

JOURNAL

Volume 37 Number 3

Fall 1998

LIBERATOR

THE YEAR OF THE
B-24

60th
ANNIVERSARY
1939 - 1999

THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY B-24 IN PROGRESS



The Bronze B-24 is being assembled at the studio of sculptor Robert Henderson. All is on schedule for the dedication of this memorial at the United States Air Force Academy in September '98. Looking ahead, the National Air and Space Museum has set aside an area for the sculptor to place six warbirds at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. We'll keep you abreast of this "history in the making."



New ZADA President Earl Wassom tells us that this is THE YEAR OF THE B-24!



The 467th's "WITCHCRAFT" proudly hails visitors to the ZADA section of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, Georgia.



The 445th's "assembly ship" model by GEORGE E. WRIGHT of West Midland, England. He is making a model for each of the 14 groups of the 2nd Air Division.

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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION



JOURNAL



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KEEPING IN FOCUS

BY EARL WASSOM, 2ADA PRESIDENT (466TH BG)

It is a distinct honor to be your 43rd President of the Second Air Division Association. At the memorial service conducted on the last night of the convention, I realized in a deeper way the honor that was given to me. As I sat on the platform and had front-row exposure to this ceremony, I was impressed by the traditional lighting of the eight candles of remembrance. The candles each represent a particular 8th Air Force military campaign and the men who gave their lives during these conflicts. Those assisting in this ceremony were past presidents of our Association, and one, a wife of a deceased president. There were twenty-four of them who in years past sat where I was now sitting, waiting to begin their tenures as president.

In all, 42 men have served as president; ten served two years, and thirty-two, one term. These men, in unity during the ceremony, have also walked in unity through many of the fifty years of the Second Air Division Association. They were united and focused. Each one had an agenda, things which he wished to accomplish for the betterment of the organization.

During my brief tenure on the Executive Committee, I have observed and learned from each president as he assumed responsibility for the office to which he had been elected. Each had a vision, not only for his one year tenure, but a vision which reached into the future. Each man's focus became an integral part of his vision.

All have maintained a focus on our Memorial Room in the Norwich Library. We have had some setbacks. The devastating fire which destroyed our Memorial has caused us to pause, plan, refocus, and regroup. There have been changes in personnel in the governance and staffing of the facility. Even with these changes, we have maintained our focus. There are excellent and well qualified new and younger men and women on the Board of Governors; a new 2ADA Governor was elected in Oak Brook; we have a new Fulbright Librarian beginning tenure this fall; our revered "Roll of Honor" has been faithfully and carefully restored; our investments in the Memorial Trust, the 2ADA Fulbright Fund, and the 2ADA Memorial Library Awards are well managed. To further hone our focus, the Executive Committee will be going to Norwich for its mid-year planning session, and while there, we will meet with the Board of Governors. We will participate in a symbolic ceremony dedicating the new library, to be constructed and scheduled to open in late 2000. The initial focus of building and maintaining our Memorial Room is still paramount.

In 1986-87, the Second Air Division Association added another focus in its decision to create an organization called the Heritage League. The League members are the lineage, children and grandchildren, of the wartime warriors of the Mighty Eighth Air Force, Second Air Division. Their primary purpose is to perpetuate the legacy begun by the Second Air Division Association. As time is taking its toll, we recognize the importance of their assuming leadership for the next generation of the 2ADA. These "children" over the last eleven years have responded responsibly and enthusiastically. They will continue to promote the legacy created by our war experiences of 1942-1945. Under the authority of the Executive Committee, it was my privilege to appoint twelve of them to serve as Heritage League Observers on most of the standing committees of the 2ADA. They are coming on board to understand and participate in the future governance of the organization. We are positioning them for leadership. I have great confidence that they will succeed in this new role.

The year 1999 is a very special one for those of us who flew or were associated with a wonderful flying machine. During 1998-1999, we are going to focus on the theme "The Year of the B-24, 60th Anniversary." A committee has been named (and the membership of it is still growing) to plan events in celebration of this wonderful occasion which will culminate in Austin, Texas at our May, 1999 convention. Committee members spent three hours in Oak Brook discussing and planning for this great event. A logo was adopted (which you have seen for the first time on the cover of this issue). The committee also liked the slogan "B-24 Liberator, the name says it all." Now, I am telling you all this in order that we can get off to a great start. May of 1999 will be here before we know it, and we want as many B-24 people involved as we can recruit! Part of the year-long celebration will be the dedication of the B-24 bronze model at the Air Force Academy on September 25, 1998. And although the wooden 1/6 scale model of the B-24 "Witchcraft" is already installed at the Heritage Museum, plans are underway to give recognition to both the B-17 and the B-24 in a special event. Future issues of the *Journal* will keep you informed as plans and events are finalized.

The fourth and final focus for the 1998-1999 year is to strengthen our support of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum at Savannah, Georgia. Our new committee for this focus is now accepting volunteers who will go to Savannah to work in the museum as resource people. The visitors who come to the museum have high regard for the veterans of WWII. They want to hear our story, shake our hands, and share with us how their family members contributed to the war effort. We can help make our museum more alive through our participation. The museum now has a program for volunteers and museum docents, and through our 2ADA committee and the group vice presidents, we hope to channel "a couple a week" to Savannah to be living witnesses. This will enrich the atmosphere of the museum for its visitors and strengthen our own focus upon this vital program. We are encouraging all 2ADA members and Heritage League

(continued on page 18)



THE 2ND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION traces its initial meeting to 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. It was organized as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Illinois on January 10, 1950. Members of the original Board of Directors were 2nd Air Division veterans Marilyn Fritz, Howard W. Moore, Jordan R. Uttal, and Percy C. Young. The association's purpose is to advocate and support an adequate, effective and efficient Army, Navy and Air Force at all times; to perpetuate the friendships and memories of service together in the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force in England during World War II; to support financially, and in any other way, the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division as represented by the 2nd Air Division Memorial Room of the Norwich Central Library; and to undertake such other activities as may from time to time be deemed appropriate by the membership.

REGULAR (Voting) MEMBERSHIP in the association is limited to those personnel, military and civilian, American or British, who at any time served with the Headquarters organization of the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Bomb Division or 2nd Air Division during World War II and any person who served with any bomb group or fighter group or any other unit of the 2nd Air Division assigned or attached. Provisions are also made for Associate (Non-Voting) memberships.

Please submit all material for publication to the editor by the 15th of December, March, June, or September.

We make every effort to mail your *Journal* within 45 days of the deadline listed above. Your receipt of the *Journal* will be anywhere from one to four weeks later, depending on the U.S. Postal Service — especially your own post office. If you don't get your *Journal* by the next deadline, contact Evelyn Cohen immediately. ■

WINTER JOURNAL DELIVERY NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE that the Winter 1998 issue of the *Journal* will be mailed out **AFTER** Christmas.

Because we had over 100 "lost" in the mail last year, the 2ADA Executive Committee has made the decision to delay this year's Winter issue until after the Post Office's holiday rush.

Executive Vice President's Message

BY F.C. "HAP" CHANDLER (491ST)

THE WORD FROM GEORGIA

"The best laid plans of mice and men usually go astray." After eight years as vice president of my group, it was time for a change. With a successor in place, I thought there would be time for endeavors other than the 2nd Air Division Association. Then came the phone call.

Have you ever tried to turn Neal Sorensen down? With the persuasiveness that made our Academy Bronze B-24 model project such a resounding success, he convinced me that the 2nd Air Division Association had a new job for me. I was not long in discovering what the job would be — 2ADA Executive VP!

A NEW PROGRAM! VOLUNTEER FOR THE MIGHTY 8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

At the urging of President Earl Wassom, your 2ADA Executive Committee has approved the participation of Association members in the volunteer program of the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum.

Members and wives are encouraged to volunteer for one week's service at the museum located near Savannah, Georgia.

Your tour of duty would begin with arrival on Tuesday for a tour of the facility and briefing on the duties you will perform. Since you have "been there and done that," your experience will be invaluable in explaining the exhibits and artifacts on display. School groups, in particular, would benefit greatly from exposure to 2nd Air Division members' first-hand accounts of the air war. For many students it will be their initial exposure to a personal account of the WWII experience.

After orientation you will be assigned to a team captain and be on duty for one of the two shifts daily (9 AM to 1 PM, or 1 PM to 6 PM). Jack Prescott, Director of Volunteers, is assisting in setting up this program. Wives can expect to help at the registration desk and the retail store.

Group vice presidents will be contacting members to participate in this program. Please indicate your interest to your group VP.

Savannah has become one of the premiere attractions on the eastern seaboard. Sufficient time has been built into the program to allow you to explore historic Savannah, nearby Hilton Head, and the Sea Islands of Georgia.

NORWICH LIBRARY GROUNDBREAKING

A recent car jacking left a popular and accomplished 17-year-old dead. The community was deeply shocked and outraged at this wanton and unnecessary death. How like our comrades' deaths in the bitter skies over Germany.

Our new Memorial Library, when completed, will contain our Second Air Division Roll of Honor with the almost 6,700 names of our comrades, many not much older than the high school victim, who were killed in action. Our



Hap Chandler at Madingley Cemetery, May 1992. PHOTO BY RUTH MCKENZIE

new Memorial will preserve their names in perpetuity.

I will be traveling with Association officers and members of the Executive Committee to Norwich on November 1st to participate in the ceremony dedicating the new 2ADA library. When completed in December 2000, our new and larger Memorial Room will be a reality. There in perpetuity will be enshrined the names of our honored dead.

Their sacrifice must not be forgotten.

BACK TO 1944-1945

In December 1944 I was assigned to Gene Scamahorn's crew in the 852nd Squadron, 491st Bomb Group. They were in the process of upgrading from flight and squadron leads to group and wing leads. Subsequently this crew led the Division and the 8th Air Force. Demonstrably we were an outstanding crew led by an exceptional pilot. My job, as pilotage navigator, was to pinpoint our position from landmarks on the ground. This was difficult, as in a 10/10 undercast, the top of one cloud (and there were plenty of them that winter) was not much different from the top of another cloud.

On the group's longest mission, January 16, 1945, the primary target was a synthetic oil plant, Ruhland. Located some thirty miles north of Dresden, it was a high priority target. For once I could see the ground. As the bomb run progressed, the target disappeared beneath a smoke screen — so on to the secondary, the marshalling yard at Dresden, impossible to hide.

We clobbered it! And, just as a crew with high morale and competent members always accomplishes its mission in wartime, so can the Second Air Division Association in peacetime. As we enter our fifty-first year, let us persevere toward our objectives with the same

determination that marked our efforts in the long-ago days of World War II.

TRAVEL SCHEDULE

We were at the 8th Air Force Museum with President Earl Wassom the last week of June, and will be with many of you at the B-24 ceremony at the Air Force Academy on September 25th. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend my group reunion in Tucson, November 2-4, as the trip to England is in conflict. ■

Folded Wings

HDQ

William H. Gregg (93rd)
Charles H. Mills

44th

Ray M. Higgins

93rd

Charles Youree

389th

Peter F. Ferdinand

392nd

Cleon M. Barber
William R. Biles
Floyd L. Bull
Samuel H. Layton
Calvin H. Roever

446th

Philip E. Balcomb
Eugene Freed

448th

George D. Cooksey, Jr.

453rd

Jay H. Jeffries, Jr.
Thomas J. O'Dwyer

458th

Ernest L. Kelly
Myron C. McNamara

466th

Raymond A. Barr
Francis A. Cunningham
Ben Weiner

467th

Myles E. Coolidge
Clarence E. Love
George W. Reed

489th

Wallace A. Portouw
Frances C. Hudzik (AM)

491st

Patrick J. Perry
Wallace E. Perry

HM

Lady Mayhew

THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS

BY RAY PYTEL (445TH)



Remember the editorial page picture in the Fall 1996 *Journal*? Well, we are the same three fellows just two years later, each exactly two years older . . . Ray now 78, grandson Andrew 2, and son Jeff 32. Note the 2ADA logo and heading on the T-shirts! ("I Flew In" on mine, "My Grandpa Flew In" on the grandson, and "My Dad Flew In" on son Jeff's shirt).

EDITORIAL STUFF

We have received a proclamation by the Oklahoma State Senate entitled "A Resolution recognizing and honoring the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and its invaluable contributions to the people of this nation." It is a lengthy document outlining the history of the 8th AF in all the recent wars since its inception in 1942. The museum is recognized as a national treasure not only serving as a memorial, but also as being essential in educating our young people. We plan on printing the proclamation in a future *Journal*.

We wish to thank Col. Terry Carlson for his interesting 8th AF memorabilia display at our Oak Brook convention. He is a retired U.S. Army Vietnam veteran who "got hooked" on the Mighty 8th.

I wish to correct my statement about the 482nd BG (Winter 1997 *Journal*, page 4). It was an incomplete B-17 outfit; they had two B-17

squadrons and one B-24 Squadron. The group had a threefold job: to test techniques and radar devices; to train Pathfinder crews; and to provide lead "Pathfinder" planes and crews to other groups.

To those of you who must have a B-24 stamp, the Post Office reminded me that in 1993 they issued a series on WWII, and the year 1943 issue had a B-24D over Ploesti. The Post Office said that they are sold out, but that "stamp dealers and collectors" have plenty of them. That's "philatelists" to the moneyed class!

ANSWERS TO SUMMER 1998 EDITORIAL PAGE QUESTIONS

(1) The five peoples that "toured" what is now called "The U.K." before the "Great G.I. Invasion": Starting at about 500 BC the "invaders" to the British Isles were: 500 BC the Celts; 43 AD the Romans; 400-900 AD the Anglo-Saxons; 700-1000 AD the Vikings, and 1066 AD the Normans from France (who were really "latter day Vikes" — hence Norsemen or Normans).

(2) The replica of the Eiffel Tower was a "working man's" version built in the Coney Island style city of Blackpool to draw tourists from the industrial midlands and north of England. Started in 1891 and open to the public in 1894, the 518 ft. top was accidentally set on fire shortly after Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The blaze was seen for many miles and was thought to be part of the celebration before it was brought under control. Many newly arrived 8th AF crews got their first taste of the English food, and their way of doing things, here on the way to North Ireland to get initiation training into the "ETO" way of flying and fighting the war.

EDITORIAL PAGE FALL QUESTIONS

- (1) Exactly when did WWII start?
- (2) What nation was invaded?
- (3) What were the exact demands made by Hitler?

- (4) What nation was Hitler's ally in this invasion?
- (5) What nations got involved next?
- (6) See the picture at the bottom of this page.



A NOTE FROM "THE REAL EDITOR"

Thanks for all your best wishes and prayers for a speedy recovery from my July 22nd ovarian cancer surgery. I am truly sorry to miss visiting my favorite "foreign" country, England, this November, but the doc sez I should have up to six months of "chemo" before I go touring good old "Limeyland." So I'll see "you all" in Austin, Texas next Memorial Day, unless we visit one of the "regionals" before that time.

— TWYLA KIEFFER —

CORRECTION

To the article by Ira Wells, "I Was The Best Teenage Cotter Pin Puller in the 8th AF!" (2ADA *Journal*, Spring 1998): Cotter pins were inserted in the fuses only in the event that bombs had to be salvaged over friendly (not enemy) territory. ■



Photographer Vincent Re (467th BG) sez . . . "Something in this B-24 picture is different from most you've ever seen. What is it?"



Jack Haylock Award

BY DOUG WICKWAR

Last year, I was invited to the USAF base of Mildenhall for an award. It was the Jack Haylock Community Relations Award.

So on the 10th of December my nominator and I attended the dinner and presentations. Also in attendance were over two hundred others from all around the area.

After the dinner, Colonel Jeff Kohler, Commander, 100th Air Refueling Wing, presented the awards to four finalists, two British and two American, and then twenty runners-up, myself being one of them. All nominations were read out for all to hear.

The USAF presents these awards every two years. I found this particular day most charming, as was everyone who took part, and to receive the award I felt honoured and most proud.

Jack Haylock, local farmer and councillor, was a much-loved Chairman of Mildenhall's British-American Community Relations Committee for thirteen years. His commitment to the community relations ideal was total, and he was awarded the MBE by The Queen for his dedication. On any given day in this area, British and American people can be found striving to bring our two communities closer together, through their voluntary work, good neighbourliness, and sheer human kindness. It is these people that the Mildenhall British-American Community Relations Committee wants to recognise through their award programme. ■

\$10,000 Boost from Chicago for New Library

REPRINTED FROM THE EASTERN DAILY PRESS,
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1998

Plans to rebuild a "living memorial" to U.S. airmen who flew out of Norfolk during the Second World War have been given a major boost.

When the 2nd Air Division left the region in 1945 it was decided to set up a library as a tribute to the almost 6700 young men who sacrificed their lives.

But in 1994 disaster struck when fire swept through Norwich's Central Library, where the memorial collection was housed.

About 3500 books, all inscribed with dedications to airmen, were destroyed in the blaze.

It is hoped that by the end of 2000, the remainder of the collection, which features one of the finest archives of the air war in Europe, will have a new home in the Millennium Central Library to be built in Norwich.

Before then, trustees aim to raise £125,000 to make sure the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library is bigger and better than ever. And to get the ball rolling, members of the 2nd Air Division made a donation of \$10,000 during their 50th anniversary convention in Chicago.

Vice Chairman of the Memorial Trust David Hastings said: "The donation gave us a tremendous boost." ■

The Speech of David Hastings, Vice Chairman of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF, to the 50th Anniversary Convention Banquet in Chicago, May 25, 1998

Mr. President, members of the great family of the 2nd Air Division, ladies and gentlemen. Jordan has given me strict instructions to be brief this evening, and in the Royal Air Force we never disobey a Major!

However, in this Fiftieth Anniversary I feel that we in East Anglia, and especially those of us who met you in 1942, should once again express our thanks.

Firstly, thank you for coming to join us in the fight for freedom in those dark days. Your arrival was like a bright star shining at the end of a long tunnel, and there is no doubt that had you not arrived we would not be here this evening, nor would we enjoy the freedom that we have today.

Thank you for your bravery, your sacrifice, and your friendship. As aviation-mad youngsters we were always amazed that despite having to fight a bitter, hard and cruel war, you still had time to take us on board your B-24s (except at Rackheath!) to the crew huts and to the mess hall, where we enjoyed chicken, tinned fruit, ice cream and Coke, things we had not seen for years.

You also had time to join us in our homes for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving, something which enriched our lives so much in those dark days.

Thank you for your great vision when you left us in 1945 to found your unique and living 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, a memorial which has grown in stature each year, a memorial which is like no other in the world and which will always tell the story of your achievements down the ages and now stands at the most exciting part in history with the construction of the new library. As Trust Governors we are deeply proud to serve your Memorial.

Thank you for your great vision, that of funding a 2nd Air Division Fulbright Librarian each year. To hear an American voice in your library is so marvellous, and the name of Fulbright is a great cache which opens so many doors for us.

Thank you for all your conventions both here and in Norwich, and on behalf of your British visitors I thank you most sincerely for all your kindness, friendship and hospitality. For Jean and I this is our sixteenth, and each one has left us with so many happy memories. Can I also add a very special thank you to Evelyn Cohen for making them all possible — Evelyn, we love you.

Thank you for your support in 1992 with the "Diamond Lil" project which once more brought the sight and sound of a Liberator back to the skies of Norfolk. If you had said in 1943 that I would fly a B-24 over the Atlantic I would have laughed at you, but the dream came true, and what a joy it was to fly those low level tribute flights over all your old bases and headquarters with many youngsters on board, a dream come true for so many people.

While on flying, perhaps I might add a personal "thank you" to a 2nd Air Division couple, I will not embarrass them by naming them, who have given me over 28,000 miles of flying in your great country, something most British pilots only dream about.

Thank you for coming back in 1995 for the VE Day Parade — thanks to your presence, the Norwich parade was the finest in Great Britain. Anyone who marched that day will never forget that occasion, and our thanks to that great Dzenowagis family for making such moving film records of many of these memorable occasions so that we and our children can relive those events time after time.

Finally, thank you for being you — such a truly wonderful family which gives us so much kindness and friendship each time we meet.

We and future generations of East Anglians will always remember you, your achievements, your bravery, your sacrifice, and your lasting friendship with a very deep pride and affection.

You will never be forgotten.

God Bless You and God Bless America. Thank you. ■



389th Green Dragon Flares

BY BARNEY DRISCOLL

After returning from a very pleasant and rather eventful 2nd Air Division convention at Oak Brook Hills Resort near Chicago, I find myself having been elevated to the position of Vice President representing the 389th Bomb Group. This is truly an honor which I accept with a degree of humility. It means I have to try to measure up to some very capable individuals who have held this position before me.

When you look around at a 2nd Air Division Association convention and business meeting, you observe the many men and women who have given of their time and considerable talents to make the 2ADA the great success that it is today. As a new kid on the block, it gives you the sensation of being a midget among giants.

Our 389th Bomb Group banner should soon be hanging at the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, thanks to Felix Leeton.

I think the 467th Bomb Group should receive special mention for having the initiative to acquire the wooden model for the bronze B-24 cast which will be installed at the Air Force Academy on September 25th. The wooden model, finished with the 467th BG markings to resemble the B-24 "Witchcraft," is now hanging in the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum.

I believe Bud Koorndyk should be recognized by all 2nd Air Division Association members for the great job he has done for the past nine years as the 2ADA representative on the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust. Those responsibilities have now been transferred to the capable hands of Chuck Walker, who will do a great job.

It is truly a pity that more 2nd Air Division Association members are unable to attend the reunions. We must recognize that in the case of many, the problems are medical and/or monetary. Those who can attend, meet with old friends and make new friends. The friendship and camaraderie experienced at a reunion are things that money can't buy. It is particularly great to see members of an old crew get together, many of whom have not seen each other in years! ■



491st BOMB GROUP
POSTREMUM ET OPTIMUM

the RINGMASTER REPORTS

BY JOHN D. LEPPERT

**491st Bombardment Group (H)
Association Dedicates
Memorial at the Mighty Eighth
Air Force Heritage Museum,
Savannah, Georgia**

On Friday, May 15, 1998, over thirty "Ringmasters" gathered at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah to dedicate a memorial to our group. The memorial is unique, with a 491st B-24 coming out of the marble and bronze, with our familiar green and white tailfins.

It was particularly fitting that the memorial was dedicated during the museum's second anniversary celebration (also Armed Forces Week). Mal Mallot, president of the 491st Bombardment Group (H), made the presentation of the memorial to the museum and its CEO, Buck Schuler.

The 491st Bomb Group Association has placed memorials at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH; the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO; and at North Pickenham, our base in England. Soon we will place a memorial at Metfield, our first base in England.

The 491st will hold its annual meeting and reunion in Tucson, Arizona, November 2-4, 1998. The group was stationed at Tucson in December 1943 before moving on to Pueblo, Colorado in January 1944. ■



Above: Mal Mallot presents the 491st BG memorial to museum CEO Buck Schuler. Below: Hap Chandler poses with the monument.



BY R.D. "DICK" BUTLER

I want to say a few words about our 44thers who were in attendance at the 2ADA 50th anniversary convention. Although the number of us there was relatively small, we were an energetic bunch, and all had a great time. Al & Doris Browning and Bob & Bert Johnson obviously were having fun together. Al, Bob, and I were in the same foursome in the golf tournament, on a beautiful course in fine weather. Our golf was far from being the greatest, but the camaraderie sure was. Bob & Irma Dubowsky were their usual jovial selves. We enjoyed hearing about their travels this past year — Israel, Australia, and New Zealand, plus Irma made a side trip to Turkey while they were in Israel. Tony & Cathy Mastradone had plenty of time to visit with Will & Irene Lundy. Tony has spent hundreds of hours in the National Archives copying mission interrogation forms which he has sent to Will, our historian. Will and Irene were anxious to get back to California and their summer place in the California Sierras. It was a pleasant experience to have the opportunity to visit with Archie Solatka, who had come from the state of Washington. He is an avid fisherman and soon will be making a trip into the far north of Canada to try his luck on the walleye there. We envy him.

A first time attendee was Tom Parsons, who came from Atlanta. Tom is a National Director and Vice President of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and is also supervising construction of the 44th Bomb Group Ploesti diorama which will be installed in the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum at Savannah, GA. Our good friend Charlie Hughes was without his beautiful daughter, Sandy, this time. We missed her. Charlie had a busy travel schedule ahead. And our grand patriarch, Goodman Griffin, was in fine fettle. Griff is eighty-seven years old and drove by himself to the convention from his home in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. At our group dinner, when we had to share a room with two other groups because the numbers of each of us were small, Griff kept everyone in the room in stitches with his stories about his days at Shipdham as "Atrocities Officer" and as head of the "Shipdham Mafia." Ardith and I enjoyed being with all our 44thers and consider them to be wonderful friends. We were very sorry that a number of our long-time convention regulars were unable to make this one, and hope that it was not poor health that kept them from attending. Hopefully they will be able to join us next year in Austin, Texas.

Will Lundy and Tom Shepherd had made arrangements for a man by the name of Arlo Bartsch to visit us at the convention and give a demonstration of the electronic database he

has developed for tracking bomb group members from a particular unit's combat mission folders. This database can contain audio and video clips as well as still photographs. Data on each mission can be included, as well as strike photos. Arlo was a pilot in the 379th Bomb Group, which was equipped with "that other aircraft." He is a computer software developer and is knowledgeable about the Eighth Air Force. He understands the technology of electronically capturing the complexity of an Eighth Air Force unit during WWII.

