Bomb Groups where he worked. Photo: B. Mahoney.



Two presidents! Marybeth Dyer, Heritage League, and Jim Root, 93rd BGA oversaw the very successful course of events at the joint convention. Many thanks to both of them and to their teams for the impressive endeavors. Photo: D. Dovey.

Veteran Bob Birmingham's (458th BG, Horsham St. Faith) military attire on display. On the left is the parachute D-ring pulled to activate his chute. Bob got one swing after bailout before landing in a tree. Jim turned 97 years old this month. Display by son Jim Birmingham. Photo: D. Dovey.



## Day Three Banquet Dinner



Gold Star Great Niece Laurie Huntley (392nd, 579th) with son R.J. take pride in showing us her Great Uncle's history frame and photo of navigator Captain John Slovik. Photo: D. Dovey.



Enjoying the great spirit at the convention banquet are Laurie Huntley (Gold Star Niece and former *Herald* editor, 392nd BG, 579th BS), Sue Risley (treasurer, 446th), Brian Mahoney (past President and VP for Volunteers, 467th, 492nd BGs) and Beverly Baynes Tomb (past President and 2nd AD Memorial Trust Governor, 466th). Photo: L. Priestley.



Veterans Allan Hallett, Don O'Reilly, their family, and Cub Scout RJ Huntley are surrounded by the Heritage League membership plus 93rd BGA President and master of ceremonies Jim Root (far right). Photo: M. Dyer.



The gangway to board the Historic USS Constitution at the Charleston Navy yard. This ship is the world's oldest commissioned ship afloat and was undefeated in battle during the Barbary Wars and War of 1812. She destroyed or captured 33 opponents. It earned the nickname of Old Ironsides during the war of 1812 when British cannonballs were seen bouncing off the ship's thick wooden hull. Photo: D. Dovey.



Active duty ABH5 Santos with Gold Star Niece and Navy Vet Martha Pedersen (head of HL veterans outreach program) after a great briefing on Old Ironsides's gun deck operations. This is Santos's first assignment after completing basic training. Photo: D. Dovey.



A visit to Fenway Park is a key stop for any Boston visitor, especially if you are a Red Sox fan. Vicki and Kurt Warring (front), Steve Dyer and Sue Risley tried to get a glimpse of the green wall. Photo: M. Dyer.



HL Treasurer Sue Risley (446th BG) gleefully points out our exclusive dinner restaurant Filippo, in the Italian section of Boston. Many local and national celebrities have dined there. Photo: M. Dyer.

# 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](mailto: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 defending our nation. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** We honor you and thank you for our freedoms today.



Joe Haenn, our oldest birthday Vet will be 106 this April. Here last year he displays a fine cake. He served as aircraft mechanic with the 467th BG, Rackheath. Family Photo.



B-24 pilot and Captain, Leland Spencer (93rd BG Hardwick) celebrates his 101st birthday this February. Family photo.



Stanley Goldstein (radar navigator) was assigned to 466th BG, Attelbridge. Sadly we learned that Stan passed away 18 December, 2022. He would have been 99 on February 2023. Family photo.



Bombardier Fred Becchetti flew with the 445th BG, Bungay. He will mark 99 years this March. Family photo.



Our youngest of the group is 389th BG Hethel top turret gunner Allan Hallett. He will celebrate his 97th birthday this April. Photo: D. Dovey.

*Whatever you guys are doing—keep it up!*

*(Holiday Meals—1943, Seething, continued from page 1)*

open fire or oven in the wall, which also had a fire under it, or a paraffin stove. Lighting was oil lights or candles. All our water came from a well, we had no bathroom, and the toilet was all the way down the garden. Seething was served with a bus service and there were only one or two cars in the village. Our local general store, Freestones, delivered your shopping or you could pop in. We also had a butcher too. We never went to Norwich or far from our close villages. So perhaps you can understand the lack of knowledge and what an impact the American Airmen and their huge aircraft had on us after four years of war.

### Thanksgiving 1943

There was great interest as an airfield was being built just over a mile down the road from our small rural village of Seething. During the late summer of August and September 1943, the Americans started to arrive. The first arrivals were the 58th Station Compliment Squadron with 6 officers and 150 enlisted men. Their job was to finish preparing the airfield for the newly assigned 448th Bomb Group. At this stage so much was needed to be finished as on their arrival the runways were still being laid.

One day there was great excitement when two American officers came to our small, thatched village school, and invited everyone to join them at the air-



In the Fall of 1943, two officers came to the village schoolhouse to invite everyone to join them at the airfield for their Thanksgiving meal. AAF photo courtesy of P. Everson 448th BG collection.

field for their Thanksgiving meal. I can still remember my feelings as we stood waiting outside the school on Thursday 25th November when we saw the canvas covered trucks and Jeeps come down the road. As soon as

they stopped, we wasted no time in being lifted onto the trucks where we sat on the benches inside while the school teachers rode in the Jeeps. This scene was to be



British locals happily posing upon their arrival on Christmas day 1944. They were bound for the mess halls, theater and Aero Club. AAF photo courtesy of P. Everson 448th BG collection.

repeated many times throughout the war.

As we sat at the long tables in the mess hall, I had wanted to ask so many questions about America and the Americans. Until this event I had only ever learned about America in a Tom Sawyer book, a few comics, and some basic lessons at school. My mind was filled with so many questions like whether or not they liked being over here, but with so many of the other children asking so many questions themselves I was too shy. I just told them my name and said "Yes, please," and "No, thank you."

The food was so different and there was so much of it. We had never had turkey before and there was stuffing, vegetables like sweetcorn and then some kind of jam on the meat followed by pumpkin pie. It was all so strange to us, but they were so pleased to see us as many had young brothers and sisters back home and a few older airmen were missing their own children. There were some airmen playing live music during the meal. This was such a treat, and they were so kind to us, getting paper to place the many hard-boiled sweets on our plates for us to take home. There was so much to tell my family when we got back home. My dad was away in the RAF, so it was good to see an airfield.

On the day before the party, the first six huge B-24 bombers had arrived bringing, amongst others, David Manning and his crew. Another 4 crews arrived on Thanksgiving Day, including Pilot Edward Hughey, Jr. Both of these crews went down on the 448th BG's first mission December 22nd with just two gunners sur-

living from the Manning crew. Other crews from this first batch of arrivals were lost on the 5th of January just to point out the sad reality of the cost of war, which, of course, we had no idea of then.

## Christmas 1943

### Notes from the 448th Records, December 1944:

By far the biggest event of the month was the Christmas Party staged for the station personnel



The American version of St. Nicholas, Santa Claus arrives at the 712 Squadron hall to the delight of the local children. They were on their best behavior that day. AAF photo courtesy of P. Everson 448th BG collection.

and some 300-odd British children from the surrounding communities. Preparations for the party began early in the month and the thoroughness of those preparations was attested to by the success of the affair and enjoyment shared by all personnel, both guests and hosts. The main attractions were centered about the mess halls, the theatre, and the Aero Club. At approximately 11:30 hours on Christmas Day, the children arrived on the Station trucks and were "unloaded" in front of the Special Services office. There awaiting them were their "fathers" and "big brothers" for the day. Officers and enlisted men of the station chose their charges for the day and made their way to the mess halls for the first stop.

Christmas dinner was indeed a gourmand's treat. No one lacked enough to eat. There were second or third helpings provided he or she could carve his way through the enormous first helpings of turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, corn, peas, cranberry sauce, fruit cake, cookies, candy, and apples. The mess halls—both officers and enlisted men—were a strange site to Seething veterans who for over a year had seen nothing but the faces of the same soldiers across the table from them. After the meal, there was a little time to kill before going to the cinema for the Walt Disney feature "The Reluctant Dragon."

One activity was treating the kids to watching the 448th planes land from a combat mission. On this day 32 aircraft had taken off for a mission to Germany. The entertainment reached its peak with a show put on by station personnel for the children in the Aero Club. There was a Master of Ceremonies, a crooner and an "Old Man of the Mountain" act put on by the enlisted personnel, not to mention, of course, Santa Claus himself.



Knick-knacks and candy were passed out to the children by Santa at the 713rd Squadron hall. AAF photo courtesy of P. Everson 448th BG collection.

### LT. Frank Law, Bombardier with Pilot William Hammes crew, 713th Squadron, told his memories of the day:

The Christmas of 1944 is one I shall never ever forget. We were told by the American Red Cross of the plan to pick up children on the base after they had been transported from outlying areas and that child was to be our guest for the entire day. Both the enlisted men and the officers took part in the Christmas day celebrations. I know some of the military personnel had more than one child in tow. However, I chose one boy as he got off the truck and a close friend of mine took his brother. These were

the Saunders boys, Teddy and Jimmy if I recall their names correctly. All of the children were extremely well behaved that day needless to say; it made such a memorable one for all of us. Most of us had saved our candy and chewing gum that we received in packages from home. Such things were difficult to get in the States at that time, but our folks back home always managed to include some in their packages. We in turn saved our goodies for the English children. On that day we had a feast fit for a king—roast turkey and all the trimmings, the tables in the officer's mess and the enlisted men's mess hall also were festooned with all sorts of good things to eat. We also had entertainment that day including a movie picture and later a visit from Santa Claus. The children enjoyed this tremendously.

LT. Frank Law kept in touch with the Saunders family. After he returned to America, he sent them food and other parcels.

Jim Turner & Ron Everson [future husband of author Pat—*Ed.*] were both at Berghapton School at the time. Jim writes of two American officers coming to the school and talking to the teachers. He wondered what they wanted and thought about all those 50 caliber bullets he had at home! After the Americans had left the teacher announced that the Americans at the Airfield were giving a party for the school children in the area and had invited our school. This was met with a stunned silence then followed by excited chatter as the impact of her announcement sunk in.

