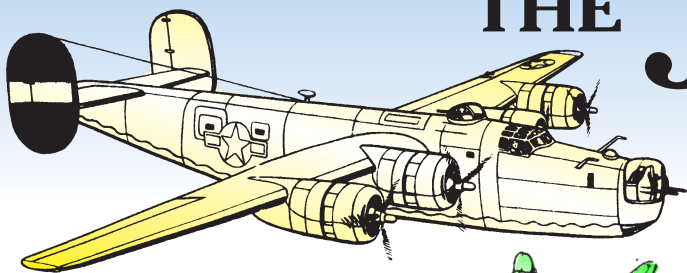


THE JOURNAL

Official Publication of the



FORMATION ASSEMBLY SHIPS

of the

2ND AIR DIVISION

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Volume 40 Number 3

Fall 2001



93rd BG
HARDWICK
B-24D-1-CO
41-23667
'Ball of Fire'



445th BG
TIBENHAM
B-24D-20-CO
41-24215
'Lucky Gordon'



446th BG
BUNGAY
B-24D-1-CO
41-23737
'Fearless Freddie'



458th BG
HORSHAM ST. FAITH
B-24D-30-CO
42-40127
'First Sergeant'



466th BG
ATTLEBRIDGE
B-24D-20-CO
41-24109
'Ready & Willing'



491st BG
METFIELD/
NORTH PICKENHAM
B-24D-90-CO
42-40722
'Lil Gramper'



492nd BG
NORTH PICKENHAM
B-24D-95-CO
42-40743
'Zebra'

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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION



JOURNAL



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY FELIX LEETON (389TH)

'THE KOORDYK CHALLENGE'

The main excitement as the Summer of 2001 heats up is the progress being made by the Group VP's with what has been dubbed the Koorndyk Challenge! Bud Koorndyk has challenged the 15 active units (fourteen Bomb Groups plus Headquarters) to raise a thousand dollars each for the Capital Fund of the 2nd Air Division USAAF. Gifts may be cash donations or bequests by individuals. This will help achieve our goal of leaving our Library Memorial in a better fiscal condition to send our Unique Memorial into the future. **IF ALL Units** meet the Challenge, Bud will donate a matching amount (\$15,000). At this date, Headquarters and nine Bomb Groups have responded with cash or bequests in hand!! We are confident the remaining five Groups will be equally successful.

The other 'hot item' is the preparation for the November Convention in Norwich. I have always said that no one does a 'parade' like the British, and they are pulling out all the stops on this one! There is an unofficial designation of "the Last Mission" being used for this one;

but, I have already attended three of Evelyn's, *absolutely the last time*, visits. I am sure the next one will be just as great! We are planning to take a follow-up excursion to Paris and the Normandy Beaches. It will be my first time back there since 1944. I am sure it won't have the emotional impact of those sights from the air—but I can hardly wait! ■



NOV 1944 - The LEETON'S & CEARNAL's relax in Miami Beach.

* **LATEST FLASH FROM ENGLAND** *

The 'Forum' 2AD Library dedication live on the internet! All 2ADA members who are unable to attend the Forum Library dedication can view it on the internet Nov. 2-9:

WEB SITE: www.edp24.co.uk

Suggestions were made by me relative to the separate listing that will be created for Line of Duty deaths other than KIA's. I am sure that the committee studying this will have a firm policy established by the end of this year. As soon as I receive this I will generate a new Supplemental KILOD register in accordance with the decision made at the April meeting.

It is beyond my increasingly limited powers of expression to accurately describe the intense feelings of anticipation I harbor relative to my partaking with hundreds of our colleagues in the rededication, in November, of our new 2nd Air Division Memorial Library. I do consider this to be a landmark event in the lives of all of us — those who attend, and all of you dear friends whom we will represent. **BE WELL!!! HAVE FUN!!!** ■

STRICTLY PERSONAL

ROLL OF HONOR

Prior to the Executive Committee meeting at the end of April in Colorado, I had received a few complaints from some of the Group V.P.s about reduced cooperation from Washington in getting confirmation of KIA's. After following up with our contact person at the Mortuary Division, I have suggested to the Excom a change in procedure. Briefly, I have asked the Group V.P.s to send their requests to me in the future, and I will handle



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 made for Associate (Non-Voting) memberships and also for subscribing memberships (Non-Voting).

Please submit all material for publication to the editor by the 15th of January, April, July, or October.

We make every effort to mail your *Journal* within 45 days of the deadline listed above, with the exception of the Winter issue (October deadline) which is mailed early in January. 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. ■

"NOTICE"

FYI: I resigned from the position as VP for 2AD from the 491st BG in October 2000. I agreed to perform the function until a replacement was named. This has not happened; so, effective at once, I will no longer perform the position. I will however, continue to submit some articles for the 2AD Journal and attend the reunions. I also intend to attend the 491st BG reunions.

John D. Leppert, 491 BG
4383 Live Oak Blvd.
Palm Harbor, FL 34685

BRIEF NOTES & NEWS FROM THE HONORARY PRESIDENT

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

Let me start my submission for the Fall Journal with best wishes to you all. A reminder from our worthy Editor, that the reduced number of pages in this issue should mean briefer articles did not escape me, so, let me brief you. (Ho, Ho)

ROLL OF HONOR

them directly with our contact. Whatever the case, any names that we are able to get confirmed by mid 2003 will be placed on an addendum sheet in the Roll of Honor.

the forum



Shot of Norwich's newly named "Forum Millennium Plain" in the centre of the city gives an indication of its scale. It will open in September.
Picture courtesy of MIKE PAGE.

THE 16 ARMY AIR FORCES DURING WWII... WHERE DID THEY SERVE?

Answers to Summer Quiz

BY RAY PYTEL (445TH)

FIRST AIR FORCE

Established as Northeast Air District USA on 19 Oct 1940. Activated on 18 Dec 1940.

Redesignated First AF early in 1941. Trained new organizations and, later replacements for combat units. Also provided anti-u-boat patrols and, air defense for the eastern US until 1943.



Far East AF in Oct 1941, and Fifth AF in Feb 1942. This air force lost most of its men and equipment in the defense of the Philippines after 7 Dec 1941. Later in Dec 1941, headquarters and some crews and planes moved to Australia, and in Jan 1942 they were sent to Java to help delay Japanese advances in the Netherlands Indies. The Fifth did not function as an air force for some time after Feb 1942 (the AAF organizations in the Southwest Pacific being under the control of American-British-Dutch-Australian Command and later Allied Air Forces). Headquarters was remained in Sep 1942 and assumed control of AAF organizations in Australia and New Guinea. The Fifth participated in operations that stopped the Japanese drive in Papua, recovered New Guinea, neutralized islands in the Bismarck Archipelago and the Netherlands East Indies, and liberated the Philippines.

SECOND AIR FORCE

Established as Northwest Air District USA on 19 Oct 1940. Activated on 18 Dec 1940.

Redesignated Second AF early in 1941. Served as both an air defense and a training organization in 1941. Afterward, was engaged chiefly in training units and replacements for heavy and later, very heavy bombardment operations.



SIXTH AIR FORCE

Established as Panama Canal AF on 19 Oct 1940. Activated in the Canal Zone on 20 Nov 1940.

Redesignated Caribbean AF in Aug 1941, and Sixth AF in Feb 1942. Served primarily in defense of the Panama Canal, also engaged in antisubmarine operations.



THIRD AIR FORCE

Established as Southeast Air District USA on 19 Oct 1940. Activated on 18 Dec 1940.

Redesignated Third AF early in 1941. Trained units, crews, and individuals for bombardment, fighter, and reconnaissance operations. Also had some air defense responsibilities during 1940-1941 and engaged in antisubmarine activities from Dec 1941 to Oct 1942.



SEVENTH AIR FORCE

Established as Hawaiian AF on 19 Oct 1940. Activated in Hawaii on 1 Nov 1940.

Redesignated Seventh AF in Feb 1942. Provided air defense for the Hawaiian Islands and, after mid-1943, served in combat in the central and western Pacific areas.



FOURTH AIR FORCE

Established as Southwest Air District USA on 19 Oct 1940. Activated on 18 Dec 1940.

Redesignated Fourth AF early in 1941. Provided air defense for the western US until 1943, and at the same time trained new organizations. Later, was engaged primarily in training replacements for combat units.



EIGHTH AIR FORCE

Established as VIII Bomber Command on 19 Jan 1942.

Activated in the US on 1 Feb 1942. An advanced detachment was established in England on 23 Feb and units began arriving from the US during the spring of 1942. The command conducted the heavy bombardment operations of Eighth AF from 17 Aug 1942 until early in 1944. Redesignated Eighth AF on 22 Feb 1944. Afterward, engaged primarily in bombardment of strategic targets in Europe. Transferred, without personnel, equipment, and combat elements, to Okinawa on 16 Jul 1945. Although some personnel and combat units were assigned before V-J Day, the Eighth did not participate in combat against Japan.



FIFTH AIR FORCE

Established as Philippine Department AF on 16 Aug 1941. Activated in the Philippines on 29 Sep 1941.

Redesignated



NINTH AIR FORCE

Established as V Air Support Command on 21 Aug 1941. Activated on 1 Sep 1941.

Redesignated Ninth AF in Apr 1942. Moved to Egypt and began operations on 12 Nov 1942, participating in the Allied drive across Egypt and Libya, the campaign in Tunisia, and the invasion of Sicily and Italy. Moved to England in Oct 1943 to become the tactical air force for the invasion of the Continent. Helped prepare for the assault on Normandy, supported operations on the beach in Jun 1944, and took part in the drive that carried the Allies across France and culminated in victory over Germany.



TENTH AIR FORCE

Established Tenth AF on 4 Feb 1942 and activated on 12 Feb. Moved to India, Mar-May 1942. Served in India, Burma, and China until Mar 1943 when Fourteenth AF was activated in China. Then the Tenth operated in India and Burma until it moved to China late in Jul 1945.



ELEVENTH AIR FORCE

Established as Alaskan AF on 28 Dec 1941.

Activated in Alaska on 15 Jan 1942.

Redesignated Eleventh AF in Feb 1942.

Participated in the offensive that drove the Japanese from the Aleutians, attacked the enemy in the Kuril Islands, and, both during and after the war, served as part of the defense force for Alaska.



TWELFTH AIR FORCE

Established as Twelfth AF on 20 Aug 1942 and activated the same day. Moved to England, Aug-Sep 1942, and then on to North Africa for the invasion of Algeria and French Morocco in Nov 1942. Operated in the Mediterranean Theater until the end of the war, serving with Northwest African Air Forces from Feb to Dec 1943, and afterward with Mediterranean Allied Air Forces.