Arlo arrived on Saturday afternoon and set up his equipment, which consisted of a laptop computer and projector in our hospitality room. He had expected to be there just the one afternoon, but wound up staying two and a half days because of the interest in his program which developed. Briefly, his database contains the complete records of a bomb group — names and duties, voices and pictures, missions and targets, aircraft and crews, biographies and memories, special searches, personal stories, and much more. It was fascinating to call up a name and see what missions the individual flew, who the other crew members were, and what aircraft he was in on each of his missions. In some cases, if the individual had provided it, a soundbite could be called up where he gave his comments concerning a mission. Of course, this demonstration all pertained to 379th Bomb Group history because that is the only group's information that has been put into the database. Interest in this program from people from other bomb groups who had the opportunity to see Arlo's demonstration was great. Knowing that Will Lundy has extensive 44th information, including over 9,000 mission interrogation reports that Tony has provided him, Arlo would like very much to have the 44th Bomb Group become the first B-24 unit to have its information in the database. This would be the ideal repository for all

the vast material that Will has accumulated over many years. To put all that information into a database would be very labor intensive and expensive. However, because this new program is so flexible, it will permit limited, basic data to be entered immediately, with the ability to accept any amount of material far into the future whenever future funding becomes available. It is hoped that resources to accomplish the task can be found.

The first 44th Bomb Group name listed on the B-24 plaque at the Air Force Academy will be that of General Leon W. Johnson. A # will indicate that he was a Medal of Honor recipient, and a * will indicate that he flew the Ploesti mission of 1 August 1943. Four other names will also have the * mark. One of these will be Captain Rowland B. Houston, who was killed on the mission. Placement of his name on the plaque was sponsored by his sister, Betty Houston Seal, one of our associate members. (In total, fifteen 44th members will be listed.)

This year twenty-four of our 44th Bomb Group people were dropped as members of the 2nd Air Division Association for non-payment of annual dues. We do not know the reasons why these people did not renew their memberships. Some were no doubt occasioned by personal reasons, but quite a few must have been caused by members overlooking the dues notice they received. I wrote a letter to each of the twenty-four and asked them to consider reinstating their membership. Some did. I would like to remind each of our members to expect their annual dues statement in the late fall and to renew their membership promptly. Our Second Air Division Association is the premier WWII veterans organization, with a great quarterly *Journal* that in itself is worth the fifteen dollars a year. We have splendid conventions, and are the only veterans' organization that sponsors a living memorial to its comrades who gave their lives fighting for our country. ■



BY WALTER J. MUNDY

This year will be a milestone year of activity to preserve the legacy of the B-24 and the groups of the Second Air Division.

Last year we initiated and carried out the completion of the one-sixth scale model of the B-24 "Witchcraft," and it now proudly flies over the 2ADA Memorial Wall at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, Georgia.

Neal Sorensen of the 489th BG and his dedicated team put together a very successful project to provide a one-sixth scale bronze B-24 sculpture that will be dedicated September 25, 1998. The 467th will be well represented on the plaque that will complete the WWII aircraft display in the Honor Court of the Air Force Academy. Congratulations to Neal, Al Asch, Ray Pytel, Jay Jeffries, and all of Neal's team.

I must also commend Robert Henderson, who faithfully constructed the wood model and the bronze sculpture. He is an outstanding and talented artist.

At the 467th annual convention that will be held at the Sheraton West Port Inn, 191 West Port Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146, we will be featuring the 467th base at Rackheath, England. We will have pictures and maps of the base.

As for the 2ADA annual convention in May, I regret that I was only able to attend the Executive Committee meetings on May 21 and 22. (I am also disappointed once more about the very low attendance of the 467th.) In my case I had to come back to have my pre-operation

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NEWS OF THE 453RD FROM FLAME LEAP

BY JULIAN K. WILSON

• SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT •

Former Group VP Jay Jeffries passed away on July 10, 1998 after a long illness. He will be missed by all of us — the 453rd BG, the 2ADA, and the B-24 Groups Memorial, Inc.

There was nothing shabby about our convention in Oak Brook! We had 72 of our folks seated at our group dinner. A very nice size group with which to dine! The next 2ADA convention will be in the land of the blue bonnets, in Austin, Texas to be precise. We count a lot of Texans as part of our 453rd family. We are hoping to find each of them to be on hand to greet us with their customary down-home hospitality. See you all there! (Or is that "ya'all"?)

Our convention participants in Oak Brook were able to partake of hospitality due to the efforts of **EVELYN COHEN** in providing us with a comfortable suite, plus the efforts of **DOROTHY DYKE** and **MARY JEAN WILSON**. They shopped for the "munchies" and pop, scrounging up serving bowls and cups and seeing that they were constantly replenished as needed. Thank you, ladies.

A very pleasant surprise was the unannounced arrival of **DON OLDS**, who showed up most appropriately while we were in the midst of our group business meeting. Don was able to tote all manner of albums and copies of assignment orders from his home in Rolla to our convention hotel in Oak Brook. The gang spent many man-hours poring over them. Much of interest was gleaned. Thanks, Don, for thinking to do this. Don and his lovely wife, **MIMI**, looked great! Guess that is what living the good life can do for one! Another couple of Florida-hooked snowbirds.

Election of officers for the coming year finds the new name of **LLOYD PRANG** on our roster as our new Assistant Group Chairman. He will prove to be a very welcome, valuable addition, I'm sure. I also welcome back our treasurers, **FRANK & JACKIE THOMAS**, and secretary **ALBERT BIEL** and daughters **BARBARA** and **IRENE** as the other elected officers for 1998-99.

All directors are reappointed. I am especially grateful for the continuance of our Newsletter co-editors, **JEANE & WILBUR SITTES**.

Honored at the 2ADA annual awards dinner were our own 453rd members **DOTTIE & BILL EAGLESON**. The 2ADA presented them with a very nice plaque in recognition and appreciation of their efforts to bring the "All American" to reality. Our summer neighbors, who arrived from Chico, CA, reported seeing our B-24 circling above the city before they left. Our 453rd ID still rides one of the vertical sta-

bilizers, thanks to the Eaglesons and others of you who continue to support that beautiful plane.

The 2ADA awarded **JAY JEFFRIES** a plaque denoting Jay's devotion of three years as a 2ADA group vice president. The plaque was accepted on his behalf, and mailed to Jay, who had been hospitalized since early March. We can also report that, thanks to the efforts of Jay to elicit your response, our 453rd Bomb Group contributed more money to see the B-24 replica project completed than any of the other 2ADA groups. Again we led the way and showed others what a class act the 453rd is.

JIM DYKE, as usual, had on display his inventory of "official" 453rd mementoes. He also presented his findings as to the various logos and designs representing our group that seem to have existed, some since the days at Old Buck. Jim had his flight jacket, saved these many years and discovered/resurrected by his daughter, which had one interesting logo painted on it. After discussion, it was decided that a committee of three individuals would make a recommendation as to which design should become the logo for a new patch for our group. Their decision was announced at the group dinner. Chosen and accepted was a patch to be based on the design of our tail fin pin.

Also painted on the back of Jim's jacket were the words "Star Eyes." One afternoon, who should come walking into our hospitality room but **JAMES STROBE**, engineer/crew chief for the Lib whose name is on Jim's jacket. Quite a reunion of Jim and James, since they had not seen each other since their days at Ol' Buck!

Jim Dyke accepted my appointment as a district area chairman to fill the vacancy left by **DOUG LEAVENWORTH**. Jim also accepted the responsibility of reviewing our 453rd BG Group Association Bylaws and preparing their revision. He will present his recommendations to you in Austin next year.

Each time my wife and I are able to attend one of our functions, in addition to being able to greet old friends, we also get to make a few new ones. This year's convention enabled us to meet **ARTHUR & ELLIN CROMARTY**, in from New York. While Art has retired from being a judge, he still continues to practice law. He not only learned to wield a gavel since the days of Old Buck, but he also swings a mean golf club! Art emerged as the winner of

the golf tournament held at the convention this year on the hotel resort's golf links. Congratulations, Art! His winning not only gave him enjoyment, it also benefitted our group association. Besides a box of golf balls, Art won a check for \$50.00 to be added to our 453rd BG Association treasury. Thank you!

Our elder statesman, **ANDY LOW**, was able to make it to the convention. He responded favorably to my request that he say a few words to us at our group dinner. As usual, he kept us in attention as he related a few excerpts from his most unusual life. He reminded us that what we did as a war machine was what we had to do for the survival of the free world. As usual, Andy was well received. We left him at the conclusion of the convention, still registered as a guest, using the opportunity to hole up and devote his thoughts to writing about some of his WWII experiences, especially those that centered around his incarceration as a POW. They will ultimately emerge in book form, and I know we look forward to reading them. Who else do you know who has had as unique a life as Andy Low, and is as good at relating references to it? I feel sorry for those of you to whom Andy is just a name. You have missed out on a unique treasure. We love you, Andy!

A B-24 carved from a huge block of ice, with running lights blinking and all! That is what greeted us as we entered the dining hall for our grand finale banquet. That was spectacular! Who in attendance didn't have their picture taken by the side of it! Our thanks to the person(s) responsible for its being part of our convention experience this year. Spectacular! Memorable! But, alas, also ephemeral!

For those of you who have not as yet heard, our Fall 1998 group reunion in New England was canceled. This was prompted by our inability to find a hotel with the amenities we require and in a price class most of us can afford, coupled with a time period available early enough in the fall to avoid probable harsh weather conditions. Our thanks to those who expended time and money on our behalf while taking the planning as far as they did.

We are currently considering the possibility of our going as a group to Norwich next year for a last look. This endeavor would be planned and executed by **PAT & AGNES RAMM**. We won't attempt such a reunion unless we get a favorable response from a sufficiently large number of us to make it a certainty that we will have a workable, realistic size group. There are too many non-refundable deposits to be paid in bookings for our activities to gamble on planning for a few.

If you would go on this trip, most likely to be held in June of 1999, please take the time to let me know. I will prepare a summary for Pat, and hopefully, by the next 453rd Group Newsletter, we can include the results for you. If we miss the deadline, a special mailing will be prepared for each of you who responds. In addition to the usual particulars, you may want

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HARDWICK

Open Letter to the 93rd

BY ALFRED ASCH

What a great family **PAUL MEYERS** has. The respect and love that flowed among them at our 2ADA group banquet was unbounded. Some members of Paul's WWII crew were there as well, which added to the interest. As the capping activity at the banquet, a son and daughter of Paul's entertained the group. First, his daughter led a sing-along with the old tune "Paper Doll." Although our voices have become raspy, as a group we sounded quite good. His son gave an outstanding rendition of an Elvis Presley song. It was great fun, thanks to Paul and his family.

It was great to see the 93rd veterans and their wives, families and friends at the 2ADA reunion held in Oak Brook this past May. We had about 100 persons at our group banquet. At the banquet, we expressed our deepest appreciation to **FLOYD & DOTTIE MABEE** for their outstanding work representing the 93rd to the 2ADA, taking care of our membership functions and helping with reunion arrangements. But there comes a time when we are forced to give up some of the functions we once did as a routine matter. We deeply regret that this has happened to Floyd, but we know he will continue to remain active in 93rd affairs. I certainly will continue to call on him for his wisdom and advice.

Lately we have had a few members attending reunions for the first time. This time it was **WARREN ALBERTS**. Those of us who remembered Warren were especially pleased to see him again after more than fifty years. It was befitting that Warren was selected to represent the 93rd at the candlelighting ceremony at the 2ADA banquet.

We elected several new officers at our business meeting. I remain Vice President to represent the 93rd at the 2ADA Executive Committee meetings, and **FRED STROMBOM** was elected President of the 93rd, replacing **PAUL STEICHEN** who recently passed away. Paul and I worked well together, and I look forward to working with Fred.

Most of you will remember that Fred's wife, **INEZ**, published the 93rd roster from Floyd Mabee's input and made it available to all of us. I still use my copy of several years ago. At the reunion, it was unanimous that we should install a plaque or monument in the Memorial Gardens at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum at Savannah, Georgia in memory of those we lost during WWII. Fred, **CAL DAVIDSON**, **LOU BROWN**, and I will be working closely to get this project developed, and at least get a design and costs settled by our next reunion in May in Austin, Texas. I have already received a design suggestion from **CECIL TROSTLE**. Another project we want to

get started is developing a web page for the 93rd BG as a part of the internet of our Memorial Library. **DON MORRISON** and Cal Davidson have begun work on this. We will need to be selective in the material for the web page. Send your ideas to Fred Strombom, P.O. Box 646, Ogema, WI 54459.

Lou Brown and **BOB McKEEVER** were elected Assistant Group Vice Presidents for membership activities. I have notified **EVELYN COHEN** that Lou will be the principal interface with the 2ADA for this function. I know Lou and Bob will do a great job. Floyd Mabee has already turned over his records to Lou. Contact him when you have something about our membership: Lou Brown, 220 Clardy St., Malvern, AR 72104-4242. Thanks again, Floyd and Dottie, for your outstanding past performance.

Cal Davidson was elected to continue as editor of the *Ball of Fire*. It was agreed that the frequency of publication should remain quarterly, as it does the most to hold us together. Cal briefed us on the finances, which are limited. We should all pay our BOF dues when they become due, to keep the publication going. In addition to being the editor, Cal becomes the treasurer. When Paul Steichen passed away, Cal assumed these responsibilities. **BILL DOERNER** is the back-up for Cal, and the appropriate records have been established with the bank to reflect this.

Work continues on the Bronze B-24 memorial for the United States Air Force Academy. The designs for the two plaques have been completed and sent to the sculptor for production and installation on the pedestal of the model. The manuscript for the Book of Remembrance will be completed by the time you read this, and hopefully a publisher selected. There are over 600 honorees in the Book of Remembrance and an additional 148 names of those who sponsored the honorees. **JOHN P. FOSTER**, Lt. USAAF, was the last name to be added to the plaque. John was sponsored by his wife, Valetta, and the entry was made on June 8, 1998. Donations continue to arrive, and the names will be added to the Book of Remembrance.

The 93rd BG indeed made an outstanding showing. We will have the group name and 61 individual names on the plaque. Of this number, two received the Medal of Honor and 22 flew the low altitude raid against Ploesti on August 1, 1943. At the moment, we have 93 names of honorees for the Book of Remembrance and 31 sponsors. This was an outstanding accomplishment, as we will have more names on the plaque than any other group. However, we were "nosed" out by the 453rd

for the Book of Remembrance, as they have 110 names. Your support was outstanding, which I greatly appreciate. It was indeed a pleasure to renew old acquaintances and make new ones during this activity. Use the registration form from the last *Journal* to sign up for the dedication ceremonies this September 25th. Let's have the largest number there; it will be a memorable occasion. This is The Year of the B-24!! ■

NEWS OF THE 453RD (continued)

to include reference to something you would like to see included in our itinerary. This will keep us from inadvertently leaving out something we could have done that a number of you would have liked to do. Our aim is to please!

I find it of interest that we have 453rd BG Association dues-paying members in each of the 48 contiguous states except the states of Nevada, Vermont, Mississippi, and North Dakota — which brings up a point! It seems likely that when the "mailperson" delivers a copy of the group Newsletter to some of us, what runs through our mind is that we *must* have sent in that last payment for dues. Our "rememberers" are getting a bit overloaded after all these years, and we are thinking we have sent in our \$10.00 to our treasurer, when we really haven't!

How about correcting that oversight today? Become a part of the group of more than three hundred folks who regularly pay their dues to both the 2ADA and the 453rd, instead of the more than four hundred who depend on others to keep them informed.

Some regulars we have become accustomed to seeing at our conventions and reunions but missed recently, showed up in Oak Brook. It was good to see **JOHN AND DOROTHY WHITE** and **LYMAN AND GENEVA CRUMRIN** again after an absence.

Conspicuous by their absence at the convention were a number of "old timers" and special friends. You folks were missed; you know who you are. We hope you all are well, and we do hope to see you at our next convention. Meanwhile, please write and keep us abreast of what is happening in your part of the planet. Others will appreciate hearing about you, too!

Time for us to help pull through the props! ■

Buy a 2ADA Roster!

A 2ADA roster is available, current as of January 22, 1998, for \$5.00 including postage and handling. Make check out to C.N. CHAMBERLAIN, 21055 George Brown Avenue, Riverside, CA 92518.

A VIKING IN THE 8TH AIR FORCE

BY MAJOR KENNETH L. DRISCOLL (801ST "CARPETBAGGERS")

He was a Norwegian national hero, but most Americans, including Army Air Force veterans, do not even recognize his name. Yet he was both an American and an 8th Air Force B-24 pilot!

Yes, Col. Bernt Balchen was one of the most talented and knowledgeable aviators of the 20th century. He was a superb aircraft mechanic, a precise navigator, and probably the most talented Arctic pilot of his time — and it is time you knew the "whole" story!

He was born in 1900 in a small southern Norwegian town named Kristiansand. When he was about 21 years old, he got his wings in the Royal Norwegian Air Force. He spent several years gaining a vast amount of Arctic type flying throughout snowy, rugged, mountainous Norway.

In 1926 he was at Spitzbergen, an island about 500 miles north of the tip of northern Norway. He was there as a member of the expedition of the famous Norwegian polar explorer Capt. Roald Amundsen. They were preparing to be the first to fly across the North Pole (by dirigible, not aircraft).

While they were at Spitzbergen, U.S. Navy Commander Richard Byrd's ship arrived carrying a trimotor aircraft which was to be used by Byrd's expedition to fly across the North Pole. Byrd's pilot was Floyd Bennet.

Members of both expeditions, although rivals, became friendly. Bernt Balchen, since he was an expert in snowy, cold weather flying conditions, improvised and modified the skis on Byrd's aircraft so that it could safely take off under overloaded conditions.

Byrd's aircraft got to the North Pole first and then returned to Spitzbergen. When he returned to the United States by ship, he took Bernt Balchen with him. Balchen then became Byrd's pilot.

In the spring of 1927 there was a race on to see who would be the first to fly across the Atlantic Ocean. While Lindbergh was planning his flight from Roosevelt Field, Byrd was also planning his at the same time from the same airfield. Balchen was one of the two pilots of Byrd's aircraft. Lindbergh made the first successful Atlantic crossing. Byrd's aircraft flew across a month later. Balchen's extensive experience in instrument flying made it possible to safely cross the ocean under very adverse weather conditions.

Although he still loved his native Norway, he took out his first papers to become a citizen of the United States after he returned from France.

From 1928-1930 he spent much of his time with Commander Byrd preparing for and successfully completing the first flight of an aircraft across the South Pole.



The crew of the expedition had a tremendous welcome when they returned to New York City in June, 1931. They then went to Washington D.C. where they were honored by President Hoover at a reception at the White House.

Soon thereafter, Balchen was served a subpoena by the U.S. immigration authorities. He had broken his residence requirements, after getting his first papers, by being with the Byrd expedition for two years outside of the United States, and was to be deported!

The story made the headlines that evening in all of the Washington D.C. newspapers. New York State Representative to Congress, Fiorello LaGuardia (later to become mayor of New York City), after discussing the matter with President Hoover, introduced a special bill to Congress the following day to grant Bernt Balchen full citizenship. That bill was passed and signed by President Hoover.

Balchen stayed very active in aviation activities during the rest of the 1930s. Some of his close friends and associates during that time were Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Wiley Post, Floyd Bennet, Hap Arnold, Tooev Spaatz, Ira Eaker, and Eddie Rickenbacker.

On June 30, 1941, six months before the U.S. entered into World War II, Balchen was in the Philippines delivering a PBY to the RAF when an urgent telegram came from General Hap Arnold, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Forces, requesting his immediate return to Washington.

On July 3, 1941, in a meeting with General Arnold, he was asked to join the Army Air Forces for a very special assignment. Balchen agreed, and was granted the rank of Captain.

His first assignment was to plan and supervise the construction of an airfield in southwestern Greenland. This airfield was named

Bluie West Eight. It was later used by hundreds of aircraft going to and returning from Europe during WWII.

While there, he led rescue missions to save the crews of two B-17 type aircraft that had crashed hundreds of miles away on the ice-cap of Greenland after becoming lost.

He was directed by a top secret message from General Marshall, Washington D.C., to seek out and destroy a German weather station that had been secretly set up on the barren northeast coast of Greenland. He successfully accomplished that mission by using four bombers flying from Iceland.

In September 1943, Balchen was still in Iceland when General Arnold stopped over. Arnold asked what type of assignment he would like next. Balchen told him that he would like to assist the Norwegian resistance movement against the Germans occupying Norway.

Back in Washington, he had a meeting with General William (Wild Bill) Donovan, the head of the O.S.S. One of the missions of the O.S.S. in Europe was to train spies, saboteurs and organize resistance forces in German occupied countries. Balchen was briefed by O.S.S. personnel on some projects and sent to England.

With the backing of Generals Tooev Spaatz and Jimmy Doolittle of the 8th Air Force, and the O.S.S., Balchen was given the top secret project to organize and implement an airlift between Stockholm, Sweden and Scotland using modified, stripped-down B-24s.

There were thousands of military-aged men, Norwegian and others, stranded in Sweden, who could be used in the Allied war effort.

Armament was removed, and the B-24s had seats installed also. The exterior was painted dark green, without any identification. Crews in civilian clothing were issued passports and visas to enter Sweden, Finland and Russia.

The 801st Prov. Bomb Group (code name Carpetbaggers) supplied the B-24s, crews, and support to complete his missions. This group had been flying top secret night missions working with the O.S.S. dropping agents and supplies to resistance groups in German occupied countries, mostly France at that time.

(Note: Just by chance, I was a pilot in the 801st BG (Carpetbaggers) from May 25, 1944 to August 27, 1944. I had 30 night missions during that three-month period flying from Harrington Air Base.)

Five modified B-24s were prepared at Bovington Air Base, north of London.

Due to its unique nature, this unit was assigned to Headquarters, European Air Transport Command.

Although his mission was approved in late January, 1944, Balchen ran into much red tape

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BERNT BALCHEN (continued from page 11) (primarily from the English) in getting a suitable airfield to set up his operations. Finally, about the end of March, 1944, the King of Norway asked Winston Churchill to intervene, cut the red tape, and provide Balchen with facilities at a Royal Air Force Base for his operations. Within two days, Balchen got permission to operate out of Leuchars RAF base on the east coast of Scotland, north of Edinburgh. The code name for his project was "Sonnie."

About 5,000 people were evacuated from Sweden to Scotland. Balchen's aircraft also flew hundreds of people and many tons of war material into Sweden, finding its way across the border to be used by the Norwegian resistance forces.

When the war started in Europe, Sweden stayed neutral. It had close ties with Germany and with its neighbor, Norway. But by early 1944, the Swedish people, and government, were become pro-Allies and anti-Nazi.

Early in the summer of 1944, while Col. Balchen was in Stockholm on one of his many flights, he was contacted by an old friend who was pro-Norwegian and held a position very high up in the Swedish government. The Swedes had recovered, almost intact, a top secret experimental German V-2 rocket. Two were launched from the German coast into Sweden. Rather than make a diplomatic protest to the German government and let the Germans know where they landed, the Swedish government decided to turn one of the rockets over to the Allies. Balchen borrowed a C-47 cargo aircraft from his headquarters and his executive officer Lt. Col. Keith Allen picked up the three-piece V-2 rocket in Sweden and flew it back to Leuchars. It was then delivered to the English government at Farnborough Air Base near London.

This same Col. Allen was shot down and killed while on a secret mission (code name "Project Ball") to northern Norway a short while later. His mission was to drop an agent near the great German battleship Tirpitz which was hiding in a deep narrow fjord. The agent was to spy on the Tirpitz and report back to England via radio any movement of the battleship.

After the agent was dropped, the aircraft developed engine problems over northern Norway. Rather than flying the long over-water flight back to Scotland, he elected to fly on to Murmansk, Russia for an emergency landing. As his aircraft was flying over the heavily defended seaport of Murmansk, it was shot down by Russian naval ships (see Summer & Fall 1994 Journals). Ten of the crew bailed out and were returned to Scotland by the British battleship HMS Rodney, which was at Murmansk. Col. Allen went down with the aircraft.

Around May, 1944, it was brought to Col. Balchen's attention that additional war supplies were urgently needed by the resistance forces in Norway. He got direct approval from



- A. Bluie West Eight Air Base
- B. Lt. Stinson's B-17 crash site
- C. Lt. Monteverde's B-17 crash site
- D. Secret German weather station
- E. Thule Air Base (distant early warning site)
- F. Island of Spitzbergen

HQ 8th Air Force to set up a miniature "Carpetbagger" operation to drop military supplies and agents into Norway. The code name for this secret operation was "Project Ball." It was also directly supported by the 801st B.G. (Carpetbaggers) from its base at Harrington, England. Around August 13, 1944 this group became the 492nd B.G. (Carpetbaggers).

Because of its very secret and sensitive nature, little has been published about Project

"Where and When." This operation took place in Sweden in early 1945. Its mission was to transport over 1400 Norwegian police troops (trained in Sweden), a field hospital, and supplies from Kalax, Sweden to Kirkenes, Norway and other Norwegian towns when the Germans withdrew from northern Norway. Col. Balchen had ten C-47 cargo planes operating in Sweden before the end of the war in Europe.

(continued on page 13)

BERNT BALCHEN (continued from page 12)
Prior to the day that the war ended there, he was in the Norwegian town of Kirkenes, which at the time was occupied by the Russians.

After World War II ended, Balchen returned to Norway and was president of Norwegian Airlines (DNL). He was also one of the original directors of Scandinavian Airline System (SAS).