### **Jim Turner's recollection:**

When the day of the party arrived, my sisters were wearing their best dresses, wool overcoat and hats. I had on the latest fashion for school boys 1944; my best suit, a jacket and short trousers complete with a three cornered tear, which mother hurriedly mended, long socks and boots covered with a gabardine overcoat, topped off with a peaked hat. We set off to the pickup point. We were taken to the airfield in a 6x6 truck fitted out with long slatted wooden seats along each side and across the front end and covered over with a canvas hood. It was very noisy with everyone chatting much to the amusement of the G.I. looking after us. Arriving at the airfield we were met by our American hosts for the day. My younger sister and I were taken together with our officer guide, and my oldest sister went off with someone else. I cannot remember the exact order of events; but we sat down to a meal of the festive season, which was really very special, even though we wondered why we needed jam on the side of our plates. Many years later we heard about cranberry sauce. I remember a small band playing music while we ate, and the decorated Christmas tree.

We were taken to the cinema to see a cartoon film. There must have been other things we did but my memory fails me. One thing that does stand out in my mind was a B-24 flying over shooting yellow flares, and I remember asking my guide what they were for. "It's mechanical trouble," he said.

Having a small sister five years younger than me sharing the same guide had its drawbacks. She seemed to be getting all the goodies, most of the time her face was covered with chocolate, and her hand clutched a bag full of candy. Maybe our guide thought they would be shared, which eventually they were on an 80-20% basis.

I was hoping for a much sought-after pack of chewing gum, but it did not appear. Perhaps I was expecting too much. Looking back, those G.I.s had probably given up several weeks of their candy rations to give us kids a treat, and they had certainly given us a wonderful day. This was a Christmas par-



After the meal, children chatted with airmen while waiting to go to the theater for Walt Disney's film *The Reluctant Dragon*. AAF photo courtesy of P. Everson 448th BG collection.

ty that would be remembered long after others had faded into the past. All too soon it was over and time to leave, as we boarded the trucks and waved goodbye. The smiles on their faces say they were glad to see us go and get back to normal. No, I don't think so. I think they enjoyed it as much as us. On the same trip from the school was Ronnie Everson. Among his memories was the excitement of going into the gym seeing the footballs, then his great disappointment when he discovered they were in fact heavy medicine balls. 🏈

Reprinted by permission from Seething Digest, Winter 2021



Local residents reciprocated by hosting Seething airmen, as seen at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shulver. Photo from P. Everson 448th BG collection.

### ***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 forebearers 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](mailto:ddovey@hotmail.com)

Thomas Chang, New York, Layout  
[tctomchang@aol.com](mailto:tctomchang@aol.com)

Brian Mahoney, Maryland, Director  
[researcher@brianmahoney.com](mailto:researcher@brianmahoney.com)

Lisa Niehoff, Iowa, Assistant Editor  
[lisa@huxcomm.net](mailto:lisa@huxcomm.net)

Dallas King, Indiana, Photo Editor  
[dwk1927@gmail.com](mailto:dwk1927@gmail.com)

Robert (Bubba) Lee, Alabama, Proofer  
[bubba0905@gmail.com](mailto:bubba0905@gmail.com)

John Pittman, Nevada, Researcher  
[jmpittman12@gmail.com](mailto:jmpittman12@gmail.com)

### ***Share Your Herald***

Rather than recycling your *Herald*, please consider sharing your copy with family, friends or neighbors.

# Minutes of 2021 Heritage League Annual Meeting—October 9, 2022 (Unapproved)

**President Marybeth Dyer called the meeting to order at 10:31 am**

**Invocation:** Read by Beverly Baynes Tomb

**The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States**

Led by Cub Scout Robert J. (RJ) Huntley, son of HL member Laurie Bedus Huntley

**The National Anthem**

Sung by those present, with accompaniment of an instrumental recording

**Report of the Memorial Trust of the Second Air Division**

President Marybeth Dyer introduced Richard Middleton, Chairman of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF who attended and gave his report via Zoom. He highlighted the celebration of the American Library in May 2022 which several members of the HL attended in Norwich, and that seeing and hearing WWII veterans Earl Wassom, Bob Birmingham and Allan Hallett, brought meaning to the event and was key to its success. His report is included separately in the *Herald*.

**Report of the American Library**

President Marybeth Dyer introduced Dr. Linda Sheppard, Library and Information Assistant for the American Library, who gave the report via Zoom on behalf of Orla Kennelly. Her report is included separately in the *Herald*.

**President's Report**

Marybeth Dyer reported on several special projects. *News from the Greatest Generation*, our effort to digitize newsletters from individual Bomb Groups, is well underway. We have completed creation of digitized, searchable versions of past newsletters from many of the individual Bomb Groups and Fighter Groups from the 2AD. Work is moving forward to collect additional newsletters that were not in the first batch. Creating an online design for storing and sharing them is a work in progress.

**The Flower Fund** is well financed, and the HL had wreaths at the 13 American cemeteries overseas that hold the 2nd Air Division dead. We are grateful that flowers at Cambridge, Netherlands and Ardennes cemeteries were placed in person by friends of the Heritage League.

**Preservation of BG websites** for the 492nd and 453rd BGs are currently progressing.

**Secretary's Report**

Colleen Mersman presented the 2021 Annual meeting minutes for approval. Beverly Tomb made a motion to approve. Jim Birmingham seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer Report**

Sue Risley presented the balance sheet as of June 30, 2022.

Assets-cash: \$64,790. Restricted funds (\$20,594). Net funds: \$44,196.

Operating loss: \$2,421. Net assets: \$41,775.



Opening the annual meeting in fine decorum, Cub Scout RJ Huntley, son of Laurie Huntley (379th, 392nd BGs) led us with the Pledge of Allegiance. Photo: D. Dovey.

## Volunteers Report

Brian Mahoney thanked those who have completed the volunteer forms on our website. He reported that there will be a future need for volunteers to search the digitized data to answer questions that members submit.

## Membership Report

Marybeth Dyer reported that there are 336 active members. Of those, 58 are Honorary Life Members (WWII 2AD vets). 259 are Legacy members (descendants/relatives of WWII 2AD vets), and 19 Regular members (researchers, historians, etc). We welcomed 16 new members (included in the total).

## Communications

Doug Dovey reported that the *Heritage Herald* is published 3 times a year. Features include reviews of online videos, B-24 nose art, Kids Corner, Pitch it to Pete, a calendar list of group and museum activities, Veteran's birthdays, and articles about the 2nd Air Division in WWII.

The Website of the Heritage League: [www.HeritageLeague.org](http://www.HeritageLeague.org) is supported by volunteer Nancy Hildebrandt. It provides links to join, donate to, and volunteer for the Heritage League. And will have information on our 2023 Convention shortly.

Our official Facebook page is titled: *Heritage League of the Second Air Division - USAAF* and is administered by the Heritage League Executive Committee.

Webcasts—Our annual meeting and board meetings are via Zoom. The annual meetings are saved to YouTube.

## Delegate Committee Report

Irene Hurner read this report:

The Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF) is a non-profit, non-political organization composed of U.S. veterans' families, friends, and supporters. It is registered with the Internal Revenue Service under Tax Code Section 501(c)(3). Its Tax Identification Number is 36-3590698. As such, certain income tax considerations apply to members in the performance of official Heritage League duties. The participation of regular voting members of the League in today's annual business meeting as an official delegate is such a duty. 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 regular voting members who attend the meeting, and publish that list with the minutes in the Heritage Herald.

### Attendance List for Heritage League Annual meeting Thursday, October 9, 2022, Boston, MA and Zoom

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Bomb Group</u>	<u>Membership</u>
Allen Hallett	389	honorary life member (HLM)
Donald O'Reilly	44, 491	HLM
Becky Hallett Bergeron	389	yes
Yvonne Caputo	467	yes
Steven Dyer	458	yes
Laura Huntley	392	yes
R. J. Huntley	392	
David Long	389	yes
James Snyder	44	
Martha Hallett Testagrossa	389	yes
Kurt Warning	466	yes
Vicki Warning	466	yes
Jeffrey Young	44	
Patricia Young	44	yes
Stuart Young	44	yes

### Heritage League Officials

Marybeth Birmingham Dyer	458	HL President
Jim Birmingham	458	HL Vice President
Colleen O'Reilly Mersman	44, 491	HL Secretary
Sue Risley	446	HL Treasurer
Doug Dovey	44, 392	HL Communications VP
Brian Mahoney	467, 492	HL VP for Volunteers
Beverly Baynes Tomb	466	HL past President and 2AD Trust Governor
Irene Biel Hurner	453	HL past President
Martha Pedersen	44	HL Veterans Outreach

### Online via Zoom

Richard Middleton	Chairman, 2AD Memorial Trust	
Dr Linda Sheppard	Information Assistant, American Library	
Chris Clark	44	yes
Brian Cool	445	yes
Sara Grivas	458	yes
Robert Lee	448	yes
Mary Beth & Richard Lord	458	yes

Irene Hurner made a motion to accept the report of the Delegate Committee and to declare all regular voting members attending the 35th annual business meeting official delegates. Brian Mahoney seconded the motion. The report was approved.

## New Business

Marybeth Dyer reported:

- The Heritage League 2023 convention will be held in Norwich, England. The period will be July 23-28 with an add-on trip to Normandy July 29-August 2.
- The Heritage League and the 93rd Bomb Group will work together to ensure the Scale-model B-24 Reflection Pool in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA is maintained.
- The Heritage League will work with the 93rd Bomb Group in its efforts to honor the remains of WWII MIA/KIA who are still being recovered.

Chris Clark reported on his visit to the British Embassy in Washington, DC to give his condolences for the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He met General Mark A. Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was escorted to a special room to write his condolences in one of the books.

Brian Mahoney presented an award to Martha Pedersen for her efforts on the Veteran Vitality Program, contacting our HLM veterans for birthdays and wellness checks, sending get well and condolence cards, and providing updates for the Heritage League membership list. President Dyer adjourned the meeting at 12:14 pm.