THIRTEENTH AIR FORCE

Established as Thirteenth AF on 14 Dec 1942. Activated in New Caledonia on 13 Jan 1943. Served in the South Pacific and, later, Southwest Pacific, participating in the Allied drive north and west from the Solomons to the Philippines.



FOURTEENTH AIR FORCE

Established as Fourteenth AF on 5 Mar 1943 and activated in China on 10 Mar. Served in combat against the Japanese, operating primarily in China, until the end of the war.



FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE

Established as Fifteenth AF on 30 Oct 1943. Activated in the Mediterranean Theater on 1 Nov 1943.

Began operations on 2 Nov and engaged primarily in strategic bombardment of targets in Italy, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, and the Balkans until the end of the war.



TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

Established as Twentieth AF on 4 Apr 1944 and activated the same day. Some combat elements moved in the summer of 1944 from the US to India where they carried out very heavy bombardment operations against targets in Japan, Formosa, Thailand, and Burma. Other combat elements began moving late in 1944 from the US to the Marianas, being joined there early in 1945 by the elements that had been in India. Headquarters, which had remained in the US, was transferred to Guam in Jul 1945. From the Marianas the Twentieth conducted a strategic air offensive that was climaxed by the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan. ■



FALL QUIZ

- Name which of the 16 Army Air forces had B-24s.
- Name the Foreign Air Forces that flew B-24s.

Report from the 2ADA Representative to the Board of Governors

BY CHUCK WALKER (445TH)

Everything is moving forward at a rapid pace for the opening of the new Library. The name FORUM has been selected for the new library and its address is MILLENNIUM PLAIN. The Roman name FORUM was chosen as it indeed will be a major meeting place for people and events in Norwich as the name implies. The address MILLENNIUM PLAIN was chosen because in Roman times they did not use the name “squares,” but rather used “plain.” Much to my surprise, I was advised there are already “plains” in Norwich so it is not a new name to the natives. So, the new address is the Forum at Millennium Plain.

Our esteemed Governors appointed a committee to study the role of education in the Trust. As Paul King so aptly stated, “education in its broadest sense lies at the root of the Trust’s primary concern in the maintenance and development of the Memorial Library of the 2nd Air Division. The opening of the new Millennium Library this year gives us an opportunity to look afresh at the ways in which knowledge of the Library and what it stands for can be made more widely available in the locality. In particular, we need to remind ourselves that the Library is itself an educational institution which is both a memorial to events and people of the past and a living resource in a fast changing world.”

Derek Hills, Trust Librarian, reports on several donations to the Book Endowment Program which are very much appreciated. He further stated subscriptions to the Wall Street Journal and the International Herald Tribune will not be renewed. They are both costly and are accessible, as are many other newspapers, on the internet via infotrac which will be available to patrons of the Millennium Library. This action should protect the

periodicals budget to the period 2005.

Derek also proposed the employment of one part time Librarian and one part time Enquiry Assistant. This proposed employment will cost £1,040 for four weeks. Derek provided a dummy time sheet showing how our Memorial Library will be manned.

Carson Holloway, 2ADA/Fulbright Scholar, gave a very interesting report which included his appreciation for having had the opportunity to serve and his expectations for the future of our Memorial. He participated in the committee which drew together ideas and initiatives regarding the Memorial’s education mission. Carson, in consultation with Matthew Martin, prepared a list of informational items of specific interest to Fulbright Fellows coming to Norwich in addition to the information Fulbright sends. All good practical information about housing, health care, insurance and transportation as well as information about the Library that is inaccessible from the USA. Carson will be returning to the States in August but plans to return to Norwich for the Dedication. Carson has been a real asset to our Memorial Library. We thank him and wish him well in his future adventures.

Let us keep in mind our Memorial Library is operated by the Brits. Gen. Kepner gave the seed money that was collected at the end of the war to the Brits to create a memorial. The Memorial Trust was created and the decision was made the Memorial would be a Second Air Division Memorial Library within the planned new Central Library in Norwich. Our Memorial was dedicated in 1963 and since that time, the Trust has done a marvelous job of caring for and operating the Memorial. Our British friends have made large contributions in support of our Memorial and of course we of the 2nd

ADA have been major contributors to its support.

THERE IS NOT ANOTHER MEMORIAL LIKE IT IN THE WORLD.

I believe the 6,700 of our comrades it honors would be pleased.

Although its just the 4th of July, this is my last opportunity to wish you all a very Merry and Happy Holiday Season. Stay well and enjoy the Season. ■



L TO R: ROBIN HALL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE-NORFOLK & NORWICH MILLENNIUM CO. LTD; DAVID JANSSENS-PROJECT DIRECTOR; DAVID HASTINGS- VICE CHAIRMAN, MEMORIAL TRUST.



• FLASH •

Paul King announced that Her Majesty The Queen will conduct a ‘Golden Jubilee Tour of East Anglia’ 18 July 2002. She is scheduled to visit the Forum Millennium Plain center in Norwich at that time.

SOME PILOTS LIKE TO PILE IT ON....

There was this older airline pilot who always lived in New York, travelled by public transportation and taxi wherever he went, and dreamed of the west’s wide open spaces when he retires. When he retired he bought open range property in Montana, and took his last airplane trip as a passenger. Then, taking a taxi to his ‘ranch,’ he soon found out that travelling by ‘horse’ was a tedious affair.

He decides on some more modern transportation, and so he goes downtown and buys this fully equipped van; it has everything—fancy paint, sun roof, carpet, power everything, and a bar complete with a refrigerator. Picks up the whole works and pays cash. Hops in and drives off.

A little while later, motorists on the Interstate see this van veer off the highway and go into the ditch where it overturns. They stop and rush over to see if the driver is hurt, and it turns out that he is only badly shaken up. Asked how he could lose control of his van on a flat stretch of Montana Interstate, he replies, “Well, I put the Auto Pilot on cruise control, and went in back to fix myself a drink.”



GOVERNOR ESSAY PRIZE

BY PAUL R. KING

This year there was a record number of 62 entries. The contest was organised by my fellow Governor Frances Davies, ably assisted by the Trust Librarian, Derek Hills and the 2ADA Fulbright Librarian, Carson Holloway. The winner was 11 year-old Robert Charlesworth. I am seen presenting him with his diploma. He received a cheque for £50 and free entry for him and his family to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

The standard of entries was so high that in addition to the main award six other prizes were given. My grandson, Tom Le Coq, who was unable to attend the ceremony due to an important cricket match in which he was playing, was amongst the prize-winners. ■



Carson Holloway is back left and Derek Hills is back right.

MEET THE NEW TRUST GOVERNOR

Mrs. Victoria Musgrave was elected Governor of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF at the Trust Meeting held on the 12th of April. She is Principal of Wyomndham College, with which the Trust has close links. The site of the College was a USAAF Hospital during WWII.

The College is developing links with a school at Phoenix, Arizona the Head of which is the daughter of Jim Lorenz.

In the years ahead we shall seek to develop our educational work and strengthen our links with Colleges, Schools and the University of East Anglia. Mrs. Musgrave will undoubtedly be a great asset to our Board. ■



BY JIM LORENZ

ATTLEBRIDGE TALES

NORWICH VISIT ~ NOVEMBER 2-9, 2001:

Plans are being finalized for our "Day at the Base," on Thursday, November 8. Most of our group will be at the Jarvis Hotel. By the time you read this, all who are making the trip should have had a letter from me with details. We will leave the hotel about 8:30 A.M. and return to the hotel by 5:00 P.M. We will also have our 466th Bomb Group annual meeting (election of officers) just prior to boarding the bus. Remember the weather will be "Blustery."

MAIL CALL:

I noted a request in the Heritage League's Herald (sent in via their website). This was a typical situation—my relative was in the 8th AF and we never knew much about his military life—can you help us? We can—about 50% of the time! This was a request for information, by a cousin, on 1st Lt. Robert J. Podojil who flew in the 44th BG. I replied by e-mail that we did have some records and that our 2nd Air Division Association has a Roll of Honor in our 2nd Air Division Memorial Room in the Norwich Library—and his name is on that roll. I suggested he get in touch with Dick Butler (44th VP). He did this and is getting the information and the name of a crew member still living. His e-mail back to me:

"Thank you for the information on my cousin Robert Podojil. I have been in contact with Richard Butler, Will Lundy, Jack Butler and a member of Robert's crew, Max Veith.

I have been blessed to be able to communicate with these gentlemen and gather considerable information about my cousin's military career. I did not know, however, that Robert was on the Roll of Honor in Norwich, England. Thank you so very much for that information and your willingness to communicate with me. At the present time, I'm putting together the story of my cousin's military life for my family. I don't want Robert's sacrifice to be forgotten! Roy E. Podojil."

466TH CAPS & LOGO PATCHES:

We have restocked the 466th BG B-24 caps—with your choice of black or blue bills. Price remains the same—\$12 at the meetings or \$15 if you order them to be shipped to you.

Also, we have a new 3 1/2 inch logo patch: "466th Bomb Group," "The Flying Deck," center shield with card suits—full 6 colors. These are \$6 each, including packaging and shipping. Send orders and make checks to me.

Note: 466th BG Website:

www.webbirds.com/8th/466 ■

ONE MAN'S PRICE OF FREEDOM

BY KEN MILLIGAN

Staff Writer, Commonwealth Journal

Vernon Land (445th BG), of Somerset, KY, saw the man flying the other plane.

He can still see the pilot's white gloves and the rivets that held the fuselage together.

Land watched the German pilot fire and knows that the man with the white gloves was the man that shot the engines off the right side of his plane.

That was the beginning of the "hairiest three minutes of my life," Land said.

His pilot put their B-24 bomber on autopilot. All eight men aboard knew their plane wasn't going to make it back to England.

Not that day—not ever.

Land dove through the open bomb bay doors, "right out of the belly of the plane."

He doesn't remember how far or for how long he fell, but he remembers wanting to be closer to the ground before he opened his parachute.

"I was afraid they would shoot at me," he said.

While he looked around, dangling in mid-air, Land could see fires dotting the countryside and explosions in the skies all around him.

He hit the ground on his head and left shoulder.

The impact broke the crystal on his wristwatch.

The hands were stuck on 10:20 a.m.

It was Sept. 27, 1944.

The 23-year-old from Kentucky found himself in a kohlrabi patch 400 miles inside Germany.

He had to be thinking "How did I get here?"

Just a few months earlier, Land had been managing a Womwell Auto Parts store in Richmond.

He knew he would be drafted sooner or later.

He was 22 years old with a wife and a little girl at home when his notice came.

While in Army basic training, Land's test scores gave him a choice to go into the Army Air Forces. He went to various schools, where he was trained to be a flight engineer.

After his training was complete, Land and his crew picked up a brand new B-24 'Liberator' at Lincoln, NB, to fly to England.

