



# THE HERITAGE HERALD

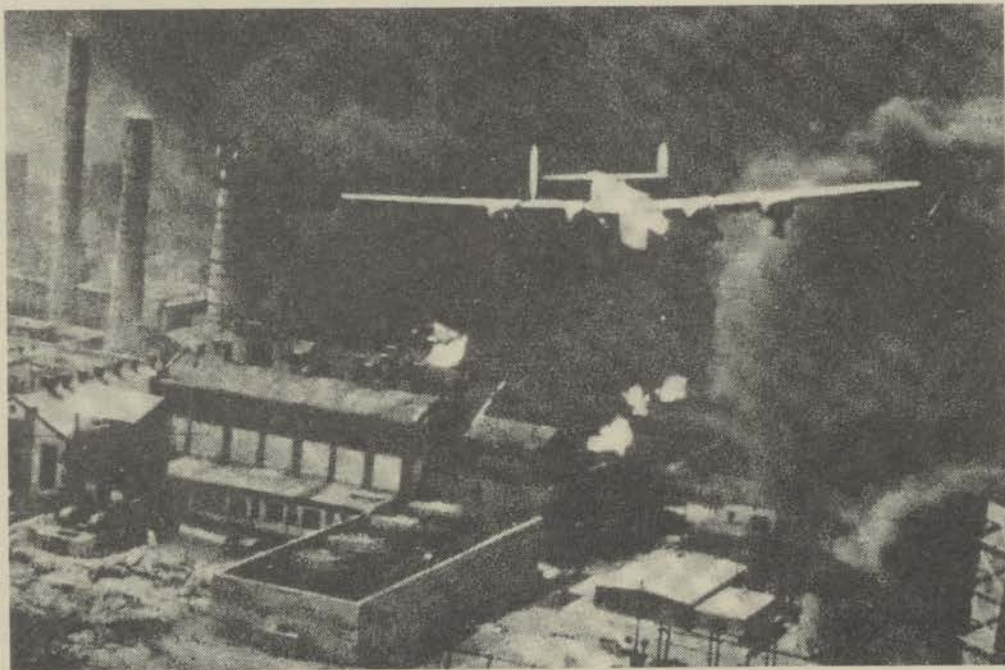
Of the Second Air Division Association, USAAF, The Heritage League

*Norma M. Beasley, Editor.....Jeane M. Stites, President.... Issue 8....April, 1992*

## PLOESTI - 1 AUGUST 1943

*SECOND AIR DIVISION 8TH USAAF AIR RAID OVER PLOESTI*

*By Erin Kinealy - 389th Bomb Group*



*PREFACE:- This book report is the result of an assignment that was given the eighth grade class of Transfiguration Grade School, in St. Louis, Missouri in order for the class to study and learn about World War II. Each student was permitted to select his or her own topic relating to that incident and my granddaughter, Erin Kinealy, a member of the Heritage League, Second Air Division Association chose as her subject, one of the greatest air missions of all time. She researched and studied many articles, papers, books and tapes and as a result has gained a keen appreciation for the services and dedicated efforts given by the American servicemen and women in World War II.*

*Erin and two of her sisters attended the 43rd Annual Convention of the 2nd ADA at Norwich, England in 1990 and attended the 44th Convention of that association last year at Dearborn, Michigan. Through this affiliation, they have received a firsthand valuable insight of the patriotic contributions made by many of their fellow Americans in order to preserve freedom and democracy at a historical period of time when those things we most cherish were indeed threatened.*

*Bill McCracken  
389th Bomb Group  
564th Bomb Squadron*



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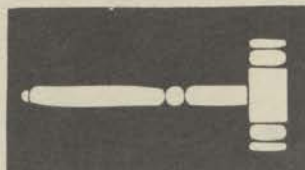
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Editor Newsletter..Norma M. Beasley



**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Jeane Stites, President

**WHO WILL CARRY ON?**

..Fifty years: 1942-1992. Those of us who remember the days of World War II wonder where all those years have gone...We are reminded of our mortality. Who will carry the memories of those brave men into the future?

..The Heritage League is celebrating an anniversary as well: 1987-1992. Five (5) years since our incorporation. The Heritage League was established to carry on the principles and ideals of the Second Air Division Association. The first meeting was held in Norwich, England, the site of the 2 ADA reunion in 1987. We are poised to actively seek ways and means to perpetuate the memories of the deeds and accomplishments of those who served in East Anglia during World War II.

..The children of England have been the recipients of a great legacy. The Second Air Division, to honor and preserve the memory of comrades who did not return from the hostilities of 1942-45 established the Memorial Room of the Norwich central Library. There, people from around the world can go to learn of the deeds and activities, and see listed the names of the heroes of those days. Our Heritage League has been proud to be a part of the funding of an American librarian in Norwich into the distant future.

..Who will carry on in America? We are agreed that the future of our organization lies in the younger generation. We need the fresh ideas and zeal of our young people. The next few years will be especially crucial in our program to sustain and magnify our aim to preserve the memories of those valiant fliers and ground crews of the past who gave so selflessly to the cause of peace and freedom.

..It is my hope that we can see a burgeoning membership in this, our fifth anniversary year. I solicit the help of every member: Please try to recruit at least one new member for the Heritage League and sign them up before our annual meeting in Las Vegas in October 3 - 7, 1992.

..Who will carry on in America? We will! Let's leave our children a rich legacy of pride in the sacrifices of all who served in World War II. Be a part of the exciting years ahead as we work toward the goals of our Heritage League and the Second Air Division of the Mighty Eighth.



.Daddy also enjoyed his times off in London. He loved to talk of the "Buzz-Bomb" raids. He and other "brave" (or was that crazy?)souls, instead of heading for the air raid shelters, would grab folding chairs and head for the roof to watch the "show". "You were okay as long as you could still hear the buzz--when the sound stopped, you'd better run!: "This must be some inherent thing among fliers--my husband sat on rooftops in Riyadh, watching

.Oral biographies can be a source of continuity and family pride.They can provide a sense of identity,as well as teach lessons and even resolve conflicts.