Heritage League of the 2ADA Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2022	
	Jun 30, 22
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Cash Accounts	
Checking - 53rd - NEW	2,254.81
Savings - 53rd - NEW	57,526.94
PayPal Account	5,008.58
Total Cash Accounts	64,790.33
Total Checking/Savings	64,790.33
Total Current Assets	64,790.33
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>64,790.33</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Restricted funds	
492nd Bomb Group Website M...	2,000.00
Greatest Generation Project	9,770.00
So Cal / D-day luncheon	374.40
Flower Fund	3,329.63
8th AF Historical Society	50.00
American (Memorial) Library	70.00
Total Restricted funds	15,594.03
Total Other Current Liabilities	15,594.03
Total Current Liabilities	15,594.03
Total Liabilities	15,594.03
Equity	
Net Assets	51,617.50
Net Income	-2,421.20
Total Equity	49,196.30
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>64,790.33</b>

Heritage League of the 2ADA Profit & Loss July 2021 through June 2022	
	Jul '21 - Jun 22
<b>Income</b>	
Dues	6,420.00
Amazon Smile	235.42
Donations Received	
Heritage League	4,166.04
In Kind Donations	723.04
Total Donations Received	4,889.08
Interest Income	
Interest Income - Other	5.78
Total Interest Income	5.78
Miscellaneous Income	10.00
Total Income	11,560.28
<b>Expense</b>	
Convention - 2022	924.34
Convention - 2021	2,552.87
Zoom - Internet Meetings	149.90
Membership Mailing Supplies	254.55
Bank charges and paypal fees	155.65
Donations	
Memorial Trust of the 2nd AD	350.00
Total Donations	350.00
Heritage Herald	
Postage	138.95
Printing	1,724.33
Production	7,577.50
Total Heritage Herald	9,440.78
Postage	65.75
Printing	26.64
Registration fee - State of IL	11.00
Website	50.00
Void	0.00
Total Expense	13,981.48
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-2,421.20</b>

# 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Report for the HL

*By Richard Middleton, Chairman of the Trust*



Chairman of the 2nd Air Division Trust Governors, Richard Middleton, briefs the Heritage League annual meeting on the status of the Memorial Trust from England via Zoom. Photo: B. Mahoney.

It has been a year of two halves for the American Library; a good first half but a disappointing second half. Last year I was able to tell you about the re-dedication of the Roll of Honor by the Bishop of Norwich which marked the start of getting back to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic and by the end of the year the library was fully open, although the new meeting room was only finally cleared for use last month. The 2021 annual general meeting took place live, with a virtual feed and we adjusted the time so that people in the US could join in without staying up all night. We hosted a number of live events, including two excellent talks from the Walker Fellowship Scholar, Tony Phillips. The talks were simultaneously broadcast on YouTube, again a format we intend to continue using.

The highlight of the year, however, was undoubtedly the celebration of the American Library in May 2022 and we were delighted that some members of the HL were able to join us in Norwich; I note that they have produced a full report for the Heritage Herald. To see and hear Earl Wassom, Bob Birmingham and Allan Hallett, albeit via Zoom, really brought meaning to the event and was the key to its success. In addition, the contributions by the US Air Attaché, Colonel Charles Metrolis and Margaret Dewsbury, representing the Leader of Norfolk County Council, both emphasised the important role that the American Library has in remembering the fallen and in bringing together the people of Norfolk and the USA.

The Trust Librarian, Orla Kennelly had produced a comprehensive programme of outreach and other activities aimed at taking the American Library to a wider audience. Unfortunately, in June she was taken seriously ill and has been off work since then. In addition, Linda Sheppard, our other full time Library assistant, badly damaged her shoulder in a fall and she too, was away from work for a considerable time. As a result, we had to cancel or postpone many of the

more ambitious plans for the summer and autumn, not least the 2nd Air Division History Convention. I am pleased to say that Linda is back at work and Orla is recovering. Hopefully, we will be able to pick things up in 2023.

## Finances

The Trust's assets were not immune to the turbulence in financial markets caused by the war in Ukraine and the rise in inflation. However, after a sharp drop in the book value at the beginning of 2022, the value of the Trust's funds recovered during the year and despite various ups and downs, by mid-September they stood at about £5.46 million, just below the figure for last September, but the Trust did receive £145,000 in income during the year. We have also just heard about another generous legacy, this time from the estate of Dale Dyer, a pilot in the 458th BG, who left the Library \$28,000 in his will. Market turbulence has not ceased and the next year is likely to be a challenge, particularly for the brokers, if they are to achieve their stated aim of achieving an annual growth rate of inflation plus 5%; the Governors will continue to monitor performance.

## Other Activities

Despite the setbacks, the remaining staff in the library have been busy during the summer with a range of activities for all ages, as the Librarian's Report details. The project to examine how we can make the information on the 2nd Air Division Archive more accessible has made good progress, and the next step will be to try to extract data from photographic and written material which can be used as a way to search for information. Another aspect being looked at is the use of machine reading.

Suzanne Solomon completed her second year as a University of East Anglia (UEA) Scholar and has been a tremendous asset. The Governors are grateful for all she has done, particularly for her thoughtful and interesting articles for the Scholar's Blog and we wish her well as she writes up her PhD. She will be replaced by Rex Rowley who begins in October. Rex is another Scholar doing a PhD under the auspices of the Literature, Drama and Creative Writing programme at the UEA. Lauren Cortese completed the first year of her 3-year UEA Scholarship and has already made her presence felt. The Walker Scholarship was awarded to Charlotte Mungford, an American Studies student who is spending her year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. These scholarships are a marvellous way to make a positive impact and keep the memory of our veterans alive.

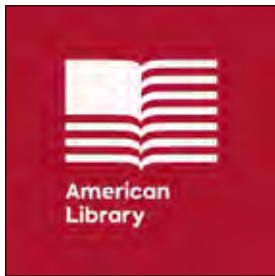
Andrew Hawker has stepped down as Chair of the Library Subcommittee after 16 years and also announced he would step down as Vice Chairman of the Trust; I am extremely grateful for his support in both roles. His contribution to the Trust and the Library has been immense and he

will be missed but I am pleased to say his knowledge and commitment will not be lost as he has agreed to remain a Governor. He is replaced by Thomas Courtauld as Chair of the Library Subcommittee.

The American Library provides the County of Norfolk and the City of Norwich with a tremendous resource and the Governors and staff are determined that it

should make an impact. We have a degree of financial security which will enable us to tell the story of America and of the 2nd Air Division in different and exciting ways. We look forward to working with our friends in the Heritage League to make that happen and so meet the wishes of the veterans for a living memorial.

## American Library Report for the Heritage League's Annual Business Meeting



Presented to the Heritage League Annual Convention by Linda Sheppard, PhD. Held on Sunday, 9 October from 15:30–17:30 (BST)

### Introduction

The American Library, Memorial to the 2nd Air Division USAAF opened in April 2021 after a 14-month closure period and a major refurbishment. During the closure period, daily staff activities changed drastically. Many were re-deployed to assist the Norfolk County Council in its pandemic relief efforts. Working from home, staff also developed aspects of the interpretation: updating base contact information; library records; and the website. In May of 2022, the library suffered a further impediment due to the pandemic when the Trust Librarian took ill with complications resulting from long Covid. In the absence of the Trust Librarian, the American Library has worked together as a team in summer and autumn to keep the doors open and outreach active. The information contained in this report is presented on behalf of Orla Kennelly who is only now entering into a phased return to work.

### Outreach

To increase our outreach, the library has both targeted specific populations and partnered with other local heritage and aviation organisations. These activities include an involvement with the Norfolk Heritage Centre's *Time Travellers* (a group that includes older members who share their memories of the past), and the hosting of a High School Work Experience Student (to engage with future generations). The American Library remains an active member of The Imperial War Museum at Duxford, the Wartime Heritage Aviation Network, and the East Anglian Aviation Heritage Network. Our library assistant team have also remained in contact with local air base contacts through *Coffee*

*and Conversation* and there are plans in to travel to these locations and participate for future Open Days to further connect with this constituency. Finally, the Second Air Division Meeting Room is finally in use whereby we can host local, national, and international groups in a new and larger space thus further increasing outreach.

Overall, the Library has seen an increase in visitors whether individually, as part of an organised group, or as attendees to regular and special events. To reach out to existing and new audiences, the library continues to use technology to host on-line and hybrid special events in addition to our regular in-person programmes. Regular live events include *The Reading Across the Pond Book Group*, blended programmes include the *Reading America Book Group*, and on-line events include *Shut Up and Write* (a virtual creative writing series held live on Facebook), *Library Introductory Tours and Coffee and Conversation Afternoons*. All of these continue to be popular and are promoted via Eventbrite, Facebook, and Twitter. Library special events are blended and take place both in-library and on-line to reach the largest possible audience. Highlights of these events include *Cracking Crime Fiction* and Celebrating Halloween, in October and early November 2022. Several special events are also upcoming including a talk with Baltimore based theatrical producer Alex Zavistovich of *The National Poe Theatre*, a live screening of the documentary *Horror Noire* hosted by Professor Robin R. Means Coleman and the Faith Horror Book Launch, celebrating the publication of Linda Sheppard's PhD thesis, a work supported by the trust during her American Scholarship of 2014-2015.

### Collections Management

Book stock was inaccessible to the public from December 24th, 2020 to April 12th, 2021. Following the reopening of the Library Service and with the agreement of Millennium Library colleagues, a portion of our stock became accessible on the first floor prior to the

opening of the American Library. Thanks to a recent grant award from the 'Daughters of the American Revolution' the library e-collection has increased into an easily accessible Virtual American Library (see at: <https://norfolk.overdrive.com/library/americanlibrary>). E-audiobooks have also been added to the collection for the first time. Finally, the 3rd phase of the Digital Archive Project has now begun. Led by officer, Victoria Draper and in conjunction with remote and on-site volunteers, data will be extracted from the archive's photographic and handwritten materials which will enable the public to search the digitized materials online by names, places, and other entities.

### American Presence

The 2022-23 Walker Scholar, Charlotte Mungford, has begun her studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Former American Scholar, Suzanne Solomon, concludes her time with the library at the end of September, while current 3-Year American Scholar, Lauren Cortese, and new One-Year American Scholar, Rex Rowley, will begin their second and first year of service (respectively) in October 2022. These scholars work to produce the *American Library Scholar Blog*, participate in the drafting of the new *American Library Newsletter*, maintain an active social media presence, and will host future events. Rex has prepared a brief introductory statement presented below.