In 1947 I met Col. Balchen a number of times; in fact he was a guest at my wedding in Oslo, April 21, 1948. Here is the background:

In February 1948 I was a captain, USAF, stationed at a training unit at Westover AFB, Massachusetts. I was then assigned to the U.S. Air Attaché Office, American Embassy, Oslo, Norway as Assistant Air Attaché.

About a week after I got to Oslo, about the end of February, on a Saturday morning as I was walking into the embassy office building in downtown Oslo, I met the U.S. Ambassador to Norway, Charles Ulrick Bay, who was also entering the building at the same time. I recognized him, and since I was in uniform, he recognized me as the new Air Force captain assigned to the embassy. He asked me if I had

my family with me, and I told him that I was single but was thinking about getting married to my girlfriend who was back in the States. He said, "If you bring her over, I will give you a wedding." I decided to take him up on his offer. Since I was newly assigned to the embassy, I knew very few people in Oslo. The ambassador and my boss, the Air Attaché, Major Dale Jensen, decided who should be invited to my wedding at the ambassador's residence at Five (5) Nobelsgate, Oslo (this was a mansion given to the U.S. Government by the famed Nobel family). The guests they invited were VIP from the Norwegian Air Force, U.S. Embassy, prominent Norwegians and Col. and Mrs. Balchen. We had a captive audience. I do not know of anybody in Oslo at the time who would not have accepted an invitation from the U.S. Ambassador to attend a function at the ambassador's residence.

Over an eight-month period in 1948, I met Col. Balchen at numerous social events. I really did not get to know him well, however. Our paths never crossed other than at social events. He was about 21 years older than I. He was a

bird (full) colonel and I was a captain. He was deeply involved in rebuilding the Norwegian Airline (DNL), and being a director in starting a new international airline, Scandinavian Airline System (SAS). I remember him as being quite stout and speaking with a very distinct Norwegian accent.

Around November 1948 he was recalled by the U.S. Air Force and was assigned as commanding officer of the Tenth Rescue Squadron, Fairbanks, Alaska. He had been recommended to the Army Air Forces many years earlier, and was instrumental in establishing a base at Thule, Greenland. This did become a reality, and that base is part of the DEW LINE now protecting the northern approaches to the United States.

He was an advisor to King Haakon of Norway on aviation matters prior to, during, and after World War II.

He was honored for various achievements by Presidents Coolidge, Hoover, Roosevelt and Eisenhower.

He was the American Viking! ■

Windy Wendover

BY RICK ROKICKI (458TH)

In early October 1943, while the 458th BG was being formed at Wendover Field, Utah, a lot of men from all over the country were arriving daily. Jim Schneider arrived with three others from Salt Lake City who were total strangers until base camp. They were sent to Supply to check out bedding, then to the Orderly Room for instructions. The clerk said, "Go to row B and take the last tent in that row." Now, in the late afternoon, they set up housekeeping and everyone agreed to a nap since it was still a couple of hours to chow.

The weather changed a bit and it started to get windy and cold. They made adjustments to the tent so it wouldn't blow over, and discussed what they would do in the event that it did. It seemed the best idea would be to roll over on the floor to escape the tent pole. While this was being discussed, an orderly came by to tell them they were on KP and would be awakened at 0400. It now seemed that KP was more of a problem than concern over the wind and the tent stability.

At about 2 AM, Schneider was awakened by a rumbling rolling sound that got louder by the second. He rolled off the cot and hit the wood floor. Almost immediately, the noise was "right now," the tent came down, and a large object rolled over them. Jim was lucky and escaped injury, but the other three guys were hurt. It looked like an airplane, and he ran down to the Orderly Room to report the accident. Of course, no one in the Orderly Room believed him when he mentioned "an



Jim Schneider says, "That's my bed there, mattress and everything, and my cake of G.I. soap which I was going to wash with the next day. Note the tent, the size of the ship, and the broken-off light pole and tent pole."

airplane rolled over our tent." Getting back to the scene, it turned out to be a B-17 fuselage that rolled out of the salvage dump during the high winds.

Jim Schneider had a brief visit to the base hospital but he did not see the others who were injured; as a matter of fact, he still does not know their names. It is his hope that if any-

one who was involved sees this photo, they will contact him. There may be some irony here: The 458th's first crash had to be a portion of a B-17, flattening a tent with four occupants, none of whom were seriously injured, but preparing them for future tribulations. Jim's address: P.O. Box 67, East Sparta, OH 44626-0067. ■

458th BOMB GROUP



BY RICK ROKICKI

I received my copy of the Summer *Journal* on June 4th, along with a notice from Ray Pytel that my column should be in his hands by the 15th. Very little time to receive any feedback from the membership. With that in mind, I have no idea of the response concerning the caps offered by Wally Wallace and the History and Tradition Museum. Also, have no idea if anyone showed any interest in the Thanet Aircrew Memorial. Hopefully, those of you who contributed will drop me a line.

As a member of the Executive Committee, I received a Communication Bulletin from Gene Hartley, who summarized: "You don't have to go to a reunion to be a part of the Second Air Division camaraderie. Only 7% of the total membership was at Oak Brook Hills. Health, time, money, distance, lack of desire, dislike of crowds, or just not interested — all are reasons for not attending a reunion." I drew a radius of 250 miles from Oak Brook and found we have 135 members from the surrounding states of Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan, plus, of course, Illinois. Of the 21 (not including wives) who attended, only a total of 7 came from these states (including 2 from Illinois). The other 66% came from the rest of the country. The next convention will be in Austin, Texas in May of 1999. Hoping for a good representation.

Some years back, I attempted to find the origin of each of the squadron insignia. The 752nd was designed by **Ted Urbano**, who has since passed on. The 754th was done by Walt Disney Studios through the efforts of **Bernie Newmark**. I still haven't found who did the 753rd and 755th. I was amazed to find that the 754th insignia was intended to be the 458th GROUP emblem. When Bernie had the cloth "patches" made in London, he had to contract for a minimum of 200. Accordingly, he gave his crew what they wanted and the rest went to the operations officer to sell to anyone who wanted one. At that time, it was expected to be the insignia of the 458th BG. Remember the large (about 10' to 12') painting on the 754th hangar doors? Bernie did that! Found that out at the convention. When the other two designs showed up, it was then decided that the "white question mark" would be the 754th. All four squadron insignia were officially approved, but there was no approved GROUP "patch." I had the present one designed and made about 10 to 12 years ago. I gave each of the five to Ted Inman at the Duxford Museum in 1995. The four squadron and "unofficial" 458th group insignia have been sent to Mary Beth Barnard at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA.

ON FINAL

Our B.C. (British Correspondent) **Christine Armes** sent me several photos of the Scott Wheeler Nashville Country Music Band from their Merseyside/Liverpool engagement. Scott is the son of **Burt Wheeler**, former 458th pilot living in Waltham, MA with his wife Marilyn. Christine had visited the Wheeler family last December, and it was decided that she would accompany the band as a "roadie" for their February "gig." The group did a Norfolk radio and TV appearance and she was a "backup" singer with them.

Of the 38 members who had not paid their 1998 dues before my third notice, the record shows that 14 were reinstated, 6 had passed away, and I have no further information on the 18 who did not respond. Many of these were long-time members (some over 20 years), so the normal conclusion must be obvious.

Leo Penn advised that his pilot, **Myron McNamara**, made his

"last flight" in early June. Myron was a long-time tennis instructor, and many past and present tennis pros were under his tutelage. I sent a Group sympathy card to his family.

Harold McNeely has B-24 identification on his van, from his license plate "B24-458" to a 2ADA window sticker and a window decal. He found a card on his windshield from the son of a 458th veteran asking for more information regarding the Association, reunions, etc. Harold sent me the card with an address to send the info to, and I mailed him my "recruit package."

John Deacon hasn't flown "Hookem Cow" as yet. Two problems have "red ex'd" the 18 1/2 foot B-24. One of the Zenoah 45 cc engines had to be returned to the manufacturer because of a defect, and during the time awaiting a replacement, a wire problem to several servos was discovered. The radio-controlled aircraft has 24 servos that operate various systems, and all are subject to preflight operation before certification. John is determined to get the 120 lb. aircraft into the air. A video and still photos are promised.

George Reynolds has come up with more serial numbers for the 458th History IV, page 74. Those of you wishing to update your copy should add: YOKUM BOY, 752nd, 42-109812; BATTLIN' BABY, 752nd, 42-100365; and BIG DICK, HARD TO HIT, 754th, 41-28682. Also, George is tracing a particular mission of a 458th crew in 1944: N. France 6 June, Chateaudun Fr. 10 June, Berlin 21 June, Kiel 6 July, Eisenach 20 July, and Munich 21 July. The Kalamazoo Museum erected an honor to a local fighter pilot and a bomber crew of the 458th. If anyone has a flimsy of any of these missions, George would appreciate a copy. His address: 4009 Saddle Run Circle, Pelham, AL 35124. ■

Attention All 2ADA Members! LIBERATOR ALBUM a "Must Have" for Your World War II Library!

BY RICK ROKICKI (458TH)



At long last, the book I've been waiting for has arrived. Called *Liberator Album: B-24s of the 2nd Air Division USAAF*, by Mike Bailey with Tony North, this book is a pictorial of all 14 groups of the 4 combat wings. Containing more than 500 black & white photos and about 30 in full color gracing the 192 pages of this 8.5 x 11 hardbound edition, only Bailey and North

could have produced such a great tribute to our Second Air Division. An excellent text leads the way into the photos. *Liberator Album*, ISBN #1-85780-060-5, is listed as item #MC060 with Specialty Press, 11481 Kost Dam Road, North Branch, MN 55056. Cost is \$39.95 plus \$4.50 shipping & handling. They accept Visa & Mastercard. The toll free number is 1-800-895-4585. They also have a FAX number, 1-612-583-2023 should you prefer, and backup number (if all else fails) is listed as 1-612-583-3239. This book has absolutely no photos nor mention nor reference to the B-17. As a matter of fact, it's as if the B-24 WAS the Eighth Air Force! I certainly hope that the "powers that be" at the Smithsonian get to see this book!

BUNGAY BULL

446th BOMB GROUP
BY AUD RISLEY



Spring in Savannah is a nice experience. And for the nearly 300 of us 446ers who welcomed spring at our reunion in early May, it was especially nice. Our thanks go to reunion coordinator **Link Veazey** of Snellville, GA and his committee who did a great job putting it together.

One of the highlights of the four-day gathering was the memorial and dedication service at the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah on Friday, May 1, with kind words from museum CEO and chair **Lt. General E.G. "Buck" Shuler**. As we toured the grounds, the 446th memorial was the main attention-getter.



Unveiled at the 1998 reunion in Savannah, GA, is the 446th memorial plaque, flanked by **Bill Davenport** (left), historian, and **Marvin Speidel**, retiring president of the 446th BG.

As usual, the camaraderie and fellowship made the museum visit a special day. Thanks to our hosts at the museum. We had a river cruise with lunch, and later a banquet dinner followed by dancing to big band music wrapped it up.

If you didn't make it to Savannah, put these dates on your calendar today: May 20-23, 1999, at the Pima Air Museum, Tucson, Arizona. **BE THERE.**



Fred Breuninger, Frank "Hoot" Gibson, and Eric Sherman sail down the Savannah River during the scenic luncheon cruise.

MEMBERSHIP: Reports of August 1997 indicate that the 2ADA has 6,782 members, and our 446th list of members includes 330. The largest representation is from the 389th with 611. If you know some 446ers who should be 2ADA members, please give me their names.

2ADA CONVENTION: Shortly after our return from Savannah, six of us 446ers attended the 2ADA Golden Anniversary Convention at Oak Brook Hills, May 22-25. Joining Fern and me were **Andy Hay** of California and his friend **Shirley**, and **Harold & Lil Maslyn** of Scottsville, NY. Due to our numbers, we were grouped with the 44th, 448th, and 467th for the group dinner hosted by **Dick Butler**, 44th group VP of Riverside, California, who also offered his suite for the hospitality room. With more than 500 in attendance, it was good to see so many familiar faces during the week's events. It was a privilege for me to represent the 446th by lighting one of the Eight Candles of Remembrance at the traditional ceremony of the banquet.

Note to **Eric Sherman**: "Joe Golfer," aka **Aud Risley**, received the accurate drive award, and in lieu of prizes, a donation of \$50 was made to the 2ADA Memorial Library at the annual 2ADA golf outing.

Finally, as a member of the 2ADA Executive Committee, for the upcoming year, I have been named to serve on the 2ADA liaison committee to the Heritage Museum, to be chaired by **F.C. "Hap" Chandler**, 491st BG, of Atlanta, GA.

E-MAIL NEWS: Recent e-mail communication is from **Charles and Elaine Weaver** of Austin, TX, who sent clippings from the El Dorado, Kansas Times. (Charles was a Mickey navigator with the 489th BG stationed at Halesworth). They tell about **Lt. Joseph B. Adams** with the 446th at Bungay. Adams was a bombardier on the Black Widow, which was shot down over France by a FW-190 German fighter on February 4, 1944. He was specially honored at the Memorial Day service at El Dorado, as part of "remembrance of those who died in service to their country."

The service marked the culmination of four years of effort by **Robert Lehnherr** of Kent, Washington, a classmate of Adams in college, to find his old friend, whom he had only found listed as "MIA." Finally, Adams and four other crew members were found buried in a mass grave in Evruex, France.

The five families agreed to return the bodies to the United States to be buried at a site equidistant from each family. The remains are now buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

For a detailed newspaper clipping of this interesting story, write me or e-mail your request.

TRIP TO EUROPE: From 446th historian **Bill Davenport** comes news about a proposed trip to the old bases at Bungay, Norwich, Cambridge, Duxford, Holland and the Normandy beaches. Perhaps if you missed similar trips in 1990 and 1993 (we went in 1990 and it was a superb trip), Bill says he needs commitments from 25 persons by August 15, 1998 to firm up the plans. The trip is tentatively planned for September 19, 1999. Call Bill or e-mail him for details, (714) 831-2829 or <History446@aol.com>.

Bill also suggests that tentative plans are under way for a living memorial at Arlington National Cemetery — a tree, a plaque, and a dedication in the year 2000, at a cost of \$2500. Bill welcomes your assistance and/or input.

FOLDED WINGS: **Capt. Philip E. Balcomb** died on April 15, 1998, in Tell City, Indiana. He spent his retirement fixing clocks, and had a couple of books published about clock repair. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, and his family.

MAKE HISTORY AGAIN . . . at the 446th BG Florida Chapter Reunion, September 15-18, 1998 at St. Augustine Ponce De Leon Radisson Resort, (800) 333-3333. Contact **Betty McMahon**, 1245 Kensington Street, Port Charlotte, FL 33952, phone (941) 625-0370 for more info.

KEEP THE GOOD NEWS COMING: Be sure to keep us on your list for news of pals and buddies, meetings, historical data, etc.: **Aud Risley**, 682 Slade Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120, phone (847) 741-7757, or e-mail: rocklandraptors@msn.com. ■

The "Unforgettable Second" — That Was a Rough Mission!

BY GEORGE A. HEROPOULOS (448TH)

On December 31, 1943 we were to attack a German air base at La Rochelle, France near the Spanish border. After a long haul, our formation of B-24s finally reached our target. As our bomb bays opened, we caught holy hell. I don't know why, but I had to toggle our bomb load from my nose turret. Fighters and heavy flak hit us. A burst of flak exploded in front of the nose of our B-24. The flak wounded Lt. Harmon, our bombardier, and me. The lieutenant lost an eye. We were banking to the right when our wingman received a direct hit to the gas tanks. It blew up like a big puff of smoke. I knew no one survived the explosion. My friends from Ohio, Sgt. Holesa and Sgt. Ball, from Canton, my hometown, and Sgt. Indorf from Massillon, were members of that crew.

Messerschmitts jumped us as we hit the target. We had to get out of there fast. On our way home we were forced to land at a Royal Air Force base in southern England. We had

been in the air for nine hours and forty-five minutes and had to refuel. We spent the night there, and the next day, New Year's Day, we had dinner at a U.S. Army base. Although we had been wearing the same clothes for two days, they treated us royally. After refueling we flew back to our base.

Department sent them a telegram — her brother was missing in action. I was speechless and didn't know what to do. Should I tell her what really happened? I knew I had to tell her the truth, that there was no way he or his crewmates could have survived that blast. I told her I was very sorry. Miss Holesa thanked

When his sister opened the door, Mrs. Holesa burst into tears. Her son was missing in action. I was speechless and didn't know what to do. Should I tell her what really happened?

After finishing my thirtieth mission on June 22, 1944, we went home. I immediately went back to Canton. After a few days, Sgt. Holesa's sister called and asked me to stop by the house. I hesitated about going, but knew I had to go. I knocked on the door. When his sister opened the door, Mrs. Holesa burst into tears. I froze.

His sister took her mother to another room. We sat and talked. She told me that the War

me for telling her what happened. Our crew was lucky — we came home. More than fifty years later, I still remember that second mission.

I flew with the 448th BG, arriving at our base at Seething on December 20, 1943. Two days later we left on our first mission, a raid on Osna-bruck, Germany. You would think this would be my most memorable mission, but it was the second one that I would never forget! ■

Never a Dull Moment at Wendling!

BY ARTHUR W. OLSEN (392ND)

In early May of 1944 the S-2 was moved to a building close to the control tower at Wendling. A branch of the S-2 office was then located in the same building, along with the new combat crew library. This location saved some time for the flight crews to be taken to the planes, and the same for air crews on return from missions. We could see the main runway from this new location. One day, as the planes were taking off for a mission in the spring of 1944, I noticed a plane coming down the runway to about the point of takeoff, when the nose gear collapsed. The plane skidded down the runway, across the perimeter strip, and ended up in the grass and gravel area. The bomb bay doors were ripped open, and a large amount of gravel was scooped into the plane. Whose or which plane was this? Can anyone remember?

Sometime around September 1944, our planes were preparing to land and there was a low cloud bank over the end of the runway in the direction of the 578th and 579th Squadrons' ground personnel barracks area. A plane was coming in high over the cloud bank. It was close to landing when one of our B-24s came in low under the clouds, shooting red flares. That plane was a little ahead of the upper plane. At the last moment, the pilot saw the lower plane and aborted his landing. A near disaster averted, not to mention that the first plane had wounded aboard. We sweated that one!

In October 1943, when Col. Leon Johnson was our new wing commander, I was present in the original S-2 office behind Group Headquarters as he would enter our office. At that same time the S-2 War Room was used for future missions work, and various squadron nav-

igators, bombardiers, and S-2 officers would gather. In an early assembly of these officers, we had a 2nd lieutenant who had the stature, mustache, and resemblance of Col. Johnson. Nobody called "attention" one day upon the arrival of Col. Johnson from Shipdham. I was confused as to who was who. So, at the suggestion of Capt. Caley, Group S-2 Officer, it was decided to call "attention" when either of the officers entered the office. Phew! It helped, and there was no complaint by Col. Johnson.

In the 579th Squadron, we had S/Sgt. Sam Ralston of Torrance, CA, who was a very good artist. He painted all the tail colors of the fourteen bomb groups of the 2nd Air Division. At the closing of our office in early June 1945, I was able to secure those paintings, which I still have. Also, S/Sgt. Ralston drew a large map of the USA which we placed on the wall in the combat crew library. He made very small flags which could be stuck on the map. Those flags had on them the names and hometowns of the men. Since I was the NCO in charge of the library, I secured and saved the flag of Col. Johnson, which shows his home as Moline, KS. I have that, as well.

In the fall of 1944, when it was still light in the afternoon, a B-17 came to our base shooting red flares. He had flown too far down the long runway to make a safe landing, so he aborted and circled toward Beeston for another approach. He was too low on fuel to make it around, so he came in to one side of Group Headquarters and the old S-2 briefing room. The plane was still airborne when the right wing tip scraped the far end of the S-2 briefing room and landed with a drop on an old haystack at the end of the building. Cpl. Adrian

Hanft from the S-2 office was near the haystack getting a pail of coal for our stove when the plane landed. He escaped injury. Four or five of the B-17 crewmen died.

Sometime in the early spring of 1944, Col. Rendle was using a RAF Spitfire as his personal plane. (At other times he would fly a Canadian Norden Norseman, and one time he had an AT 6 Harvard.) That day in the Spitfire, Col. Rendle taxied the plane near the control tower, where a wheel went into a hole. This resulted in the plane tipping over and the propeller being bent. It was weeks before repair parts were received and the plane repaired. I still have a picture of the plane in the hangar after repairs.

In late January 1945, when I was a sergeant, about 24 RAF bombers arrived at Wendling, as they were unable to continue to their base in the Midlands. They landed and stretched out fifteen of them in the area where I and another GI were guarding planes. When darkness came, the other GI and I decided we would walk our post taking half the planes each. The OD arrived later and waited until the other GI and I came together. He said we were lacking in our duties. I advised him that we two GIs had fifteen Lancasters and eight B-24s to guard. We thought it better that we each guarded half the planes. He thought a while, then told us to carry on. He felt it was a good idea, too. I had many more extra duties as sergeant than I ever had as private or corporal. My S-2 captain, Capt. Lawrence Gramm, said, "My men don't pull extra duties." However, when he transferred to Headquarters, his replacement didn't have the clout to make that order stand. Life changed. The story ended at Charleston, SC when the group was deactivated. ■

489TH NOTES

BY
JAMES M. DAVIS

In late May the beautiful Oak Brook Hills Hotel and Resort hosted the 2ADA convention, including 489th BG members Woody & Gini Belward, Otey Berkeley, Bob Boyle, Bud & Mike Chamberlain, Don & Shirley Engler, Charles & Helen Freudenthal, Gus & Edith Gary, Walt & Sophie Godlewski, Carl & Shirley Goeltenbodt, Chuck Harkins, John & Pat Lamar, Ted Maruschak, Neal & Pat Sorensen, Matthew Gasperich, and Jean & Jim Davis.

It is always great to get together with outstanding people who shared a most unusual event some fifty-four years ago. Having grown up in different parts of the country and in different environments, we became bonded in a friendship that would last forever. I cannot imagine a more exciting experience than surviving the air war over Europe. Many of our fellow airmen were not as fortunate as we were, and paid the supreme sacrifice. Looking back to that period of time, I don't know how we even survived the training and operational parts of flying a mission, much less the flak and fighters. In doing so we became a part of history that will live forever.

During the convention the question about the future of our group reunion was discussed. I believe we all will agree that it is important to have a group reunion. The big question is when and where.

Some of our members have indicated that they would attend a group reunion, but were not interested in attending a Second Air Division Association reunion. Over the years, the 489th BG has always had one of the largest numbers of members attending the 2ADA reunion, even though we are one of the smallest groups in the 2nd Air Division. In contrast, there are some of the 2AD's fourteen bomb groups that have only a few members to attend the 2ADA reunions but have a strong attendance at their group reunions. The 2nd Air Division Association is so important to each individual bomb group. Many new 489th members were referred to us by members of other groups.

The fourteen bomb groups that make up the Second Air Division Association can do much more *together* than each group can do by itself. The 2ADA Memorial Library in Norwich and the Bronze B-24 project at the Air Force Academy are two good examples of how we can accomplish things collectively that we could not as individual groups. The 2ADA conventions and reunions also give us an oppor-

tunity to see and visit our many friends from the other groups. As the years go by, fewer and fewer of our members will be attending. I am looking forward to attending both the 489th BG and 2ADA reunions as long as I am able. It is such an honor to visit with so many dear friends.

Our members from the southeast part of the U.S. who had planned and conducted the "Formation Fun" reunions have indicated that the reunion in Savannah was the last one they would organize. It is important for us to take the ball and carry on. I have asked our most capable and reliable leaders from the past to study and suggest the best possible group reunion. Bud Chamberlain, Charles Freudenthal, and Neal Sorensen will study the possibilities and will recommend where the next group reunion should be held.

Several of our members have offered their suggestions. Some have suggested that we have it at the same time as the 2ADA reunion, perhaps the two days before or the two days after. That would cut the cost of travel and would give our members a better chance to attend the 2ADA reunion as well as the 489th reunion. A cruise has been suggested, as well as the Air Force Museum at Dayton, and the Eighth Air Force Museum. It has also been suggested that we rotate it from the west coast to some middle state and then to the east coast. Any suggestions you might have, please send them to Bud, Charlie or Neal.

Next year the 2ADA convention will be held in Austin, Texas during Memorial Day week-

end. Austin is a beautiful city, and I hope all of you will make plans to attend the reunion. Most likely, those of you who entered the service as aviation cadets at the Classification Center would enjoy the short drive of seventy miles to visit San Antonio and SAAC. Many of you no doubt had much of your cadet or other training at some of the air bases in Texas, and this would give you an opportunity to visit them also. Many of the small towns there have changed very little.

Several of our members have indicated that they would like to visit the Confederate Air Force Museum in Midland. The CAF has put together a fully accredited, first class museum (less than ten percent of museums are accredited). Anyone planning on visiting the CAF Museum should allow a full day or more, for there is a lot to see and study. The best time to visit the CAF Museum would be from about the middle of October to the first of April, for during that period of time the B-29 (FI-FI) and the B-24 (Diamond Lil) are usually receiving their yearly repair and maintenance to get them ready for next year's air shows.