AN OPEN MESSAGE TO THE 2ND AIR DIVISION  
From Lorraine Prytulak Williford  
492nd Bomb Group

[illegible]

Rationing. Sure, we knew all about it - "A" coupons that gave the family car three (3) gallons a week, unless you were a doctor, or someone with a vital job; food rationing, and clothes rationing too, though that didn't affect us, because we

.The research I had to do for the history of our 489th Bomb Group taught me very quickly that time plays tricks with memories....and time is flying by. The names of once close buddies are getting harder to recall, and details of places and events are getting hazy. Only while we are still around though will you be able to hear how it really was from someone who was



"WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR DADDY"  
By Charlie Freudenthal - 489th B.G.

there and took part, so please, there is no time to waste!

.The Memorial Room in the Norwich Library, the future 8th Air Force Heritage Center, and your own family records need and want to know what happened; how it was with us, the rank and file; and, what was it like at home, with rationing, and the concern about loved ones away in uniform? If you can convince your grandparents or parents to talk on tape, you and many others in future years will be truly grateful. We were there, and only we really know what it was like.

.Every day our "Folded Wings" column adds more names, and more voices are lost. I say again, time is flying, and our path grows ever shorter ahead and longer behind. If you don't find out now what really went on - what your Dad, Mother, or Grandparents went through, you'll never know, nor will anyone else....Never; and, you'll always regret it!

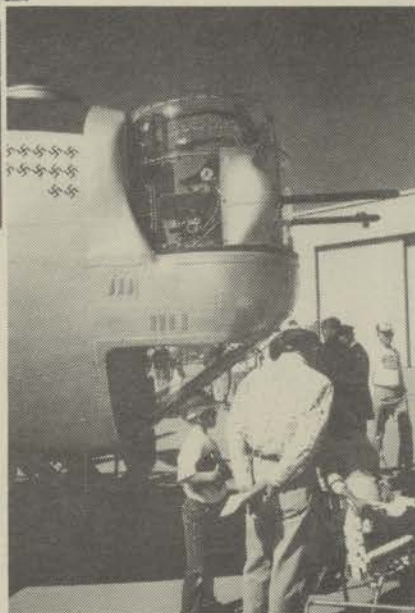
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CHAO & JUSTIN BEASLEY



B-24 "THE ALL AMERICAN"



RUSTY & EVERETT CHAMBERLAIN

MEMBERSHIP - NON REPORT

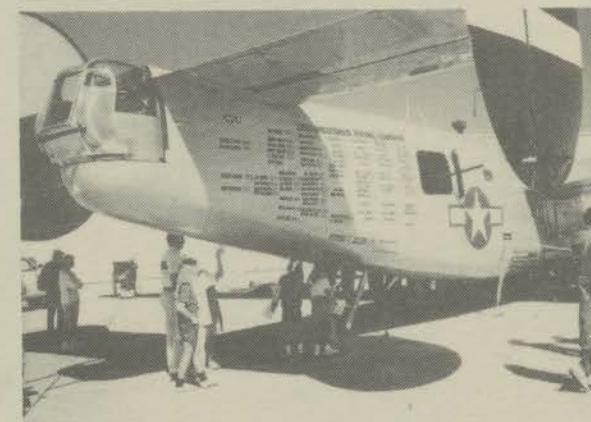
By C. N. "Rusty" Chamberlain



..Dues time has come and gone. There are yet some members who have put off sending in their dues. I know how that can happen being a procrastinator myself. Well, you get a second chance. Send in your dues payment and the blue statement you received in the December "Heritage Herald" to keep your membership current in order to continue to receive the Heritage Herald.

..And, while you have pen in hand, send us your comments, suggestions or articles which may be of interest to your fellow members. THIS IS YOUR LEAGUE and your newsletter.

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Editor's note: Erin's excellent report has been modified due to the constraints of space

Pictures are not included

As narrated in his video documentary, "Air War Over Europe", Walter Kronkite gives an excellent portrayal of the first Air Campaign by American Army Air Corps forces in the American Theatre of Operations of World War II.

.One of the most difficult targets of World War II was the Rumanian Oil Fields at Ploesti. Flying 1200 miles at tree-top levels were air crew of the Second Air Division of the Eighth Air Force that had trained for several months on B-24 Liberators purposely for this most important mission. These airmen, whose mission it was to destroy these crucial Oil Fields, had prepared extensively at desert air bases in North Africa.

.On August 1, 1943, they were ready as they took off for their long and dangerous journey. One hundred seventy-six (176) B-24's thundered into the sky to form with their individual groups and proceeded at low level altitude of 30 feet. As the hours went by, the richest target of the war was ahead of them. They had hoped to win it by surprise by flying at such a low level and they hoped to catch the enemy off guard. This was a gamble that was carefully rehearsed and designed to strike a decisive blow at the enemy's war machine. The Rumanian Oil Field under attack was PLOESTI. The Objective was Oil.

.Ploesti was a complex of oil storage tanks, refineries, and cracking plants. It was the richest target in Europe because one-third of the oil required by Germany was produced here. A modern army traveled on petroleum and Ploesti powered the German Army. It was believed that this August 1, 1943, single surprise raid on these oil fields would hasten the end of the war in Europe and result in an early allied victory. This was seen as a good possibility as was shown on intelligence films and reports of our agents who were secretly stationed in Rumania.

.At the briefings before the mission, it was believed that defenses would be weak and nothing like we had experienced on the

western front where we had such strong opposition from German Fighter Planes. It was thought that the enemy fighters over Rumania would be flown by Rumanian pilots who were thoroughly bored with the war. Ground defenses were believed to be relatively light and more conducive to night attack. Anti-aircraft guns and artillery were expected to be manned by inexperienced Rumanians. We believed the enemy defenses were inadequate to repel daylight attacks.