Rex Rowley is currently a PhD student in Creative-Critical Writing at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. His thesis is comprised of a novel and critical component which investigates the validity of fiction as research within the framework of current academic literary studies. Growing up in the western United States, Rex spent most of his childhood in the Seattle, Washington and in Salt Lake City, Utah. He also had the opportunity to spend substantial amounts of time with family in other areas of the country, including California, Florida, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Being multi-ethnic and cultural, with different languages and ideology being shared at home, he believes this unique upbringing has influenced how he understands wider American cultural norms and the ways in which he navigates through and interacts within them. He briefly attended medical school before switching toward creative writing, the primary intellectual passion he has held from an early age. Rex attended graduate school for creative writing at the University of East Anglia from which he graduated with distinction in 2020. In 2021, he was awarded the UEA-Curtis Brown Award for his dissertation, an excerpt from his novel in progress. As a writer, Rex is interested in the novel and formal experimentation, including interactions with narrative structure, typographic play, and the physical possibilities of the book. He looks forward to the opportunity to share his experiences and to learn as an American Scholar.

**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*

Henry Nykamp (93rd BG)                      Jean Koznarek

### —Folded Wings—

<i>Charles D. Cavit</i>	9/15/15	389th BG
<i>Elliott H. Lovelace</i>	2/14/20	453rd BG
<i>Taffe Simon</i>	3/14/20	445th BG
<i>Jim McClain</i>	10/10/21	389th BG
<i>Harold L. Dietz, Sr.</i>	7/4/22	466th BG
<i>Robert (Bob) Swegel</i>	7/11/22	44th BG
<i>Oliver (Mo) Morris</i>	11/28/22	453th BG
<i>Stanley Goldstein</i>	12/8/22	466th 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](mailto:smbdyer@sbcglobal.net).

# Heritage League Visit to England and Normandy

Our Norwich-based 2023 annual convention, membership meeting, museum and airbase visits, and trip to London are scheduled for July 23-28, 2023. With the summer timeframe, we hope to attract more 3rd and 4th generations (our kids and grandkids) to attend. Five days are planned for the Norwich area which will include an opening reception, three airbase visits, an open day, annual members meeting, and banquet. Lodging



Our primary lodging will be at Maids Head Hotel. Hotel photo.

will be at the Maids Head Hotel, Norwich and Leonardo Royal Hotel St Paul's across from St Paul's Cathedral in London.

The Heritage League and 392nd BGM Association are joining together for planning and conducting this venture. Visits to Norfolk Suffolk Air Museum at Flixton/Bungay (446th), Seething Tower Museum (448th) and brewery, and Wendling (392nd) are planned. A free day is also on the schedule. Or in its place, two optional tours: a trip to the American Cemetery



The closing banquet at Norwich will be at Dunston Hall. Photo: B. Tomb.

at Cambridge/Madingley, or a tour of Blickling Hall, birthplace of Anne Boleyn, mother of Elizabeth II. Our convention banquet will be at the stately Dunston Hall, Norwich, on Thursday July 27. The visit concludes with a trip the next day to London, and a special ceremony on behalf of



Our night in London will be at the Leonardo Royal Hotel St Paul's around the corner from St Paul's Cathedral. Hotel photo.

the 2nd Air Division at the American Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral.

A four-day optional trip to Normandy D-Day sites will depart London the next day for hotels in Bayeux, France. Visits are planned to landing beaches, cemeteries, museum and villages associated with D-Day, as well as a trip to Mont St. Michel on the final day. The planning committee has arranged a dedicated tour guide to accompany us for this entire special add-on event.

Those interested are requested to send in the deposit form at: [www.heritageleague.org](http://www.heritageleague.org), along with your refundable deposits of \$100 for Norwich and \$50 for the Normandy add-on by February 1, 2023 (refundable until May 1, 2023). Registration forms with specific pricing and hotel reservation information were mailed to members mid-December. Final payment is due May 15, 2023. For the latest information and registration form please access the Heritage League website.

We hope you can join us this summer for an informative and rewarding social and historical fact-finding experience.



Always a solemn but inspirational setting at Normandy, the American Cemetery. ABMC photo.

# REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

2023 Heritage League and 392nd BG to Norwich and Normandy  
July 23rd to July 28th. Add on trip to Normandy, July 29th to August 2nd

## FIRST, THE CHECKLIST

1. Refundable deposits of for the trip (\$100 Norwich, \$50 Normandy) were due by February 1. It can be accessed on our website at [www.Heritageleague.org](http://www.Heritageleague.org).
2. Make your full payment and complete registration form by May 15.
3. Make your reservation at The Maids Head Hotel by May 15.
4. Make your reservation at the Leonardo Royal Hotel London by June 20.
5. Hotel reservations in Normandy must be made thru Ralph Winter at: [rewcts@gmail.com](mailto:rewcts@gmail.com).
6. Book your flights – be sure to consider your return city if you're going to Normandy.
7. Travel insurance is highly recommended (see item VII below).

## II. DEPOSIT

By February 1, you should have reserved your spaces with the deposit form with \$100.00 per person plus a \$50.00 per person deposit if you're interested in the Normandy add-on.

## III. COMBINED REGISTRATION FORM

The Basic Registration England package is **\$475.00 per person**. For the add-on Normandy tour, the registration fee is **\$350.00 per person**. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Tour to Normandy has a **maximum limit of 49** people and will be filled on a first come first served basis. If we exceed the limit, we will put people on a waiting list in case of any cancellations. Deadline for the Registration Form with fees is **May 15, 2023**. You can also apply and pay online at: [www.heritageleague.org](http://www.heritageleague.org) or in the form of a check or money order made out to:

**Heritage League: Susan Risley, 682 Slade Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120**

Your deposit will be applied to your Registration. If you pay online, there is a surcharge that the League must pay. There is NO service surcharge if you pay by check. Please give us an email address or phone number to be able to reach you. Please note: if your entire registration amount is not in hand by the final date of May 15, 2023, your reservation will be canceled, and your deposit will be refunded.

## IV. YOU MAKE ENGLAND HOTEL RESERVATIONS

For the **Maids Head Hotel** to receive the group rate the group **ID code is: 2307THEHER**. Reservations must be made no later than **May 15, 2022**. By phone: call from the US: 011 44 1603 272007 (5 hour time difference from US eastern time) or e-mail: [reservations@maidsheadhotel.co.uk](mailto:reservations@maidsheadhotel.co.uk). The mailing address is The Maids Head Hotel, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1LB, England. The group rate is available from July 21–August 1, 2023 if you wish to arrive early to adjust to the time change or participate in events the 392nd Bomb Group has arranged.

Maids Head Hotel in Norwich is known to be the oldest hotel in the UK dating back over 800 years. We have the following rooms blocked – Classic Single Rooms: £107.00 Sunday – Friday. £137.00 Saturday. Classic Double Rooms (double occupancy): £115.00 Sunday – Friday, £145.00 Saturday

Double executive/twin rooms (double occupancy): £135.00 Sunday – Friday. £175.00 Saturday Please note that all rooms include breakfast but are not lift accessible, please contact the hotel if accessibility is necessary and include breakfast. Room rates are stated in pounds. To check the exchange rate use: [www.exchangerates.org.uk](http://www.exchangerates.org.uk). The rate on December 18, 2022, is \$1.22. Payment may be made by credit card directly to The Maids Head Hotel upon the end of the stay.

**Leonardo Royal Hotel London St Paul's- July 28th – 29th, 2023. Use promo code: LHTHEH280723**

If you are going to join the optional Normandy add on, you need to only book this hotel for one night. If you are not going on to Normandy, you have the option to stay at this hotel at our group rate through July 31st. To secure your reservation, a credit/debit card must be provided. Reservations must be made by

**June 30, 2023**, to receive the group rate. Daily rates are £239 Single and £269 for double.

Their Website: [Heritage League Special Rate](#). Note: since the webpage automatically opens to a 3-day reservation, just click on the “Search Again” box to customize it for your date. Or try their basic website at: [www.leonardohotels.co.uk](http://www.leonardohotels.co.uk). Again, the **group rate ID code is: LHTHEH280723**.

**By phone:** from the U.S. call 011 44 161 774 1742 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm UK time (5 hour time difference from US eastern time) or front desk at: 011 44 207 074 1000. Individual cancellations can be made 7 days prior to arrival date.

## V. NORMANDY HOTEL RESERVATIONS ARE MADE THROUGH RALPH WINTER

Contact him at: [rewcts@gmail.com](mailto:rewcts@gmail.com). Please note this Normandy booking process is different than England. The Normandy add-on has a maximum limit of **49 people** and will be filled on a first come first served basis. If we exceed the limit, we will put people on a waiting list in case of any cancellations.!

The Normandy group leaves from the Leonardo Royal Hotel London St Paul's on July 29 (see attached itinerary). The \$350 registration will include transportation between all points in the tour, all admission fees to museums and attractions, the cost for a dedicated guide, three box lunches and a Farewell Dinner. The cost for the hotel for four nights including breakfast daily will depend on which of the two hotels in the plan are selected and the room type you book. The two hotels: Churchill Hotel and Hotel Bayeux Reine Mathilde are about a 5-minute walk apart. Approximate four-day totals are: \$815-\$970 for a Single and \$980-\$1,040 for a Double.

The two hotels in Normandy slated for our group are requiring us to submit a rooming list, with full payment for the entire group, in one transaction. Therefore, attendees must contact Ralph Winter who will explain the availability and cost of rooms that meet your occupancy needs. After you book with him, he will add your name to the rooming list and advise you of the charges. You must then pay the HL the full cost of your rooms. We will make all room reservations directly with the hotels in Bayeux and pay them in full. We know this is cumbersome, but it is what the Normandy hotels require!

## VI. FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

You will need to make your own travel arrangements. There are several ways to get to Norwich. There are connecting flights via Amsterdam and some major airlines offer a through fare from major US airports. KLM has a flight that includes a short connector hop to Norwich from Amsterdam from major US international airports. For example Delta offers a fare ATL-NWI with the KLM Cityhopper flight showing a DL flight number (codeshare). Or fly into London and take the train or bus to Norwich. For the adventurous, one could rent a car and drive the distance. Better choice is to hire a car and driver to get you to Norwich. People have indicated that they might want to travel with others. If you are traveling single and are interested in traveling and sharing a room with someone, please let us know and we will get you connected.

If you are adding the Normandy trip, you might consider flying home from Paris. There is a train service between Bayeux to Paris and Charles de Gaul airport.