Along the way, his pilot decided to buzz his old neighborhood in Cincinnati.

"We came in real low. It was early in the morning and people were out in their pajamas, watching us," Land said.

Soon afterward, the crew realized they wouldn't have enough fuel to reach Maine.

After refueling in Cleveland, the flight diverted to Ft. Wayne, IN, where the pilot was temporarily jailed for the stunt.

Land was assigned to the 445th Bomb

Group.

Land remembers hearing the "clicky clack" of the sergeant's footsteps on the cobblestones as he walked toward the barracks to wake the crew up on the morning of his first mission.

He had not slept the night before.

Land's squadron was assigned to bomb an enemy formation at St. Lo, France. The position was supposed to be marked with a smokescreen, but the wind had blown the smoke back on friendly troops.

Mission after mission followed.

The former parts store manager did his job, making sure the B-24 flew smoothly.

He kept up with fuel levels and made sure the generators on all four engines were aligned.

The 19th mission Land's crew and plane, the 'Mairzy Doats,' was assigned to was a complex of transportation factories at Kassel, Germany.

Because of a navigation error, the fighters assigned to fly cover became separated from the bombers.

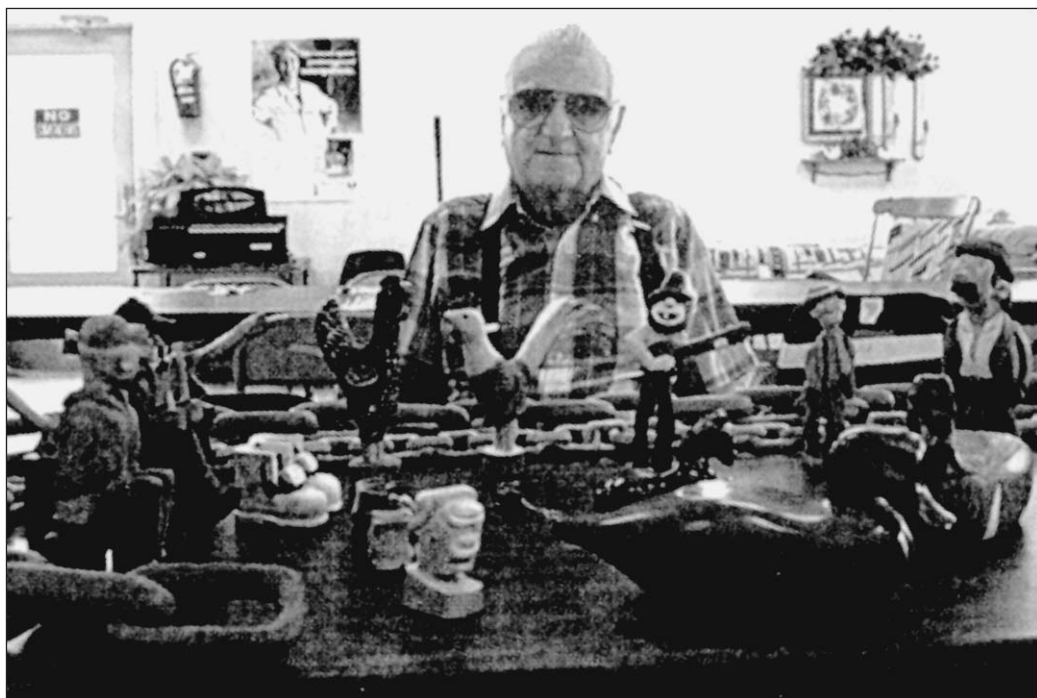
The mission was going smoothly until just after bombing the target.

Within seconds, Land saw the pilot with the white gloves come up alongside the right side of the 'Mairzy Doats.' Land started shooting at him from his top turret

(continued on page 9)



Above, Corporal Vernon Land at the age of 22. At right, Land carved this figure of a sheriff and his dog as well as the wooden chain behind them.





WENDLING 392nd B.G. BY CHARLES E. DYE

GREETINGS to all Crusaders!

As usual, when away for a few days, the held mail is overflowing. This situation was the same when returning from the 2nd ADA EX COM Mid Year meeting in Colorado Springs, CO.

Since this was my first EX COM Mid Year meeting I was primarily an interested spectator. Much 2nd ADA business was handled to a conclusion all without rancor on the part of anyone, somewhat different than some organizations.

Evelyn Cohen and Norma Beasley did a magnificent job with the arrangements, highlighted by a visit to the Air Force Academy and the Cadet RETREAT.

Arrangements for the Norwich trip are being or have been finalized. Evelyn will publish a listing of those taking

advantage of this return to Norwich. Also, a later issue of the 392nd NEWS will include a resume of the 392nd Activities at both Irving, TX in October, and the England trip.

The Memorial Trust Fund of the 2nd ADA needs an infusion of money as does the Air Force Memorial. Now that tax season is over, please scrape together your "left-over" and reply with a contribution to these worthy causes.

Your contribution can be included with your Membership Dues or sent directly to me and it will be forwarded. If sent to me, make the check payable to the 392nd BGMA and note to which it should be given.

The 392nd PX is still a viable function, so get your Christmas orders in early. The 392nd anthology "20th Century Crusaders" is still the best bargain around at \$36.50, and Jim Goar has reprogrammed his computer and a NEW Directory is available at \$10.00 through the PX.

Again, I am pleased to include a message from Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert (USAF Ret), Chairman of the 392nd BGMA, and our last wartime Commander.

NOTES FROM LAWRENCE GILBERT:

In a recent issue of the 392nd NEWS, Editor Jim Goar, magna cum laude, told of a 392nd delegation meeting in Florida to screen and make disposition of memorabilia in the custody of Ernie Barber, our historian. Part has been sent to the 8th AF Museum at Savannah, and part to the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

The FSU Institute was literally founded by a student looking for a place to house the war photographs his grandfather was trying to throw away. It includes the memories of more than 2,800 contributors. Tom Brokaw (The Greatest Generation) recently agreed to donate all the material he has collected for his books to the Institute. He said he was relieved to find a permanent home for the letters and photographs that continue to arrive by the hundreds daily.

Teddy Egan, our Membership Chair, has retained three large albums of photos taken of our members at reunions. Write to her at 2619 Lafayette Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789, to look for and send your personal print to you. ■

(continued from page 8)

position while the German pilot shot at the outside engine of the B-24.

"When that number four engine blew apart, it took number three right with it, clean off the wing."

That is when the crew knew they were going to have to bail out. As they scrambled for the exits, they tried to get one man to join them, but "Doc," the waist gunner wouldn't put on a parachute.

"He just kept praying... We tried to get him out, but he just kept hanging on to the sides of the doorway to his compartment. I guess he just lost it," said Land.

Knowing there wasn't time to save him, Land dove through the open bomb bay doors.

Once he was on the ground in the kohlrabi patch, Land could hear the people yelling in German.

"I had squirrel hunted a lot back home, and the first thought I had was to get to the woods," he said.

After a mile at a dead run, the forest he came to had no place to hide. He got under a pile of leaves, but the search dogs quickly found him.

As the dogs closed in, Land thought about shooting it out. "I kept thinking about my wife and little girl back home. You might say self-preservation kicked in," he said.

Land stood up and stuck his hands in the air. "Peelot?"

The first thing his captors wanted to know was if Land was a pilot. He later learned that some of the pilots were shot upon being captured.

It wasn't long before Land found himself on a "forty and eight" boxcar, headed for Poland. "Forty men and eight horses is what those cars could hold. We were crammed in there like animals — you couldn't lay down. There was no toilet, just a hole in the floor," he said.

After arriving at Stalag 4 in Poland, they were unloaded.

Land remembers the guards had dogs that chased the men all the way inside the camp, about a mile away. "I was lucky, I didn't get bit," he said.

For entertainment, the prisoners would shift their formation to throw the guards' count off. They also stole peat to burn in the stove for cooking and to keep warm.

Occasionally the prisoners would get a Red Cross package. "We didn't waste anything," Land said. He still has an address book he made from Christmas cards and an old cheese can.

Land said he got no news from home until the day he got home. A radio man from one of the planes had made a radio from telephone parts and a battery. The prisoners used it to get news from the BBC. He said it was kept hidden in the

outhouse "in a place the guards wouldn't find it."

By February 1945, the Russian army was closing in on Germany from the east. Land remembers being able to see the flash from artillery fire. The prisoners were ordered to start marching toward the west to keep ahead of the advancing Russian army.

Land said they marched more than 500 miles before bumping into the U.S. Army's 104th "Timberwolf" Division.

The former POWs were sent to Camp "Lucky Strike" in Le Havre, France, to "fatten us up," Land said. After that, he was put aboard the USS Explorer, bound for Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, where he was granted a 60-day furlough.

Thomas Vernon Land was discharged from the Army Air Forces on a Thursday in October, 1945. Monday morning, he was opening the door to the Womwell Auto Parts store in Somerset, KY. "I never was without a job after that," said Land.

He worked for the auto parts chain for 17 years, then was self-employed as a parts wholesaler for 29 years after that.

Land said he wanted to tell his story because "young people today need to know that there was a price my generation paid so we could enjoy the freedom we have." ■

THE SWIFT EVOLUTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Barbara Walters did a story on gender roles in Kuwait several years before the Gulf War. She noted at the time that women customarily walked about ten feet behind their husbands.

She returned to Kuwait in more recent times and observed that the men were walking several yards behind their wives. "This is marvelous," Ms. Walters said to one of the local women. "Can you tell the free world just what enabled women here to achieve this reversal of roles?" "Land mines," said the Kuwaiti woman! ■

HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL

This is an exact replication of National Public Radio (NPR) interview between a female broadcaster and U.S. Army General Reinwald who was about to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop visiting his military installation.

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: "So, General Reinwald, what things are you going to teach these young boys when they get to your base?"

GENERAL REINWALD: "We're going to teach them climbing, canoeing, archery and shooting."

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: "Shooting! That's a bit irresponsible, isn't it?"

GENERAL REINWALD: "I don't see why. They'll be properly supervised on the rifle range."

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: "Don't you admit that this is a terribly dangerous activity to be teaching children?"

GENERAL REINWALD: "I don't see how. We will be teaching them proper discipline before they touch a firearm."

FEMALE INTERVIEWER: "But you're equipping them to become violent killers."

GENERAL REINWALD: "Well, you're equipped to be a prostitute, but you aren't one, are you?" ■

MEET THE NEW LIBRARIAN ANDREA BEAN HOUGH

BY RAY PYTEL

Andrea Bean Hough was the Senior Subject Specialist of the Indiana Division of the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. She has been with the State Library since March 1998, where she was responsible for coordinating the services and improving the collections of one of the largest repositories of historical and current Indiana-related materials in the world. During her service with the Indiana State Library, her division has developed internships for graduate students in history and library science, established a volunteer program, and greatly enhanced its presence on the Internet, through online exhibits, searchable databases, and inventories of the collections of letters, diaries, and other manuscripts.