.Planes flying at such a low altitude make everything appear to the pilots as though everything goes rushing by and consequently made those airmen have to think in a hurry and sometimes make split second decisions. Air crews had little use for parachutes on this mission because of the low altitude. It was apparent that they could have left their chutes behind because they couldn't open anyway and therefore the planes would have been able to carry more fuel that was offset by this extra unnecessary weight.

.Because of the long distance of 1200 miles from their bases in North Africa and the fuel required to make a return to safety after the mission, it was known that we could not muster enough strength for a major attack. Perhaps a sudden raid, a strong thrust by a slight force would win Ploesti in a single blow.

.Navigation in low altitude is difficult and something went wrong. The first group approaching the target area made a wrong turn prematurely into what was thought to be the initial bomb approach. Unfortunately, this lead group was actually making its bomb run on Bucharest, the headquarters of the German Defense Command. As the planes made their run on Bucharest, there was a moment of indecision. Radio silence was broken and the lead plane was informed of its error. As the group approached the outskirts of the city, the element of surprise was lost and the Germans were warned. They knew that only one target in the area was worth such an effort and that target had to be Ploesti.

.The Germans sounded the alert that was answered not by second rate Rumanian pilots, but rather by some of the best pilots in the German Luftwaffe. German anti-aircraft batteries moved into action



as all surprise was lost. Heavy German flak was ready and waiting as the first wave of B-24 bombers approached the target from the most heavily defended direction. Several of the Liberators and their crews went down before they could approach the target. Others went down before hitting their prescribed targets as they were forced to bomb targets not assigned to them. Time-delayed action bombs that had been dropped by our planes were going off directly underneath our bombers as they arrived over the wrong targets at the wrong time. These time-delayed bombs were designed purposely with the intent to safely allow the following groups to penetrate the target area before exploding. Thus in some respects, these bombs created the opposite effect for which they were intended.

However, through all of this many bombs were able to hit their mark. Huge explosions occurred and many of the tanks turned into an inferno. The B-24's had done their job, the air crews performed magnificently. Many heroes were born that day. Second Lieutenant Lloyd H. Hughes, of the 564th Bomb Squadron, 389th Bomb Group piloted his plane through smoke and flame from the ground over the assigned target, dropped his bombs and with gasoline pouring from the tanks, with his plane on fire where the wing joined the fuselage, he attempted to land when the wing came off, cartwheeling the burning B-24 as it crashed in flames. He and the other nine members of his crew lost their lives while successfully hitting their target. For this heroic endeavor, he was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Colonel Leon W. Johnson, 44th Bomb Group was in personal command of 37 of the bombers and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for exceptional bravery and outstanding leadership. He led his group through smoke and flame that was above the height at which they were flying to unload their bombs on a target slightly beyond the targets that had been hit by a group flying just ahead of them. The plane on his left wing blew 1500 feet in the air and the ship on his right wing went down burning. Colonel Johnson survived this mission and went on to lead his group on 14 other

missions before he was relieved of that command. He was promoted to General and is alive and active today although he is now retired from the Air Force.

Addison Baker and John Jerstad of the 93rd Bomb Group in Hell's Wench as Command Pilot and Co-pilot respectively skimmed along just 50 feet about the farm fields leading to Ploesti. Jerstad called out the flak batteries to his gunner. "Eight o'clock! Twelve o'clock! Five o'clock! shoot all over." On the ground haystacks popped apart to reveal flak batteries. The sky was filled with multicolored tracers from German guns.

Men were dying from shrapnel ripping through the planes' thin aluminum skin. Hell's Wench held its course through the fire. Five miles out it hit a balloon cable. The B-24 continued on, the balloon wandering upward. Three miles out the bomber took a direct hit in the nose, then three more hits, in the wing, wing root and a devastating blow in the cockpit. Flames erupted from the wing tanks. Baker and Jerstad dropped their bombs to keep their plane in the air. They attempted to gain altitude so that some of their crew might be saved. Three or four of the crew tumbled out; however, none of the crew survived. For their incredible gallantry in continuing to lead their group in the mortally wounded bomber, when they could have tried a crash landing, Baker and Jerstad became the first of five men to earn the Medal of Honor in the bloody skies over Ploesti.

Leaving the target, many planes were badly damaged. B-24's can climb on three engines and limp along on two. When one propeller stops functioning, it is a sure sign of trouble and German fighters swarm to finish off the bomber. Even after leaving the target area, German fighters continued to keep coming and intense aerial battles were in progress. We were losing one-third of our 176 planes, but our gunners on the B-24s were also shooting down many enemy fighters. The remaining victorious German Fighter pilots returned to their own closeby airfields, refueled and returned to the air to again engage their enemy. Of the 1630 American Airmen who actually reached the target, 446 were





listed as killed or missing in action with 130 wounded and 79 interned. Of the 176 planes that started on this mission that day, 11 turned back before they hit the Rumanian oilfields and 54 went down.

.Many of the men who took off for Floesti never expected to get back. They knew that the Air Force was counting on losses up to 50% and word was out that even if the losses were 100% the operation would be a success if the target was destroyed.

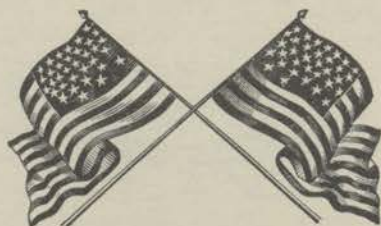
.Although we lost the element of surprise, suffered heavy losses, bombs fell wide of the target, still American Heavy bombers had destroyed 40% of the cracking capacity at Floesti.