## VII. INSURANCE

Attendees are responsible for finding your own travel insurance. Most travel insurers require that you pay for coverage very soon after your first payment for your trip – *especially if you want pre-existing conditions covered*. The “hold my place” non-committal deposit of \$50.00 that you have made should not count as your first payment. You can visit these websites to shop for insurance:\

<https://best.travelinsurance.com/>

<https://www.consumersadvocate.org/travel-insurance/a/best-travel-insurance>

<https://www.aardy.com/blog/aarp-travel-insurance/>

*Cheers from your 2023 Convention Committee! See you in Norwich!! Jim Birmingham, Marybeth Dyer, Irene Hurner, Colin Mann, Sue Risley, Beverly Tomb & Ralph Winter.*

**HERITAGE LEAGUE OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION (USAAF) AND  
392nd BOMB GROUP CONVENTION - Norwich UK  
July 23rd through July 28th 2023**

**Deposit for Convention - \$100 due to HL by 2/1/2023**

**Subject to change**

WHEN		PLACE	WHAT
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>7/22/2023</b>	The Maids Head Hotel	Registration
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>7/23/2023</b>	The Maids Head Hotel	Registration
		Norwich Cathedral	Meet at Cathedral entrance area / group to be seated in reserved area
	<b>3:30pm</b>	Norwich Cathedral	Evensong
			Reception / Finger food & Drink
			Dinner on your own
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>7/24/2023</b>	The Maids Head Hotel	Board Bus for The Forum
		The Forum	Annual Business Meeting
		The Forum	American Library visit
			Lunch on your own
		The Forum	Board Bus to return to Maids Head Hotel
		The Maids Head Hotel	Arrive hotel
			TBD- Possible Dinner arrangement
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>7/25/2023</b>	The Maids Head Hotel	Board Bus for Norfolk Suffolk Air Museum at Flixton
		Norfolk Suffolk Air Museum	Tour Museum
		Buck Inn	Lunch ver near the Norfolk Suffolk Air Museum
		446th Memorial	Place wreath on 446th Memorial
		446th	Tour base or what is left - if possible
		448th	Board Bus to Seething
			Tour Tower, Museum and Brewery
		The Maids Head Hotel	Return to Maids Head
			Dinner on your own
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>7/26/2023</b>	The Maids Head Hotel	Board the bus
		Wendling	Maids Head to Wendling Village Hall
			Bus to the 392nd BG Memorial
			Dedication of the new plaque
			Bus to The White Horse at Longham for lunch
			Bus to Ben Burgess
			Tour Ben Burgess, Officers' Mess, Nissen Hut and bomb shelters
			Honey Pot Wood - base bomb dump site
			Return to Maids Head
			Dinner on your own
			Optional - Evening Ghost Tour of Norwich ***
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>7/27/2023</b>		A day on your own or
			Optional Tour to Blickling Hall - birthplace of Anne Boleyn, mother of Queen Elizabeth I ***
			Optional Tour to Cambridge American Cemetery, Madingly ***
			Visit a base of your own special interest - we will provide contact info for you to arrange
		The Maids Head Hotel	Board bus to Dunston Hall
		Dunston Hall	Banquet (dinner pre-ordered with registration)
		The Maids Head Hotel	Bus Leaves for The Maids Head Hotel
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>7/28/2023</b>	The Maids Head Hotel	Board Optional Bus / box lunch included
		The Leonardo Hotel	The Leonardo Hotel- St Paul's - Check-in
		The Leonardo Hotel	Walk to St Paul's Cathedral
		St Paul's Cathedral	Special Tour of St Paul's Cathedral & Memorial Service
	<b>5:00pm</b>	St Paul's Cathedral	Choral Evensong
		Côte Brasserie Restaurant	Dinner (preordered, prepaid)
		Côte Brasserie Restaurant	Board bus for those returning to Norwich
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>7/29/2023</b>	Optional Add on Tour to Normandy begins	
<b>* * * There will be an extra charge, over and above the registration fee.</b>			



Mont St Michel will be one of the stops during the convention. Getty photo.



Hotel Bayeux Reine Mathilde, Normandy. Hotel Photo.



Churchill Hotel, Normandy. Hotel Photo.



ing the Normandy add-on.



otel photo.



HERITAGE LEAGUE OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION (USAAF)/ 392nd Bomb Group				
Optional Add-On tour				
July 29th through Aug 2, 2023				
Deposit for Optional Add-On tour - \$50 due to HL by 2/1/2023				
Subject to change				
DAY	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	REMARKS
Saturday	29-Jul-23	8:30am - 8:45am	Board the bus	Tour guide Philip Brazier
		8:45am - 10:45am	London to Dover	
		10:45am - 12:00pm	Sightseeing and lunch on your own	
		12:00pm - 12:15pm	Regroup and prepare to board the ferry	
		12:30pm - 3:00pm	Ferry from Dover to Calais	1.5 hours. Time zone change
		3:00pm - 7:00pm	Bus Calais to Bayeux	
		7:00pm	Check into hotel. Evening on your own	<a href="#">Charming bayeux hotel   Rooms at the Churchill Hotel (hotel-churchill.fr)</a>
Sunday	30-Jul-23	8:00am - 8:45am	Breakfast at the hotel	
		8:45am - 9:00am	Board the bus	
		9:00am - 9:30am	Bayeux to Pegasus Bridge	
		9:30am - 1:00pm	Tour of British and Canadian Beaches	Tour guide Philip Brazier
		1:00pm - 2:00pm	Lunch in the area on your own	
		2:00pm - 2:30pm	Bus back to Hotel	
		2:30pm - 3:00pm	Freshen up at hotel	
				Tapestry, Cathedral, Battle of Normandy Museum, CWGC Cemetery (Commonwealth Graves Commission)
		3:00pm - 5:30pm	City tour of Bayeux	
		5:30pm - 6:30pm	Beer at a local pub	
		6:30pm	Dinner & evening on your own	
Monday	31-Jul-23	8:00am - 8:45am	Breakfast at the hotel	
		8:45am - 9:00am	Board the bus	
		9:00am - 9:50am	Bayeux to Omaha Beach & American Cemetery	
		9:50am - 5:00pm	Tour of American Beaches and lunch in the area	Tour guide Philip Brazier
		5:00pm - 6:10pm	Bus back to Hotel	
Tuesday	1-Aug-23	6:10pm	Dinner & evening on your own	
		8:00am - 8:45am	Breakfast at the hotel	
		8:45am - 9:00am	Board the bus	
		9:00am - 10:30am	Bus to Mont St. Michel	
		10:30am - 4:15pm	Tour Mont St. Michel and lunch on your own	
		4:15pm - 4:30pm	Board the bus	
		4:30pm - 6:00pm	Bus back to hotel	
		6:00pm - 6:30pm	Freshen up and prepare for dinner	
		6:30pm - 8:00pm	Farewell dinner	Included
Wednesday	2-Aug-23		Checkout and departure	Onward travel not included



The optional add-on tour will visit the D-Day beachheads this July. National Archives photo.

**2023 Heritage League/392<sup>nd</sup> BG Norwich Convention Registration form**  
**Sunday, July 23 thru Friday, July 28, 2023- Deadline May 15, 2023**

**Name 1:** As shown on your name tag \_\_\_\_\_ BG \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Name 2:** As shown on your name tag \_\_\_\_\_ BG \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Name 3:** As shown on your name tag \_\_\_\_\_ BG \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**If more than 3 people is in your party, please email additional names and BG to Marybeth Dyer-  
[smbdyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smbdyer@sbcglobal.net) or add names to the back of the form**

		<b>Price per Person</b>	<b>Number Of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>REGISTRATION FEE- Includes all below except as noted</b>		\$475.00		
<b>Sunday</b>	Cathedral reception			
<b>Monday</b>	Annual Membership Meeting Dinner TBD			
<b>Tuesday</b>	Norfolk Suffolk Air Museum Lunch included – menu options later			
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dedication at Wendling (392 <sup>nd</sup> ) Lunch included- menu options later			
<b>Thursday</b>	Banquet at Dunston Hall Please select menu options on reverse side			
<b>Friday</b>	Travel to London to St Paul's			
<b><span style="color: red;">PACKAGES- Optional Tours</span></b>				
<b>Wednesday</b>	Walking Ghost Tour of Norwich Minimum of 10 people	\$20.00		
<b>Thursday</b>	Blickling Hall-Birthplace of Anne Boleyn Mother of Queen Elizabeth I Minimum of 15 people	\$50.00		
<b>Thursday</b>	Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley Minimum of 15 people	\$75.00		
<b>Thursday</b>	Visit a base of your own special interest We will provide contact info for you to arrange. Cost will be decided between you and your base contact.			
<b>4 Night Add-on</b>	Registration – see itinerary for what is included	\$350.00		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				
<b>Less – deposit</b>				
<b>Total Amount Payable to Heritage League- TOTAL</b>				
<b>EMERGENCY CONTACT – NOT TRAVELING WITH YOU:</b>				
<b>Name:</b> _____		<b>Phone:</b> _____		

Questions should be directed to Marybeth Dyer – [smbdyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smbdyer@sbcglobal.net) or Sue Risley – [treasurer.heritageleague@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.heritageleague@gmail.com)

# Washington, DC—8th Air Force Historical Society



The Air Force Memorial occupies a prominent position atop the hill overlooking Arlington Cemetery and all of Washington D.C. W.C. Dubisher photo.

Our nation's capital was the backdrop for the Historical Society's reunion where they appointed a new president, Paul Tibbets IV (former society treasurer and grandson of Colonel Tibbets of Enola Gay fame) and elected two new board members. The membership also approved raising dues beginning in 2023 to \$60 in order cover rising costs. Approximately 325, including our 2nd AD Vet Don O'Reilly, six more 8th Air Force veterans, and three Heritage League board members attended the Historical Society's Washington Reunion last October 19-23. Tours of the Smithsonian Air Museum at Dulles, Arlington Cemetery, memorials and monuments in the D.C. mall area, and Old Town Alexandria were benefited by sunny and temperate weather. The distinguished speaker at the gala dinner was the current commander of the USAF 8th Air Force, Major General Andrew J. Gebara. He gave a timely report highlighting what the 8th Air Force is accomplishing in today's world environment. Treasurer Paul Tibbets IV made a convincing presentation that the future viability of the Society's budget requires an increase in annual income. He also stressed that the increased dues will not completely support it. 🛩️

Eight WWII 8th Air Force veterans who attended the 8th Historical Society gala banquet gathered for their photograph. From left: Clarence Kooi, Ted Kirkpatrick, Henry Cervantes, Anthony Pircio, Earl Zesch, Melvin Hurwitz, Don O'Reilly, William Hennessy. W.C. Dubisher photo.