Prior to her return to Indiana, Mrs. Hough worked for the University of Houston Libraries in Houston, Texas from 1994 until 1998. She served as Special Collections Librarian, then as the University Archivist, where she was responsible for renovations, planning, and creating the first University Archives on campus. She served as an adjunct faculty member for the public history program at the University of Houston as well, teaching the graduate course in historical archives and records administration.

She has a master's degree in library science and a master's degree in American history, as well as a bachelor's degree in history and political science, all from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Mrs. Hough has been active in state, regional, and national archival and library professional organizations. She has spoken at conferences in the Midwest and in Texas, and published articles in regional journals and newsletters. After applying for the ZADA/Fulbright Librarian fellowship, she learned that her great uncle, Harry Lavon Bean, served as gunner in the Second Air Division's 466th Bombardment Group. She plans on asking him a lot of questions at the Bean Family Reunion.

Her husband, Paul, is accompanying her to Norwich. He is a research chemist with Thermoset, Lord Chemical Products. While in Norwich, he will complete his master's degree in organic chemistry, at the University of East Anglia. The Houghs are selling their Indianapolis home, taking care of all of the assorted paperwork and

preparations, and gearing up for the big move to Norwich! ■



ANDREA BEAN HOUGH WITH HUSBAND PAUL

Folded Wings

Headquarters
Doris Lundgren Fordyce

52nd FS
William T. Ash

93rd
Harry L. Tower, Jr.

389th
M.E. Bryant
Fred K. McConnell

392nd
Eldred G. Lassins

445th
Matthew L. Brockmeyer

446th
Donald O. Forsyth

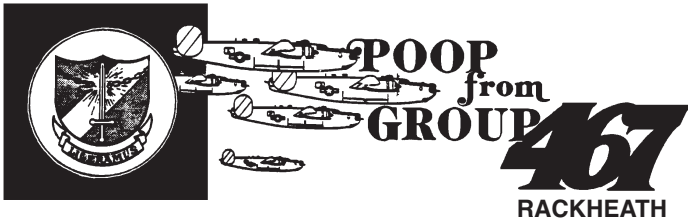
453rd
Burton C. Baker
Edwin D. Becker

458th
Robert I. Ash
Richard O. Bischoff
Arnold Gottlieb

467th
Donald F. Good
Robert P. Hine

467th & 492nd
Col. H. Harding Isaacson

492nd
Gerald D. "Barney" Edwards
Edgar J. Foss



BY GEOFF GREGORY

Since Walt Mundy, as Ex. VP of the 2nd ADA, will be giving his slant on the Executive Committee meeting in Colorado Springs last April, I will confine my report to just the 3 areas of my responsibilities. They are the Nominating Committee, the Bequest Program and our up-coming convention this November in Norwich.

1.) The Nominating Committee—I am pleased to report the following slate of Officers to serve your Association was approved with no objections. The Slate reads:

- President** — Walt Mundy of the 467th
- Executive Vice President** — Richard Butler of the 44th
- Secretary** — David Patterson of the 445th
- Treasurer** — W.E. “Bill” Nothstein of the 466th
- V/P Membership** — Evelyn Cohen of Headquarters
- Journal Editor** — Ray Pytel of the 445th

We all join in expressing congratulations to the nominees, and wish them well in their tour of duty. We are indeed blessed to have these dedicated people responsible for guiding our Association this coming year.

2.) The Bequest program—the work of this program is marked by a slowly increasing number of donors and the amounts of the bequests committed by the pledges. The need remains great! Remember that \$100,000 in bequests amounts to just \$5,000 for the capital fund. This is hardly enough to buy the services of a full-time librarian, let alone another part-time employee. **THREE** - I repeat - **THREE** people from our 467th have responded to this appeal for pledges. We need at least 25 more pledges for the amount of \$1,000 each or more!

The Koorndyk Challenge (see page 3). Bud made a \$20,000 pledge to the Bequest Fund. **Bud then went one step further!** He challenged us! Very Encouraging! I know that the 467th will also do its part to meet this requirement - it always has. Please send your CASH contributions to me or to Walt; but continue to mail your PLEDGES to Bill Nothstein, 2nd ADA Treasurer.

I am sure of one thing - the 60 plus 467th people going to the Dedication of our Memorial Library will return with a new spirit of dedication, and a renewed realization of just how important our Library is.

3.) Turning now to the November Norwich visit; plans are now set in stone, with only a few minor adjustments to be made. I now have from David Hastings, our Honorary Member, the final draft of the week’s schedule. The detail work involved is mind-boggling! Our Base Day visit activities - planned by David Hastings and Perry Watts - constitute but a very small part of the overall extensive planning

worked out for us. Everyone and his uncle will be there, including the U.S. Ambassador—a Texan! Several bands will be performing at various times, “Flyovers,” bus tours, hotels, meals, receptions, Church services; culminating, of course, with the Dedication! Most of all, this planning is the result of David’s efforts. All of it being a tribute to our unique Memorial Library— the only one of its kind in the world. Speaking of Base Day—it will be a long one! “Up-and-at-um” by 7 AM because you will want a good breakfast! And then, on the bus, away we go for a day-long visit to Rackheath and Salhouse, culminating with dinner about 6/7ish PM. Also, a reminder that some of you will be leaving for London before DAWN on the 9th — a good idea to have your bags packed on the 8th. And lastly, make sure you have your lunch and dinner money in to Ralph, PRONTO.

I have one concern. There have been several cancellations from our 467th group. Some, I’m sure are health related - beyond our control of course. However, if the Foot and Mouth disease caused anyone to cancel, I do hope you will reconsider. The disease is NOT related to HUMANS; has been virtually eliminated, and NEVER WAS FOUND IN NORFOLK. Don’t let an unfounded fear deprive you of an experience of a lifetime. There is still time! Just call Evelyn and re-book.

Pending the approval of the General Membership, we will have ANOTHER 467th member serving as President of the 2nd ADA. Walter Mundy will be the 4th man from our 467th to serve in this capacity. We all know that Walt will uphold the high traditions of service set by those who have preceded him. We thank you, Walt, for offering to serve!

To those who are “going;” see you in Norwich! To those who cannot; stay well and keep in touch! ■



HETHEL
389th
Green Dragon
Flares

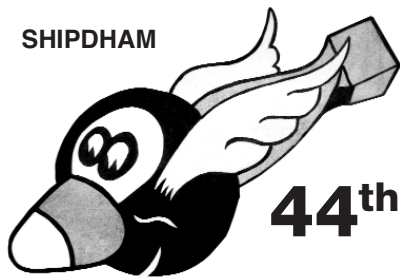
BY BARNEY DRISCOLL

Greetings to all the fine folks of the Second Air Division Association in general, and to the good people of the 389th Bomb Group family in particular.

When we look back on the World War II era there were truly some spectacular accomplishments, not only on the fighting front but also on the production front. In many instances those who made some of the most impressive efforts received very little credit. I might suggest that some of the folks who could fit into that category were those lady flyers the “Wasps.”

I am preparing a feature story on these unsung heroines of WWII which will appear in the winter or spring issue of the Journal. Look for it! ■

SHIPDHAM



BY R.D. "DICK" BUTLER

On 18 November 1943, aircraft from four bomb groups, the 44th, the 93rd, the 389th, and the 392nd, flew a mission to bomb the motor works at Kjeller Airfield in Norway. The bombing was exceptionally accurate. Ninety-eight percent of the bombs released landed within two thousand feet of the MPI. As Norway was a neutral and friendly country, although held by the Germans, special care was taken to hit only Nazi targets. The mission was planned to take place on a Sunday so that a minimum number of Norwegians would be at work on the

airfield and exposed to the bombing. The 44th Group had considerable difficulty in assembling the formation after takeoff in the pre-dawn darkness and adverse weather. Several planes could not make the assembly and had to return to Shipdham. Critical fuel supplies were expended in this assembly and in the very long flight over the North Sea to the target.

Shortly after departing the target, unexpected enemy aircraft coming out of the sun, attacked the 44th formation. Several of our aircraft were severely damaged and were lost due to this damage and to running out of fuel and ditched in the North Sea. The 67th Squadron lost three planes and the 68th lost two. Two men who were on planes that made it back to Shipdham had fatal gun shot wounds from the attack. All three of the 67th planes lost went down in the North Sea with no survivors. One was flown by Edward M. Dobson, a Ploesti mission veteran. No details about this loss became known. Another

plane was piloted by Joseph L. Houle. I was on the mission and led a three plane element. My two wing men were Joe Houle and Rocky Griffith. Both of these planes received extensive damage which resulted in Houle's ditching and Rocky Griffith's spectacular landing with only one main landing gear down after bailing out most of his crew. This landing
(continued on page 20)



ROYAL NORWEGIAN AF AIRMAN THOMAS JOHANSEN & DICK BUTLER AT KJELLER AIRFIELD MONUMENT

GENERAL SHULER CLARIFIES 8TH AIR FORCE MUSEUM STATUS

LT. GEN. E.G. 'BUCK' SHULER, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

It is important for members and supporters of The Eighth Air Force Historical Society, The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, and the Memorial Museum Foundation, known as the MMF, to understand that these are three separate and distinct entities. Each is a registered non-profit organization established in its own right. The Society formed the MMF some years ago with a specific mission to present the history of the Eighth Air Force and to establish a museum. The MMF did not establish a museum, but the Society provided the initial seed money to establish The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum as a separate entity. Although the MMF was established as an arm of the Society, it recently became a totally separate entity. Each entity now has its own membership, leadership and objectives even though there is a great deal of overlap and redundancy.

Apparently there exists some misunderstanding as to the financial status of each organization. While I cannot speak for the Society or the MMF, I can speak for the Museum as its Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Museum is not in

financial difficulty. As many of you know, Chatham County sold bonds in 1994 and made \$12.5 million available to the museum organization with which the Museum was created. This \$12.5 million is a legal fiduciary obligation that must be repaid per the agreement with Chatham County. Over \$1.7 million of this bond debt has been repaid to date and recently the Museum made another payment to that end. Attendance and cash flow from the Museum's operations are rising. Additionally, the Museum recently embarked on a new fund raising effort entitled the Victory Campaign. The objective of the campaign is to raise \$9.0 million that will propel the Museum towards becoming debt free. To date over \$1.8 million has been raised in the Victory Campaign. The Museum needs the support of every Eighth Air Force veteran, families and friends to help achieve the campaign objectives.