.This raid on Floesti was the only single action of the War in which five Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded. This is the highest medal given to American Military Service Personnel. Since its beginning in the Civil War only 3,390 medals have been awarded. The five recipients of the Medal of Honor for the Floesti 1 August 1943 mission are:

Addison Baker, 93rd Bomb Group, 8th AAF  
Lloyd Hughes, 389th Bomb Group, 8th AAF  
John Jerstad, 93rd Bomb Group, 8th AAF  
Leon Johnson, 44th Bomb Group, 8th AAF  
John R. Kane, 98th Bomb Group,  
9th Air Force.

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# THE American WWII Orphans Network

The American WW II Orphans Network

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WW II was the most costly war in terms of human life ever fought by Americans. Over 16,535,000 Americans went to fight this war and 484,172 never came home. But the sacrifice did not end there. Approximately 183,000 American children were left fatherless at the end of this war. The government labeled us War Orphans, although most of us still had our mothers.

As 1995 and the 50th Anniversary of the end of WW II approaches, American orphans have reached middle age and feel it has become imperative that we acknowledge the far reaching impact the loss of our fathers had on our lives. After all these years, it is as if we have been awakened from a dream. We are beginning to ask questions we were afraid to ask before. What was my father really like? What happened the day he died? How was he killed?

Although WW II seems long ago and far away, the children of soldiers who didn't return still have many concerns and we have a great deal in common. Everyday at the network we hear these things. "My father was a hero and a shadow in my life that I could never live up to." "I always day dreamed that he would come back some day." "I have always wondered how my life would have been different if I had a Dad and dreamed it would have been better." "I felt different because I didn't have a Dad." "I feel like I have never buried my father."

The American WW II Orphans Network was established to meet the needs of sons and daughters who are searching for information.



# AMERICAN WW II ORPHANS NETWORK

## APPLICATION

### INFORMATION ABOUT WW II SOLDIER WHO WAS KIA OR MIA

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Where Buried \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Town and State \_\_\_\_\_

### INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to soldier \_\_\_\_\_

### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF BROTHERS OR SISTERS WITH SAME FATHER

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The American WW II Orphans Network is a non-profit, non-political organization and public service. Listing in our data base and inquiries are FREE. However, we are dependent on contributions from our members and friends. Members and contributors will receive our newsletter and be kept informed of activities and issues related to WW II Orphans and the Memorial Locating project.

I wish to become a MEMBER of the American of The American WW II Orphans Network.

I am a ☐ daughter ☐ son ☐ grandchild of a veteran killed or missing in WW II

Please accept my contribution of ☐ \$25.00 suggested ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am not a Network Participant but I am sending a donation of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ For the Network ☐ For the Memorial Locating Project

☐ I am aware of a memorial which list names of WW II soldiers and would like to receive a Memorial Locating Form to fill out about this memorial .

I give permission to the Network to release my name, address and phone number and relationship to the deceased to other Network participants. I understand the list of members will never be sold or given to any other organization or business. I hereby release the American W.W. II Orphans Network from any liability that may arise from the release of information.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: AMERICAN WW II ORPHANS NETWORK, PO BOX 4369, BELLINGHAM WA 98227





# Still buddies

Onetime Air Corp comrades and POWs (from left) Alton Andrews, Ira Weinstein, William Wilson, Al Steindam, Bob Barr, Jerry Gilbert reunited in Northbrook after 43 years.

## They shared cabbage stew and hope in a Nazi POW camp; 40 years later, in a suburban hotel, they shared the memories

By Ron Grossman

It was the worst of times and, strangely, the best of times—and, for a little while, it was only yesterday instead of 40 years ago.

"Andy? It is you, isn't it?" asked Ira Weinstein, smothering Alton Andrews in a bear hug. "I hardly recognize you with some meat on your bones."

Andrews didn't reply. That's not his style. They used to kid that no one heard him say five words in all their time in a POW camp. Yet clearly he, too, was having trouble squaring memories with what time and a steady three meals a day had done to his buddy's waistline.

With its plastic plants and heroic-scale chandeliers, the Sheraton North Shore Inn in Northbrook flaunts the good life, suburban American style. The last time Andrews and Weinstein had seen each other was during World War II, when they and 16 other GIs shared a 12-foot-square room in Stalag Luft I, just outside Barth, Germany. Their daily fare was a thin cabbage-and-rutabaga stew.

Weinstein had gift-wrapped a set of those vegetables for each of his five former roommates, whom the Veterans Administration had been able to track down.

"You haven't changed a bit, Ira," said William Wilson, rolling his eyes and smiling as he unwrapped his party favor. "I haven't been able to stand the sight of these, let alone eat one, since 1945."

As the senior officer among them, Wilson was their commander during their Nazi captivity. In a POW barracks, rank operates the same as elsewhere in military service. But then and now, Weinstein was the group's combination hustler and idea man.



Alton Andrews

A year ago Weinstein decided that time was running out to see what had become of his old Air Corps comrades. So he issued the invitations and booked the facilities for a weekend reunion near his Glencoe home. And there they were, standing in a hotel lobby, introducing wives who were then V-Mail sweethearts.

"Al, I'd like you to meet my wife—" Bob Barr began.

"Nina," interjected Al Steindam. "You told me all about her when I drew those plans for your dream house. Did you kids ever get a chance to build it?"

Barr said he still has the drawings that Steindam sketched while the two sat on the edge of a triple-decker bunk and Barr talked about his hopes of going home to Martins Ferry, Ohio, and marrying the girl next door on Elm Street.

If he ever did made it back to the U.S., Barr had explained, he would need a house roomy enough for the family he and Nina already had planned. Four decades later, Barr passed around photographs of the three children (now parents themselves) who had filled the bedrooms of Steindam's design.