Our veterans joined by current day 8th Air Force active duty airmen who accompanied their commander and guest speaker Major General Andrew J. Gebara at right. They spoke after the General's remarks about their duties in today's 8th Air Force. W.C. Dubisher photo.



8th Historical Society Secretary Travis Chapin (left) referred to a story in your *Heritage Herald* at the Society's general membership meeting. He referenced the story about the 15,500 aircrew unsung heroes— those lost in stateside aviation training accidents or while transiting to combat during WWII, who have not been acknowledged. A memorial to them was dedicated at the former Wendover training airfield, Utah. He made the point that the Society should have a means to quickly forward such information to the membership (e.g., emails). Next to him is Society Treasurer, Paul Tibbets, IV., who is now president. Photo: W.C. Dubisher.

At the reunion dinner, Vet Don O'Reilly (305th, 492nd, 44th BGs) with daughter and Heritage League Secretary Colleen Mersman share a light moment with Brian Mahoney (HL VP for Volunteers). Photo: W.C. Dubisher.



## Videos We Like

*By Lisa Niehoff*

### WASPs—Women Air Service Pilots in World War II

26 minutes/Color/YouTube. History and interviews of WASP veterans. Thank you for your service, ladies! You were under appreciated, underpaid and told that you were only civilians. History reveals the indisputable fact that you were military pilots deserving of all the benefits, recognition and gratitude of the American people. We will never forget your 38 fallen sisters. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0WnaxAc3MI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0WnaxAc3MI).

### The B-24 Liberator, an American heavy bomber

6:52 minutes/Color/YouTube. In this colorized short, vivid digital animation of a B-24 we look at what many pilots have described as 'that bitch'. Enjoy a piece of history in this very good informational. <https://youtu.be/O4N049loeOw>.

### What it's like to fly a B-24 Liberator

5:54 minutes/Color/YouTube. Here's another short film which I consider a companion to the video above that brings us inside a B-24 for the thrill of a lifetime. Watch female Alyssa Cobb try her hand piloting this bomber. Pilots in this video appear very young. However, considering the age of the pilots who actually flew these planes during the Second World War it's not shocking at all. This is the second video of Witchcraft flying over Florida we have presented. Last was in Herald 72. <https://youtu.be/S0aaO9MBgew>.

### B-24 Liberator Diamond Lil Walkaround

23:54 minutes/Color/YouTube. Allen Benzing, Aircraft Commander of Diamond Lil, gives us a detailed walkaround of B-24 Liberator Diamond Lil. She, along with Witchcraft are the only two B-24s still flying in the world today. This informational video shows a unique and in-depth perspective of the complexities of flight in WWII era planes. <https://youtu.be/nnItTltKQkc>.

### Women On The Warpath (1943)—Inside The Willow Run B-24 Plant

10:14 minutes/ Color/YouTube. <https://youtu.be/HQKvBPjxMo4>.



—by Pete O'Tube, Expert

Dear Pete,

*I sense that one of your favorite topics in the airplane tech realm is, um, your namesake! Starting with Herald #31 (twenty years ago!) and continuing in numbers 47, 61, 70, and 71 you have gotten me just as interested in pitot tubes. It is just one rather visible example of the thousands of critical parts that must perform perfectly for safe, controlled flight.*

*Would you humor me with a little more on this?*

*Your fan and fellow geek,*

*Florence Nightingale N. terRupçion*

My Dear Flo N. terRupçion,

So glad to have loyal readers with inquisitive minds and 'plane geekness' like *moi*. As luck would have it, I was recently at Hill Aerospace Museum (near Hill Air Base, Utah) and added to my pitot tube sightings list, plus to my collection of plane pix!

Besides demonstrating the interconnectedness of aircraft systems, my favorite subject is also a great way to note the importance of continual improvements and the necessity for rigorous accident investigation. Along with vertical stabilizers (which are regularly found to be too small in prototypes) and de-icing equipment (seldom well understood by pilots), it is an area where lessons are paid for with human blood and wrecked aircraft. In such areas, innovation almost catches up with experience, decade after decade. So here is a 'progressive timeline' of the pitot tube, as a window on the unending requirement for experiment, analysis, and testing.

### Early 1700s

French scientist Henri Pitot devises an L-shaped glass tube, to be placed in flowing water of a

stream to measure its speed. He presumably calibrated it to measurable surface speed in same location—think of timing a leaf freely floating downstream over a measured distance. This device allowed for reproducible and reliable 'quantification' of the volume of flow, with measured values. Now people could evaluate potential energy available at a prospective watermill location, or estimate, with reasonable accuracy, how long the new pond would take to fill.

### Early Years of Aviation (1903-WWI)

After Wilbur and Orville launched the age of powered flight, safe flight was limited to flying in conditions where the pilot could visually check his relationship to the ground and act accordingly. Those who knew (or taught themselves, in the critical moment) how to recover from a spin, judged the minimum flying speed of their craft. This was truly seat-of-the-pants flying. Some tried placing anemometers (those spinning wind-speed devices used by meteorologists) but realized that finding a place on the airframe free of turbulence from banking, rolling, etc. was not practical.

### August 1912

Frank Short patents a pitot-based airspeed indicator at Duxford which is quickly and widely adapted. It is in the form of a clear glass u-shaped tube in front of



A substantial piece of milled aluminum. Located on underside centerline of beloved Waco workhorse trainer/liaison biplane, this late 1930s device was among earliest to incorporate both the high and low pressure metering functions in one assembly. From the Collings collection, American Heritage Museum. Photo: B. Mahoney.

the pilot, partly filled with a suitable liquid. Called a velometer, pitot pressure was connected to one leg of the vial, and static pressure for the other. Positive ram air pressure, on one end, drove the liquid up at the static pressure side where the glass was carefully calibrated.

Rate-of-climb instruments soon followed, in the class of instruments relying on accurate airspeed and air pressure measurement.

### Early Commercial Aviation (1918-1930)

In order for scheduled flight to compete with the railroads, instrument flying would need to evolve for safe flight in low light or limited visibility. At night, even with good weather, scheduled long-haul or trans-continental service involved landing and transfer to night trains!

#### 1929

Jimmy Doolittle, later the commander of the entire Eighth Air Force, was worshiped as a heroic pilot, pushing all the envelopes. He made the first-ever take-off, flight, and landing using only instruments. (Doolittle was under a hood in the front cockpit of a trainer, and a safety pilot rode in the rear). By then Doolittle had helped improve Av Gas (aviation fuel) to safe and reliable standards, set many speed and distance records, and flew the first 'outside loop.' His was the first-ever master's degree in aeronautics, granted by MIT in June of 1924.

#### 1937

The US Army Air Corps, working with B. F. Godrich, began testing anti-icing of the pitot tube using a



The pitot tube at the end of a prominent boom extension on the B-24. Located on both pilot and copilot sides of our beloved bomber to supply each pilot with independent readings, this device incorporated both the high and low pressure metering functions in each assembly. AAF photo.

refrigerated wind tunnel. Aviation had matured enough by this point to know the importance of not blocking either the inlet or outlet, and the basic weather conditions conducive to icing. Instrument flight now allowed safe operation in many conditions, but not to the point of allowing prudent flight in icing conditions.

#### 1937-1940

This era saw rapid improvements in all technical areas. Commercial passenger planes had become safe operating in all but the worst weather, night or day.

#### WWII and Since

By the time the war started, many planes on all sides were fitted with some form of anti-icing (preventative) or de-icing (removing ice), and ever since there have been continual incremental improvements, although no replacement tech is on the horizon. If a new instrument for error free airspeed can be found, which will not be affected by weather, you can bet it will be adopted. Why?

Because we still have fatal accidents owing to a blocked tube...whether it is ice, mud-wasp nests or the failure to remove the orange flagged parking cover. The Air France plane that went down in the Atlantic, on the night of June 1, 2009, is presumed to have had iced-up pitot tubes which confused pilots and all the automatic flight management tech on their Airbus 330, killing all 128 who were onboard. This is only one of scores of major incidents. Military or civilian, big or small, in any accident where the crashed plane had traversed icing conditions, barring other obvious causes, the pitot-static system is always a serious candidate.

So Flo, hope you see how proper airflow is so crucial to aviation. We don't want any N. terRupçion!

Best regards,

*Pete O'Tube*

## 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. To date, the League has received about \$900. Thanks for the support.



NOTE: Unfortunately, Amazon will discontinue this program at the end of February.



## HERITAGE LEAGUE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM —MISSION BRIEFING—

Brian Mahoney, VP for Volunteers

### Newsletters of 2nd Air Division Bomb Group Associations are Archived and Available!

All on the Executive Committee share my delight that our project for the year, *News from the Greatest Generation*, has reached the finish line! We have 4,939 professionally scanned pages, comprising 485 individual newsletters from 14 different series on a delivered 1TB drive; on a server temporarily hosted by our marvelous vendor, ready for us to share with the world.

But did we carry this ball over the line yet, you ask? We again entrusted Crowley Digitization Services, in Frederick, MD, with this daunting feat. In 2018, they had taken our complete collection of all of Second Air Division Association's *Journals*, dating back to 1950(!) and returned undamaged paper originals and optical character recognized (OCR) text layers behind every one of those beautiful, high resolution page images. Since then, we have housed the collection in-house, while continually looking at, and evaluating methods for making them available to all, in a way that incorporates very strong search capabilities. This latest delivery is now 'at the finish line' as well.

"Ah ha!" you say, there is *still* the actual finish line. You are correct! We have yet to distribute these collections on the internet, in a way that all of you—and all interested people around the world—can powerfully search the entire collection as we can currently only do when such a collection is 'available locally,' meaning on the same drive as the extremely powerful search software. Along with Chris Clark, and current Executive Committee members Marybeth Dyer and Beverly Tomb, I have evaluated more than a score of existing systems that say they allow hosting OCR'd collections over the internet, not requiring any special connection or software for the user. But they come at a cost! Therefore, we ask for your help as we have several times since 2018: do you know of an affordable method to combine *very high powered searching* of our huge collection?