Finally, please give consideration to writing your personal history, especially of your tour during WWII. Your children and grandchildren would be most grateful that you did. Once you get started it gets to be fun, and so many memories come back to you. In 1992 I started writing my WWII history and thought it would take maybe three days to complete. Three years and two hundred and sixty-five pages later, I think I have finally finished. ■

"Formation Fun" Reunion Report

BY GINI BELWARD (489TH)

The last Formation was in Savannah, GA, April 1-4, 1998. We had a wonderful committee. Everyone had a job to do, and did it very well. It was the largest Formation we have ever had — a total of 152 people. Some could only stay one day or night or whatever, but it was just wonderful that so many wanted to come, if even for a short time. California was very well represented, and we had people from Montana, Arizona, Minnesota, Oklahoma, New York, and Pennsylvania as well. Of course the largest groups were from Texas and Florida. One reason I think it was such a success this year is that so many veterans wanted to see the Mighty 8th AF Museum, some because it may be the last hurrah for them. Others just wanted to see people they hadn't seen in many years. We had 47 first-timers. They blended in and really had a good time. That is what it takes, everyone working to make others at ease, doing things that just need doing without asking or being requested. It truly was like one very large family reunion.

The people in Savannah that we dealt with (we made four trips there) were excellent and more than lived up to the deals we had made; they seemed to have as much fun as the 489ers did. The Hillbilly Wedding was a WOW. The food in all places we ate was excellent.

(continued on page 18)



Candlelighting ceremony with model B-24

As you no doubt remember, over the last couple of years I have included excerpts from the Feb. 3, 1945 issue of *Target Victory*. I just noticed that I did not reprint the sketch of Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle. Here it is:

"The third birthday of the 8th Air Force launches Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle on his second year as 8AF Commanding General. He accepted command in January 1944, succeeding Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker (now Commanding Mediterranean AAF), and the original Commander of 8AF, Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz (now Commanding US Strategic AF in Europe).

"Into Gen. Doolittle's 48 years are packed a career as adventurous as the tale of Army aviation itself. After attending the University of California, the Alameda youth enlisted as a flying cadet on Oct. 6, 1917, and was commissioned March 11, 1918, assigned to the Aviation Section, Signal Corps reserve. He earned master's and doctor's degrees at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1924 and 1925.

"The name of Doolittle became linked with aviation progress throughout the world. In 1922 he was awarded a DFC for the first coast to coast flight within 24 hours. He won the Schneider Seaplane Trophy in 1925 (speed, 232 mph for 350 km).

"From major in Special Reserve he was ordered to active duty July 1, 1940, assigned in charge of production for changeover of the auto industry to aircraft, to meet expanding requirements of AAF. Then came the startling and imaginative 'Shangri La' plan — the first aerial raid on the Japanese mainland, April 18, 1942.

"Thereafter he commanded 12th Air Force, 1942; N.W. Africa Strategic Air Force, March 1943; 15th Air Force, Nov. 1943. He flew in 25 missions from African bases, including the first raid on Rome. He holds the Medal of Honor (for the Tokyo raid), DSM, Silver Star, DFC, and Air Medal with clusters."

He was a great leader of men and probably one of the few in the U.S. Army at that time with a doctoral degree.

Some of you will remember the stories that Danny Bollinger used to send me of his memories while serving with the Military Police in and around Norwich. Danny died a few years ago, but I found some of his experiences the other day and thought this one was particularly amusing.

It seems that at about 7:00 AM one day, Danny received a call from the Norwich City Police Department that they had an American who was naked and claimed to have been robbed. He dispatched a police patrol to pick up the subject, taking along some parts of a U.S. GI uniform and to make out a report. The Yank stated that he was walking down a road when three civilians jumped him, taking his wallet and clothes. When Danny questioned him, things did not fit the usual pattern. The area where he was accosted was in a very remote section of a suburb of Norwich where there was very little traffic from the Americans.

DIVISION



BY RAY STRONG

About two hours later they received a call from this same station stating that they had the soldier's clothes in their possession. Thus another patrol was dispatched. The police sergeant told Danny that a British Home Guard Colonel brought the clothes in to the police. Danny was told that the Colonel was on duty at some station not far away, and while he was gone, his wife brought the soldier home with her. The Colonel came home sooner than expected and the Yank, who was in bed with his wife, jumped out of bed and out the window, naked! Of course the Colonel found the clothes. Danny had sent in a routine report, but as there were no charges filed by the Colonel or the City Police, the matter was dropped. Danny said he did not remember where the Yank was stationed — maybe with one of the invasion or ground units that were all around us. Does this report fit anyone?

David Nathanson came up to Division Headquarters from the 44th Bomb Group and was responsible for usage, maintenance, and operation of vehicles in the Second Air Division. He says, "My most memorable duty experience was the entire time I was with the 44th Bomb Group. Daily challenges and a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction. The great camaraderie and spirit of the men. I have vivid and fond memories of a seven-day leave with three of my friends to Scotland, and the leave I took when my cousin on R&R from the 104th Infantry Division visited with me at Ketteringham for a couple of days and then we went to London." From 1945 until 1990, David spent time in the wholesale baking business, the wholesale liquor industry, and was the Vice President of Dairy Processor.

Art Howe writes that he was attached to the 2nd Bomb Wing in the Weather Section in 1942 as a weather observer. He says, "When I finished my shift, I took off and rode my bike into the countryside."

At the recent convention, there was a lot of talk about the need, in the few years we have left, to add to the funds for our Memorial Library. We need to help raise funds for the new Memorial so that it will be the best that it can be. We need to add to the Memorial Trust Fund so that it will be adequate to administer the Memorial and ensure that it has, in perpetuity, sufficient funds for staffing, new equip-

ment, etc. And we need to add to the 2ADA/Fulbright Librarian Fund. Unless you have heard some of the members of the Board of Governors talk about the contribution these people are making to our Memorial Library, it is hard to realize how valuable they are. And even the endowment funds set up expressly for buying new books need to be strengthened. Books wear out and need to be replaced about every seven years. So we need to add to all of these funds to make certain that inflation in the future does not reduce our Memorial's ability to serve the people of East Anglia and the many visitors from the USA. Remember that our Memorial Library, with its Roll of Honor, is in memory of the 6700 combat crewmen who died while flying B-24s over Germany so that the rest of us could live in peace. And, as far as anyone knows, there is none like it, certainly not in Europe, and perhaps nowhere else in the world. I urge each of us to contribute as much as we can so that we can leave this world with this unique memorial adequately endowed. ■

"FORMATION FUN" (continued)

The last night we had dinner at the museum. Jack Burton is a super host, Walter a wonderful chef, and Dee an excellent food service manager. Even a 911 call didn't bother them; we handled it very quietly. Had another when we returned to the hotel — both ended up OK.

The last thing we did at the museum was the candlelighting ceremony (see the picture on page 17). Neal Sorensen wrote and spoke the words for each candle. Walter Laut was Keeper of the Flame, Donald O. Davis the first man to light, Eleanor Johnson the first lady, then Pat Lamar, and we ended with Ralph Spazaini. A model B-24 was in front of the candles. This was made by the son of a 489er. He called and offered to loan it to us. The candles, white, red, purple, and gold, all stood for the things Neal spoke about. We have always used Neal to do this. The lighters have changed each year. We kept them to the EM and their wives. The final Taps, by I.D. Brown, didn't leave any dry eyes in the group. What a wonderful way to end a Formation. ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)

members to become associates of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum... even life members. As we participate, we will become united with the other USAAF and USAF units. With the inevitable decrease of our numbers, this spirit of cooperation becomes necessary for survival.

As we focus on these four — the exciting new Memorial Library, the Heritage League's new role, the Year of the B-24, and the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, may our enthusiasm reach higher heights to carry us into the new millennium. ■

50 or 51? That is NOT Really Important. REMEMBERING!! That IS Really Important!

BY GENE HARTLEY (389TH BG)

I am just returned from Oak Brook Hills, Illinois (outside Chicago), and the 51st reunion of Second Air Division Association veterans. It was also listed as the 50th Anniversary Convention of the Association's official existence. You can take your pick.

Generally, I don't attend reunions. High school, college, Eighth Air Force, VFW, the Legion, have never interested me. I try to understand what it is about this one, the Second Air Division Association.

It's not the war stories (the half-truths or half-lies, depending on your point of view), although I do enjoy them. It's not the search for another buddy, although the thrill when you find one is super. It's not the desire to reflect on how lucky I am to be alive, although God knows I'm grateful. It's not a need to re-examine a part of my life once shared with a select group of courageous young men, thrown together by happy chance and severe circumstance, though you must know how proud I am to have been a part.

Maybe it's the satisfaction in having been part of a tough job done pretty well. Maybe it's because our business, during that conflict, was conducive to developing a unique camaraderie that could and has survived years of separation and being nearly forgotten. Maybe it's because this organization, unlike so many others, deals with today even while remembering yesterday. Maybe it's because we care, for the living as well as for the dead, for future generations as well as our own, for a people in a foreign land who came to mean so much as we lived, fought, and lost comrades while on their soil. Maybe it's because this Association is alive!

Whatever it is, and reactions differ between individuals, most of those in attendance seemed to like the intangible bond that surfaced once again in their lives.

BUT HEY!

You don't have to go to a reunion to be a part. Only some 7% of our Division membership was at Oak Brook. Health, time, money, distance, lack of desire, dislike of crowds, just not interested, etc. all are reasons for not attending a reunion. Over 90% of our members were not in attendance; therefore this reunion "recap" is written primarily for them. The recap is in five sections. If you are among those somewhat bored with reunion articles, select only the headings that interest you — skip the rest.

GENERAL

The Oak Brook Hills Hotel and Resort is a multi-star facility. The amenities are first class. The rooms were excellent. Adequate meeting rooms were available for group meetings and banquets. Suites were available for each of our fourteen bomb groups and Headquarters. The

hotel rates arranged for our stay were attractive. The breakfasts, buffets, and banquets provided as part of our package were good. The location of the hotel made the purchase of additional meals, gifts, and/or souvenirs difficult and hotel prices were high. The hotel did provide van service to shopping centers.

the convention. Many of the decisions and reviews of the meeting merit a longer report, and are featured elsewhere in this issue (see page 23). Herewith, a brief review of some of the actions and reports.

6,490 was announced as the current membership of the 2ADA.

Generally, I don't attend reunions. High school, college, Eighth Air Force, VFW, the Legion, have never interested me. I try to understand what it is about this one, the Second Air Division Association. Maybe it's because this Association is alive!

Tours of the Chicago area were readily accessible and reasonably priced. The championship golf course (on hotel premises) was an outstanding location for the 2ADA annual golf tournament.

Registration facilities were excellent. It was easy to register. Registration souvenirs (unexpected) were delightedly received. The warm glow of renewed camaraderie began at registration, dominated the first evening early bird buffet, and prevailed throughout the ensuing 2ADA and group meetings.

THE SATURDAY BUFFET

The Saturday buffet was the first of two all division meetings. Seating was by group at reserved tables. This occasion included nearly all of the some 600 reunion attendees. Beyond the fellowship, two Association objectives were to be met.

Objective 1, awards presented annually by the Association. Distinguished Service Awards went to Bob Cash from the 492nd Bomb Group, Lucille Nothstein from the 466th Bomb Group, Bill & Dorothea Eagleson from the 453rd Bomb Group, and Dick Peterson from the 389th Bomb Group. A Certificate of Appreciation went to John S. Forman from the 491st Bomb Group. Certificate of Service Awards went to Alfred Asch of the 93rd Bomb Group, Felix Leeton of the 389th Bomb Group, Audley Risley of the 446th Bomb Group, Charles McBride of the 448th Bomb Group, and Jay Jeffries of the 453rd Bomb Group.

Objective 2 was the viewing of the most recent Dzenowagis film. The Dzenowagis family has provided our Association, our Memorial Library, many libraries and museums within the United States, and the public with recorded video memories of our time in England, particularly military service. Those in attendance were privileged to view their most recent film, a visual montage of past 2ADA and group reunions.

THE MONDAY BUSINESS MEETING

The Monday business meeting included probably the most significant moments of

Our Roll of Honor, listing the almost 6,700 men who gave their lives while serving with the Second Air Division, the original of which was destroyed by the 1994 Norwich Central Library fire, has been redone. The original of the Roll will be in the 2ADA Memorial Library. A copy of the Roll of Honor was presented for placement in the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, Savannah, Georgia.

At both the 2ADA Memorial Library and the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, one of the 201 pages of the Roll of Honor will be turned each day.

A report from the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust for our Memorial Library reported that:

A changing team of Governors now includes many of a younger generation, thus ensuring the progress of our Memorial Library into the future.

The total funds of the Trust now stand at £753,000 market value.

The Trust has signed an agreement with the Norfolk County Council to operate our library in its prime site on the library ground floor for 124 years and 364 days.

The building of the new library, with our room on site, is underway, and scheduled to open in late 2000.

An appeal to raise £125,000 in the UK and the USA will be launched in the fall. If achieved, this £125,000 will be matched by a further £125,000 by the British Millennium Commission. The funding is needed to increase the size of the Memorial Library (nearly twice the size of our former library) and to improve the quality of fittings and equipment. All of this is beyond the moneys covered by insurance, the Norfolk County contribution, and the Millennium Commission. It was reported that £68,000 has already been pledged, even before the official launching of the appeal.

The goal of \$175,000 for the installation of the Bronze B-24 at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO has been surpassed by the B-24 Groups Memorial, Inc.

The Nominating Committee submitted a
(continued on page 20)

CONVENTION REPORT (continued)

slate of officers for 1998-99 which was elected by unanimous vote.

THE MONDAY EVENING BANQUET

The Monday evening banquet provided us with a fitting end to our three days at Oak Brook. Again, we sat as groups with reserved seating.

Memories were rampant as the banquet opened with our traditional lighting of the Eight Candles of Remembrance.

During the program we contributed a check for \$10,000 to the library appeal.

We heard from a representative of the Board of Governors.

Retiring President Oak Mackey offered comments.

Incoming President Earl Wassom spoke on goals for the Association in the year ahead.

Dancing was enjoyed by those who still could.

REGARDING OUR 2AD MEMORIAL

Remembering the fallen — commemorating our service — it is our trust AND our responsibility! Grant me your indulgence for a final thought.

You could not have been with the Division and not remember those all too frequent occasions of heavy loss. Heavy loss! The definition can range from multiple air crew loss due to enemy action on a single mission, to the death of a crew member because of faulty equipment; to loss of life through a training mishap; to an accident in the bomb dump; to an isolated aircraft failing to return; you name it. Every loss was heavy, especially to some one of us.

We have had, and now can continue to have, the wonderfully unique opportunity to remember those we knew, our heavy loss. Our remembrance, now over 35 years old, stays alive as the Memorial Room of the Norwich Library. There are so few who have our privilege of remembrance.

Of at least equal importance to many of the 2ADA is the utilization of the SAME LIVING MEMORIAL to commemorate the time each of us spent over there. No matter what your specific task might have been, where on the base your responsibility might have lain, every member of the Second Air Division was an integral part of whatever effort was made.

Our commemoration, now over 35 years old, will stay alive as the Memorial Room of the Norwich Library. There are so few who have our privilege of commemoration.

We will have the opportunity to participate in the Governors' appeal for funds. We continue to have the opportunity to contribute to the endowment fund for books. Sure hope you'll consider increasing your role. ■

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

BY RHODA U. BANDLER

Read at the Conclusion of the 50th Anniversary Banquet

*This day we're meeting as a kind of kin
Grown grizzled, weatherbeaten, worldly-wise,
But bound together just as we had been
When comrades in a common enterprise.*

*We gather after fifty years to sense
The benefits of victories we won
And filaments of shared experience
Glow golden in a brilliant western sun.*



*We're proud to know that we have done our part
To build our country. Side by side, we stand
With brimming cup and overflowing heart
As we salute each other, and our land.*



NEW MEMBERS OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

HDQ

John M. Pfoh
William H. Wambold
Madeleine Mills (AM)

44th

Donald W. O'Reilly (491st)
Lu Jacobsen (AM)

93rd

Robert F. Hanslik
Bert L. Pear

389th

Don L. King
Alex J. Stefanik
Joe Thompson
Bobby A. Jones (AM)

392nd

Robert E. Bull (AM)
Carol A. Erbe (AM)

445th

John E. Ellson
Homer P. Harrison
Henry E. Hester
William E. Mitchell
Raymond W. Ray
Arthur Shay
Mack H. Shumate

446th

William Lester
S. Pete Petaros

448th

Edwin A. Kiefer

453rd

Edward D. Cronnelly, Jr.
James E. Davenport
Allen Ek
Carl J. Kinell
Allan E. Rowsell
Harold G. Speer
Elaine Ek (AM)
Harry E. Siegrist III (AM)

458th

Glenn Hynick

466th

Leslie A. Sharrock (AM)

467th

Robert M. Pierce
Robert L. Schy

489th

Molly T. Laseter (AM)
Geraldine Saxlund (AM)

492nd

Edward W. Halliburton, Sr.
Howard R. Heckmann
Archie MacIntyre

SM

Kenneth Kerr
Henny Kwik

Attendees at 2ADA 50th Anniversary Convention Oak Brook, Illinois • May 23-26, 1998

44th Bomb Group

Browning, Al & Doris
Butler, Dick & Ardith
Dubowsky, Irma & Bob
Gietler, Barney & Laura
Griffin, Griff
Hughes, Charlie
Johnson, Bob & Bert
Lundy, Will & Irene
Mastradone, Tony & Cathy
Parsons, Tom
Solatka, Archie

93rd Bomb Group

Alberts, Warren & Eleanor
Asch, Al
Brown, Lew
Brown, Bill & Lee
Cadle, John
Cooley, Jim & Alice
Davidson, Cal
DeCoster, Art & Nancy
Dessert, Kenny & Jacqueline Beazley
Doerner, Bill & Jo
Ferrara, Bill & Nina
Harris, Sam & Shirley & Paul Levine
Harwood, Paul & Nora
Heffner, Earl & Gini
Hernandez, Tommy & Cathy
Johnson, C.D. & Simone
Johnson, George
Kerler, Jack & Midge
Lenhart, Burt & Carol
McGowan, John & Helen
McKeever, Bob & Mike
McNulty, George
Mabee, Floyd & Dot
Meyers, Paul & Janet

Paul Sr. & Jane Meyers
Ruth & Glen Richardson
Jim Meyers & Cheryl Hine
Amy & Marvin Jacobowitz
Jill & Bob Swygart
Pamela Bland
Jason & Amy Richardson
Paul, Jr. & Cheri Meyers
Heather Meyers &
George Kountouris
Mikolajczyk, Stan & Dot
Morrison, Don
Nelcy, Girard & Therese
Nykamp, Henry & Bea
Orient, Bill & Jeremy Snavelly
Schwarzgruber, Joe
Secor, Harold & Emma
Shaw, George
Slider, Slip & Jennie
Spencer, Don & Marylou
Stedman, Jed & Faye Riddick
Strombom, Fred & Inez
Swaim, Red
Trostle, Cecil
Trousdale, Dick
Vangness, Elmer & Nellie Jean
Vetelo, Hearol & Maxine
Williams, Larry & Terry

389th Bomb Group

Benton, Bill & Paula
Borland, Duffy, David & Wendy
Borland
Brooks, Johnny
Clark, Gaynell
Denton, Helene
Dowden, Bill & Jane
Driscoll, Barney, Emme & Jennifer
Faneli, Jack & Mary
Fino, John & Rosemary
Friedman, Bob
Gebhard, Geb & Betty
Hallett, Allan & Jean
Hartley, Gene & Nancy

Helmer, Bruce
Jones, Deacon & Junie
Kane, John & Lorraine
Katz, Stan & Sylvia
Kinard, Don & Shirley
Koorndyk, Bud
Kuhlmann, Jerry, Iva Lee & Kristin
Larrance, Art & Belte
Leeton, Felix & Margaret
Lozowicki, Vince & Carroll
McClain, Jim
McCracken, Bill
Mager, Bob & Donald Shee
Morgan, John & Mary Detwiler
Nathe, Raymond & Ruta
Newton, Fielder & Marjorie
Peterson, Dick & Flo
Sigworth, Wally & Ginny
Sills, Bill, Margaret & Stephan
Smith, Dick & Marie
Young, Ed & Pete
Zimmerman, Earl & June

392nd Bomb Group

Austin, Lauren
Barber, Ernie
Baumgart, Vern
Beddingfield, Luther
Bode, John
Bonanno, Joe & Annie
Cetin, Bill
Cheek, Carroll & Mabel
Conrad, John & Wanda
Dunphy, Ray & Cile
Dye, Charlie & Helen,
Tom & Marie Thomas
Egan, Teddy
Gilbert, Lawrence & Marjorie
Goar, Jim & Virginia George
Greene, Dave & Renee
Keilman, Blanche & Geary
Mackey, Oak & Maxine
Marsteller, Jim & Karen
Mateski, Malt & Margaret
Olson, Arthur & Lee
Polking, Polky & Delle
Rohrock, Rocky & Mary
Sabourin, Roland
Singleton, Bill & Thelma
Thomas, Fred & Elva, John &
Terry Thomas Johnson
Waters, Roland

445th Bomb Group

Barnard, Mary Beth
Barron, John & Kathy
Bertapelle, Tony & Lois
Bowen, Doc
Boyanowski, Bill & Dorothy
Brandt, Richard
Bruck, Earl
Clark, Hal & Renee
Conrad, Bob & Lou
Cox, Bill
Dale, Fred & Marjorie
Dewey, Bill & Marilyn
DiMola, Frank & Elizabeth
Dobek, Henry & Mary
Eckelberry, Eck & Janet
Fedenci, Frank & Ida
French, Jack & Elaine
Gelvin, Richard
Haley, Andy & Gin
Harrison, H.P.
Janulis, Ray
Knox, Jack & Dede
Lemons, Ray & Jean
Littlefield, Dick & Marge
Long, Eldon & Eileen
Luhmann, Gus & Winfred
Mack, Mack & Be
Marsteller, Glen, Jean & Barbara

Myers, Don & Gary
Myers, Jim & Joan
Patterson, Dave & Joan
Pytel, Ray & Twyla Kieffer &
Darlene Grair
Rambo, Carl
Kuhlmann, Jerry, Iva Lee & Kristin
Ray, Raymond & Eva &
Jenna Benlein
Roloff, Ed, Sue & Randy
Schwartz, Herb
Shay, Arthur
Smith, Ray & Evelyn
Steinhauer, Jerry & Pat
Suckow, Bob & Shirley
Vinton, Bill & Florence
Walker, Chuck
Weinstein, Ira
Whitefield, Don & Billie
Zobac, Ed & Rose

446th Bomb Group

Hay, Andy & Shirley
Maslyn, Hal & Lil
Risley, Aud & Fern

448th Bomb Group

Allen, Sid & Mary
Barnet, Ken & Oleta
Grew, Frank & Maria Gunnarsson
Hensey, Bill & Jean
Jackson, Kathy & Lynn Wyckhouse
Kennedy, Dick & Bobbie
McBride, Charlie & Agnes
McDaniel, Jack & Lorraine, Tom &
Yvonne McDaniel
Nichols, Milt & Ruth
Schrader, Gus & Alberta

453rd Bomb Group

Barley, Lew & Trudy
Berg, Lee & Gloria
Biel, Bert & Claire & Irene Hurner
Conneely, Walt & Pat
Cromarty, Arthur & Elin
Crumrin, Lyman & Geneva
Dyke, Jim & Dorothy
Eagleson, Bill & Dorothea
Ek, Allen & Elaine
Elkins, Jim
Ghaster, Dick & Treva
Hamlin, Dave & Harriett
Harriman, Russ
Jordan, Bob & Betty
Kinell, Carl
Kolapish, Jim
Lambert, Bob & Mary Ann
Low, Andy
McDowell, Mac
Middleton, Dot
Oliva, Odo
Pedigo, Bob
Prang, Lloyd & Irene
Ryan, Leo & Geraldine Suskin
Saunders, Hal
Stiles, Wilbur & Jeanne, Larry &
Linda Stiles Bennett
Stokes, Milt & Lucille, Rhonda
Stokes Vinson
Thomas, Frank & Jackie
Vercler, John & Josephine
White, John & Dorothy
Wilen, Abe & Janet
Williamson, Allen & Dorothy
Wilson, Willie & Mary
Zilm, Marge

453rd Bomb Group

Barley, Lew & Trudy
Berg, Lee & Gloria
Biel, Bert & Claire & Irene Hurner
Conneely, Walt & Pat
Cromarty, Arthur & Elin
Crumrin, Lyman & Geneva
Dyke, Jim & Dorothy
Eagleson, Bill & Dorothea
Ek, Allen & Elaine
Elkins, Jim
Ghaster, Dick & Treva
Hamlin, Dave & Harriett
Harriman, Russ
Jordan, Bob & Betty
Kinell, Carl
Kolapish, Jim
Lambert, Bob & Mary Ann
Low, Andy
McDowell, Mac
Middleton, Dot
Oliva, Odo
Pedigo, Bob
Prang, Lloyd & Irene
Ryan, Leo & Geraldine Suskin
Saunders, Hal
Stiles, Wilbur & Jeanne, Larry &
Linda Stiles Bennett
Stokes, Milt & Lucille, Rhonda
Stokes Vinson
Thomas, Frank & Jackie
Vercler, John & Josephine
White, John & Dorothy
Wilen, Abe & Janet
Williamson, Allen & Dorothy
Wilson, Willie & Mary
Zilm, Marge

489th Bomb Group

Belward, Woody & Gini
Berkeley, Oley
Boyle, Bob
Chamberlain, Bud & Mike
Davis, Jim & Jean
Engler, Don & Shirley
Freudenthal, Charlie & Helen
Gary, Gus & Edith
Gasperich, Matt & Grace
Godlewski, Walt & Sophie
Goeltenbott, Carl & Shirley
Harkins, Chuck
Lamar, John
Maruschak, Ted
Sorensen, Neal & Pat