Before the war got in his way, Steindam was headed to the University of Texas to study architecture. After V-E Day, he finally made it to campus and took a degree in structural engineering, a profession he practiced in Dallas until a few years ago. From student days to retirement, Steindam worked on thousands of blueprints. Yet none meant half as much as those crude sketches he made, behind barbed wire with improvised drafting equipment, for a nonpaying client.

To survive as a prisoner of war, Steindam said,

you have to believe in the future, against the overwhelming monotony of your daily routine. In 1944, when he and the others met, they didn't know if they would ever again see the world beyond an internment camp for 3,000 British and American airmen shot down over Nazi-occupied Europe.

When the Soviet army liberated them during the final days of the war, the men of Stalag Luft I were asked to help tend to the inmates of a nearby concentration camp where the Nazis kept political prisoners. Weinstein volunteered for that duty. What he saw there ("naked bodies, dead and half-dead, so emaciated you could barely tell men from women") made him and his buddies realize that, relatively speaking, they hadn't had it too bad.

Still, "relatively" is a word that makes sense chiefly in hindsight. At the time, just the fact of their confinement was enough to drive some of their comrades to despair.

"What was the name of the guy who—it couldn't have been more than a week before we were liberated—ran screaming across the parade ground and tried climbing the fence in broad daylight?" someone asked.

"I remember he was a Canadian who had flown with the RAF," another answered.

"The guards shot him," a third said. "We used to say: 'Another poor guy has gone around the bend.'"

Then the conversation turned to sentences that began, "I'll never forget the first time you came



Ira Weinstein



Al Steindam

See Buddies, pg. 5



## Buddies

Continued from page 1

walking into our barracks. . . .  
Alton Andrews was the hands-down winner for initial impressions.

Andrews' B-17 was shot out from under him in July, 1944, when he was on his 14th bombing mission over Germany. Parachuting down, he found himself in the Bavarian Alps. He appropriated a Tyrolean hat and walking stick from an empty farmhouse and started heading for Switzerland, on the other side of the mountains, hoping to sit out the rest of the war in that neutral country. He was still wearing the felt hat when a camp guard introduced Andrews to the others as their new room-mate. His first words were that he was angry at himself for getting caught so close to freedom.

"The night before a German patrol picked me up," Andrews recalled four decades later, "I was hiding in a mountain pasture and could hear a boy and girl yodeling to each other across the valley. That's the way young people court each other there."

Weinstein recalled that he wound up in Luft 1 for having violated the injunction against working on Yom Kippur. During the bomber offensive against the Nazis, American air crews based in England had a 25-mission quota, he noted. Then they were eligible for home leave. By the fall of 1944, he was only one short of reaching that goal. Because of the Jewish holidays, he was due a three-day pass and planned to take in the sights of London. Instead, he volunteered to fly an extra mission with a crew short its regular bombardier. That way, he figured, he could be back in Chicago by Christmas.

Instead, anti-aircraft fire forced him to bail out. On the way down he saw his pilot being pitchforked to death by irate German farmers. He himself survived because of one of those touches of human kindness that somehow coexist with the horrors of war. Captured and taken in front of a local *burgermeister*, Weinstein plucked out of memory the Yiddish spoken in his parents' West Side home. The sound of that Germanic language told the village mayor he had a problem on his hands.

"I'll have to deliver you to a Luftwaffe base before the S.S. discovers you are here," he explained. "Those S.S. men do not take Jews prisoner. They kill them."

The mayor's assessment proved correct: The German air force considered American airmen as brothers-in-arms and confined them in POW compounds more livable than the camps for other prisoners. Yet Weinstein and the others recalled that, in some ways, the lenient treatment made their time in Stalag Luft 1 psychologically harder.

"The guards were soldiers too old for battlefield duty, and some would smuggle in food to trade for the cigarettes from our Red Cross packages," Barr recalled. "But they would also harangue us about how

America and Germany should get together against the Russians because they were our mutual enemy."

As part of that propaganda battle, Barr continued, the Germans brought Max Schmeling to visit them. A celebrity is a celebrity, even in a prison camp, so a lot of GIs lined up to get autographed pictures of the former heavyweight boxing champion, whom Joe Louis had defeated in a memorable fight just before the war. The next morning at roll call, the senior American officer in Luft 1, Col. H.R. Spicer, talked about the psychological dangers of fraternization. Col. Spicer, Barr recalled, was a dashing figure with a handlebar mustache whom the Germans put into solitary confinement for his speech.

"When he reminded us that while we were being buddy-buddy with Schmeling, other Germans were killing GIs they'd taken prisoner in the Battle of the Bulge, nobody could look the colonel in the face," Barr said. "Later, when FDR died, every one of us put on a black arm band, so those German S.O.B.'s would know exactly how we felt."

Wilson added that for other reasons, the season of Col. Spicer's address was the roughest time of their confinement. In June of 1944, when the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy, spirits in Luft 1 soared. Among the other contraband the inmates had traded for was a radio. When it brought the news of D-Day, Wilson and his buddies imagined that Gen. Eisenhower's tanks shortly would come crashing through the camp's barbed-wire fences.

That winter, though, the Germans counterattacked in the Battle of the Bulge, postponing the day of Luft 1's deliverance. Their POW camp, Wilson noted, was not far from the air base where the Germans were developing the first jet-propelled aircraft. Daily the guards taunted them with Adolf Hitler's promise that Germany had a new secret weapon that would turn the tide of war.

"We'd look up to see the jet streams of planes flying so high and so fast we couldn't tell what they were," Wilson recalled. "But as airmen, we knew that we and the British didn't have anything to match them. So by Christmastime, we were all feeling pretty low."

Indeed, Wilson and his Christian bunk mates were a sorry lot as they went off, on the morning of Dec. 25, to the religious service the camp's chaplain had arranged. Upon returning to quarters, they were greeted by Weinstein and Jerry Gilbert, their other Jewish roommate, standing in the doorway, towels draped over their arms, like waiters in a fancy restaurant.