Here is what we mean by high powered searching: the user comes up with a search term, and the system then examines all at one time, every single page of the entire collection. We have been spoiled 'in-house' by pointing our plain ole Acrobat Reader (free and common software) at a folder containing all of the 2nd Air Division *Journals*, now 11.7 GB large, and enjoy the magic search results. We are not interested in most of the search schemes we have found that are already available, typically because they only allow you to search *one file at a time*. (The few schemes with truly powerful search capability are prohibitively expensive and usually tailored to the skilled researcher-librarian-archivist.)

### Where we can use help

**Volunteer opportunity #1:** for this project: help with this ongoing hunt for a powerful and affordable storage and search capability. Only basic computer skills are needed, and we will gladly show you how to contribute. Please contact me via our website at: <https://heritageleague.org/volunteer>.

**Volunteer opportunity #2:** Until such time as we can provide a way to share the pile, with a meaningful search capability, we can do a search for you. Would you be a member of the search services team? It entails the ability to 'locally host' the entire collection (and its finding resources) and work responsively when requests come in. The League will distribute solid state drives with the collection to up to six volunteers willing to put in the time as needed...would you like to be one? Please contact me (see back panel of this *Herald*) for further details and a demonstration of very powerful searching.

Finally, whether you can volunteer or not, we want to remind you of our newfound capability, which is now available to you as a free request. Remember this example and tell your interested friends: we can input your vet's name, and in a *single query* find every single instance of the search text, in every single one of the 764 individual issues, within moments, with extremely high confidence that nothing was missed. *Read that again, please!* Until we configure a special 'research request' mailbox, email me at: [researcher@brianmahoney.com](mailto:researcher@brianmahoney.com).



*Please renew your membership for 2023. Help us to continue our work by encouraging all generations in your family to join in our mission.*

### Membership Application/Renewal for Heritage League

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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division Veterans (check one):

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

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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(c)(3) 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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# News Briefs

## In Memorium—Queen Elizabeth II



To remember. The future Queen Elizabeth II sitting on the occasion of her 18th birthday for Life Magazine, April, 1944. How about the low magazine price! Photo: Life Magazine.

The Heritage League solemnly remembers the world's longest serving head of state who passed away September 8th, 2022, at age 96. In 1952, she reigned over an empire that straddled the globe but a country that was nearly broken by war. Queen Elizabeth strove to embody the steadfast spirit she encouraged in her subjects as she was a great source of English pride. Pictured on her 18th birthday, she was old enough to begin service in the women's branch of the British Army, the "Auxiliary Territorial Service," as a mechanic for the few months until Wars end.

Her Majesty's passing offers another reminder that her generation—commonly called the "Greatest Generation"—is rapidly dwindling in number. As an example, the U.S. Veterans Administration predicts that only about 176,000 total World War II veterans will be living by the end of the year. About 234 die each day. We see the dwindling, evidenced by only eight 8th Air Forces veterans (one from 2nd Air Division) who were able to travel to the recent Washington D.C. 8th Air Force Historical Society reunion and only 58 veterans

are still active on Heritage League rolls. This signals that we must rely on history now, rather than memory and experience to convey the stories of what happened during the war.

For this reason, your Heritage League continues striving to preserve the memory and experiences of the 2nd Air Division airman for histo-

ry. Our ongoing project to preserve bomb group association newsletters, journals, and inactive websites to a data base will allow people to access this news of the greatest generation. That is our quest.

## And best wishes to the new King

King Charles has participated in past 2nd Air Division events. As pictured below, he converses with three veterans from the 392nd Bomb Group at the special B-24 dedication at the American Air Museum, Duxford, in 2002. The three veterans pictured with the



Queen Elizabeth, now of age, joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, to serve the war effort. She volunteered driver and maintenance duties. Photo: Imperial War Museum.



The Prince of Wales (now King) Charles conversed with the 392nd BG crew of *Dugan* at its dedication ceremony at the American Air Museum in 2002. Crew members were Pilot Bob Vickers (left), pilot Keith Roberts, and Bill Nock waist gunner. AAM photo.

then-Prince of Wales, were crew members of that aircraft—*Dugan*. Former President, George H.W. Bush was also at that ceremony.

We offer the new King our best wishes for a successful reign through domestic and world challenges and are encouraged by his knowledge of our 2nd Air Division's historic accomplishments.

## Heritage League member visits British Embassy to sign Queen's condolence book—encounters special VIP

Chris Clark traveled to the British Embassy in Washington D.C. to convey his condolences and was surprised by a special encounter. While standing in line three black U.S. Government vehicles parked near him and out came the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley. "Before I could get my eyes on him, I just said 'General' and made my first salute EVER to anyone," wrote Clark.

As the General approached, he asked about all the



Heritage League volunteer Chris Clark (44, 489th BGs) is approached by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to inquire about his WWII family heritage before entering the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. Photo: British Embassy.

buttons, pins and picture adorning Chris's jacket. "I told the General about the pins from the American Library and showed him the blue pin of the Heritage League. I mentioned about how we honor the men that flew the B-24 out of England and the Norwich area of East Anglia. I explained the picture was my decorated uncle Clark

who was in the 2nd Air Division and worked in really quick that I was a 10th generation American."

The General valued his story, and related he was only a second generation American, and wanted to especially thank Chris for his uncle's service. "I will admit, at that moment, I felt as much pride in being an American as I have ever felt because of a Second Division airman who was my uncle!" Clark exclaimed.

Inside the Embassy, Chris was ushered into the



With the Queen's picture at the signing desk and the English crest ahead bordered by the flags of both nations with British military guard, Chris Clark signs the condolence book on behalf of the Heritage League. Photo: British Embassy.

room with the condolence books. Afterward he stated: "I signed my name, the date, city I live in, and thanked the Queen for my letter and then added a 'Thank you from the Heritage League of the 8th Air Force' in bold handwriting as neat as I could."

## Remembrance Day Services at Halesworth, November 13, 2022

*By Marjorie Shiers*

To our 489th veterans, families and friends. We gathered today for the Remembrance Day Services, around the Holton Village Memorial, to remember those from our village who lost their lives during the two world wars. We also remembered our American airmen who served at Halesworth (Holton) Airfield during World War II. Poppy wreaths were placed in tribute to the fallen from our two nations.

The short service at the village memorial was followed by a Remembrance Day service in the church of St Peter, Holton. Following this the congregation walked, led by Colonel Joe Stangle USAF and personnel from RAF Lakenheath to the Halesworth Airfield Memorial Site. During the walk, the name of every American serviceman who lost his life whilst stationed here in Halesworth was read aloud by our American friends.

A service was held at the memorial site, where Poppy wreaths were placed on the three memorials—to the 56th Fighter Group, the 489th Bomb Group and the 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron. Following this a vintage aircraft flew over the memorials and dropped red poppy petals which fluttered down onto the airfield. The day was dry and still—perfect weather for flying. We were welcomed into the museum for refreshments.



Friends and family of Halesworth with personnel from Lakenheath Airbase attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at the base memorial. Photo: M. Shiers.



Colonel Joe Stangle USAF, Commander of Maintenance at Lakenheath Airbase pays his respects at the first of three Halesworth monuments representing 489th Bomb Group, 56 Fighter Group, and 5th Rescue Squadron. Photo: M. Shiers.

It was great to see Colonel Joe, his wife Jeffri and daughter Ali, together with new friends from Lakenheath Airbase. We were so happy they wanted to travel here to Halesworth to be with us to remember the fallen on this special day. They are all special people.

Your families were remembered, and we continue to thank them all for their Service.

With best wishes, *the Friends of the 489th BG—Halesworth.*

## Heritage League Honors Two Volunteers

Last October Brian Mahoney, Heritage League Vice President for Volunteers presented a certificate of the League's appreciation to Chris Clark for his valuable contributions made over many years in a wide range



Chris Clark, Heritage League star volunteer and former protégé, is recognized by League VP for Volunteers Brian Mahoney for his many contributions and service to the League over the years. Photo: B. Mahoney.

of roles. The proud nephew of the late S/Sgt. Charles Clark, Sr. (489th/44th Bomb Groups) our mission has been advanced by Chris' unending enthusiasm and meticulous research on behalf of Heritage League members and relatives of 2nd Air Division airmen.

At the Heritage League Convention in Boston last September, Brian Mahoney presented a certificate of the League's



Martha Pedersen, Gold Star niece and Heritage League volunteer who administers the Sunshine program for veterans outreach, is recognized for her dedication by League VP for Volunteers, Brian Mahoney. Her efforts truly enhance the Heritage League's mission. Photo: D. Dovey.

appreciation to Martha Pedersen for her role in volunteering to administer the Veterans Outreach Program known as "Sunshine Program." The Gold Star niece of LT. Nels Pedersen (44th BG navigator buried at Lorraine American Cemetery, France), enables our Heritage League contact with our WWII veterans and their families for birthdays and other notable events. Often, she contacts them just to say "Hi, we are thinking of you." We appreciate Martha's contributions which serve to advance our noble mission.



# Overlooked Heroes

## B-24 model dedication at Wendover Airfield, Utah

Wendover Utah, September 23, 2022. At a uniquely restored major WWII training base, a dedication ceremony led by 467 BG President and Heritage League VP for Volunteers, Brian Mahoney, presided over the first-ever public recognition to a category of heroes who paid the ultimate price in U.S.



There were numerous mishaps that occurred as flyers prepared for combat at Wendover and the many other locations in the U.S. Here, a ditched B-24 lies in the Utah salt flats. Photo: D. Dovey.

military service. They were lost before they could even get to combat, and these heroes were less publicly lauded and recognized than those lost in combat.

The 467th Bomb Group Association and the Historic Wendover Airfield Foundation held a ceremony to recognize

all U.S. airmen and civilian personnel who were lost in stateside air training accidents and accidents transiting to the war from 1941 to 1945. Also included are military/civilian instructors and women crews who instructed and

ferried aircraft. Some airmen rotated among different aircraft and aircrews during unit formulations and had not been assigned their final bomb crews and units; therefore, did not have association to any veteran or commemorative organization. The number lost exceeds 15,500, more than twice the 7,000 combat losses of the Second Air Division and more than half the 26,000 combat losses of the 8th Air Force.