458th Bomb Group

Allen, Jerry
Armbruster, Bob & Mary Aileen
Brumby, Birt & Ann
Case, Bill
Craft, Harry

Domek, Charles & Grace
Geppelt, Elmo & Betty
Gammella, John
Hammell, Stan & Dorothy
Hartzell, Bud & June
Hebert, B.P. & Georgia
Holcomb, Ken & Alice
Johnson, O.D. & Penny
Josephson, Frank
Newmark, Bernie & Jean
Micholson, Bill & Loretta
Pulse, Dick & Betty
Renn, Bob & Marty
Rokicki, Rick & Ceil
Weakley, Sam & Lita
Wilcox, Wilco & Helma

466th Bomb Group

Banko, Andrew & Evelyn,
James & Lacy Banko
Baynes, Dick & Margaret
Blumenstock, John & Delmar
Bridgers, Dave & Dot
Calderalo, Margaret
Campbell, Bill
Dike, Mac
Hoover, Mike & Pauline
Horan, John & Irene
Jacobowitz, Jack & John, Jr.
Kerry, Perry & Joyce & Pam,
Jay & Penny Kerr
Kraeger, John & Martha & Patrick
Loevsky, Lou & Molly
Lorenz, Jim & Mary
Meconis, Mac
Mohr, Stan & JoAnn
Nolthstein, Bill & Lue
Peterson, Art & Marie
Russell, Jim & Elinor
Saltarelli, Jean
Sorensen, Erv & Ruth
Tally, Virgil
Van Slot, Andrew & Lillian,
Ed & Margo Lubbers
Warning, Vicki Brooks & Kurt
Wassom, Earl & Cynthia

467th Bomb Group

Dzenowagis, Joe, Helen, Joan,
Joe Jr. & Victor
Elliott, Ralph & Yvonne,
Gary & Gale Elliott
Gregory, Geoff & Terry
Haug, Carmen & Ray Richter
Mundy, Walt
Pierce, Bob
Re, Vincent & Carolyn
Scharnschmidt, Bill & Ursula,
Jini Mortensen
Shower, Al & Char
Upp, John & Catherine

489th Bomb Group

Belward, Woody & Gini
Berkeley, Oley
Boyle, Bob
Chamberlain, Bud & Mike
Davis, Jim & Jean
Engler, Don & Shirley
Freudenthal, Charlie & Helen
Gary, Gus & Edith
Gasperich, Matt & Grace
Godlewski, Walt & Sophie
Goeltenbott, Carl & Shirley
Harkins, Chuck
Lamar, John
Maruschak, Ted
Sorensen, Neal & Pat

491st Bomb Group

Bennett, Hugh & Jean Bennett
Berg, Victor & Marty
Cahill, Vincent & Wilma
Campbell, Jim & Thelma
Chandler, Hap
Dean, Harry & Marian
Hassell, Lawrence & Joan
Head, Bernie & Clara
Leppert, John & Marilyn
Shahbaz, Cal
Stickney, Norman
Van Acker, Jack

492nd Bomb Group

Beasley, Bud & Margarette
Beasley, Bill, Norma & Craig
Cash, Bob & Dorothy
Floyd, Tom & Margaret
Heckmann, Howard & Mary Lowry
McCrorry, Jim & James & Joe,
Michelle, Tonia & Danielle
McCrorry
Miceli, Sam & Edith
Scott, Bob
Seaton, Ellis & Edna
Seitzinger, Elvern & Hazel
Sparks, Bill & Molly
Williams, Wesley & Wesley, Jr.
& Kerrin Schultz, Kenna Rockey
& Keira Williams

Headquarters

Alberts, Warren & Eleanor
Anderson, Ruth Sanders & Warren
Bliss, Blissy
Cohen, Evelyn, Lillian & Karen,
Lindsay & Jessica Toub
Davis, Tommy & Laura Couch
Dietch, Henry & Shirley
Fau, Harriett
Jenkins, Bill
Krogmann, Dottie Reim
McCormick, Hal & Jeanne &
Roger & Ellen McCormick
Noland
Norris, Lida B Cowan & Dave
Reeves, Jim & Edna
Sheppard, Helen Hanson
Stevens, Tess Rice
Strong, Ray & Ruth
Uital, Jordan
Veynar, Milt, Hathy & Caron
Whittaker, Joe & Marie

2ADA Memorial Trust Board of Governors

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David & Jean Hastings
John Whitehouse

Future 2ADA Fulbright Librarian

Judy Jerome

Norwich Friends

Pat & Agnes Ramm

8th AF Historical Society President

Norman & Margaret Grant

2ADA History Publisher

Dave & Shelley Turner

2ADA Friends

Blaine Duxbury
Mark Copeland

WITH LIBRARY, VETS HONOR LIVING AND DEAD

BY TED GREGORY, TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER • REPRINTED FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, MONDAY, MAY 25, 1998.

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It was 1946, and seven buddies who had served in the Army Air Force 2nd Air Division during World War II decided to get together for a few drinks at the Chicago apartment where one of the veterans lived.

Twenty-four hours and a few bottles later, the get-together broke up.

But, building on the experiences that led to the impromptu reunion, the men forged something strong that day in the apartment on North Hoyne Avenue.

It was enough to create the 2nd Air Division Association, a group established to recognize a military unit based 125 miles north of London. The division, famous because it included Jimmy Stewart and Walter Matthau, was considered the most potent strike force to that point in history — epically tragic for the 6,700 men lost in air battles.

But perhaps most noteworthy about the 2nd Air Division Association, holding its 50th official reunion this Memorial Day weekend in suburban Chicago, is the way it decided to honor the men who made the supreme sacrifice.

The veterans, men and women, helped build a library where they fought World War II — a memorial believed to be the only one of its kind. And, through the years, as death has thinned the ranks of the veterans of the 2nd Air Division, remaining members steadfastly have maintained and strengthened the bond to the community surrounding Norwich, England, where their bases were situated.

Over the weekend, 600 or so have gathered in west suburban Oak Brook. On Monday night, they will submit a check for \$10,000 to the Norwich Central Library in England to extend the commitment.

They are holding raffles for quilts, wall hangings and clocks to continue the support, and they are talking about the latest effort to maintain that link. A Fulbright Foundation librarian program, to fund a visiting American employee, was established at the library in 1991, after the association raised half a million dollars.

But, mostly, the alums have been visiting, lamenting the passing of old friends and getting caught up on one another's lives since the last reunion.

"We are a group of friends who are bound together by what one of our more literary members calls the gossamer thread of a shared experience," said Jordan Uttal, 82, of Dallas, who is honorary president of the group. "For me, it's a steel cable that binds us together."

Uttal was among those seven buddies who gathered at the North Side apartment of Howard Moore in 1946. Moore and one other member of the original group have died. The five survivors will be honored at a dinner Monday night.

Two years after those seven unofficially started the association at that animated, inebriated bash of Army buddies, approximately

100 people attended the first official reunion at Chicago's Sherman Hotel.

But the idea for the memorial library came before the reunions began, unofficial or otherwise. When the men and women of the 2nd Air Division were being shipped home, three senior officers strongly suggested that all of them contribute to a memorial — one British pound for enlisted men and women, and five British pounds for officers.

"We chose something that people could come to and get something out of every time they visit," said Jim Reeves, 79, of Moultrie, GA, a past president of the association.

They raised some 20,000 British pounds, far short of what was needed to build a library. Even if they had raised enough, the war had ravaged England, and building a library was low on the list of construction projects.

The association waited, held more fundraisers and reunions, kept pressing to build, and by 1963, the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library was dedicated as part of the Norwich Central Library.

"There's nothing like it in the world," said Evelyn Cohen, a WAC with the 2nd Air Division.

"Why would we want to build a statue?" she asked. "Nobody will ever know what a statue is for, but a library . . . It's a living memory."

It is that and more. The 2nd Air Division Memorial includes books, periodicals, and other conventional library resources "covering every facet of American life," Uttal said. But the wing is also stocked with audiotapes of veterans dictating their war experiences, war diaries, handwritten mission orders, a tail fin from a B-24 Liberator aircraft, and the Roll of Honor, a vellum list of all those Americans from the 2nd Air Division killed in action dur-

ing World War II.

The community values the library. Even after fire destroyed the structure in 1994, it was moved to temporary quarters and fully restocked within seven months. A reconstructed library, to be completed by the year 2001, will include a 2nd Air Division Association space that is twice as large as the previous room.

It is clearly a source of pride for the veterans who were milling about the Oak Brook Hills Resort on Sunday.

"It's not just a war memorial," said Calvin Shahbaz, 74, of Sacramento, who as a 20-year-old bombardier from Gary when he was shot down east of Berlin. "It's an American memorial. People who are planning a trip to America go in there and look up all sorts of information, and the people who run it tell us it's the most used part of the library."

Unfortunately, the number of attendees at the reunions continues to fall. In 1992, the most popular year of the reunions, nearly 1,600 attended.

Perry Kerr, 72, of Bellville, Texas, is one of five men still living from the nine crew members of the B-24 in which he served as nose gunner.

On Sunday, looking over the emerald green golf course at Oak Brook Hills, he said the people with him appreciate what he means when he talks about the three pairs of gloves he had to wear to compensate for the cold in the airplane and the way the plane shook when flak would burst just outside the three inches of glass surrounding him and his perilous perch.

"We talk about things that probably to the average person don't mean a thing, but to us mean a lot," he said. "We can picture everything . . . Everything." ■

Bronze memorials headed for Smithsonian



Admiral Donald Engen, Director of the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., and warbird sculptor Robert Henderson recently met to finalize arrangements to install six monumental bronze warbird memorials at this most prestigious museum.

Overwhelming support has been shown by veterans of various warplanes, including the B-24, B-17, P-51, P-38, P-47, and P-40. The spring of 1999 should see the first installations, with a projected completion of all bronze memorials by the year 2000.

To join in this last effort to leave your history for millions to see, contact your group vice president, or Robert Henderson Studios at 1-800-305-1738. ■

51ST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

2nd Air Division Association, 8th USAAF

Monday, May 25, 1998 • Oak Brook, Illinois

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Oak Mackey at 10:00 AM. An invocation (by Jim Reeves) and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag were given. There were over 345 members present, constituting a quorum.

B. REPORT OF THE DELEGATE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Bill Beasley, Vice President, 492nd BG, and Committee Chair, declared that this is an official business meeting of the 2nd Air Division Association, a non-political, non-profit combat veterans organization, under IRS Code Section 501 (c) (19). Members attending are participating in official Association duties, and thus may be eligible for certain income tax considerations. However, as the Association cannot offer tax advice, attendees are cautioned to review such matters with their own tax advisor. Mr. Beasley then moved that members in attendance be named official delegates to this 51st annual business meeting. Motion was seconded and carried.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

Secretary David Patterson reviewed the minutes of the General Business Meeting held May 25, 1997 at Irvine, CA, as published in the Spring, 1998 edition of the *Journal*. Mr. Patterson moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

D. REPORT OF THE TREASURER (E. BILL NOTHSTEIN):

1. Financial Report:

The Association's fiscal year ends June 30, thus this is an interim report of the general fund covering the nine months ending March 31, 1998:

Beginning balance, 7-1-97		\$252,488
Receipts	\$106,279	
Expenditures	\$146,209	
Ending balance, 3-31-98		\$238,643

2. Audit Committee Report:

The Audit Committee (Chair, Otey Berkeley, 489th BG), audited the general books of account, fiscal year ending 6-30-97, on 8-20-97, and the convention books on 9-22-97. All books were found to be accurately maintained and in good order.

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the financial and audit reports be approved.

E. REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP, AND CHAIRPERSON, CONVENTIONS (EVELYN COHEN):

1. Membership: Total membership is now 6,447.

2. Conventions:

- a. **1999:** Convention will be held in Austin, Texas, over the Memorial Day weekend. (Note: The Association chooses Memorial Day weekends where possible because of the extremely favorable rates at prime hotels.)
- b. **Year 2000:** Location is not set yet. A southeastern location is desired, and Hilton Head has been mentioned. However, hotel prices there have increased. The Chair and her committee will give further study.

It was moved that the reports be accepted. Seconded, and carried.

F. REPORT OF THE JOURNAL EDITOR (RAY PYTEL):

No special problems. The *Journal* is doing fine. Size will continue at 40 pages, as the next size larger entails significant step-ups in publishing and mailing costs.

The editor receives about ten books per month, with the request that he read them and write a summary of each for publishing in the *Journal*. Mr. Pytel's work load prohibits this. If anyone wants to do this task, he will send the books.

A motion was made to accept the report. Seconded and carried.

F.1 PRESENTATION OF THE ROLL OF HONOR (HONORARY PRESIDENT JORDAN UTTAL):

The original Roll of Honor was an idea conceived by General Kepner, and was produced by the USAF in the early 1950s. It was updated through the years by the 2nd Air Division Association, and was maintained with care

and respect by our British colleagues. Unfortunately, it was destroyed when the Norwich Central Library was ravaged by fire in August, 1994. ✓

It has now been fully recreated in vellum, adorned with colorful artwork, beautifully produced with great skill and affection by British artisans. It now consists of 201 pages (vs 181 pages in the original), and contains the names of all 2nd Air Division persons known to have been killed in combat-related incidents.

Mr. Uttal presented a copy, especially prepared for the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA, to Mary Beth Barnard, Director of History and Archives for that museum. This copy, with body in black and white, contains cover and introductory pages done with attractive artistic treatment. Ms. Barnard accepted it with thanks on behalf of the museum. She said that it will be prominently displayed in a cabinet in the museum's rotunda.

G. REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S GOVERNOR, MEMORIAL TRUST (E. BUD KOORNDYK):

Mr. Koorndyk made opening remarks, and then turned the meeting over to David Hastings, Vice Chairman, Memorial Trust.

Vice Chairman Hastings brought apologies from Trust Chairman Paul King for his absence, and greetings from the Royal Air Force Association (Norfolk branches), as the RAF celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. He brought greetings from the library staff, from the "Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial" organization, and from the Governors of the Trust. The latter includes three younger Governors, completing an outstanding team. The new Governors are:

David Gurney, of a prominent Norwich banking family, bringing financial expertise to the Board (his grandfather was a founding Governor of the Trust, and his father in later years was Chairman of the Trust). ✓

Nick Cooper, Bursar at Norwich School, bringing ties with the educational community.

John Whitehouse (a pilot), brings great business expertise (he chairs companies in widespread engineering, aviation, and recording companies).

The temporary Memorial Library is more used now than the pre-fire one. And, thanks to the efforts and expertise of 2ADA Fulbright Librarian Linda Berube, the Library and the Trust are now on the World Wide Web. Library "visits" via the web are now worldwide, often over 250 per week. ✓

Linda has been an outstanding member of our team, a great ambassador for the 2nd Air Division, the Association, and the United States.

The remaining members of the library staff — Derek Hills, Trust Librarian, and assistants Lesley Fleetwood and Christine Snowden — carry on as the best team ever at the Memorial Library.

The new 2ADA Fulbright Librarian, Judith Jerome, joins us in the fall when Linda's term ends, and we look forward to her carrying on the good work to even higher levels. ✓

The permanent presence of a Fulbright professional at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library gives it a very special status worldwide, and attracts positive attention to the Memorial in all parts of the world.

A newly appointed Trust Finance Subcommittee monitors the progress of the Trust Fund, now over £753,000 sterling, a sum well on the way to the million pounds eventually needed to safely carry the Memorial into the future.

Mr. Uttal commended the stewardship of the Governors, who through the years have increased the original £21,000 raised by the 2nd Air Division in 1945 (plus subsequent donations by the 2nd Air Division Association) to now over £753,000, a remarkable increase.

The construction of the new library is on budget and on schedule for completion near the end of the year 2000. Cost of the Memorial Library portion is £610,000, and it is hoped to be the finest living memorial library in the world. (The cost of the entire new Central Library will be £60 million (the Millennium Commission has furnished £30 million).

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51ST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (continued from page 23)

To ensure that the Memorial Library will survive the uncertainties of future politics, a new agreement between the Governors and the County was recently signed which will protect the Memorial's future.

A appeal to raise £125,000 sterling for the Memorial Library will be described later by Governor John Whitehouse.

To mark the commencement of the rebuilding of the Memorial Library, a stained glass panel is being produced incorporating a U.S. B-24 with its fighter support, displayed over an airfield in the Norfolk countryside. This panel will be dedicated by 2nd Air Division representatives in November, 1998.

Hilary Hammond, Norfolk County Director of Arts and Libraries, Honorary Chief Executive to the Memorial Trust, and staunch supporter of the Memorial Library, is retiring his posts this summer, and will then become a new member of the Board of Governors. Mr. Hammond was able to obtain yearly financial help from the County for the Memorial Library. It is hoped that his deputy, John Creber, will continue to nurture this air of cooperation from the County in support of the Memorial Library.

The British "Friends" organization is well established, its membership growing, its finances secure, and it has developed close liaisons with the Governors and with the 2nd Air Division Heritage League.

Closer Memorial Trust ties with Wymondham College, Norwich location of a U.S. WWII hospital, has excited interest in the Memorial among its 900+ students. A recent government inspection team was greatly impressed with the quality of the school, the pupils' knowledge of WWII, and the strong links the school has with the 2nd Air Division Memorial.

The popular Bure Valley Railway, a mini-rail tourist attraction (it carried over 90,000 passengers in 1997) will name its prime diesel locomotive "2nd Air Division USAAF" in honor of its WWII allies. Leaflets on the train will explain the Division's history in Norfolk and its importance in the WWII war effort.

In closing, Mr. Hastings paid tribute to outgoing 2ADA Governor Bud Koorndyk, and thanked the Association members on behalf of all British attendees for their hospitality and friendship at the convention. He said that the Governors' aim is to make the Memorial the finest in the world.

Next, Mrs. Fran Davies, Trust Governor, added further comments:

ORAL HISTORIES: This year a program of audiotaping Norwich people's recollections of WWII and the 2nd Air Division personnel has begun in earnest, with ten or twelve such interviews already having been done. For instance, Canon McBride, a padre (priest), visited many of the bases during the war, and had vivid recollections of incidents at the bases and of the USAAF personnel manning them. Another person, only fifteen at the time, taped many recollections of Rackheath and the base there.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS: Mrs. Davies and Fulbright Librarian Linda Berube gave programs in several high schools to teach the younger generation about America and the 2nd Air Division in East Anglia. Also, Mrs. Davies commended Governor Hastings on his ongoing work of educating Wymondham College students regarding the USA and the 2nd Air Division.

Next to speak was Mr. John Whitehouse, one of the new Governors. He spoke of the appeal to be launched in November to raise £125,000 for the enlargement of the Memorial Library (which amount will be matched by the Millennium Commission, thus the result will be a £250,000 benefit). (Note: Already, £68,000 has been pledged in Britain; Paul Getty, U.S. philanthropist, has pledged £5,000; and the British "Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial" has pledged an additional £5,000.)

Mr. Whitehouse displayed a proposed appeal leaflet, whose purpose is not only to promote the fund drive, but also to explain and promote the Memorial Trust, the 2nd Air Division, and its Association. He believes the appeal will be oversubscribed, in which case the overage will be placed in the capital fund of the Memorial Trust.

Mr. Whitehouse also spoke of the proposed stained glass panel to be dedicated in November (as described earlier by Mr. Hastings). Mr. Whitehouse added that the panel carries a quotation by Pericles (431 BC) to the effect that "freedom is only for those who have the courage to defend it."

Mrs. Judith Jerome, Fulbright selectee (from 100 applicants) thanked all for their hospitality, explained that she brings to the Memorial Library a background of widespread experience in library work, and pledged to contribute to the best of her ability to furthering the work of the Memorial.

I. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (OAK MACKEY):

President Mackey thanked the membership for the great honor of serving the year as President, a year that was quiet, devoid of controversy, yet very productive. The project to place a bronze B-24 statue at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, was completed during his term (see below).

J. BRONZE B-24 REPLICA AT THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY:

Mr. Neal Sorensen described the evolution of the project:

1. A non-profit corporation ("B-24 Groups Memorial, Inc.") was incorporated by *Journal* Editor Ray Pytel on October 27, 1997 to receive tax-free donations for the project. The corporation received temporary IRS 501 (c) (3) status in February 1998, and the final OK will come after the usual mandatory waiting period of eight months.
2. Those who formed the unit, worked diligently to raise funds, and oversee its progress to a successful conclusion, were: Neal Sorensen, Ray Pytel, and Group Vice Presidents Jay Jeffries (453rd BG), Alfred Asch (93rd BG), and Felix Leeton (389th BG).
3. As a result of the efforts of these people, the entire \$175,000 was collected by March 20, 1998. The 2nd Air Division Association gave \$25,000, and members of all 2nd Air Division groups gave. In addition, donations were received from other units, including those from the 5th, 13th, and 15th U.S. Air Forces, the 3rd Strategic Air Depot, and the Southern California regional members of the 2nd Air Division Association. Funds are still coming in; any overage will be given to the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah.
4. The dedication of the bronze replica will be at 10:00 AM, September 25, 1998 at the Air Force Academy. The Air Force Band will perform, and the program will include other related activities. Mr. Sorensen has hotel registration forms and information for those who wish to attend.

K. SELECTION OF CANDIDATE FOR 2ND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE, BOARD OF GOVERNORS, MEMORIAL TRUST (PRESIDENT MACKEY):

After nine years of service, Mr. E. (Bud) Koorndyk is resigning this post as of July 3, 1998, and the Executive Committee had voted Mr. Charles Walker of the 445th BG to be its choice of candidate for this office. Procedures call for approval by the general membership, after which the candidate's name must be submitted to the Board of Governors, who have the final say to approve or disapprove the choice.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that Mr. Walker's name be submitted to the Governors as the Association's nominee. Mr. Walker thanked everyone.

K.1 ELECTION OF THE BALANCE OF OFFICER POSITIONS (NEAL SORENSEN, CHAIR):

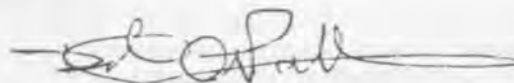
The following slate was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee in their recent session, and was now presented to the membership. After asking, and ascertaining that there were no nominations from the floor, the recommended slate of officers was unanimously elected for the coming year's term (1998-1999): President - Earl Wassom (466th BG), Executive Vice President - F.C. (Hap) Chandler (491st BG), Vice President Membership - Evelyn Cohen (HQ), Treasurer - E. (Bill) Nothstein (466th BG), Secretary - David Patterson (445th BG), Vice President Communications - Gene Hartley (389th BG).

Incoming President Wassom thanked all for their support. One of his aims will be to foster Association participation by the younger generation.

Charles Walker presented Oak Mackey with a plaque in thanks for his past year's work as Association leader. Mr. Mackey accepted with thanks.

Mr. Hap Chandler came forward and thanked all for electing him Executive Vice President.

The meeting was adjourned by President Mackey at 11:15 AM.



David G. Patterson, Secretary
2nd Air Division Association, 8th USAAF

"LONDON TOWN" FROM THE TOP OF A BUS!

BY ANNE SOWARD • REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF *IN BRITAIN*, THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH TOURIST AUTHORITY, JUNE 1998. FOR SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION CALL (800) 783-4903 (USA ONLY).

There are over 17,000 in London — bus stops, that is. When you consider that there are only 267 underground stations, attempting to see London by tube starts to look rather limited.

The first buses ran in London in 1829 but they were drawn by horses, not powered by engines. Motor buses first invited people all aboard in 1905 and, since then, over 150 billion have taken them up on it. However, until 1925 double decker buses were not allowed to have covered tops. If it was raining, the only protection for a passenger was a sheet of canvas fixed to the seat. Nostalgia always encourages us to mourn what we once moaned about, and what you can't fail to notice if you are anywhere in central London are the open-top tour buses that breeze around the major attractions (though if it rains now, they use closed buses). I must admit that, as a local, I have always largely ignored them, brushing them off as gimmicks for the gullible. But when a friend suggested with a sheepish look in his eye that he'd always wanted to go on one, I decided to humour him.

Two main companies run sightseeing tours of London — Original London Sightseeing Tour and Big Bus Tour. There's not much difference between them — both run a "hop on, hop off" service on a selection of routes. You pay one price and your ticket is valid all day on all routes. Both cover all the major sights and attractions and buses are frequent. The only real differences are that the Original London runs eight different language commentaries — and the colour. While the Original buses are a more traditional red and white, the Big Bus buses are maroon and cream, which, in our case, was the rather pathetic clincher in deciding which to take.

My friend thought maroon and cream was prettier, so we hopped on at Haymarket (stop 6 on the Red Route) and climbed up to a sun-drenched upper deck. We passed through Trafalgar Square where Julian, our "live guide," almost fell overboard pointing out the smallest police station in the country — "and now where the Trafalgar Square sweeper keeps his brushes" — and headed down towards Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament. We crossed the Thames at Lambeth Bridge, guarded by two enormous pineapples on poles, and swung round to pass the Museum of Garden History. This, Julian told us, houses the tomb of Captain Bligh of *The Bounty*, at which point he leapt up and started brandishing an imaginary sword, sending my friend and I into fits of giggles. On past Lambeth Palace, the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, we discovered a magnificent advantage to the open-top bus when we got a cracking panoramic view of the Palace gardens, not normally open to the public.