Inside stood a scrawny pine tree decorated with improvised ornaments and a table set with a holiday dinner. Weinstein and

Gilbert had swapped the guards a king's ransom worth of cigarettes for a turkey and all the trimmings. There were even place cards with a menu (including "purloined dressing") and a special seasons

greetings.

"Whenever I hear 'Silent Night,' I think of that Christmas in the camp," Barr said. "Ira and Jerry had lettered our place cards with the wish that was on everybody's mind: 'Home Alive In '45.'"

A little more than four months later, the tanks they had been praying for finally showed up, though they were marked with a hammer and sickle instead of stars and stripes. As their first act of freedom, the prewar journalists and printers among the prisoners liberated a print shop in town and put out the first, and only, issue of *The Barth Hard Times*. "Rusky Come!" the headline announced, echoing their terror-stricken guards' departing words.

Shortly afterward, the U.S. 8th Air Force flew a squadron of B-17s into the field where the Germans had been testing jets, and started ferrying the inmates of Stalag Luft 1 back to civilian life.

Bob Barr went back to Martins Ferry and became his hometown's dentist. Ira Weinstein traveled the country visiting families of crew members who didn't make it out of his B-24 when it crashed. Then he came back to Chicago and wound up owning an advertising agency. His fellow Chicagoan, Jerry Gilbert, started a display company.

Al Steindam's son, Lt. Russell Albert Steindam, was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for throwing himself on a Viet Cong grenade in 1970 while protecting his wounded men.

Alton Andrews managed municipal water systems in Oregon. William Wilson stayed in the service for a number of years. He retired as a lieutenant colonel and worked for the Internal Revenue Service.

Over the years, Wilson and the others agreed, the experience of Stalag Luft 1 has begun to dim. So sometimes now, the terror and horror they knew in the skies above Germany, and the memory of buddies who didn't live to see V-E Day, seem more like a bad dream.

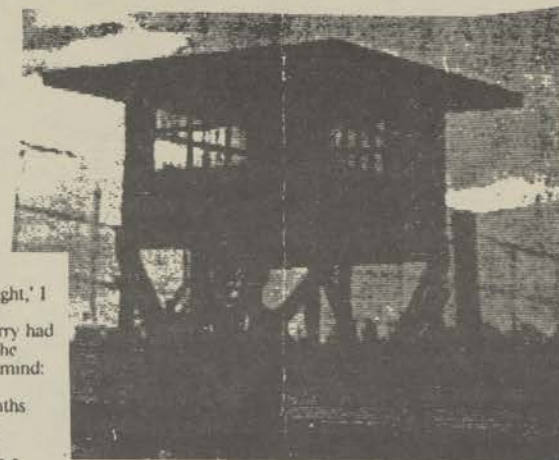
Some of their wives, though, still recall their husbands' homecoming like it was yesterday.

"Bill just couldn't stand to be in a crowd of people," recalled Jodie Wilson. "It must have been for having to live packed in, so close together, in the camp."

"We had a big welcome-home party for Bob," Nina Barr said. "I remember we were dancing, and Bob whispered, 'Hold me real tight, honey.' He was shaking so bad he couldn't stop."

Finally, Alton Andrews spoke up and said that like Wilson, he couldn't abide being around people when he landed in the States. A fishing trip improved his spirits. One day, though, he left a fishing gaff lying in his boat while he went to buy some bait, and when he returned it was gone.

"That old gaff couldn't have been worth more than a couple of dollars," Andrews recalled. "But at that moment, I still had so much anger bottled up inside me. If I'd found the guy who'd stole it, I'd have killed him for sure."



"This Flag . . . is the symbol of our national unity, our national endeavor, our national aspiration. It tells you of the struggle for independence, of union preserved, of liberty and union one and inseparable, of the sacrifice of brave men and women to whom the ideals and honor of this nation have been dearer than life."

—Charles Evans Hughes

### Demonstrate Your Patriotism Fly the Flag on These Dates

New Year's Day . . . . .	January 1
Inauguration Day . . . . .	January 20
Lincoln's Birthday . . . . .	February 12
Presidents Day . . . . .	3rd Monday in February
Washington's Birthday . . . . .	February 22
Army Day . . . . .	April 6
Easter Sunday . . . . .	Variable
Mother's Day . . . . .	2nd Sunday in May
Memorial Day . . . . .	Last Monday in May
Flag Day (since 1777) . . . . .	June 14
Independence Day . . . . .	July 4
Labor Day . . . . .	1st Monday in September
Constitution Day . . . . .	September 17
Columbus Day . . . . .	2nd Monday in October
Navy Day . . . . .	October 27
Veterans (Armistice) Day . . . . .	November 11
Thanksgiving Day . . . . .	4th Thursday in November
Christmas Day . . . . .	December 25

\*Half staff until noon.

And such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States; and on State holidays. Armed Forces Day, by custom since 1949, is usually celebrated the third Saturday in May. Constitution Day, by resolution of the 82nd Congress has been designated as Citizenship Day.

Public Law 829-771b Congress



## LOOKING AHEAD AT 1992

2ND ADA 9TH ANNUAL MIDWEST REUNION -  
Oshkosh, WI May 31 to June 2, 1992. The  
reunion will be held at the Pioneer Inn.  
Registration is \$55 per person payable to  
2ADA Midwest Region. Send to Wilbur Stites,  
9334 Kahl Road, Black Earth, WI 53515

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2ND ADA - 45TH ANNUAL REUNION RIVIERA  
HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA October 4 - 7,  
1992. THE HERITAGE LEAGUE will meet in  
conjunction with the 2nd ADA. The  
Executive Committee will meet on October 3  
and the General Meeting for the League will  
be held in the afternoon of Sunday, October  
4, 1992. Plan to attend. The 2ADA Spring  
Journal contained information regarding the  
reunion including the reservation form.  
Any questions that need priority answers  
contact Evelyn Cohen at 06410 Delaire  
Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114 Phone  
(215) 632-3992.