When an individual contributes financially to the Society, the Museum or the MMF, those contributions are separate and distinct, and designated for different

purposes as determined by the leadership of the respective organization. Contributions to the Museum go to P.O. Box 1992 in Savannah, Georgia. Contributions to the Society go to the Society's office, which is maintained in the Museum facility. The Society and the Museum maintain separate bank accounts. Society contributions are NOT mingled with Museum money. When an individual contributes to the Society or the MMF, that money does NOT go to the Museum. I ask that you make sure your contributions are going to the intended organization.

Finally, the Society, the Museum and the MMF all share a common goal of preserving and promoting Eighth Air Force history and heritage. Let's join together and cooperate in this worthy goal. I trust this statement is helpful to the constituencies of the Society, the Museum and the MMF. If anyone has a question, please call me at 256-234-5374 or contact me by E-mail at egshuler@mindspring.com. ■

BEQUEST PROGRAM LEAPS FORWARD!

BY GEOFF GREGORY, 467TH BG

The Koorndyk Challenge (see page 3). Bud Koorndyk made a most generous bequest of \$20,000. Then, when ALL groups have been shown as participants, we will have that \$15,000, plus Bud's matching \$15,000, to the tune of **\$30,000!!!!!!!** That's the Koorndyk Challenge!

Bequests, plus cash contributions, are currently beginning to grow. When we meet this November in Norwich, I know I will have a very optimistic report to present. We are making progress; and when the membership sees what we have accomplished, I know more Bequests will follow — *If its in your will, there is a way!*

Let me once again review the areas in need of funding in order to perpetuate the life of our Memorial Library:

- 1) **The Capital Fund of the Memorial Trust**
- 2) **Maintenance of the 2ADA Fulbright Scholar**
- 3) **The Bequest Program**

To contribute to building the **Capital Fund** for the future of our Memorial, you can donate a check or contribute in the appropriate "BOX" on your "DUES" statement. I repeat — **THIS IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE CAPITAL FUND OF THE MEMORIAL TRUST!** Checks should be made out to: "The 2nd Air Division Association," sent to Bill Nothstein, treasurer 2nd ADA, and marked, "The Capital Fund."

We know that the **Fulbright** position will also need additional funding in the near future. Realizing how important this position is to the Memorial Library, those wishing to help in this area can send a cash donation to Bill Nothstein marked "Fulbright Fund." For tax information, the 2nd ADA is a 501(C) 19 organization.

Another area for contributions is, of course, the **BEQUEST** Program which has really blossomed — thanks to you who have made pledges. This will continue to be an "on-going" program, so those of you who have

not yet done so, **TAKE THE PLUNGE! MAKE THE PLEDGE!** It still remains the easiest, most convenient and cost effective method of financially supporting our beloved Memorial Library. While on this subject; occasionally, we have had a problem finding the right person who is handling an estate. Therefore, please include in your Bequest, the name of

the executor or attorney of record. It is a small thing, but can save time for those involved.

The bottom line is that we must all be concerned for the future of our beloved **MEMORIAL**.

Enjoy the summer! Stay well! **SEE YOU IN NORWICH** — if the creek don't rise and the good Lord's willing! ■

Second Air Division Association Annual Financial Statement

GENERAL FUND BALANCE, JULY 1, 2000		\$188,448.25
INCOME		
Membership Dues	\$104,670.00	
Interest	\$6,804.38	
Other	\$9,316.85	
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		\$120,791.23
EXPENSES (excluding grants)		
Journal & Related Expenses	\$51,174.29	
Operating & Administrative Exp.	\$40,271.51	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$91,445.80
GRANTS		
ABCM Wreaths	\$1,050.00	
Video Archives	\$10,000.00	
TOTAL GRANTS		\$11,050.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$102,495.80
NET INCOME (after expenses)		\$18,295.43
GENERAL FUND BALANCE (after expenses)		\$206,743.68
DONATION RECEIPTS		
Memorial Library Endowments	\$4,105.00	
8th Air Force Heritage Museum	\$1,145.00	
Library Books	\$2,260.00	
Memorial Trust Restoration	\$32,682.00	
TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED		\$40,192.00
DONATIONS DISBURSED		
Memorial Library Endowments	\$4,975.00	
8th Air Force Heritage Museum	\$1,145.00	
Library Books	\$2,520.00	
Memorial Trust Restoration	\$0.00	
TOTAL DONATIONS DISBURSED		\$8,640.00
NET DONATIONS		\$31,552.00

ELWOOD W. NOTHSTEIN, TREASURER

Donations received for the Memorial Trust and/or the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum are deposited in a separate bank account from the General Fund. These gifts are disbursed at the direction of the 2ADA Executive Committee.



HARDWICK

Open Letter to the 93rd

BY ALFRED ASCH

A new dimension has been added to our Norwich reunion this November for the day we visit Hardwick. David Woodrow has informed me that he has restored the sleeping quarters and operations building that General Timberlake and his staff used during the war while the Wing was stationed at Hardwick. We will hold a short dedication service at the buildings which will remain as a memorial for General Ted. The large banner of General Ted that Cal Stewart had produced for our recent reunion at Savannah, Georgia will be hung and remain on display in an appropriate place. Also, Dave Woodrow asked that we bring pictures and other memorabilia for the memorial buildings. He especially requested pictures of Gen. Ted with King George when he visited our base soon after we arrived in England. Please bring other items appropriate for the memorial and the 93rd museum.

Just a reminder for those of you attending the reunion, our program will be as follows. Bus transportation will be furnished for pickup at hotel(s) and return at the end of the day.

1. Service at Topcroft, the 16th or 17th century church;
2. Memorial Service at 93rd Monument at Hardwick Airfield;
3. Dedication of Timberlake compound;
4. Snack Luncheon at Hardwick;
5. Visit Museum and Airfield at Hardwick (Bring items that can be left at the museum and Timberlake compound for permanent display);
6. Airplane rides at Hardwick, weather permitting;
7. Evening Banquet at Hardwick.

The buses will leave Hardwick early enough for packing our bags and getting a decent nights sleep before leaving early the next morning to catch our flights home that day.

Our Memorial Library Bequest Program

I know you have read in past Journals and in our news letter, The Ball of Fire, about the need to build up the trust fund to support our Memorial Library at Norwich, suggesting you add a codicil to your Will or Trust leaving a suggested amount of \$2,000 payable from your estate. However, pledges for donations and cash now are also encouraged. The amount for bequest of \$1,000 or more

has been suggested. However, any amount donated is appreciated. I understand a donors name will appear in the 2ADA Executive Room of the Memorial Library and will remain there in the future. I am suggesting the 93rd names appear under the heading of 93rd Bombardment Group which brings me to this... The 93rd has given \$1,000 toward this program as matching funds pledged by E. "Bud" Koorndyk as a challenge (see page 3). Personal donations of lesser amounts are certainly accepted and encouraged. Remember, donations are tax deductible if you file the long IRS form.

Send your pledge, cash or copy of your codicil to the 2ADA treasurer, E.W. "Bill" Nothstein, 40 Meadow Drive, Spencerport, NY 14559-1142. If you choose to donate securities, call Bill at 716-352-3350 or fax him at 716-352-4201. Be certain to tell Bill how you want your name to appear as part of the listing, or if you choose, you may send the information to me and I will accomplish a grouping of names. If you have questions, please call me at 301-881-1376.

Contribution Reminder for Air Force Memorial

We have a new incentive to contribute to the 2ADA general fund to replace the \$25,000 gift given to the United States Air Force Memorial Foundation to build our long overdue Air Force Memorial. I have made arrangements with the Memorial Foundation staff that any payback by an individual or group to the 2ADA funds will also receive credit by the Foundation by adding the contribution names to their computer data base. I have received a number of names from E.W. "Bill" Nothstein, our treasurer, for those who have already contributed. I will personally arrange them by group and ask that they be listed under the general heading of the Second Air Division Association followed by the group name and then individual names. But a reminder, the groups must contribute to qualify to have their names listed in the data base.

This is a major consideration by the Foundation Staff and we ought to take advantage of it. You might say, one gets double credit in doing this; helping our Memorial Library funding and getting

recognition from the Memorial Foundation for the same contribution. It is working for me, for example, my name will appear in the Foundation data base as follows:

**Colonel Alfred and Naomi I. Asch, USAF, Ret.
B-24 pilot, 93rd. and 455th. Bomb Groups**

Our names may be retrieved by use of the internet or at the terminals within the Memorial long after we are gone.

Evelyn Cohen has included a form on the same page that holds the dues payment form. Use this form for your contribution, both groups and individuals, but make certain your name appears exactly as you want it submitted to the Memorial Foundation. The donations are income tax deductible for those who itemize and file with the long IRS form.

At our last Executive Committee Meeting in Colorado Springs, it was agreed to emphasize this activity. We are asking that the Group Vice Presidents back the program by making a group donation and encourage members to do likewise. For example, one group has made a \$1,000 donation and a number of its members have made generous donations. If you have questions, please call me at 616-629-4056. ■

New Members of the 2nd Air Division Association

44th

B. Gen. Robert L. Cardenas (ret)
Blaine Duxbury

93rd

J. Richard Hogan

389th

Joseph R. Eakins
A.J. Falsone
LTC James H. Stephenson (ret)

392nd

Alfred P. Rinke

445th

Elze W. Surratt

448th

Dr. Paul T. Leonard
William J. Trehal

453rd

Jimmie V. Woolley

489th

Phil K. Bakke

THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE FORMATION ASSEMBLY SHIP MODELS

(COLOR POSTER AVAILABLE ~ SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE)

BY GEORGE F. WRIGHT

It all started by a visit to the Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford with my wife Joan way back in 1992.

The tour of exhibits ended with the customary visit to “the shop” and it was there that I first glanced at Roger Freeman’s book ‘The Mighty Eighth’ and noticed the profiles of the B24 Liberators used as “Formation Assembly Ships.”

As a model maker who loves the challenge of a colourful subject, that glance started a chain of events that has continued to this very day.

With a further purchase of “The Mighty Eighth in Colour” which contains some magnificent colour photographs of these aircraft and the release of a model kit by Academy of a range of B24 variants, little did I realize what the next nine years held in store for both Joan and myself.

Not being a military modeller, my first love being racing and record breaking aircraft of the ‘Golden Era’ I thought I would just make one B24 to see how it went, the subject being ‘The Little Gramper’ of the 491st Bomb Group.

This example got a good reception from the fellow model makers so I produce a second one. This time I chose ‘Lil Cookie’ of the 489th, which led to a third ‘Pete the Pom Inspector’ 467th, and a fourth ‘The Spotted Ape’ 458th.

I was now hooked on this subject but was lacking detail to continue.

A model is a 3D subject and most published information is of one side view with very little detail of upper and lower surfaces. Photographs are those “taken on the day” and tones of black and white print and indeed colour prints may be affected by available light and type of film used.