We first hopped off at stop 11 for London's new aquarium to spend a therapeutic time in marine company — rather like Dr. Who's



Tardis, you wonder how such an ordinary exterior as that of the aquarium could harbour such an out of the ordinary magical world.

Next stop, we decided, was a cafe in Covent Garden, originally the convent garden of Westminster Abbey, hence the name. Hopping off at stop 13 on the Piazza's edge, we were drawn like flies to the centre of activity — the Market. A quick visit to the London Transport Museum to tread in the footsteps of bus travellers of a century ago made us mighty relieved to board our now seemingly super-luxurious Big Bus for the next leg — into the City of London itself. (To know when you have entered the City, lean over the side of the bus as you pass the Law Courts and when you see a column with a dragon in the middle of the road, you are inside.)

We headed down Fleet Street, once the second home (after the pub) of hard-nosed hacks of the newspaper industry, before being blessed with the magnificent sight ahead of St. Paul's Cathedral. St. Paul's can often be seen from all over London, but close up it takes your breath away. There is a stop (14) here, but the top of the bus is also a great place to capture the moment on film.

We continued through the City, a pleasantly silent and deserted place on the weekend (and, naturally, the reverse is true on a weekday), to pass the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street or her more formal title, the Bank of England.

At stop 15, we got off to discover the delights of the London Bridge area. Once rather run down and of interest only to its daily workers, it now boasts the London Dungeon, HMS *Belfast*, the new Globe Theatre, the Britain at War Museum, the Clink Prison, and the Herb Garrett Operating Theatre, as well

as Hays Galleria, a beautiful conversion of one of London's most famous wharves.

We feasted fantastically at The George Inn, which, with its cobbled courtyard, overhanging galleries, dark panelling and creaking floorboards, is Dickensian enough for even the most hardened cynic. Full from lunch, we gave the rest of the stops on the journey a miss but just leaned over the bus rails to enjoy the sights, and our jovial guide's matching stories, from a seat in the sun, away from the street bustle: Tower Bridge's impressive machinery; the Tower of London, scene of good and deadly deeds; the Thames Embankment at full throttle; Westminster Abbey; Buckingham Palace; Belgravia and Monopoly moneyspinners Park Lane; and Mayfair, home to the very rich.

For a stroll in Hyde Park (which after our big lunch we probably could have done with), hop off at stops 24 or 1. We sat back and enjoyed our "Mr. Jovial's" anecdotes before giving the final stop, Piccadilly Circus, a miss to hop off at the Ritz Hotel for a pint in the bar.

The truth is, of course, that although both of us had a fantastic day of fun, neither of us is a stranger to London, and we see many of the main attractions of this city daily. If you want to get the best image of all that London is and has, there is no place better than from the front seat of the top deck (which, by the way, is the most popular seat, so you may have to fight for it) of a London scheduled bus service.

So, in the spirit of the adventure, I picked up an *All London Bus Guide* and chose three end destinations I didn't know. My first day out was a trip to Greenwich in southeast London, intended site for our Millennium celebrations. I boarded bus 188 at Aldwych (although it begins its journey at Euston) and headed over

(continued on page 26)

LONDON TOWN (continued from page 25)

Waterloo Bridge. The route is a diverse one, as it takes in both major attractions such as the South Bank, the Old Vic Theatre, and Tower Bridge, as well as the multi-cultural, multi-racial, poorer but colourful areas of Lambeth, Elephant & Castle and Deptford.

At the end of the line, Greenwich is a charmingly compact district with a fishing village atmosphere, probably because it's right on the river and home to the *Cutty Sark*, the Maritime Museum and the Royal Naval College. It also has a great market and, of course, the Royal Observatory in Greenwich Park with the Greenwich meridian line running through it. If you visit nothing else in Greenwich, go here for the transfixing views of distant central London. The journey back is even easier — just return to the same bus stop, wait about 5 minutes, and three 188 buses should turn up at the same time.

Bohemian Hampstead in north London, home to writers, artists and thespians, was my destination for day two. I boarded bus 168, again at Aldwych (it starts at Elephant and Castle) and headed northwards to Bloomsbury and Russell Square, literally London's pulsating heart. After the rather dark and dull area around Euston, the explosion of colour and carnival activity in Camden is captivating. There's all sorts to see in Camden, and it's more than worth getting off on the high street to join the melting-pot crowd walking to and from the Market and Camden Lock.

Join the same bus at the Stables Market bus stop and head on up Haverstock Hill to Belsize Park with its row of darling pavement cafes, packed on sunny weekend afternoons with cappuccino-drinking arty types. Before you get to Hampstead High Street, the bus turns off down Pond Street to take you alongside the Heath. From here take a strenuous ramble over the heath for fantastic views from Parliament Hill and the delights of neo-classical Kenwood House via the Magdala Tavern on South Hill Park — here Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged in Britain, shot her lover and the bullet holes are still visible. Or walk up Keats Grove to visit John Keats's villa, then turn into the high street and shop till you drop in to the Louis Patisserie for coffee and cakes. Again, journey back by catching 168 from the same bus stop.

Crystal Palace was perhaps the rather surprising choice for my final day out. Bus 3 leaves from Oxford Circus, but I accosted the conductor with my one-day travelcard at Trafalgar Square. The bus heads down Whitehall and over Lambeth Bridge, close to the Tate Gallery. From here it passes through the dark splendour of Kennington and its decayingly decadent Georgian town houses and, just after turning into Kennington Road, is the bus stop for the Imperial War Museum. The Oval cricket ground soon comes up on your right before you turn into Brixton Road.

Nowhere in London is more culturally cosmopolitan than Brixton, and if you like street markets, hop off here for a wander around the markets of Electric Avenue, so called because it was the first street in London

to be lit with electricity. Unlike Camden, which has become a magnet to the hip, the trendy, the musically inclined, the student, who all want to become its residents, Brixton is a place of long-term locals, people who have grown up here and stayed. By this point you should be able to see the Crystal Palace BBC transmitter tower in the distance.

The bus continued up Effra Road (along the line of the river Effra, once navigable but now one of London's lost rivers) and skirts Brockwell Park passing the Lido should you fancy a swim. Passing through the suburbanly refined Dulwich Village, you then begin the climb to Crystal Palace, its "Eiffel" tower ever growing in the distance. With the original Crystal Palace (which was built for the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park and afterwards moved lock-stock and glass to this hillside site in south London) long since lost to a devastating fire in the 1930s, the area is not in itself a place of much beauty, but make the trip for two reasons. Crystal Palace Park is well worth exploring for its landscape of discarded decadence and its 140-year-old Dinosaur Theme Park. There are good views from the top of the park, but the second reason for coming is the views you get from Church Road. I have seen many distant views of London, and none compares to these — down each side street with its homely terrace of houses flashes the vast white city in breathtaking contrast. It's the stuff of award-winning photographs. There are a few restaurants to sample at the top of Anerley Hill, then, to return to central London, you can either catch bus 3 or for a change, try bus 2 to Victoria and Marylebone Stations.

For an adventurous yet cheap way to see London, nothing beats the local bus, but if you want something even more exciting, you could

try one of the luxury sightseeing tours run by Evan Evans. Their wild and wonderful bus excursions include "London's Gangland" for a close shave with the darker side of London, "Bus Trip to Murder" (with fish & chip supper), or if you are feeling reckless, take the traditional double decker "Party Bus" for a Night Club Tour.

One last thing. Since 1964, London Transport have been gradually fading out their distinctive bus conductor services. The cry of "All Aboard. Fares, please." may soon be a thing of the past as now only 10 percent of buses still use them, and incidentally, three or four of these services have singing conductors. So why not catch one before they become the stuff of nostalgia, too.

Ed. Note: "You've never been to town until you've been in London town." True 55 years ago and true today, so see it again for the first time! ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

London Travel Information Centres are mostly open daily for full information about London transport, including maps, leaflets and timetables. You can also buy travelcards, bus passes and tickets for sightseeing tours and attractions. There are centres at **Euston, Victoria, Liverpool Street and West Croydon** stations and at the following underground stations: **Kings Cross, Oxford Circus, Piccadilly Circus, Heathrow, Hammersmith, and St. James Park**. For 24-hour personal advice on planning your route, fares and timetables, call London Travel Information, tel: (0171) 222 1234.

POOP FROM GROUP 467 (continued from page 8)

tests for surgery to repair a herniated disc on June 2nd. I have been toughing it out on very painful legs and I will be glad to get the old back fixed.

The 467th now has 65 widows in our Association. We have lost 31 members already this year, but we do have 12 new members. The attrition of the membership has increased each of the last three years. Convention attendance will be an indication of the age and health factors that will have an increasing impact on future conventions.

Following is a copy of a letter I received from General Buck Shuler, CEO of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum, about the installation of the B-24 model. A photo of "Witchcraft" at the museum appears on the front cover of this issue.

Dear Walt:

First of all, it was great seeing you again during your visit to the museum to deliver the "Witchcraft" B-24. I enjoyed our conversations and appreciated you coming all the way across the country to ensure the safe arrival of the model.

It was my pleasure on behalf of our Board of Directors and staff to accept this magnificent B-24 model and to now express our appreciation to you and the Association membership for this thoughtful donation. The "Witchcraft" will serve to enhance museum visitors' understanding of the significant contributions of the B-24 forces in achieving victory in WWII. As usual, the 467th comes through like champs in supporting the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. Thanks so very much for donating this truly impressive model.

I hope your return trip to California was both pleasant and uneventful. I look forward to your next visit.

Sincerely yours,

Lt. Gen. E.G. Shuler, Jr., USAF, Ret.

Chairman & CEO, The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum ■

CHECKING UP ON THE BRITS — OR WHY WE FEEL “AT HOME” IN ENGLAND!

BY ANTONIO BERTAPELLE (445TH)

Since my wife Lois and I found the Second Air Division Association, we have made three trips to Norwich with the 2ADA. We were treated as veritable heroes on those occasions, but we were curious as to what it would be like to visit on our own, when the country hadn't been invaded by several hundred other Yanks. Would it be the same if we showed up with no public announcement or fanfare? We finally took action to find out.

After two weeks spent mainly in the Norwich environs, we now have an answer, and that answer is a resounding YES!

Our initial plans were to stay with friends in Norwich and rely on them for most of our transportation needs, but at the last minute, sickness in their family forced us to make some drastic changes. We had planned on going to the Tibenham Church on Sunday, where we were to meet Evan and Nell Harris. A last minute letter to them before we left alerted them to our problem. After arriving in Norwich, we called them and Evan said they would come in to Norwich, pick us up, and then bring us back to our hotel at the end of the day. Before Sunday arrived, a call from Evan informed us that Phyllis DuBois, who served in our Memorial Library for so long, was driving into Norwich to pick us up and the five of us would spend the day together. The day went perfectly. Evan had informed the church that we were coming, so we had a very nice welcome. After the service, we all went to the Gliding Club and had a nice lunch. Driving up to the clubhouse, we were surprised, and pleased, to see the Stars and Stripes flying alongside the Union Jack, in our honor. After a visit with other club members who were there that day, we all climbed into the Harris automobile and he drove us to the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum at Flixton, Bungay. The 2ADA is represented quite extensively in this museum, and there is a well-kept memorial to the 446th BG, again with the two flags flying.

Later during our two week stay, we were invited by David Hastings and his lovely wife, Jean, to their home for dinner. David acted as our chauffeur on the trip to their beautiful home in the Broads country. On the way, he took us to the industrial park being developed on the former Rackheath Airfield. One of the old airfield hangars is still there, being used for storage, so I was able to show Lois what the hangar I worked in at Tibenham looked like. There also was a very nice memorial. It was lacking flags, though. David said they were being visited by flag robbers. We then went on to the Hastings' home. Driving up to the house, we passed a very elaborate flagpole, and by now, we weren't a bit surprised to see our Stars and Stripes flying beside the Union

Jack. Not surprised, but certainly appreciative of the fact that David had thought to welcome us that way. The decor in their back garden was unusual, to say the least. Mounted on a steel post was a Spitfire model, built to the scale of six inches to the foot. It looks impressive from the air, too. We spotted it as we left Norwich Airport on our way home. We certainly would have to give Jean four stars for the dinner she treated us to, and the after-dinner entertainment was unusual and very enjoyable. The four of us and a large amount of equipment were loaded into two cars, and we set out to a meeting of a chapter of the Royal Air Force Veterans Club. While David was setting up the equipment, we were being introduced to many former RAF personnel, many who were our age, and many young enough to be our grandchildren. We were welcomed by all. David was providing the entertainment that night, a wide-screen slide show of the first cross-country flight he and Dave Patterson had made, San Francisco to New York and back to Frisco. We enjoyed it as much as the members did, and they collected a nice little sum which David passed on to our Memorial Fund.

During all this time, Evan had been trying, with no success, to find us a ride to the new American Air Museum at Duxford. Because he was overseeing a crew of people resurfacing one of the runways at Tibenham, he felt he had to be there because the job was supposed to be finished that week. Mother Nature smiled on us and gave us a little extra rain, which delayed completion and gave Evan a chance to go AWOL for a day. He and Nell drove from Thetford to Norwich, picked us up, turned around and drove right back past their home and on to Duxford. We had a wonderful time in the new museum. We had been following the construction of it, had seen all the pictures they sent out and read all the glowing accounts, but finally seeing the actual place surpassed all we had prepared ourselves for. The building is beautiful, the displays are well presented, and we compliment the Imperial War Museum for what they have done for us. I did ask how they were going to get the Liberator inside when they get it. No problem, was the answer, we will just dismantle it and then reassemble it inside. I believe they will do it!

On our last Friday there, some friends we had met on one of our former trips drove from their home in Northamptonshire to pick us up and take us home for the weekend. Their home, in a village named Irthlingborough, is in the heart of First Air Division country. (You know, they flew the tail draggers.) We did a lot of sightseeing, saw several air base memorials and met people there who maintained the memorials and kept in touch with Americans,

similar to our friends around Norwich. The big difference was that each bomb group acted separately. As one man told us, he had asked why they didn't have combined reunions, and their answer was that if they did, they would only visit with people from their own group, so why be bothered with all those extras? I tried to tell them how we feel about our "extras," but I don't think they could understand. I guess you have to live it to appreciate what we have. (They would also need someone like Evelyn Cohen to set things up, and that someone would be hard to find.)

All good things must come to an end. We are back home, nearly recovered from our jet lag, and still wondering how we managed to be so fortunate as to have so many good friends who went way beyond the call of duty to see that Lois and I had an enjoyable time. Being invited to stay in our friends' home was wonderful. Evan Harris put in a lot of time arranging visits for us and driving us around. Having him and Nell, Phyllis DuBois, David and Jean Hastings, and the other folks in Norwich and Irthlingborough as friends has certainly given us a lot of happiness we never expected to have at this stage of our lives. Who would have thought, back in 1943 when I first arrived at Tibenham, that all this would result? ■

2ADA Annual Golf Tournament

The 2ADA annual golf outing, organized by Kurt and Vicki Warning (466th BG), was held on Saturday, May 22, at the Oak Brook Hills Resort. A total of 37 golfers participated on a beautiful spring day. The winners in the men's division received a dozen golf balls each, and a \$50.00 donation was made in their name as directed by the winner. The winners in the ladies division received engraved candy dishes.

Congratulations to the winners:

Low Gross

Men - Arthur Cromarty (453rd)

Ladies - Mary Lorenz (466th)

Low Net

Men - Fred Dale (445th)

Ladies - Bea Nykamp (93rd)

Closest to the Pin

Men - Henry Nykamp (93rd)

Ladies - Vicki Warning (466th)

Most Accurate Drive

Men - Aud Risley (446th)

Ladies - Jean Myers (445th)



392nd B.G.

BY J. FRED THOMAS

Another quarter has passed. A lot of activity, but how to report it in the confines of space and still make it of interest to those who read? Some don't, you know. Regardless, we will have a go.

The major event since the last report was the annual 2ADA convention at Oak Brook, IL where we spent the week of May 20-27. We are not to dwell on it since it will be reported elsewhere. Members have flown West; read about that in *Folded Wings*. We have new members; read that under *New Members*. Most everything is elsewhere.

We did have a good convention, however. Our 392nd BG attendees' names are listed in this issue (see page 21), but at the risk of censure, we have to mention how much everyone appreciated Blanche Keilman and her son, Gary, being with us. We had 48 persons at our group reunion dinner. We believe it was an enjoyable occasion. We tried to have everyone speak his piece. The wit and repartee evoked from the participants made for a fun evening, despite some failings on the part of the emcee.

Again, we had a very nice hospitality room which was supplied and tended by Teddy Egan and Ernie Barber in their inimitable manner. Barney Glettler and another or so lent welcomed hands. Enjoyed by all was the ample supply of memorabilia and videos brought by Ernie. A warm and family atmosphere prevailed; too bad that more of our members, for whatever reason, couldn't have been there with us. In that vein, our good friend from Belgium, Luc Dewez, planned to be with us, but sadly he had to cancel because of a serious health problem. We missed you, Luc.

In addition to the required 2ADA meetings, the business meetings of the 392nd BG and the 392nd BGMA were held. Numerous items of interest were discussed and voted upon. My term as your group VP was extended another year. An honor, but your help and cooperation will determine the degree of success attained on your behalf.

Other than the convention, it has been a busy season. A lot of e-mail and phone calls have come our way from across the States and from Britain. People going to Wendling; people seeking people; combat records; group material archiving; and people finding our address and saying hello. Mike of Wendling exchanged information with us. Glad to have a contact there.

Then, there was the annual chore of contacting those who hadn't paid the annual 2ADA dues. We had nineteen this year. After our letters, we hope most will have reupped. Regretfully, one of the nineteen was Cleon M. Barber, who flew West in March. Our sympathies go to his family.

Quite a lot of attention was given to the "Bronze B-24" matter. That, too, will be reported elsewhere, but we are happy the program went so well. While other groups probably gave more, the 392nd BG gave generously and many of our members were very cooperative. At last count we will have 22 members' names on the 392nd BG space on the bronze plaque adjacent to the replica of the B-24 at the Air Force Academy. Many other names will be in the Book of Remembrance there at the Academy which will list the names of donors to the project. We look forward to having a good representative group at the dedication of the Bronze B-24 in the Honor Court of the Academy on September 25th.

We were pleased to hear from our old friend Bill McGinley recently. We contacted him after some of the British were dealing with the names of a 392nd BG crew on a plaque commemorating those who died when they crashed while avoiding a town. Bill's name is on that plaque. Either that is an error or we had two Wm. C. McGinleys in the group. The Bill we know was being kept in a safe house in Belgium by the Belgian underground after bailing out there in January 1944. The crash memorialized on the plaque happened in August 1944. We doubt we had two Wm. C. McGinleys. Can anyone shed any light on why we have what seems to be a conflict of records? After talking with Bill, he sent us records and news articles which we will attend in future reports. One report was in French. I can't read much French, but enough so I could tell that they reported Bill's plane as a B-17. Can we never have due respect?

Another appreciated contribution was received. While at the convention, Art Olsen gave me an article entitled "Never a Dull Moment at Wendling" which he had written. Art was a private, corporal and sergeant in S-2 with the group for the duration. We have been asking for articles from our ground support troops. Perhaps Art's article will be of interest to those at Wendling, especially our support groups. We have sent the report to the *Journal* for publication (please see page 16).

Very late in the quarter, we were forwarded a letter by the editor. It was from 2ADA member Walter M. Bell, 578th Squadron, who reported his concern about the lack of respect and publicity accorded the B-24 by the Smithsonian and the Postal Service. He had written his Senator and Congressman, something all of us should consider. Further, Mr. Bell reported the loss of four of his crew over the past few years. We aren't sure why these deaths weren't reported earlier, but Mr. Bell would like his friends to know he lost his copilot Clifford M. Pope in December 1979; his radio operator Charles J. Gordon in October 1995; his navigator Rollin W. Cole in November 1995; and his engineer John H. Morse in April 1997. Mr. Morse had been a 2nd Air Division Association member through 1996.

In sum, we thank you sincerely for your support and cooperation. Milepost 79 was

passed May 26. The cards and good wishes from many of several groups and nationalities were and are truly appreciated. We are at your service. Any input directed our way, pro or con, will be appreciated and duly considered.

E-mail: bomberb24@aol.com ■

Who Packs Your Parachute?

BY JIM H. REEVES
GROUP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

I recently read an interesting article written by Charles Plumb entitled "Who Packs Your Parachute?"

Many, many 2nd Air Division personnel wore parachutes while on active duty. This article can reflect upon our active duty days as well as our daily lives since that age and time. The message is simple, yet very thought-provoking.

In his article, Charles Plumb tells about his experiences. As a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam, he flew 75 successful combat missions before being shot down by a surface-to-air missile. He spent the next six years in a Communist prison. He survived and now lectures about his experiences.

One day Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant when a man approached him, saying, "I know you. You're Plumb! You flew from the carrier Kitty Hawk! You were shot down!"

"How in the world do you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute. I guess it worked," the man replied.

Plumb relates that he didn't sleep much that night. He thought about the man who spent hours down in the bowels of a ship carefully folding the silks of the chutes. He wondered what the man might have looked like in a uniform. Had he seen him? Had he ever noticed him? He wondered how many times he had not offered a smile nor said good morning, for you see, he was an officer and a fighter pilot, and this man was just a sailor.

We all have our parachutes — our physical parachutes, our mental parachutes, our emotional parachutes, and our spiritual parachutes. It's important for us to realize that we don't weather storms by ourselves. There are others — some we know, some we don't — who help us survive.

Each day of our lives we should appreciate the "unknown" person or persons who packs our parachutes. ■

Sometimes Good Omens Come True!

BY DON WHITEFIELD (44TH, 445TH, 492ND)

When our crew, one of 72, left Harrington, Kansas with the 492nd Bomb Group via the southern route, I soon participated in two events which could be indicative of good things to come.

The first occurred shortly after we checked in at our new base and were assigned to our quonset hut. I managed to get the bunk on the side of the entrance door. This gave me a little privacy not offered in the open bay of the rest of the hut.

We had just gone to sleep when the air raid siren went off. The crew in the open bay ran out the door to the air raid shelter, but not me. In the dark, I jumped in the wrong direction and hit the outer wall, fell back on my bed, and down onto the floor. Confused, I got up and ran into the end of the building. By the time I got to the door, the buzz bomb had exploded just outside the base and the all-clear had sounded.

A little bravado was necessary to cover my stupidity, so I stood in the doorway and pointed in the direction where the bomb had exploded. It would have been a different story if the bomb had hit our hut. (I wonder if they thought I was brave or stupid when in fact I was just lucky.)

Our first mission was to totally occupied Belfort, France, on the Swiss border. Our fear-

less leader, the plane commander, could not identify the target on the first run, so we circled the target two more times before dropping the bombs! Later we learned that more than one pass is not recommended if you want to live long, but our leader was striving for a good bombing record. It wasn't any good for our plane; we lost one engine over the target, and on the way back we could not get full power on a second engine. We fell out of formation and started losing altitude. We threw out machine guns, ammo, and anything else that we could break loose.

A couple of P-51s picked us up about half way across France, but soon had to leave us. We went over Pas de Calais at about 10,000 feet and started losing altitude faster over water. We hit the English coast just slightly east of the Isle of Wight.

As the navigator, I located the closest RAF field and was trying to get the pilot on the intercom to give him a new heading. No answer. I got up in the astrodome and made hand motions. The pilot signaled that my mike was unplugged. I connected, and he told me to get out and go back to the waist. The bombardier had already left.

I dropped everything and hurried through the bomb bay. I found the crew in a ditching position — two forward and three aft — back

to back. One slot was left for me in the forward group. I had no sooner sat down and locked arms, when we hit. The ball turret acted as a plow and threw dirt all over us, but our pilot, Web Uebelhoer, made one hell of a beautiful wheels-up landing in open farmland. Not one of us was hurt, but we did make one hell of a furrow!

When the plane stopped, we jumped up, hurried out the waist windows, and started running. About 100 yards away, we stopped and looked back. The pilot was waving us back. We went running back, and he asked us to throw dirt on the engines. We did. There was no fire, since we were out of gas, but it kept us busy.

The pilot, copilot, engineer, and radio man found out that they were trapped on the flight deck due to a twisted fuselage. The RAF then brought a crane and got them out.

Tubes and aluminum were all over my work area inside the plane. If I had been there at the time of the crash, I would have been perforated like a pin cushion!

After surviving the buzz bomb and crashing on our first mission, I felt I had it made! Sure enough, I did. No more close misses. I even survived the 445th's Kassel disaster without a scratch!

Oh, man, these *were* good omens! ■

Speaking of winning the war "single-handedly," you just gotta "hand it" to this guy!

REPRINTED FROM "STARS AND STRIPES"

A LIBERATOR BASE, MAY 19, 1944 — Without a parachute, Lt. Edward M. Gibbens, of Mountain Home, Idaho, hung precariously by one hand in the open belly of a bomber high over the Channel for almost five minutes, then pulled himself back to safety.

Gibbens, bombardier on the Liberator named "Sweating It Out," fell out on the way home from a recent raid, after "chopping" bombs off the damaged rack with a fire axe.

The bomber ran into terrific flak over a French airfield, and was shot up so badly that the bombs wouldn't go down. It had 87 flak holes in the framework, all four engines were damaged, and the hydraulic system was shot out, meaning no brakes and an inevitable explosion in the event of a crash landing.

While the pilot, Lt. Robert T. Hall, of Wayne, IN, struggled to keep the plane up, Gibbens shed his parachute, took the fire axe, and squeezed into the narrow catwalk to knock the bombs loose. The first one burst the bomb bay doors wide.