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2ND ANNUAL KINGMAN ARMY AIR FIELD REUNION -  
Kingman, Arizona October 8, 9, 10 & 11,  
1992. For information contact Jerry  
Anderson told free information line  
1-800-325-KAAF (5223)  
6000 Flightline Drive, Box 3, Kingman, AZ  
86401.

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EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY -  
October 6-11, 1992, Louisville, KY. The  
Galt House. For information contact 8AF  
Reunion, phone (305) 456-2260.

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KUDOS TO CARON VEYNAR- Heritage League  
Member

Caron is a design patent examiner with the  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, (PTO).  
In preparation for celebrating their 75  
years in existence as a Group called the  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE SOCIETY, a  
contest for a logo was set up in 1991. In  
short, ---Caron's design was chosen. Caron  
is quite proud of it and of course, "Ma"  
and "Pa" Veynar are proud, too! We are  
proud of you also Caron. Design is shown  
on the back cover of this issue.

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## Essay Contest

The Heritage League Executive Committee is  
planning to sponsor an essay contest which  
will be open to Grade 5 through Grade 12  
Heritage League members. Details are  
still in the planning stage. Possible,  
suggested topics on which to write are:

1. The Purpose of the Heritage League
2. Freedom...What Does it Mean to me?
3. What impact did my Father/Grandfather's  
Military Service During World War II have  
on me?
4. Why I would Like to Visit the Old  
American Bases in East Anglia
5. Why I would Like to Visit the Memorial  
Library in Norwich
6. What is the Significance of the Memorial  
Library
7. Remembering World War II; how it defined  
our Nation
8. The Need for a special place in America  
for Second Air Division Memorabilia..

Initially, prizes will be in the form of  
United States Savings Bonds. If you are  
interested please contact Billy Sheely  
Johnson, Executive Vice President, 600  
Sandhurst Drive, Petersburg, VA 23805.

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### RECOMMENDED READING

1. The American Airman in Europe by Roger  
A. Freeman, Sterling Publishing, 387 Park  
Ave., South, NY, NY
2. A History of the 489th Bomb Group,  
available through Charles H. Freudenthal  
8421 Berea Drive, Vienna, VA 22180
3. Mission Failure and Survival, Sunflower  
University Press, 1531 Yuma (Box 1009)  
Manhattan, KS 66502-4228
4. Bomber Pilot, A Memoir of World War II  
by Philip Ardery, University Press of  
Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506
5. Into the Guns of PLOESTI, Leroy W. Newby,  
Motorbooks International Publishers &  
Wholesalers, PO Box 2, 729 Prospect Ave.,  
Osceola, WI 54020
6. Comprehensive selection of videotapes of  
World War II USAAF Aircraft In the Air.  
Request a free catalog from Boomerang  
Publishers 6164 West 83rd Way, Arvada, CO  
80003.

Evelyn Cohen & Caron Veynar





## Member's Bookshelf

REVIEW OF "THE AMERICAN AIRMAN IN EUROPE"  
by C. N. "Rusty" Chamberlain, V.P.  
Membership

What was it like for the young men and women of the 2nd AD stationed in East Anglia from mid-1942 to late 1945? Roger Freeman, who has written books about the history of the 8th Air Force, has now published a short work describing those times with the words of the participants. His book, The American Airmen in Europe, contains tales by airmen from the European Theater of Operations (ETO) and the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO). The 2nd AD is well represented with stories told by members of many 2nd AD groups. I was surprised and pleased to find my father as one of the storytellers.

..This book is not just a history of WWII or a description of aerial combat. It is the personal accounts of events and experiences. They didn't change the course of history, but they did touch and change the lives of those who experienced them. In a way, the experiences described have touched or changed the lives of all of us in The Heritage League.

..Included are wonderful tales about weekend passes to London, good relations with the British, bad relations with the weather, crew member comradery, mechanics and conditions on the flight line, mishaps, pranks and prisoners of war. While they can't duplicate the sights, sounds and smells, these men and women experienced, it does give you a taste of what life was like, both in the air and on the ground. You will also find two sections of pictures. Each photo is indexed to the chapter with a related story. I thoroughly enjoyed reading The American Airman in Europe. The publisher is Arms and Armour Press of London.

Editor's Note: Due to my mother's death which resulted in an unexpected trip to San Francisco, this issue of the Heritage Herald is late. Please accept my apologies. N.W.B.

## 2ND AIR DIVISION 8TH USAAF 1942-1945 MILITARY VIDEOHISTORY PROJECT

Please send me the videos I have checked below:

VHS only Videotapes	Price	Subtotal
Images of the 2nd Air Division .....	49.50 = \$	_____
Faces of the 2nd Air Division .....	39.50 =	_____
Eight Candles for Remembrance ....	49.50 =	_____
Memories of War .....	19.50	_____
The 467th BG Family Reunion Album	49.50	_____
Women's Army Corps .....	49.50	_____
The Story of the Memorial Room As Told by Jordan R. Uttal .....	19.50	_____
Ramsay D. Potts, Maj. Gen., Ret. ....	49.50	_____
2nd Air Division in Norwich 1990 ...	49.50	_____
German Pilots .....	49.50	_____
The Kassel Mission Documentary ...	49.50	_____
Postage/Packaging per tape 2.00 =		_____
	<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

The Military Videohistory Project is a production of the Joseph G. Dzenowagis family. Proceeds above costs will be donated to the 2ADA for the Memorial Room.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check or money order payable to J. Dzenowagis.

**Mail To:** J. Dzenowagis  
Military Videohistory Project  
4397 South Okemos Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

### Please note:

Delivery of **In Production** tapes begins Dec. 1, 1991.  
Delivery of all other tapes begins Sept. 1, 1991.