The long overdue ceremony of recognition noted the losses of other heavy bomber groups and was open to the relatives of all those lost so that families may finally have an important element of closure. Other events include a tour of the airfield and luncheon. Of note, Wendover was also the secret site of Colonel Tibbet's B-29 group preparing for the mission to drop the atomic bomb.

The B-24 memorial model, in final completion, will be located in a special display case at the Wendover visitors center (formerly the enlisted service club—nicely restored). It consists of a hand-built, extremely accurate and detailed 1:20 scale aluminum B-24 aircraft with plaques that memorialize a few dozen named individuals, but now is designed to reflect the larger context.

Three Heritage League members in addition to Mr. Mahoney were present for the event: Doug Dovey, Heritage League Communications VP, Irene Hurner, past President with daughter Gretchen Derbidge and grandsons Axel age 9 and Atlas 5. Your Heritage League made a contribution to the model and display case and supports this significant initiative.



Master of ceremonies for the unsung heroes memorial dedication, Brian Mahoney (467th, 492nd) provides opening remarks in the carefully restored base service club. Photo: D. Dovey.



The dedication group consisting of 467th Bomb Group Association and Heritage League assemble in Hanger 1 for the photo. The interior was in surprisingly good condition. Photo: B. Mahoney.



Some of the former barracks at Wendover will be partially restored to enable visitors wishing to experience what the vets did. It is pretty austere with bunk bed for the fifty or so inhabitants and climate control by three pot belly stoves or windows. Photo: D. Dovey.



A view of the typical barracks interior. Room for 40 plus bunks! AAF photo.



Wendover Foundation founder and CEO Jim Peterson gives guidance to attendees selected for transport in their well-preserved Willys Jeep to their first stop on the base tour. Photo: D. Dovey.



Heritage League members at the dedication: (from left) Gretchen Derbidge daughter of HL past president Irene Hurmer to her right, with sons Atlas and Axel; Brian Mahoney (HL VP for Volunteers and 467 BG outgoing President), Doug Dovey (HL Communications VP) and Yvonne Caputo (467th BGA President elect). Photo: D. Dovey.



View from the control tower. Four original towers face the tarmac. An additional larger hanger with rounded top is at end. It housed B-29 aircraft assigned to Colonel Tibbet's 509th Group training to deliver the atomic bomb. The base hosted thirteen B-24 and seven B-17 bomb groups training over 1,000 aircrews for roughly two and half years. About 20,000 military and civilian personnel lived there at its peak. Photo: D. Dovey.



As it was then, the Wendover control tower and operations building. Photo: D. Dovey.

# WASP Homecoming—Celebrating Women Airforce Service Pilots in Sweetwater, Texas

By Jill W. Tallman, *AOPA Pilot Magazine*, July 2022

Eighty years after they first soared from runways in Houston and then at Avenger Airport in Sweetwater, Texas, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) continue to inspire military and civilian pilots around the world.



Activities at the WASP museum included a reception. Colonel Sandy Opeka, USAF Retired, applauds WASP test pilot Shirley Chase Kruse (center). Photo: Jill Tallman, *AOPA Magazine*.

when you went to meal, who would be [left] in your room that night." For every two applicants, one would wash out. "The dropout rate was pretty intense," she said. "You always left the very night you washed out, you went back to your bay, and you packed what you had, and you left. They took you to the railroad station. It was over and done with. No time for tears." She "absolutely" had a fear she might wash out, although she did not.

The WASP, headed by Jacqueline Cochran and Nancy Love, trained at Avenger Field in Sweetwater beginning in 1943 to fly single and multiengine piston aircraft "the military way." The goal was to use the women in the war effort to free up male pilots for combat duty overseas. Once graduated from the program, the WASP ferried aircraft and piloted tow aircraft for aerial targets. Other flying duties included tracking, searchlight missions and simulated strafing. They were assigned to established bases around the United States as civilians attached to the Army Air Forces.

The WASP were disbanded at the conclusion of the war. They did not receive military benefits until 1977, when President Carter signed a law that designated them as military veterans. In 2009, President Obama awarded the WASP the Congressional Gold Medal for service to their country.

"I don't think people understood what it took for [the WASP] to become a pilot in those days," said Molly Kelly of Fredericksburg, Texas, who drove to Sweetwater for the homecoming. "They were the trailblazers."

The WASP Museum at Avenger Field has flying examples of four of the five types of aircraft that the women trained in: a Boeing PT-17 Stearman, Fairchild PT-19a, and Vultee BT-13, which were flown for primary and basic training; and an ME UC-78 or Cessna Bobcat, for multiengine training. The museum is raising money to acquire a T-6 used for cross-country, formation, and instrument training, to round out its collection, according to volunteer David Townsend.

## WASP statistics:

- 1,074 women graduated from the program.
- 38 died in training or on active duty.
- Flew more than 60 million miles.
- Ferried 77 different types of aircraft.

Hundreds traveled to Sweetwater in April to celebrate the legacy of the WASP at their eightieth homecoming. And, although just one WASP was able to come to the event, WASP family members, aviation history buffs, and visitors celebrated the all-woman squadron who served their country during World War II. The sole WASP in attendance was Shirley Chase Kruse, who was a flight test pilot.

"I loved [the training]," she said in a 2015 interview for the National World War II Museum. "We'd all flown before, and it was just a question of learning to fly that particular plane." But not all found it so enjoyable. The women lived six to a bay, and "you never knew,



Aircraft types flown by WASPs, flew-in to Avenger Airport, Sweetwater, Texas, for the homecoming. Photo: Jill Tallman, *AOPA Magazine*.

# Spring/Summer 2023 Heritage Calendar

## *History & Upcoming Events of 2nd Air Division Interest*

### February—April

1942-Doolittle raid on Tokyo. April 18.

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.

1945-Final 2nd Air Division combat missions in Europe and last combat losses, April 25.

### May

**2nd Air Division Trust Governors' mid-year meeting.** May 15, Norwich England

**Memorial Day, Monday May 29:**

—Ceremonies at overseas **American Battle Monuments Commission Cemeteries**. Check their website at [ABMC.gov](http://ABMC.gov) for latest information. Heritage League will provide wreaths to the 13 overseas cemeteries naming 2nd Air Division airmen.

—Special Event, **Mighty 8th Museum**, Pooler (Savannah), Georgia. [www.mightyeighth.org](http://www.mightyeighth.org).

1945. German surrender, Victory in Europe Day, V-E Day, May 8.

### June

1941- US Army Air Corps becomes the US Army Air Forces, June 20.

1942-General Eisenhower takes command of US forces in Europe, June 25.

1944-D-Day invasion at Normandy. June 6. This year is the 79th anniversary.

### July

**Heritage League Convention in Norwich with 392nd BG Association**, July 23-28. [www.heritageleague.org](http://www.heritageleague.org).

**Heritage League/392 BG follow-on Normandy D-Day locations tour**, July 29-Aug. 2.

**Airshow at Old Buckenham**. July 29-30, 2023. <https://www.oldbuckenhamairshow.com/>.

### August

1943-Operation Tidal Wave, first raid on Ploesti oil refineries is conducted by B-24s, August 1.

### General 2023 activities

**American Library. Monthly Web Coffee.** The Norwich U.K. Library hosts a regular web-based activity 'Coffee Afternoon' the second Saturday of every month on Zoom at 11 AM 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](mailto:americanlibrary@norfolk.gov.uk). Additional library presentations can be found at: [www.americanlibrary.uk](http://www.americanlibrary.uk).

**453rd Bombardment Group Museum & 8th AF Heritage Gallery**, Old Buckenham. Open most Friday, Saturday and Sundays 10am to 4pm, and by request other days. Contact: James Clarey, Museum Curator, email: [curator@453museum.com](mailto:curator@453museum.com). Telephone: 01366 386119.

**93 BG Hardwick Museum** opens the 3rd Sunday of each month from May thru October, 10am to 5pm. Info at: [www.93rd-bg-museum.org](http://www.93rd-bg-museum.org).

**448 BG Seething Airfield Control Tower Museum.** Home of the Seething Airfield Control Tower Museum. Opens on the first Sunday of each month from May to October, 10am to 4pm. For other select Sunday visits go to: [www.448bombgroup.co.uk](http://www.448bombgroup.co.uk).

Also check the following websites for more information:

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

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

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

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

<https://www.mightyeighth.org>

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

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ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
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## 2021-2023 Heritage League Executive Committee

President and Membership VP  
Marybeth Dyer (458<sup>th</sup> BG)  
6410 Valley Oak Plaza  
Martinez, CA 94553  
(925) 387-5283  
[smbdyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:smbdyer@sbcglobal.net)

Executive Vice President  
Jim Birmingham (458<sup>th</sup> BG)  
7325 Edgehill Road  
Greendale, WI 53129  
[jbirmi@aol.com](mailto:jbirmi@aol.com)

Secretary  
Colleen Mersman (44<sup>th</sup>/491<sup>st</sup> BGs)  
2240 Summerlin Dr.  
Aurora, IL 60503  
[secretary.heritageleague@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.heritageleague@gmail.com)

Treasurer  
Sue Risley (446<sup>th</sup> BG)  
682 Slade Avenue  
Elgin, IL 60120  
(847) 571-4405  
[treasurer.heritageleague@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.heritageleague@gmail.com)

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

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

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

### 2ND BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, 8TH AIR FORCE



Past President  
Irene Hurner (453<sup>rd</sup> BG)  
46400 San Antonio Valley Road  
Livermore, CA 94550  
(925) 200-3265  
[ihurner@hotmail.com](mailto:ihurner@hotmail.com)

Membership Protégé  
Barb Figueroa (458<sup>th</sup> BG)  
3225 Dayfield Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53207  
[barbfigueroa927@gmail.com](mailto:barbfigueroa927@gmail.com)

Veterans Outreach  
Martha Pedersen (44<sup>th</sup> BG)  
213 West Outlook Court  
Nags Head, NC 27959  
(252) 564-2993  
[martha\\_pedersen@hotmail.com](mailto:martha_pedersen@hotmail.com)