Bracing himself against a 100-mile gale, Gibbens knocked the rest free, one by one. As the last came free, Gibbens slipped on the catwalk, slippery with hydraulic fluid. He grabbed the bomb rack with one hand, holding the axe in the other. One slip of his fingers meant he'd go hurtling thousands of feet to death in the Channel.

Slowly he pulled himself back up to where he could regain his footing.

Realizing he'd accomplished the feat with just one hand, Gibbens' first words were, "And I didn't lose the axe." ■

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S.A. VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

At this year's convention marking the 50th year of our Second Air Division Association, U.S. 8th Air Force, our Executive Committee, representing our 7,000 World War II members still living, paused to pay tribute to those brave and patriotic U.S. Vietnam veterans, both living and dead, who so gallantly fought for freedom and justice in that conflict.

Our Association of World War II combat veterans of the air war over Europe "Thank You" and "Salute" you.

For the Association and its members,



Oak Mackey, President
Second Air Division Association

The 448th Speaks



BY CATER LEE

At this writing it won't be very long until veterans of the 448th Bomb Group Association head to Norwich and Seething, England for the last time as a group.

We are becoming older and more feeble. Steps are harder to climb and some of us enjoy a little "siesta" after our noon meal.

Also, for some it will be the eighth time they have returned back to Seething visiting our old air base, beginning in 1975 when some of us joined the 2nd Air Division Association but held a brief, separate get-together at the base where some of us met James Hoseason, Dennis Kirkham, and a few others at the old Seething base where they (the British) were having a "Fly-In" and were scheduled to have a B-17, but weather interfered. Young ladies and gentlemen were selling items to collect money to restore a B-17.

The next return to England, again meeting with the 2nd Air Division Association, was in 1979. We returned again in 1983 when Leroy Engdahl was elected group VP (he served seven years until 1990). On this return, we were greeted with "yellow ribbons" on a tree near the clubhouse of the "Waveney Flying Club" and given pieces of runway 25, beautifully mounted on a wooden four by six inch varnished board. This was a very touching gesture by Ralph Whitehead. His wife Minnie (now deceased) said to Leroy Engdahl, "Wouldn't it be great if we [Americans and British] could restore the dilapidated old WWII control tower?" Both sides started work, and in 1987 the restored tower was dedicated, with a large attendance of British and Americans. The tower has served as a memorial museum and is heavily attended each summer.

Many people have had a hand in the success of the museum, but five dedicated local area British friends donated their labor, the American 448th veterans took up collections in the States, and it's amazing what has been done.

A monument with four special B-24s engraved in each corner was dedicated in 1983 and placed near the Waveney Flying Club headquarters, and since then another has been dedicated near the restored control tower.

The success of the Tower Museum is greatly due to the efforts of one Pat Everson, who has ramrodded the collection of stories of 448th veterans with a wonderful collection of pictures, etc. of those dreadful, trying days when many 448th veterans never returned.

On each of our returns we hold a memorial service at the restored control tower, and also at the Village Church with a memorial wreath placed at the monument at the church and at the tower.

This also includes a visit to the American Cemetery at Madingley near Cambridge and the laying of a wreath at a memorial ceremony there. Then on a return trip, a stop-over at the Duxford Air Museum for a visit to see the WWII planes from the U.S. and Britain, see-

ing many planes in flying condition. Often one is in flight during our visit. We return to Norwich for a banquet where several special British friends are our guests.

We hate to say this will be the last organized group reunion to England, but the 128 veterans, wives, family and friends will make the most of this farewell visit.

We wish all a very healthy and happy remaining time on our planet.

Thanks for everything. Cheers! ■

THE NEW STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND MUSEUM

The SAC Museum is committed to preserving the memory of the vital role SAC played in maintaining world peace, and preserving and exhibiting the history of the Strategic Air Command for future generations.

LOCATION: Exit 426 off Interstate 80, 30 miles west of Omaha, Nebraska, next to Mahoney State Park.

HOURS: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, 7 days a week. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION: \$6.00 for adults; \$5.00 for seniors; \$3.00 for children ages 5-12 (children under 5 are free). Group rates available with advance reservations.

VISITOR SERVICES: The visitor enters the 300,000 square foot building, larger than six football fields, through a breathtaking glass atrium which connects two enormous airplane hangars. The atrium features the 60,000 pound SR-71 poised in flight. The museum features an interactive children's gallery, a restoration gallery with planes in various stages of assembly and restoration, two hangars that showcase planes in the air and on the ground, a 200-seat theater, a museum store and a snack bar.

CHILDREN'S GALLERY: This area includes a sit-in aircraft with controls and audio; an interactive Weather Navigation Station showing satellite weather images; and a hands-on exhibit of the basics of flight and navigation. A section on the Cold War and the 1950-1960 era bomb shelter includes a short "Duck & Cover" film, and oral histories in the 1960s schoolroom will acquaint the young visitor with this period in our history.

RESTORATION GALLERY: The upper atrium provides a panoramic view of the Restoration Gallery, and the visitor can watch museum staff as they restore the museum's planes to pristine condition.

HANGAR A AND HANGAR B: Two cavernous areas contain planes on the ground and suspended from the ceilings, including a B-52, B-36, B-29, and many others, even a Soviet MIG-21.

THEATER: The multimedia theater seats 200 and is equipped with a stage, video, overhead and advanced computer technology.

MUSEUM STORE: The store offers mementos of a memorable visit to the museum.

SNACK BAR: "Plane Food" offers the visitor a light lunch or snack, ice cream, soft drinks, and a fine view of the Restoration Gallery.

For more information, please call The SAC Museum, 1-800-358-5029. ■

Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial: Lots to Report!

BY JORDAN R. UTTAL, 2ADA HONORARY PRESIDENT

TWO LETTERS FROM MEMBERS:

First, received from a recent 2ADA past president on 10 June: "Here is the check for dues for the Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial. It is always a red-letter day when their newsletter arrives in the mail. The friendship between the folks of East Anglia and the 2ADA over so many years is astounding, almost of miracle proportions."

Next, from a member of the 491st BG: "The enclosed is to help support the Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial. I am reacting to the great experience we had during our visit to Norfolk last year." He goes on to say how Lesley Fleetwood of the 2AD Memorial Library arranged for a very comfortable hotel and had one of the listed base contacts and his wife pick them up and spend the day with them (including lunch at the Blue Lion). They drove them to the home of another base contact who made them welcome (including the flying of the Stars and Stripes), took them to the airfield, and displayed important memorabilia including a color photo of the plane he serviced long ago. The following day another base contact took them to Hethel to meet still another base contact, and they had lunch at the "World's End." Our member concludes his letter by saying, "The Friends who escorted us to the places I remember deserve the credit for the satisfied feeling I have today. They are great people."

OK, HOW DO I GET IN TOUCH WITH MY BASE CONTACTS?

If you are going to Norwich, there is a list of all base contacts in the hands of each group vice president, and this has been going on for at least three years. This list is prepared in Norwich after consultation between the Memorial Trust, the Memorial Library team, the 2ADA, and the group vice presidents. The list "has been prepared for the 2ADA group vice presidents to convey to their group colleagues who may require assistance when visiting Norwich. All who are listed are either members of the Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial or are from a corps of volunteers working with the Memorial Trust. Please give the base contacts as much advance notice of your visit as you can, since many of them have work commitments during the day. The 2ADA strongly suggests that a great way to start or conclude your visit is to spend time at the 2AD Memorial Library in Norwich."

So, write or phone your group VP for the names of your own group's base contacts, as well as addresses and phone numbers. If time does not permit, call the 2AD Memorial Room, and any one of the excellent team there can get the ball rolling, as Lesley did for the 491st member quoted above. As a last resort, you can call me for help in my capacity as 2ADA liaison officer with the "Friends."

SPEAKING OF LIAISON OFFICERS:

It has been announced several times that David Hastings, Vice Chairman of the Mem-

orial Trust, stepped down last fall as the Trust's liaison officer with the "Friends." But, just in case you do not know his successor, let me introduce my colleague from the Board of Governors, W.D. "Bill" Wuest, Lt. Col. (Ret.) USAF. Bill joined the board almost 20 years ago, and in his new duty as liaison officer, he attends all events arranged by the "Friends."

He is the first Governor from the post-WWII generation, as well as the first American resident in the U.K. to be elected. Since joining the board he has continuously served as a bridge between the Trust and the USAF active duty forces serving in the U.K.

Most recently, Bill arranged for the current 3rd Air Force Commander and his wife to attend the Friends' annual Thanksgiving Dinner last year at the ancient Swan Inn at Harleston. One of Bill's dreams is to set up a 2ADA museum in Norfolk with a static B-24. He is also very interested in far greater involvement by much younger East Anglians, and he sees his activities as liaison officer as an opportunity to press this point.

From my past involvement as a former 2ADA Representative on the Board of Governors, I remember Bill as a loyal team player who does not hesitate to express the American view on matters being discussed at meetings.

Bill Wuest was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois, and graduated *magna cum laude* from Northern Illinois State Teachers College. In addition to his 21-year career in the USAF

(through the ranks from private to sergeant, then 2nd lieutenant to light colonel), he earned a graduate degree from the University of Chicago, followed by postgraduate study at Vanderbilt University. He is a past president of the U.K. Chapter of the Retired Officers Association, and serves as president of the Norwich and Norfolk branch of the English Speaking Union, perhaps the first and only American to be so honored. (I belong, here in Dallas, and find it a very worthy organization.)

Bill is deservedly proud of the fact that in the past quarter of a century, he has instructed nearly a thousand young American servicemen in the history of aviation, introducing them to the 8th Air Force Armada, 1942-1945, and since becoming a Governor, he has devoted special emphasis to the role of the Liberator, the "Little Friends," and the fine men and women of the 2nd Air Division USAAF.

SO, TO WIND UP FOR NOW:

How about supporting the Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial by sending in your dues for 1999 — \$6.00 for single membership, \$10.00 for family. Three members of the Board of Governors who attended our golden anniversary convention in Oak Brook Hills, Illinois — Fran Davies, John Whitehouse, and David Hastings — report ever-increasing devoted activity by the "Friends" in the area, and our 2ADA Executive Committee has voted support for this organization every year since its inception in 1988. ■

Founding Members of 2ADA Honored at 50th Anniversary Convention

BY JIM H. REEVES, 2ADA GROUP RELATIONS COMMITTEE

It was indeed a pleasure for the members of the Group Relations Committee to honor the five surviving founders who met in Chicago in 1948 and formulated ideas and plans that developed into the Second Air Division Association. Fifty years later (one-half century) we met again in Oak Brook, Illinois, which is only a short distance from where the original group first met, and were fortunate to have three of the five living members present at the 50th anniversary convention. I wish to share a few remarks about each member:

Jordan Uttal is a 2ADA past president who has furnished great leadership since 1948. He has served on the Executive Committee continuously, and for many years served as 2ADA representative on the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust. Jordan has held the position of 2ADA Honorary President for several years. He was on active duty during the war with 2AD Headquarters.

Ray Strong served two terms as 2ADA president in the early fifties. He also served as secretary for a while, turned out many 2ADA Newsletters (predecessor to the *Journal*), and served on the Executive Committee for many years, most recently as group VP for Headquarters. He also was on active duty with Headquarters during the war.

Henry Dietch, now a retired judge in the Chicago area, provided legal assistance when the 2ADA sought its charter. Henry has always provided legal assistance over the years of 2ADA growth, including the formation and chartering of the 2AD Heritage League. During active duty days, Henry was assigned to the 491st BG, 492nd BG, and also Headquarters.

Henry 'Smiley' Brandt and Jimmy Laponsie could not attend the convention due to health reasons. Both had written letters which were shared with those in attendance. Henry served active duty with the 93rd BG and HQ. Jimmy Laponsie served with Headquarters.

Each of the five members was presented with a leather-bound, personalized copy of the new 2nd Air Division History, 2nd Edition, published by Turner Publishing Company. ■

Attlebridge Tales



by Jim Lorenz

Our annual group dinner was held on May 24. Our membership as of May 1998 was 372 members including 26 associate members, 54 of whom attended this meeting. We were pleased to have the 466th Bomb Group Association President Andy Van Slot and his family attending, and 2ADA Honorary President Jordan Uttal stopped in for a chat (he was assigned to the 466th BG for a short time). It was nice that Dr. Jack Jacobowitz and his son, John Jr., were able to be at the convention. At the business meeting, our current officers were re-elected for a one-year term: Vice President – Jim Lorenz, Assistant Vice President – John Horan, and Treasurer – Stan Mohr. We congratulated Earl Wassom as the next 2ADA president; John Horan presented him with a “survivor kit” of his favorite foods — two cans of Spam and a jar of marmalade. Earl was so delighted that he gave only a short preview of his plans for the 2ADA. Treasurer Stan reported that, with the evening’s raffle funds, we had a balance of \$1,205. Several years ago, all 2ADA bomb groups were “requested” to contribute to a then newly set up fund, to help with the annual Memorial Room need to replenish, refurbish, or expand its book collection. We just never did have the money for this in our treasury. With this great news, it was voted to contribute \$1,000 to the Special Book Endowment Fund. The interest from this fund allows our Memorial Library to keep its book stock current. The Horans, assisted by Pam Kerr, conducted our annual raffle, as our perennial raffle presenters, Frank and Louise Bostwick, were unable to attend. The Horans declared that they were only temporary, one-time operators and expect the real pros — the Bostwicks — to take care of the 1999 Austin meeting. Kurt Warning, co-chair (with Vicki) of the golf tournament, presented Vicki Warning with the ladies “closest to the pin” award, and Mary Lorenz received a silver platter for having the ladies Low Gross score.

MAIL CALL

Several months ago, Dave Bridgers signed up and paid for a 2ADA membership for a friend of his, Jim Brooks. Jim received his first *Journal* and immediately telephoned me. He was very pleased and impressed with the *Journal*, as he stated he is no longer able to travel to meetings. Could he sign up and pay for memberships for the four members of his 785th Squadron crew who are still living? I assured him he could — just send the proper data and check to Evelyn Cohen! Do you have any crew or veteran friends who might appre-



466th BG Hospitality Suite, May 24, 1998. Group VP Jim Lorenz explains a point to Lu Nothstein (a 1998 Distinguished Award recipient), while Assistant VP John Horan is more interested in the photographer.

PHOTO BY MARY LORENZ

ciate getting our informative *Journal*, courtesy of you?

Had a note from William T. Riley, 401 W. Washington, Muncie, IN 47305, who is a young businessman interested in WWII. He collects uniforms, equipment, and mostly documents and veterans’ stories. He gives talks to schools and other organizations and hopes — some day — to found a museum. From air crews, he is interested in copies of plane or crew photos, and details of a specific mission or other comments from a veteran’s viewpoint. Since I grew up in Elkhart, Indiana, I sent him a few items. If interested, send items directly to Riley.

Those who attended the Irvine, CA convention last year may remember the name Luc Dewez, the young man from Belgium whose parents fought with the Resistance. They both received the Croix de Guerre and were married after the war. Luc is collecting records of B-24 crews, “to pay tribute to the preservation and remembrance of aircrews who won my present freedom!”

Luc planned to attend our Oak Brook meeting to present his collection on the Kassel Mission, but became very ill last month and

was not able to travel. If you care to send him a “get well,” his address is: Luc Dewez, 8 Paul Pastur Street, 5190 Ham-su-Sambre, Belgium (e-mail: Luc.Dewez@Skynet.be)

I received a copy of the 3rd Strategic Air Depot Association newsletter last week. They were headquartered at Watton, England, serving all B-24 bomb groups of the 8th Air Force. Their heading states that they “served the 14 B-24 bomb groups and were the largest and best B-24 Liberator maintenance facility in military history.” Does anyone remember any of these men being attached to Attlebridge Base? Or maybe they just had their specialists (like radar mechanics) visit the bases periodically. Drop me a note if you can educate me on their activities at Attlebridge.

Last month I received three more letters from relatives of veterans, wanting to know more about their service, but supplying only a name. It is much easier to track a veteran if the name, rank, serial number, date and place of service are given. Again, my plea to you — leave your loved ones at least a paper trail, such as your discharge, orders, or GI life insurance policy. It’s later than you think! ■

TRIVIA: The Air Force Magazine, May 1998, has a USAF Almanac – 1998 section of the organization with facts and figures on the Air Force. I found the following interesting

Year	Strength	Designation
1907	3	Aeronautical Div. U.S. Signal Corps
1918	195,023	Aviation Section, U.S. Signal Corps (later: Air Service, U.S. Signal Corps)
1926	9,670	Army Air Corps
1941	152,165	Army Air Forces
1944	2,372,292	Maximum Army Air Forces personnel year
1947	305,827	United States Air Force
1998	371,577	Total number of bombers: 182 Combat ready – 93 (36 B-1, 8 B-2, 49 B-52)

I won’t even mention pay scales; all I know is the \$21/month cadet pay we got in 1942!



492nd BOMB GROUP HAPPY WARRIOR HAPPENINGS

BY W.H. "BILL" BEASLEY

REUNION

Webster's Dictionary defines **reunion** – n. a reuniting; a meeting of former associates or of members of a family separated for a long time, and **convention** – n. a conference, a body of delegates assembled for a common purpose. "Reunion" and "convention" are used interchangeably when talking about the 2nd Air Division Association annual meetings. Both are correct, but I like to use "reunion" because it means getting together again with friends we made years ago.

Thirty 492nd members were **reunited** at the group dinner. First time attendee Wes Williams brought his three daughters, Kerrin Schultz, Keirra Williams, and Kenna Rockey, and his son Wes Jr. Wesley Williams and Thomas Floyd were fellow crew members in the 859th BS. Tom's wife Margaret also attended. What a great **reunion** for two guys who hadn't seen each other in more than fifty years. Another first time attendee was Howard Heckmann with his friend Mary Lowrey. Howard was a member of crew #813, pilot James L. Lewis, in the 858th BS. Howard was recently located through the VA. Jim McCrory brought two of his sons, James and Joe, his daughter-in-law, and three granddaughters. The rest of the roster was made up of Bud & Margarette Beasley, Craig Beasley, president of the Heritage League, Bob & Dorothy Cash, Sam & Edith Miceli, Bob Scott, Elvern & Hazel Seitzinger, Ellis & Edna Seaton, Bill & Molly Sparks, and Norma and I.

Bob Cash gave the invocation before dinner. After dinner Sam Miceli presented a moving memorial service which was a tribute to our missing comrades. Because this was the Memorial Day weekend, the tribute was perfectly timed. A group picture was taken after dinner by Vince Re and Joe Dzenowagis, Jr. We appreciated their help.

I was honored to again participate in the moving candlelighting ceremony the night of the banquet. I lit the candle for the Battle of the Ardennes.

Carl Taylor planned to attend, but was in the midst of moving from New Jersey to Sherman Oaks, California, and had to cancel. It is difficult to be in two places at the same time!

Dr. Joseph Grossman had a special surprise for 492nd members. He had beautiful caps made for 492nd members in memory of his father at his own expense. Members were overwhelmed at his generosity. Dr. Grossman is the son of Milton Grossman, navigator on the Orrin T. Bowland crew. Milton flew as replacement navigator on Nicholas Kehoe's crew on June 20, 1944. They were shot down on the mission

to Politz, Germany; subsequently Milton became a POW. Unfortunately, Milton died in 1993. Dr. Grossman spent nine years in the Medical Corps and is presently a practicing pediatrician in Honeoye, New York. Additionally, he writes for the World War II magazine. He is featuring the 492nd Bomb Group in one of the upcoming issues.

My phone has rung off the hook and I've had numerous letters of praise. I am truly sorry Dr. Grossman couldn't be there to present the caps personally.

LLOYD HERBERT CREW #802

I have been in contact with Brenda Gainey, whose grandfather was Lawrence Nursall, KIA on May 19, 1944 on the mission to Brunswick, Germany. He was a member of Lloyd Herbert's crew. Brenda knew very little about her grandfather. Her mother was only two years old when her father was killed, and so she never knew him. Brenda is trying to learn as much as possible about Lawrence Nursall. Via the Internet, Brenda contacted Enrico-Rene Schwartz of Germany and Allan Blue, who put me into the loop. (I am not yet on the Internet, but each day brings me closer.) Enrico began searching the area of the crash site and was able to find the receiving chute of one of the guns with serial numbers. He contacted Allan Blue, who verified the numbers on the aircraft. Enrico continued his search and found the nacelle — again with numbers corresponding to the same aircraft. I have had several conversations with Enrico, who is a very enthusiastic researcher. He said that he didn't know what a B-24 was until he began e-mail with Brenda. He is very excited about locating bits of the aircraft, and is using a friend's metal detector in hopes of finding more pieces. He thinks there may be dog tags buried at the site, and feels this is the key to the search. Ernie Gavitt loaned him a dog tag so he would know what to look for.

Enrico is on a mission to locate any of the next of kin of the crew. Their last known locations are: Anna M. Herbert (wife of pilot Lloyd Herbert), Frederick, Maryland; Whitie C. Covington (aunt of William Covington), Rockingham, North Carolina; Elsie L. Bachmann (wife of Harold M. Bachmann), Long Island, New York; Loretta K. Tarpey (wife of Timothy N. Tarpey), Passiac, New Jersey; Eileen H. Tarpey (sister of Timothy N. Tarpey), Passiac, New Jersey; Louise Johnson (mother of Marshall W. Johnson), Chicago, Illinois; Alma B. Guy (mother of George F. Guy), Ashville, NC; Mary E. Powell (wife of Joe C. Powell), San Antonio, Texas; and Henry C. Brooks (father of Louis

W. Brooks), Charleston, West Virginia.

The Gainey's planned to meet Enrico in Germany this August to help in the search. Pretty exciting stuff. If there is a reader out there who might have information regarding the whereabouts of any of the people, please contact me: Willis H. Beasley, 1525 South Garfield Street, Denver, CO 80210-3022, phone (303) 756-4766, or fax (303) 759-3684.

MEMORIAL DAY AT CAMBRIDGE

Russell Ives did the wreath-laying honors for the 492nd BG on Memorial Day, May 25, 1998, at the Cambridge Memorial Cemetery, Cambridgeshire, England. Accompanying him on his 300-mile round trip were Norman, Carol, Caroline, and John Winterbottom. Russell wrote to say he was deeply honored to be able to do this for our group. In his letter he stated quite eloquently that following the wreath-laying at the bottom of the flag pole they stood back for the two minutes silence. "The incredible silence then bore down on us as we remembered friends who were no longer with us. A sea of faces seemed to pass by, from the first 492nd BG casualty, 2nd Lt. George D. Metzger, navigator on crew #618, to the last 492nd BG casualty, S/Sgt. Bradford F. Barber, tail gunner on Elmer Pitsenbarger's crew, who was killed in the tragic mid-air collision over North Pickenham on 6 August 1944." Russell has been writing a book, *89 Days – Story of the 492nd BG*, which he says should be completed soon. He said he appreciates our patience for the book being a long time in coming.

BRONZE B-24 DEDICATION

Several 492nd BG members plan to attend the dedication of the Bronze B-24 sculpture at the Air Force Academy on September 25th. 492nd members voted to stay at the Hampton Inn North. Norma and I visited the Honor Court at the Academy and are happy to say that Robert Henderson, the sculptor, has done an excellent job of replicating the planes that are already in place, down to the smallest detail. If there are 492nd members who have not yet been contacted and wish to attend, please contact me for information.

LOST NOW FOUND

Donald Olmstead, Arthur McCann, Donald Plunkett, Edward Halliburton, and Arthur Bourdlais have been located and added to the group roster.

KUDOS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Lawrence Wilson, who recently joined the 2ADA as a 492nd BG member, for sharing copies of his records. Dorothy & Bob Cash for making outstanding table centerpieces again this year for the group dinner. Sam Miceli for the outstanding memorial service at the group dinner. Dr. Grossman for the beautiful 492nd BG caps. And everyone who made the effort to attend the **reunion** and bring goodies for the hospitality suite. We look forward to our next **reunion**. ■

The 445th BG had 80 members, spouses and children in attendance at the 2nd Air Division Association convention held in Oak Brook, IL, May 23-26, 1998. The 2ADA Executive Committee was brought up to date on projects, membership, the library in Norwich, the future of the 2ADA and how the change-over in leadership will be handled, future sites for annual reunions, the dedication of the Bronze B-24 Memorial, and other topics that affect the 2ADA and its membership.

Please note two upcoming events for the 2ADA membership to put on their calendars. We hope many will attend. The Bronze B-24 Memorial Dedication will be at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, September 24-26, 1998. The registration form is on page 7 of the Summer 1998 issue of the 2ADA *Journal*. And the next convention of the 2nd Air Division Association will be in Austin, Texas, Memorial Day Weekend, 1999. Mark your calendar!

The 1998 convention in Oak Brook was well attended by members of the 445th BG. At the 445th dinner on Sunday night, 78 members and family were there. Bill Dewey reminded those present that the Midwest/Southeast Reunion of the 2ADA would be held in late September 1999 in Savannah, GA. This will give those who will attend an excellent chance to visit the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum, where the 2nd Air Division has excellent exhibits and more are being added daily.

I have been informed that Harold Hartman of the 702nd Bomb Squadron passed away



BY FRED A. DALE

on November 15, 1997. Harold lived in Bethpage, NY. He was a member of the Harden Miller crew. I've also been told that Fredrick J. Baoauaghan passed away December 17, 1997. He lived in Worcester, MA.