I needed more information, so I turned to the modeling press for help and contacted the American publication ‘*Fine Scale Modeler*.’ The editor countered the claim for help by suggesting I write an article on the making of the four models I had produced so far. This was duly written and accepted mid 1993 and finally published in September 1995!!

This article resulted in me receiving correspondence from veterans and families of veterans which now added yet

another side to this subject, that of the history of the 2nd Air Division.

Contact with the Editor of the Journal now resulted in the publication of a letter seeking information which in turn resulted in more contact with both veterans and historians.

This massive response prompted Joan and I to visit the Norwich area and see at first hand the locations of the various bases and of course the then temporary location of the Memorial Library.



GEORGE WRIGHT

It was at this time that we met Mike Bailey—artist—and his wife Maureen. Mike was more than ready to help and has been a constant source of information to the very day.

During November 1998, Joan and I had the opportunity of meeting Fred and Marjorie Dale when they visited Norwich with other members of the Executive Committee of the 2nd ADA. Fred had asked to see my models so I took four along for his comments. This led to an impromptu gathering in the lounge of the Nelson Hotel and it was here that the question was posed, “What are you going to do with them once you have completed set of 14?”

With the involvement of so many veterans, the rebuilding of the Memorial

Library coupled with the atmosphere in that lounge, the answer was easy. I offered my models on permanent loan to the 2nd ADA for inclusion into the new Memorial Library.

With the official acceptance being received during February 2000, extra effort was needed to find those missing pieces of information, to build the last four models to complete the set. Again Mike Bailey and his contacts responded and it was twelve months later that the project was completed, some nine years after “that glance.”

During this period of time I have received hundreds of letters, read dozens of books, actually re-made three models in an attempt to produce an accurate representation as possible.

My wife Joan has always been supportive of my model makings and related activities, but even she has been astounded at the personal involvement that has developed over these past years.

This project could not have been completed without the help of all those veterans who responded to my pleas, and the help from historians here in England.

I would still like to hear from anyone who has experience and knowledge of these aircraft, so that I can build up the detail and service history of these unique fourteen B24s.

A sort of calm has now settled over the ‘Wrights’ home but who knows what the postman may bring!

We look forward to meeting veterans, families and friends at the official opening of the new Memorial Library, and in the meantime please accept my thanks to everyone who contributed to this project. ■

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Your Heritage League

BY IRENE HURNER
Heritage League President

July is here and summer has officially arrived. The weather has been tolerable and the grass is green. It really is quite nice.

I have been making a mental list of several things that I would like to mention in this article. I just hope that I don't have a "senior moment" and forget anything.

First, I would like to thank President Leeton for inviting me to attend the Executive Committee meeting of the 2ADA as an observer the last part of April in Colorado Springs. Although I was not able to attend both days, I was able to sit in on the Saturday sessions. I learned some tips that I used when the Executive Committee of the Heritage League met at Dayton, Ohio at the end of June. I also visited with members that I had not gotten to know before and enjoyed that very much. Members of the 2ADA Executive Committee have been most generous in sharing their comments and suggestions with me.

A wreath from The Heritage League was laid at the Cambridge cemetery during the Memorial Day ceremonies in May. A picture of the wreath done in red and white flowers with blue accents was in the mailbox when I returned from Dayton. I will take it to Norwich so that anyone who would like can see the picture.

Our Executive Committee met the weekend of June 22 through 24. We began our long weekend with a personal tour of the B-24 Liberator at the Wright-Patterson Museum early Friday morning. Jim Lorenz, the liaison to the Second Air Division Association, obtained permission to have the plane opened. He explained the instrument panel, the parts of the plane, and answered our many questions.

As usual, we had a long list of subjects to cover. Ruth Anderson, Membership Vice President reported our active membership at over seven hundred. That is exciting for the officers and encourages us to continue to guide The Heritage League toward its purpose and goals as stated in our by-laws and on our membership application. A donation to the Memorial Room was approved and will be presented in Norwich. Jim Lorenz mentioned that the Second Air Division Memorial Room is listed in Fulmer's travel book as a sight worth visiting. Vice-President, Carol Kendrick, gave a review of the Pen-Pal effort. She feels that the future of this program is with the Internet. It was noted that we still need someone to take up the duties of the Heritage Herald editor.

Members are encouraged to join the Friends of the Memorial. Our British friends do so much to support our library. Evelyn Cohen and David Hastings have scheduled a time for us to get acquainted. David has arranged for the showing of a film, guest speakers, an appearance of the Wymondham College Jazz Band, and a buffet supper. Please plan to attend.

Dues for The Heritage League are \$8.00 per year. Send your name, address, telephone number, and relationship of member to veteran with a check to The Heritage League, Ruth Anderson, 1615 Elmwood Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107. ■

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY WALTER J. MUNDY, 467TH BG

The Bequest Pledge Program got a big shot in the tail by Bud Koorndyk's challenge (see page 3). What is needed now is for the Second Air Division Association membership to take the initiative to sustain the momentum. Let's just do it!

Progress is being made on the Electronic Database Program. Arlo Bartsch has completed the initial design of the Air Force Foundation's proposed internet Website. He has advised that the first databases to be completed, will be the Second Air Division Bomb Groups, assuming that the Air Force Foundation approves and funds the Program. The Initial groups will be the 44th and the 467th since they are in various stages of development. This program can also get a shot in the tail by the Second Air Division Association providing a positive showing of support. The Second Air Division Association has already made a substantial donation to the Air Force Memorial. However, the Military Heritage Database will become a source of funds that will provide for the creation, maintenance and update of the Databases. Today, I received an EMAIL from the son of a 492nd/467th Crew member requesting the names of the unknown crew members in a photo. We need the Database to answer future generations questions about their hero relative that served in the Second Air Division. This program will become a vital part of our Memorial Library.

The advance copy of the schedule of activities prepared by David Hastings and his British team illustrates the great amount of effort that they are providing to make the Norwich Convention most memorable. With the super effort that Evelyn Cohen is providing, Norwich promises to be a great success! Am I looking forward to the convention? You betcha! ■

Customary Murphy's Laws

If anything can go wrong, it will.

Nothing is as simple as it seems.

Everything always costs more money than you have.

Everything takes longer than you expect.

If you fool around with something long enough, it will eventually break.

If you try to please everybody, somebody is not going to like it.

It is a fundamental law of nature that nothing ever quite works out.

Whatever you want to do, you have to do something else first.

It's easier to get into a thing than to get out of it.

If you explain something so clearly that no one can misunderstand, someone will.

PYTEL'S COMMENTARY ON MURPHY'S LAWS!

Murphy was an optimist!



An Appeal from the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library **From Carson Holloway, 2ADA Fulbright Librarian**

Greetings from Norwich. On behalf of the Staff of the Memorial Library, may I say how much we are looking forward to November and to welcoming so many of you to the new Memorial Library!

I will be here through your visit in November along with my replacement as 2ADA Fulbright Librarian, Andrea Hough, and the other members of the Memorial Library team: Trust Librarian Derek Hills, and Assistants Lesley Fleetwood and Jenny Christian.

Our Appeal

If you are thinking about offering materials to the Library we would like to enlist your support and help in adding special value to your Memorial Library through the donation of materials, especially those which are rare or unique.

We have recently completed a project which describes our collections and the types of books and other materials which we collect. In the US this is called a Collection Development Policy and the purpose is to make sure that we get and keep the right things. You can see our policy on our web page at the following URL:

<http://www.2ndair.org.uk/collectiondev.htm>

At present, our funding allows us to buy the new books which are required for the collection and, in fact, thanks to your generosity, the Library will be fully stocked when you arrive in November. We would be pleased to have suggestions for items which you think that we should add, but in most cases it is preferable for us to purchase these items rather than receive the books. We are always, of course, delighted to receive donations to the Memorial Library book funds!

About New Books

We do want new books but our collection is already so well developed that buying a new book, even in the new Library, will usually mean that we must remove an older one and this can be difficult. Since the fire in 1994, the Librarians have done an able job of purchasing items which fit into the collections. Not only do our collections include comprehensive information about the War in the air but also about all aspects of American culture and life and the special relationship between Britain and America. The people of Norfolk who use these American materials appreciate that our collection is both up to date and balanced and the systematic approach to buying new books is the best way to provide the Memorial which you have so well supported.

How can you help?

There are several categories of books and other materials (in addition to small green slips of paper) which we need to enhance through the donation directly from the members of the 2nd Air Division Association and others and these are:

2nd Air Division Bomb Group and Unit Histories-

We have an excellent collection of the histories of the various units of the 2nd Air Division most of which have kindly been donated by 2ADA members, but we would be pleased to have additional copies which will make a valuable resource for the Library for the long term. These are among our most heavily used resources and we keep extra copies.

Original 2nd World War and 2nd Air Division published materials-

The Library has an extensive collection of materials such as programmes, maps, USAAF publications and others which prove very valuable to researchers. We would be very grateful for any similar items which you would like to donate. These are becoming increasingly scarce and we want our collection to be as comprehensive as possible.

Archival Material-

Archives are unique materials: letters, photos, memoirs, films, and personal collections of items. We have the largest collection of 2nd Air Division related archives and we are very interested in continuing to gather these materials for posterity. We know that we are the most likely organization which has both the mandate and the stability to protect these valuable records for the future.

Archives already comprise an important part of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library Collections. The archives of the War as recorded (and preserved) by individuals provide valuable context to researchers. Donations to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library ensure that the materials will be well described, protected, available and used into the future. We are able to provide safe storage and access to these unique materials through a formal arrangement with the Norfolk Record Office which specializes in preserving these irreplaceable records. It was through the foresight of this arrangement that the Archives of the 2nd Air Division which were deposited at the Memorial Library before the fire in 1994 were saved.

Things-

Although we are a Library, we do have exhibit space and we are pleased to have 2nd Air Division related items. Currently we have uniforms, patches, insignia, wartime souvenirs, goggles and other equipment. We are always happy to have these kinds of donations. No B-24 Liberators, please.

Donating Items in November-

We will hold donation sessions each day in the new Library so that we can have a camera and sufficient Staff and Friends available to receive and record donations. We already know of several donations that are being made and if you have items to donate we would like to hear from you. It would be helpful if you can provide background on your donations (names on photos, Bomb Group and service dates on most items, etc.)

Our Thanks

We are most grateful for all of the generosity of the members of the 2nd Air Division Association. Your kindness and thoughtfulness throughout the year is most appreciated and it shows in the success of the 2nd Air Division Memorial. My own time in Norwich has been very special for me and my family and I would like to offer you my sincere thanks for allowing us to have this opportunity. See you in November! ■



NEWS OF THE 453RD FROM FLAME LEAP

BY LLOYD W. PRANG

I have written before about the interesting things one can come across by the way of a contraption known as a computer. The following is one of those things. This article was written by a Marine Pilot from the Vietnam War. He said he was moved to re-post it after watching Gregory Peck as General Frank Savage in the Movie *12 O-Clock High*. Although the movie was about B-17's and the article originally mentions only B-17's, I have taken the liberty to include our B-24's. I hope you enjoy the article as much as I did.