# PEN PAL PROGRAM

Ann "Mike" Chamberlain



..The "Pen Pal" project of the Heritage League has been "bogged down" due to many things. The primary one being the lack of English pals. The British schools and many of their other organizations have been involved with Pen Pals from many nations for at least two generations.

..The teachers, understandably, do not relish another such task. Some schools or classes have been found such as the one the 448th B.G. is presently working with, thanks to our 2nd ADA President, Dick Kennedy and his lady Bobbie.

..We must arrange closer or more personal contacts with the Villages and especially Norwich.

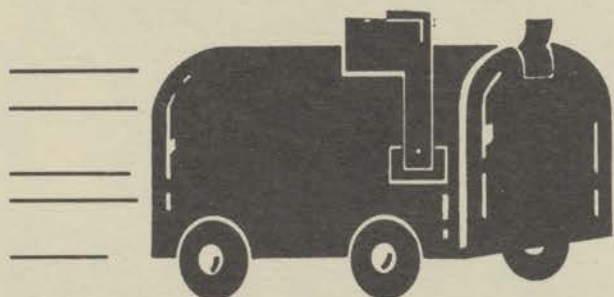
..Bud and I will be going to England in May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the American arrival during WWII. While there I shall contact the "Friends" of the 2nd AD Memorial and through them and our Group V.P's get contacts at each village and Norwich.

..Hopefully, I shall be able to find and inspire someone to work with me on this project. I have contacted Graham Savill, Chairman of "The Friends" and he is working on contacts in Norwich, and alerting the village members to start working.

..I have several applications that I will be taking over to England. For those of you who have waited so long, I shall find a "Pen Pal" somewhere in your village or Norwich.

Hopefully and determined,  
"Mike" Chamberlain

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## MOVING?

### NEW MEMBERS - Joined in 1991

Helen Bachman  
Maria Bachman  
Henry Barker  
Jacque Winters  
Rebecca Cash  
Glennis Wilson  
Melissa Wilson  
Jerry Freed  
Laura McCanna  
Melissa McCanna  
Doris Shelton Biel-Lighty

### NEW MEMBERS - Joined in 1992

Richard Farris  
Patric Mullen  
Anne Barry-Mullen  
Louise Etheridge  
Lucian Smith III  
Elizabeth Asnes  
Anne Smith  
Nathan Smith  
Beth Asnes  
Jane Smith  
Dorothy Williamson  
Donald Denton  
Robin Boyd, Jr.  
John Boyd, Jr.  
Elling Mikkelsen  
Paul Latenser  
Barbara Victor  
Elen Postemski  
Celeste Anderson

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**SIX WEEKS' NOTICE, PLEASE.** The sooner you can let us know your new address, the better. If we have at least 6 weeks' notice, we'll be able to update our files and have everything in place the day you move into your new home---and you'll be able to receive your issues at your **NEW ADDRESS**, without delay. Please send your notification to C.N."Rusty" Chamberlain, III, Vice President, Membership, 9635 West 73rd Avenue, Arvada, CO 80005.

If you're moving, please take a moment to let us know. Just fill out the form below and return it—*along with your address label*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

The date you'll be moving into your new home is: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NOTE: Please allow 6 weeks.)



The Heritage League of the Second Air  
Division (USAAF)  
January 1 through December 31, 1991

Heritage League of the Second Air Division (US AF)  
Proposed Budget for 1992

Revenue:			
Dues	\$1,686.29		
Donations*	427.20		
Interest	160.69		
Expenses for the current year:			
Office Supplies	270.67		
Printing	515.96		
Postage	490.62		
Registration	5.00		
Gifts & Engraving	154.21		
Revenue less expenditures for 1991	837.72		
Revenue over expenditures for prior years	2,411.01		
Cash on Hand	3,248.73		
* T shirt sales	\$1,039.50		
Cost of T shirts	\$759.80		
Postage	783.80		
Profit from T shirt sale	255.70		
donations from pins	85.50		
memorial fund donation	25.00		
misc. donations	61.00		
	427.20		
Cash in bank 1 January 1992		\$3,248.73	
Less reserve		1,000.00	\$2,248.73
Interest			160.00
Dues: 386 regular members @ \$6.		2,316.00	
58 associate members @ \$4.		232.00	
		2,548.00	
Total			\$4,956.73
Expenditures			
Office Supplies	\$270.67		\$ 95.00
Telephone Calls			30.00
Printing	515.96		1,440.00
Postage	490.62		615.00
Registration	5.00		5.00
Gifts, Wreath & Engraving	154.21		60.00
Totals	1,436.46		2,245.00

Respectfully submitted,

*Helen Freudenthal*

Helen Freudenthal  
Treasurer







TO:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

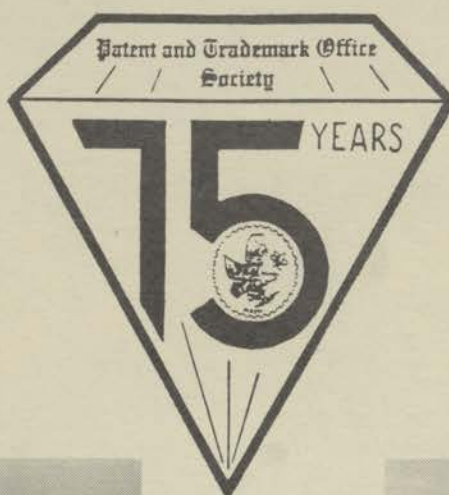
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NORMA M. BEASLEY, EDITOR

THE HERITAGE HERALD



CARON VEYNAR'S WINNING DESIGN



MARY BETH BARNARD - 445TH B.G.



KNEELER FOR TIBENHAM CHURCH MADE  
BY MARY BETH BARNARD