This past March (1998) I received a letter from George E. Wright, West Midlands, England, requesting information about the assembly or lead ship that was used by the 445th BG. He wanted to know the colors on it and the markings and design. His letter was published in the *Journal*, and evidently he got his answer. I received another letter from George in May with a picture of a model of a B-24 with orange and black vertical markings (see the front cover of this issue). He is making a model B-24 with markings for each of the 14 bases around Norwich, and has a few more to go. ■

NEW NEW NEW 445th Merchandise

Now available are the following items, in FULL COLOR, embroidered with the new 445th logo (pictured at left in black and white). Designer Ira P. Weinstein of the 445th BG says, "We bought in every case the very, very best quality."

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THE PX PAGE

If you have articles or items for sale that pertain to the 2ADA, they belong on the PX Page. Send information to: Ray Pytel, 2ADA Journal Editor, P.O. Box 484, Elkhorn, WI 53121-0484.

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Solid Mahogany B-24 Models

Recommended by 2ADA member Harold Dorfman (448th BG), these 12" x 18" 1:72 scale B-24Js are carved from solid mahogany. They are beautiful, and reasonable in price at \$119.95 which includes shipping.



Send your order, with a check for \$119.95, to: TRAINS AND PLANES, Herman Lotstein, P.O. Box 25116, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

American Bomber Aircraft, Vol. I CONSOLIDATED B-24

BY JOHN M. & DONNA CAMPBELL

Here is a superb photo tribute to the classic B-24, showing the variety of war fronts in which it served, from the CBI to Europe and North Africa. Most of the photographs are published here for the first time.

There are 307 pictures of nose art, covering planes from almost every group that flew in the 8th and 15th Air Forces. Yes, the Second Air Division groups are well represented. The two-page spread at the Introduction is one of the most beautiful formation displays you have ever seen, with seven B-24s skimming the cumulus clouds.

Besides the Air Forces, the Coastal Command and the Navy's Privateers and Liberators are illustrated. The saddest chapter of all is entitled "Final Disposition," with excellent overviews of thousands of Liberators waiting for the cutting torch at Kingman, Arizona after V-J Day.

The hard-bound book is a coffee-table sized 8.5 x 11", 256 pages, with over 700 black & white photographs, 44 color plates, and 10 color profiles showing the various models of Liberators.

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14th Combat Bombardment Wing History Now Available Again!

COMPILED BY WILLIAM B. TAYLOR

The pictorial history of the 14th Combat Bombardment Wing (H) includes 132 pages of photos, illustrations, and narration of the 14th CBW (the 44th, 392nd, and 491st Bomb Groups). Compiled and published by William B. Taylor in 1946, the book has just been re-published in England by East Anglia Books (who previously had re-published Ursel P. Harvell's 44th Bomb Group "Liberators Over Europe," which unfortunately is sold out).

In the original printing Taylor gave all royalties to the new Air Force Aid Society. There are no royalties in this printing, as the publisher, Cliff Bishop, has defrayed all costs.

William B. Taylor was one of the founders of the United States Air Force Academy, and gave a copy of this book to the Academy's library in 1954 as the library's first book.

To purchase a copy, send \$44.50 by personal check, Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card to:

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To the editor:

I am a charter member of the Second Air Division Association. This has been my only "letter to the editor."

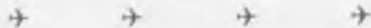
My 12th mission was on December 5, 1944 to the marshalling yards at Munster. I was a radio operator on Lt. Kilbourne's crew. My duty on the bomb run was to open and close the bomb bay doors. We carried twelve 500 lb. bombs. At "bombs away" 10 bombs went down, but one bomb wedged between the other bomb and the side of the plane. On the B-24 you cannot wear a chest chute and work on the catwalk. Add to that — no connection for a heat suit.

The good Lord and myself managed to lift the bomb just enough for the bombardier to salvo.

Fast forward to 1951, when my old navigator Donald Haywood paid me a visit at Andover, Massachusetts, where I lived at the time. He told me that Lt. Kilbourne had put me in for a Silver Star. He was turned down because an officer had received the medal for the same incident.

For 47 years I've wanted to tell this story. So there!

Joseph Ferris (445th)
1182 Ocean Boulevard
Rye, NH 03870



To the editor:

I am a researcher dealing with the history of emergency landings and crashes of 8th Air Force bombers in Switzerland. I'm especially interested in what happened back then and the human destinies and events since, as caused by the war. I am a member of the Swiss Internees Association.

I'd be very grateful for any information, and I'd like to finish with a letter to every living person who was once interned in Switzerland.

Rolf Zaugg
Rüttistrasse 7
3427 Utzenstorf
SWITZERLAND
Tel. 032 665 18 87

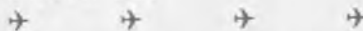


To the editor:

I'm in my office writing a war story, minding my own business, and this beauty dropped in for a "cuppa tea"...

Earl Zimmerman (389th)

Editor's Note: Tea?



Earl Zimmerman minding his own business

To the editor:

As the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum completes its second anniversary and the Second Air Division Association completes its fiftieth year, I find myself reflecting on all the people and organizations that contributed to the museum becoming a reality. At the top of the list stands the Second Air Division Association, an organization that has been faithful and generously supportive of the museum project since its inception. Once the project got truly underway over four years ago, the Second Air Division Association became the strongest financial supporting organization of this noble undertaking. Simply put, this project may well have faltered were it not for the generosity of the Association and its individual members.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and from me personally, it is a pleasure for me to express our collective appreciation to the members of the Association for the support provided to the museum. Please express this appreciation to your membership and accept our best wishes.

Lt. Gen. E.G. Shuler, Jr., USAF, Ret.
Chairman and CEO
The Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum
P.O. Box 1992
Savannah, GA 31402-1992



Howdy From Texas!!!

It's been a long time since you've read those words in the *Journal*, but in May '99, the 2ADA will hold its convention in Austin, Texas!!! This will afford all of you poor non-Texans a chance to visit us! And not withstanding the usual wonderful convention experience in store for you, there can be much more to your visit than that!

It is a well known fact that the very air you breathe in Texas results in cleaner lungs and better blood. More flexible joint movement and a clearer mind are also a matter of record. If that isn't incentive enough, we Texans want you to know that we really want you to come!!! Keep in mind that Austin is located virtually in the center of Texas Vacation Lands. If you're planning to attend, or are undecided, you might consider making the convention part and parcel of an extended vacation in Texas.

Austin is beautiful, vibrant and historic in its own right, but also, within an hour's drive lies the fabulous Texas Hill Country. It is tailor-made for exploring. You will find the famous dude ranches of Bandera, the LBJ Ranch, and the quaint Western town of Fredericksburg — all make wonderful side trips.

One hour to the south, there is the "sausage and beer" center of Texas, New Braunfels. This old, picturesque German town, nestled on the banks of the Guadalupe River, is an interesting place to visit and live. We lived there when I was stationed at Randolph Field in 1952.

About 90 minutes south of Austin is the fun city of San Antonio. It is a multi-cultural city with the largest concentration of military bases in the U.S. With its famous River Walk, fine hotels, theme parks, and great restaurants, San Antonio is always ready to have a party! It welcomes you with open arms!

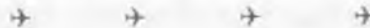
For all you cold Yankees who have survived all that ice and snow once again, HEAD SOUTH for Tropical Texas! From Corpus Christi (a jewel on the Gulf Coast) to Boca Chica at the southernmost tip of Texas, there are beaches, condos, hotels, palm trees, and a real Latin flavor — *minus the crowds of Florida*. Cotton, citrus, sugarcane, and aloe vera stretch on for miles around.

I should also mention that north of Austin is Pflugerville, the home of our son and grandsons — wave as you go through. You also drive close to the new Del Webb Sun City — Georgetown — take a "look-in."

I hope by now, you have the idea that Texas and Texans want ya'll to come!!!

I've given you some options. There are others. Think about it!!

Geoff Gregory (467th)
2ADA Past President
Converted Texan
Member of the Dallas Mafia



To the editor:

The Polish-American history of fighting for freedom is interesting, long, and symbolic (making our imminent participation in NATO a natural step), starting with the participation of Kosciuszko and Pulawski in the American Revolution, through American volunteer airmen fighting in 1920 arm in arm with the Polish army against the first Soviet invasion, through WWII when you and many other Americans fought in the hostile skies for Poland's and other countries' freedom.

Now a new event is about to join this history. A monument is to be erected in Poland, dedicated to all U.S. airmen fallen over Europe in WWII. Plans are to unveil it on November 11th (American Veteran's Day and Polish Day of Independence) this year. The site (near Biala Podlaska, east of Warsaw) is the place where a Fortress crashed on June 21, 1944 during the "Frantic II" mission to Poltava. All of the crew survived; three became POWs and seven airmen joined Polish partisans. The Polish veterans (with my age of 27 I am only an associate) want to commemorate this event and also pay tribute to KIA American crews.

My project is to document American actions over targets which are now in Poland. I focus more on the missions themselves, while my friends specialize in documenting aircraft losses. I looked first at USAAF chronology and got the list of B-17 and B-24 missions by the 8th Air Force. I wrote to all groups participating, and though many groups replied, there are still some that didn't. I ask those particular groups to please reply. I am also trying to get personal accounts and details on crew losses. Since I hope to finish my project with a book, I also need wartime photos taken during raids to targets from the list below of 8th Air Force missions to targets in Poland:

9 OCTOBER 43 - Marienburg, Danzig, Gdynia. 9 APRIL 44 - Rahmel, Marienburg, Posen. 11 APRIL 44 - Sorau, Stettin, Politz. 13 MAY 44 - Stettin. 29 MAY 44 - Politz, Misdroy, Krzesinki, Posen, Sorau. 20 JUNE 44 - Konigsberg, Politz. 21 JUNE 44 - "Frantic II." 26 JUNE 44 - Drohobycz (mission from Russian bases). 6 AUGUST 44 - Gdynia, Rahmel. 7 AUGUST 44 - Trzebinia "Frantic" operation. 25 AUGUST 44 - Politz. 15 SEPTEMBER 44 - Supply for Warsaw uprising (cancelled). 18 SEPTEMBER 44 - Supply for Warsaw uprising. 6 OCTOBER 44 - Stargard, Stettin. 7 OCTOBER 44 - Politz. 12 MARCH 45 - Swinemunde. 17 SEPTEMBER 44 - Frantic VI - przelot nad Polska. Thank you, and best wishes.

Szymon Serwatka
ul. Kosciuszki 9
58-100 Swidnica
POLAND
Tel. 0048 22 6649636
E-mail: serwatka@it.com.pl

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Dear Friends of the 2nd Air Division:

Prior to the 2ADA convention in May, we asked our WWII Catholic Chaplain, Father Ed Norkett, to write you a few lines (*see the following letter of April 2, 1998*). He could not attend the convention due to declining health.

Father Ed was a devoted chaplain of the 491st BG who was at all flight briefings, and then was out at the end of the runway with his jeep checking off each bomber on its way to a mission. Father Ed was there again at two or three o'clock in the afternoon, at the same place on the runway, checking each plane back in. If there were any injured or dead, the plane would stop and Father would crawl up in the bomb bay to give the dead the last rites and help the injured.

He was the "Best Friend" of the 491st.

Louis Bur (491st)

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Dear Friends:

I regret to say that I cannot attend your convention in Chicago this year. They used to say, "Old soldiers never die," but this one is coming pretty close.

Welcome to Chicago on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan, where I was born and raised and went swimming as a kid. Like any big city in America, we have some great sights and some sad sights.

I regret to say that Old Fort Sheridan is closing down. It has been here protecting the whole community for 100 years. Thank God many historical buildings will remain to remind us of a great Army post.

Of course the Military Cemetery will always be here. There are Spanish-American war vets there, and a few hundred young sailors who died in the flu epidemic in 1917 at the big U.S. Naval Station, which is just a few miles north on the shore of Lake Michigan. There are also a few generals there because they too deserve a first class and decent burial.

It is good to remember that there is a Heaven — too beautiful to try to describe — which is coming for all of us, and sooner than we realize. We were all very proud of our uniforms. Up there, buck privates will be next to rear admirals. I don't know what kind of uniforms — if any — we will be wearing up there.

God love and bless all of you and your dear ones.

Rev. Edward J. Norkett
Chaplain (Major) 491st BG
26 S. Central Ave.
Highwood, IL 60040

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To the editor:

My name is Andrew Marynissen and my compatriot is Roger Goodall. We have been given your name by my father-in-law, Mr. John Wenn. We both work as Duty Managers at the Norwich YMCA.

We are hoping you can help us. While stumbling through some old photographs we found one of a B-24 Liberator from the 392nd Bomb Group based at Wendling in Norfolk. The legend on the front of the aircraft is "The YMCA Flying Service." We have discovered that there were two aircraft called this, and we would be very interested in contacting anyone with any information on these planes.

We are both extremely interested in the aviation activity during WWII in this area, and would also appreciate any information you can share on the 8th Air Force as a whole during this time. Thanking you in anticipation.

Andrew Marynissen
Roger Goodall
City of Norwich YMCA
48 St Giles Street
Norwich NR2 1LP
ENGLAND
Tel. (01603) 620269

Editor's Note: "Johnny" Wenn, then 12, was a constant guest of our 445th BG hut during WWII. His story was written up in the 2ADA Journals of Summer 1994, Winter 1994, and Fall 1995. My information on the above request is that the 392nd BG had THREE B-24s with that name. What's the story, anyone?

→ → → →

To the editor:

My pilot, Lt. Richard Klopfenstein (445th BG) has been listed MIA since his first mission, December 11, 1944, flying with an experienced crew.

The following was reported this past May in the Detroit Free Press:

"U.S. military experts are searching a forest in France for the remains of a B-24 bomber and its nine-member crew that crashed Dec. 11, 1944, French police said. The wreck was discovered a year ago in France's northern Vosges mountains, near the border with Germany.

"Investigators have already found about 500 pieces of clothing, bones and teeth, French police said. The search has been going on for several days."

I would appreciate any knowledge anyone might have on how to contact the "investigators" or another appropriate source.

Rodney M. Peterson (445th)
1575 Haynes
Birmingham, MI 48009-6876
Tel. (810) 540-1609

→ → → →

To the editor:

Enjoyed your Summer issue. The following comments may be of interest.

The Collings B-24 never served in the Pacific. It was an RAF aircraft inherited by the Indian Air Force and acquired by a British dealer in the early '80s. Said to be a "basket job" and requiring too great an investment to get back in the air, the Imperial War Museum was interested in acquiring the disassembled machine for refurbishment and static display. However, Bob Collings got in first with the price the dealer wanted and the determination that the Lib would fly again.

The B-24 nose in the American Air Museum at Duxford did not come from the real "Fightin' Sam" of the 389th Bomb Group. Two rotting sections, one from a B-24D and another from a B-24J, were married and repaired to produce this tribute to the 2nd Air Division. Anyone who saw what IWM engineers had to start with can only be impressed with the result of their industry. The decor was selected as an appropriate acknowledgement of Uncle Sam's fighting spirit.

The article on the USAAF exposition at the Eiffel Tower has a photograph of a Thunderbolt as its illustration. This aircraft was a P-47M specially prepared for display by the 56th Fighter Group at its Boxted, England base and then flown to France. The 56th Fighter Group was a 2nd Air Division outfit, and the most successful USAAF fighter group in ETO air combat.

Roger A. Freeman
May's Barn
Dedham
Colchester, Essex CO7 6EW
England, U.K.

→ → → →

To the editor:

In September 1944 (Kassel Mission Day) I was transferred to the 445th BG from the 489th BG. At that time I was a flight engineer with 11 missions and a bail-out behind me. I completed my 30 missions with the 445th BG, but did not receive a DFC.

I'm seeking someone who knows and will state that it was the policy to award a DFC to all who completed a combat tour or who will recommend me for one. I can provide copies of orders awarding me the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, orders relieving me from combat duty, and a list of the 30 missions I flew on. I was not assigned to any particular crew.

As I grow older, a DFC becomes more meaningful to me. I appreciate any help you can give me.

William K. Koch (445th)
16 Northcote Road
Westbury, NY 11590

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To the editor:

Forty years went by before Tom Polliard's B-24 crew (see photo below) had a reunion. Since that 1989 gathering at the home of bombardier Virgil Hughes in Monticello, Indiana, there have been nine more, as number 10 was scheduled for June 17-20 at Bert Kemp's home in Ashton, Illinois.



Bill O'Hara (G), Tom Polliard (P), Ross Gainey (G), Bard Suverkrop (CP), Bert Kemp (Radar Navigator), Bill Robinson (Flight Engineer), Jack Victor (P Navigator), Virgil Hughes (B), Lloyd Short (N), Eunice McGaugh (G), Don Ephlin (G), Marty O'Brien (Radio Operator).

"Uncle Tom's Cabin," as the crew designated itself, flew 27 missions. Most of these were as the lead or deputy lead of a squadron, group, or wing. The crew was with the 458th Bomb Group from the summer of 1944 until the end of the war in Europe. Of the thirteen who flew as members of the crew, eight are still living. The most who attended a reunion was nine in 1989.

Members of the crew still living are Tom Polliard, Bert Kemp, Ross Gainey, Bill Robinson, Don Ephlin, Lloyd Short, Pete Newbury, and Jack Victor, who replaced Newbury due to illness. Deceased members are Bill O'Hara, Marty O'Brien, Bard Suverkrop, Eunice McGaugh, and Virgil Hughes. The latter two passed away during the last year.

The great admiration and respect fostered by the confidence that was built working together way back then still exists!

Lloyd Short (458th)
1302 13th Street
Lake Linden, MI 49945

→ → → →

To the editor:

Are there possibilities of getting four copies of the Spring 1998 issue of the 2ADA Journal? I'm interested especially in page 27 and the editor's note (yours) — "So who's the girl?" She's 2nd Lt. Antoinette Burns, a graduate Mechanical Engineer and member of the Engineering Department at Vandenberg Air Force Base. She is a friend of our family, and was my guest at our 448th Bomb Group reunion in San Diego, California in 1995. I wish to send a copy to her, her family, and her boyfriend, as it would surely "shake them up."

Ed Chu (448th)
129 Lakeside Avenue
Edinburg, NY 12134-5613

→ → → →

To the editor:

I recently visited my copilot John Rohal in California and was reunited with our flight engineer Joel Roberts, who lives in Lake Isabella. We, that is John and I, haven't seen Joe since 1945. We were members of Robert E. Murray's crew. As usual, we reminisced about the war.

On our sixth mission, to Coblenz on December 31, 1944, we had an odd mishap. The plane above us dropped a flak vest out of their bomb bay. It crashed into our upper turret, bashing Joe's head against the gun mounts. Joe was hospitalized for a while. We were wondering if any of the crew of that plane can fill us in on how this freak accident happened. We considered ourselves lucky that the flak vest did not crash into the cockpit or into my nose turret, and that Joe was not seriously injured, although it was bad enough.

We won't spank the culprit if he or the crew can fill us in.

Ted Kaye (445th)
11 Fishermans Bend
Hilton Head, SC 29926

→ → → →

To the editor:

My husband, Jim Dowling, has been interviewed at length by Tom Brokaw's NBC staff and will be featured probably in the fall of this year on a TV special by Mr. Brokaw. It is about World War II vets and their lives before, during and after WWII. His camera crew and an executive producer spent Memorial Day with our family, filming our small town parade and our holiday barbeque, and talking to our children, grandchildren, etc. They spent a total of 12 hours here!

We will let you know, if possible, when it will be aired. It was an exciting and fun experience in our otherwise "not too dull" life!

Dorothy Dowling (445th)
508 Moriches Road
St. James, NY 11780-1313

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THANKS FROM ACROSS THE POND

Now that we have returned safely home after the 50th Anniversary Convention in Chicago, can I express the very sincere thanks on behalf of all your British visitors for your great kindness, friendship and hospitality, for it was a truly memorable occasion. Thank you to Evelyn Cohen for making it all possible.

In this special year we were so delighted to bring you all the exciting news on your unique and living Memorial Library in Norwich — the only one of its kind in the world — the arrival of the £30 million grant from the Millennium Commission, the detailed plans for the new library, the success of the rebuilding appeal, the wonderful cache of the Fulbright Librarians and their outstanding work with the library team, the new Governors, the great pledge of support from the Friends of the Memorial, that great band of local people who look after your old bases, the links with Wymondham College and the naming of a locomotive on the Bure Valley Railway "2nd Air Division USAAF" in your honor.

Everything at Oak Brook was just perfect, the meeting of old friends, the early bird party, the group dinners, the moving new Dzenowagis film, the discussions on the future, the Heritage League meeting, the business meeting, and finally the banquet. So many memories that we will treasure for the rest of our lives. Can we also express our deepest thanks for that wonderful cheque for \$10,000 for the rebuilding appeal of your Memorial, which will be a tremendous boost to the fundraising efforts. Also, our thanks to the WACs for the \$1300 for their endowment fund.

We were also so delighted to meet the new 2nd Air Division Association/ Fulbright Librarian, Judy Jerome, and we know that she will be a wonderful asset to the Norwich library team when she joins us in September. Your vision of giving us an American Fulbright Librarian each year is a gift beyond price.

We pledge that your new Second Air Division Memorial Library will be the finest in the world, and in Oak Brook we felt so proud to be back once more with such a great family. We will never forget you.

Yours sincerely,

David J. Hastings
Vice Chairman
Memorial Trust of the
2nd Air Division USAAF

To the editor:

I'm doing research on all USAAF crews shot down over France. I'm especially interested in 2nd Air Division losses in our country.

I'm trying to contact *all* the survivors, be they POWs or evaders, to get their testimonies and possibly pictures of their crews and planes. I'm ready to write to each member downed in France if I could have addresses! Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

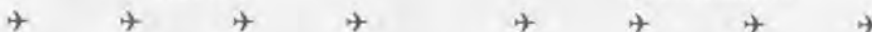
Laurent Viton
La Poste
76110 Goderville
FRANCE

To the editor:

I'm looking for a picture of a really *black* flak cloud, the kind where the group preceding you enters and disappears. I know it wasn't all my imagination. Please share with me?

I also need to know the meaning behind the following British acronyms and what they did during the war: NAAFI, WAAB, WAAF, WREN. I once knew but have forgotten, and I am writing a story for my grandchildren.

Charles R. Bastien (448th)
2174 Tower Court
Woodbury, MN 55125-1670
Tel. 612-738-6018



Proclamation

WHEREAS: The Eighth Air Force was the largest military unit in World War II, and the largest bomber force of all time. 350,000 served in the Eighth Army Air Force, 26,000 were killed in action, and over 20,000 were prisoners of war. The number of missing in action and wounded have not been counted.

WHEREAS: The Eighth Air Force has continued as an operational combat unit and became an important arm of the Strategic Air Command, now Combat Command, and the numbers of those serving in the Eighth Air Force from its start to present exceeds one million persons.

WHEREAS: No Mighty Eighth mission was ever turned back due to enemy action.

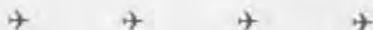
WHEREAS: In a one-week period of October 8-14, 1943, the Eighth Air Force lost over 100 heavy bombers to enemy action over the skies of Europe, and despite heavy losses, many feel that this was the turning point for daytime strategic bombing. Targets during this week were:

October 8, 1943	Bremen, Germany 14 bombers lost, 3 fighters
October 9, 1943	Anken, Germany 6 bombers lost
October 10, 1943	Munster, Germany 30 bombers lost, 1 fighter
October 14, 1943	Schweinfurt, Germany 60 bombers lost, 1 fighter

WHEREAS: Every year during the week of October 8-14, we will ask every Eighth Air Force veteran and friends of the Eighth to wear items identifying them with The Mighty Eighth to honor and remember our comrades and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Earl Wassom, President of the Second Air Division Association, Eighth Air Force, do hereby proclaim every October 8-14 to be

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE WEEK





2nd Air Division Roll of Honor Objectives Achieved!



BY JORDAN R. UTTAL (HQ), 2ADA HONORARY PRESIDENT

In the last several issues of our *Journal*, you have been kept up to date on the recreation of this key ingredient, the Roll of Honor, in our 2nd Air Division Memorial Library. While we, on this side of the ocean, have seen only pictures and full black and white copies of the new book, all evidence points to the fact that in place in Norwich is a faithful representation of the original which was destroyed in the Central Library fire of 1 August 1994.

As of the Summer issue of the *Journal*, the master copy, in color, was in place in the Memorial Library. Another copy is available there for the public, there is still another copy elsewhere in Norwich, and I have two copies in my hot large hands in Dallas.

At our convention in Oak Brook Hills, Illinois, I had the extreme pleasure of displaying one of those copies of our Roll of Honor to the Executive Committee on 21 May, and later, on 25 May, to the 2ADA membership present at the general business meeting. The reception was excellent.

Finally, at the business meeting I presented the copy, as planned, to Mary Beth Barnard, Director of History and Archives at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA. We are told that it will be suitably displayed there for generations of visitors to come, a fitting reminder of the sacrifices of almost 6,700 brave Americans of the 2nd Air Division, Eighth Air Force, USAAF. ■



Jordan Uttal presents a copy of the new 2nd Air Division Roll of Honor to Mary Beth Barnard of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, May 25, 1998.

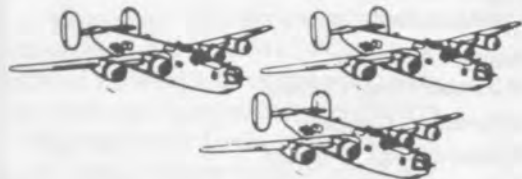
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EIGHTH AIR FORCE

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