Helmut's asked:

"If you had been killed in combat or some other accident while in a combat zone, who would have been your Valkrie and where would he/she have taken you? What would he/she have been wearing? What would have been your first meal with the other fallen now risen warriors?"

The reply was:

"I think I would have trusted my transition to Gill Robb Wilson, Publisher of FLYING magazine. He was the most eloquent of all who have told the tales of those who fly. He would have met me in a faded leather jacket, baggy aviator's trousers and a crushed and oily garrison cap. He would regale me with tales of his days with the Lafayette Escadrille, and the lore of more than 50,000 hours aloft. Then he would take me to the place to which I wanted to go."

"It's a dark green Quonset Hut, standing on the edge of an overgrown concrete strip, in a quiet part of the English countryside. From the outside it is deserted, surrounded by the grass of the high English summer and a near quiet, only slightly disturbed by a low, unidentifiable drone. We step through the door. The room stretches to the vanishing point, infinitely larger than it appears from the outside. It is filled with men, all appearing to be my age, all wearing the trappings of World War II flyers. They are swaying and singing the boisterous lyrics of a song that 1940's propriety would later identify as "Bless Em All." The dark English ale

flows freely as the youth of an earlier generation take their relaxation in the same way that those who would follow in their footsteps will do two and a half decades later. Young warriors never change, only the wars and the equipment change. But on closer look, these men are not young at all. Chronological age cannot hide what is in their eyes, and their eyes are old. These are the B-17 and B-24 crews of the Eighth Air Force. Their mission was to bomb "Festung Europa." Their challenge was to survive; these men did not."

The following is a tribute from this Vietnam Marine Pilot to the men of the Eighth Air Force.

"My Vietnam comrades and I speak of 'the most intense air defenses in the history of aerial warfare,' when what we mean is that the most intense that WE have had to face. A SAM or a radar-controlled gun are formidable weapons, but we move very fast and our exposure time is minimal. Against the best that Gomer can throw at us, our losses are small. (They got ME, but it was a lucky shot!) I never even thought about it, nor saw it coming.

But tell me, old Eagles, what was in YOUR mind when the bomber stream crossed the French coast into the enemy's homeland? Tell me of the same dark puffs of flak that I would know later, and the futility of trying to evade them in a B-17 or a B-24. Tell me of the clatter of the .50's when the fighters came up, the deadly grace of the ME-109 or the brutality of the FW-190 in a head on pass. Tell me about the cold that would freeze anything exposed, including the blood on the floor. Try to describe to me the feeling when the dirty pink fog erupted from the access port as the ball turret and the kid inside disintegrated in the hell of a direct hit from a 20-mm shell. Tell me the helplessness of watching another bomber that could well have been yours spinning out of control, counting the chutes as they pop into the cold German air. Tell this modern warrior, who was expected to survive 100 missions into the flame, how it was to have to make only 25, but to

know that your probability of survival went to zero on number 17.

Tell me about Berlin and Brunswick and about Schweinfurt and Regensburg, when the force was nine hours under enemy fire, without respite, at 200 miles per hour, and 60 of your aircraft and 600 of your comrades were gone in a single raid! Tell me how you steeled your heart and mind to not only survive that, but to climb back into the belly of the beast three days later and go up again! Tell me about the cold abject terror and the final resignation of that last fall into the European autumn. Tell me about the acrid smoke choking off life, the celestial forces pinning you helplessly to the bulkhead in the graveyard spiral into the Ruhr Valley, and of the sudden peace of the final impact.

Tell me what bestowed upon your generation what an old general would someday refer to as 'enduring fortitude, that patriotic self-abnegation, and that invincible determination which has carved a niche in the hearts of our people.' Why was, as another warrior put it, uncommon valor such a common virtue?

And if your years in this place have made you wise, tell me this, when did we lose that? Where did it all go? There are still brave men, there are still heroes, we are not a lost generation. But we will not see your kind again. I lift my glass in your honor. Heaven, for me, is to be among you."

* * * * *

The above article touches a nerve at the present time because on May 7th Ed Becker passed away. Although this is not combat related, it is Crew related. Ed was the navigator on the Joseph Lutes Crew. Max Stout, Co-Pilot of the crew went to Jackson, Wyoming on June 20th and delivered the eulogy at Ed's memorial service. The members of this crew, as are many others, were in close touch with each other over these many years. Janet Wilen, Abe's wife, summed it up very well when she said back in 1996, "I didn't realize what you people mean to one another. You are so important to each other."

Although most of us were together for less than a year during the war, the friendship that we established has endured. A lot of the thanks for establishing and nurturing this continuity has to go to those people who started the 2nd Air Division Association, and to the

(continued on page 22)

FREE



Veterans Museum *at Laughlin, Nevada*

The American Veterans Museum was originally designed as a salute to the men and women who served our country during World War II. Today the exhibit has grown from WWII artifacts, priceless photos, books, medals, and fashions to include Vietnam, Korea, and Desert Storm Exhibits. *It's a must SEE!*



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2ADA Vet Donates B-24 Exhibit



On April 7, 2001 The American Veterans Museum located in the Ramada Express Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada proudly accepted an exhibit conceived of and created by Dave Ferrier to honor the men and women who served in the Eighth Air Force during World War II.

The full-color presentation of the Second Air Division Eighth Air Force Aircraft delivering their bomb loads, inset with a photograph of Mr. Ferrier's B-24 Liberator crewmates from the 458th Bomb Group, will be permanently displayed among the memorabilia and displays honoring American veterans.

The exhibit will be featured, along with the Eighth's Fact Sheet, in the museum's main entryway until a permanent site within the Museum is selected.



“WE’LL GET BY” GOOD DAYS AND BAD

BY NORBERT J. WICK, 392ND BG

Earlier in the year, J. Fred Thomas, past VP of 392nd BG, had a call from Mr. Keith Starkie in Lancashire, England. Mr. Starkie’s brother had brought a couple of 2AD Journals back from Florida where he had visited us in our home. His brother brought back our tales of our tour at Wendling, as well. Mr Starkie’s request was that he would like to have a copy of our story should it ever be published in the Journal. J. Fred passed the request along to us. The following is our report of our adventures at Wendling.

We arrived at Wendling in early July 1944. It was a low morale day; the 579th Squadron had lost several crews that day. Evidently, it was the day of the mission to Bernberg when the 579th Squadron lost five crews. The Quonset hut assigned us was vacant. The previous crew didn’t make it back from their first mission. That didn’t help our morale, either.

We went on to fly 31 missions with the 579th Squadron, however. Some were easy, some not so easy. After fifty-seven years, it’s hard to remember each one, but there were three missions that I remember most. We flew our first mission on July 16th and the last on November 4th. Thirty missions was a tour when we started, but that number was raised to 35 missions when we got close to what we thought would be our tour.

The first memorable mission was July 25th to St. Lo; our sixth. We flew at 12,000 feet to help our troops break through enemy lines. We had tried the day before, but the smoke screen was blowing the wrong way and we had to abort. On this day, we dropped anti-personnel bombs. Palmer Taylor, our 19-year-old Radio Operator, was down watching the bombs fall when a shot from the enemy went through the hydraulic lines right near him and saturated him with hydraulic fluid. Other crewmembers gave him first aid and flushed the oil from his eyes. One engine was hit. We feathered the prop and managed to stay in formation back to Wendling. We couldn’t close the bomb bay doors since the catwalk was too slippery to walk out and crank them closed. At the base, we had to circle the field until the rest of the Group landed. We landed OK, but

with just the hydraulic pressure in the accumulator for braking. Upon landing roll out, the plane headed to the left of the runway. I had to release the brakes and hit number one throttle to straighten the plane down the runway. I had the copilot shut off the main power, and with little braking left, we rolled beyond the end of the runway and came to a stop in a farmer’s barley field. I got bawled out for coming in too high or too fast, but I told the person that I wasn’t about to try to go around on three engines. My Squadron Commander thanked me for bringing the plane in safe-



NORBERT WICK CREW. Back Row: (L-R) Watson, Gunner; Knierim, Engineer; Bonifant, Co-Pilot; Wick, Pilot; Sheppard, Gunner. Front Row: (L-R) Ground Crew Chief, ?; Riemond, Gunner; Buckles, Bombardier; Macovey, Gunner; Taylor, Radio; Greene, Navigator.

ly with no more damage than we already had.

The second mission that I remember is the on the deck mission September 18th to Holland. But first, let’s go back to the practice mission for this on the deck mission. My Co-Pilot, John Bonifant, had an attack of appendicitis during our rest leave near London, so we lost him for six weeks. We were assigned a Captain to fly with us on the practice mission and the mission itself. He wanted to fly in the left seat, so I flew as Co-Pilot. He had never flown in combat, and my crew wasn’t happy flying with him as Pilot. On the return to base after the practice, the Captain wasn’t doing the landing right, so I had to take the plane away from him and make the landing. My crew said there was no way that they would fly with him in the Pilot’s seat. I agreed with them. We flew the mission at tree top level with the Captain as Co-Pilot. Two exploding shells hit the plane on the right side behind the Captain during the mission. They left holes large enough to stick your head through. He turned white as a sheet and looked as if he was in shock.

He never flew with us again.

The third memorable mission was our 31st and last mission. It was November 4th with the target being the oil refinery at Misberg. On most of my missions, we flew lead plane of the second element right behind and below the lead plane of the 579th Squadron. We heard later that that position was a bad place to fly. The enemy would aim for the lead plane of the Squadron and sometimes they would take out the plane right behind it. Regardless, my luck ran out on that 31st mission. Right over the target at bombs away, number three and number four

engines were hit and the props started running away. We hit the feathering buttons. Number three came back under control, but number four prop flattened out and the tachometer needle for number four engine went one and half times around the dial. It took almost full left rudder to fly straight-ahead. The formation turned left just after the target. We went straight and began to lose altitude. We finally got turned around to head for home with a P 51 just off our right wing. The radios were out

and the Radio Operator couldn’t receive anything, either. We flew right over another city and we were on the receiving end of more flak. I was hit in the left knee. The P 51 led us to an airfield in France. We were able to hold our altitude at about 12,000 feet, but number three engine was losing oil pressure. We managed to land along side of the bomb cratered airfield runway and number four engine finally came to a squeaking stop.

The personnel at the airport took care of us. A doctor there removed the piece of flak from my knee and dressed and bandaged the wound. We were put up in a chateau nearby that had at one time been Rommel’s headquarters. Three days later, we were flown back to Wendling. They were surprised to see us. All of our belongings were already packed in boxes marked MIA. Fortunately, they hadn’t sent any telegrams to our families.

Some good luck for a change. Since the Group had enough replacement crews, we were allowed to call it a tour with the 31 missions. We were returned to the USA for R & R and further assignments. ■



492nd BOMB GROUP

HAPPY WARRIOR HAPPENINGS

NORTH PICKENHAM

BY W.H. "BILL" BEASLEY

Memorial Day, May 2001. A wreath was laid at the **Ardennes Cemetery** to honor the War Dead and Mission of the 492nd Bomb Group and the 2AD by Ferdinand Dessente.

A wreath was laid at the **Cambridge Cemetery** to honor the War Dead and Mission for the 492nd Bomb Group by Russell Ives and a wreath was laid at the **Netherlands Cemetery (Margraten)** by Henny and Tiny Kwik to honor the War Dead and Missing for the 492nd Bomb Group and the 2AD.

During the past three months an incredible number of inquiries about former members of the 492nd BG have been received. We have been able to provide the information for most of them or direct them to other sources. In the last two months we have received a total of 196 e-mail messages and sent 236. Some of the new Associate Members resulting from the e-mail are:

- **Ruth "Register" Coleman** ~ the Red Cross lady assigned to North Pickenham in 1944. She now lives in Jacksonville, FL. Thanks to Ernie Haar for finding her.
- **Michele DeGood** ~ daughter of Theodore R. DeGood. Co-Pilot on Irving Koltun's Replacement Crew in the 857th BS.

- **Ronald Di Padua** ~ his father is Michael G. Di Padua. Michael was the radio operator on the Franklin Abbot crew of the 856th BS. This crew was MIA on June 20, 1944 mission to Politz. Michael had been injured on a previous mission and was in the hospital and could not fly that day.
- **Jim Eastman** ~ his grandfather was Glen Wrobel of the 859th BS a member of the Kilpatrick crew. KIA on July 7, 1944 mission to Bernburg.
- **Martha Haberkorn** ~ is a sister to Vincent Kalata LWG on the Herbert Crew in the 858th BS. He was KIA on May 19, 1944 the mission to Brunswick, Germany.
- **Robert Herbert III** ~ whose father was the bombardier on the Joe Skorupan crew of the 857th BS. He was 8 years old when his father died after the war.
- **Joe McIntyre** ~ His uncle Gerald Hirschman was the Bombardier/Navigator on the Sachtleben crew in the 856th BS. KIA June 4, 1944.
- **Charles Pelkey, Jr.** ~ whose father was a pilot in the 856th BS, the entire crew was KIA on July 7, 1944 the mission to Bernburg.
- **Don, Rita and Joe Szabo** ~ Vincent Kalata LWG on the Herbert Crew in the 858th BS was KIA on May 19, 1944 the mission

to Brunswick, Germany. Don is Vincent's nephew and Rita is his sister.

- **Debbie Williams** ~ stepfather was James Nixon left waist gunner on the Newman crew in the 859th BS. He became a POW on July 7, 1944 mission to Bernburg.

REDEDICATION OF THE BRONZE B-24

The mid-term meeting of the Executive Committee of the Second Air Division Association was held in Colorado Springs this April 27 and 28. On Friday, April 27, with the help of the Air Force Academy personnel, a rededication of the bronze B-24 was held in the Honor Court. With the exception of a little wind, the weather was great and the program went as well the second time as it did the first time.

"NORMANDY CAMPAIGN MEDAL"

The French Government and the president of the Basse Normandy Region are giving 'diplomés' and medals to veterans of all branches of service that participated in the Normandy Campaign. A copy of your discharge papers will be necessary to prove that you participated. For further information, contact LTC James H. Way, Ret., 2990 Valencia Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 80917-3625, or phone 719-591-9622 for details. I submitted my request and have been invited to a ceremony at the Peterson Air Base Officer's Club on Saturday, July 28, to receive the Medal and also the Thank You America certificate. A representative of the French Government, the Commander of the Space Center and a Colorado Representative will do the presentation. Refreshments follow after the program. ■

Some Accidents Need Just a Little Bit More Explaining.

I am writing in response to your request for additional information. In block number 3 of the accident reporting form, I put "Trying to do th job alone," as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully, and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am a brick layer by trade. On the date of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six story building. When I completed by work, I discover that I had about 500 pounds of brick left over. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using pulley which fortunately was attached to the side of the building, at the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out, and loaded the brick into it. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure the slow descent of the 500 pounds of brick. You will not in block number eleven of the accident report form that I weigh 135 pounds.

Due to my surprise to being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the

building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming down. This explains the fractured skull and broken collarbone.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two-knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the bricks, the barrel now weighs approximately 50 pounds.

I refer you again to my weight in block eleven. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the building.

In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that

(continued from page 18)

people from all of the Groups who devoted their time and efforts over these many years.

To keep this continuity going, it is time to realize that on November 8th, at the 2nd ADA meeting in Norwich, the election of officers of the 453rd Group will take place. You are encouraged to make your wishes known regarding the people you wish represent you for the coming year. You can nominate someone or nominate yourself, just be sure the person(s) is/are willing to serve if elected. Send the names of the people you choose to the nominating committee, which is headed by Allan Williamson. Allan's address is: 3209 Lemmon Tree Land, Plano, TX 75074. ■

as I lay there on the bricks—in pain—unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel swinging six stories above me—I again lost presence of mind—and—let go of the rope. The empty barrel weighed more than the rope so it came back down on me and broke my legs. I hope I have furnished the information you require as to how the accident occurred. ■



BY FRED A. DALE

Word has been received that Basil D. Red passed away on April 25, 2001. He was a nose gunner on the Capt. Rolland Campbell crew.

• • •

Warren Wright Lee wrote me about his experience on the Gotha Mission. He wrote a book "Not as Briefed," published in 1996. If he sends me a copy of the book, I will present it to our 2AD Library in Norwich. I leave for Norwich on November 1, 2001.

• • •

I have receive several inquiries about the Gotha Mission and the Presidential Citation that the 445th Bomb Group received for its action on that mission.

This is the Presidential Citation:

**DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION
445TH BOMB GROUP (H)
FEBRUARY 24, 1944**

"Unprotected by fighter cover, this unit of the 2nd Air Division raid on the Goather Waggonfabrik, A.G., Gotha, Germany, was under continuous attack from fighter aircraft for two hours and twenty minutes. Anti-aircraft fire was hurled at the Group on the way to and from the target. The target was located and bombed with extreme accuracy and devastating results. Of the twenty-five aircraft which penetrated enemy territory, 13 were lost to fighter attacks, and nine of the surviving twelve returned with battle damage. This Group flew its assigned course, destroying 21 enemy aircraft, probably destroying 2 and damaging 7."

**YANK POSTWAR MISSION SUMMARY
MAY 18, 1945**

"One of the greatest battles occurred on February 24, during the Liberator assault on a Messerschmitt plant at Gotha. For 700 miles and 3 1/2 hours, the Libs were hit by enemy aircraft firing rockets, cannon and machine guns. The Germans attacked in waves of 30 to 40. Thirty-three out of the 230 Libs were lost, but the plant was virtually destroyed and 75 Nazi planes were shot down by the Libs.

NEW MEMBER

Theodore P. Thevaos of Charlotte, N.C. We welcome him to the 2nd Air Division Association.

• • •

HELP IS NEEDED TO FINISH BOOK

Help is needed to finish a book that Rusty Briarton is writing. His father was the group bombardier for the 491st Bomb Group.

Back in 1994, Rusty first solicited stories from both Bomb & Fighter Group Associations and received hundreds of fantastic stories. Between starting a family and a new business, he had his priorities changed. However, with his father in his mid-seventies, he wants to finish this book while he is around. He is looking for any interesting 8th AF stories, and he would like love letters from both the airmen and their wives/girlfriends back home. So, if you, or a relative have any 8th AF experiences that are touching, heroic, romantic or just plain incredible, please send them in. Enclose your name, dates in the 8th, units, plane name, base, photo(s) if any, and phone number for any follow-up questions. This collaboration is tentatively entitled, "Love & Luck - Amazing Stories and Loving Letters of the 8th Air Force." Send to: Rusty Briarton, 5776 Dynasty Ridge Ct., Colorado Springs, CO 80918. E-mail: Briarton@aol.com. ■

STRONG BONDS, MEMORIES BRING AIRMEN BACK TO NORWICH, ENGLAND

**BY DWAIN WALDEN ~ EDITOR, THE MOULTRIE OBSERVER
SUBMITTED BY JIM REEVES ~ HQ, MOULTRIE, GA**

It's been said that there is no greater love than for someone to lay down his life for another. It has been further noted that such sacrifices should never be forgotten.

And so has been the theme of the Second Air Division Association of the Eighth Air Force, USAAF many of whom will journey back to Norwich, England, on November 1, 2001, to once again pay their respects to more than 6,700 service men who died keeping England and the World free of the tyrant Adolf Hitler.

More than 500 Second Air Division survivors have signed up for the return which will be especially marked by the rededication of their memorial library which was destroyed by fire in August 1994.

"Most of us are in our eighties now. For many, this may be the last trip over," said James Hinton Reeves, chairman of the Association's Group Relations Committee. Reeves, of Moultrie, GA, received a field appointment to the rank of second lieutenant and retired from the reserves with the rank of major.

Talk of a memorial began early in 1945 among the three senior officers of the Second Air Division who wanted to pay tribute to their fallen comrades. As the war ended, personnel donated more than \$80,000 toward creating a memorial. This money was given to a Second Air Division Memorial Trust established consisting of British and American Governors. At the time, Norwich was planning to build a new Central Library

so it was decided that the memorial would be a room in the new library.

The new library with its memorial room was completed in 1963. The memorial was immediately stocked with some 2,500 volumes and periodicals depicting the American way of life, said Reeves. The rebuilt facility will be more than double the original size and will contain the Roll of Honor Second Air Division, other data salvaged after the fire and additional materials, books and library computer files.

"We've had great relations with the people of England and particularly Norwich," said Reeves. "There were some 14 U.S. bases and headquarters

(continued on page 24)

HALESWORTH
489TH
NOTES
 BY
NEAL SORENSEN

Plans for the annual reunion of the 489th Bomb Group on Sept. 12/16th are, as they say, going apace. Virginia and Frank Bodine have come up with enough plans to fill a two week program, so you won't be bored!

With the unexpected surge on the part of the Minnesota Twins, the possibility of attending a game should be favorable. It is ironic that the sports-writers in Minnesota are all agog in their efforts to promote a new outdoor stadium at the Public's expense. Last year the team showed a profit with the average attendance of about 13,000. This year they are over 23,000 which should foretell a lusty profit, but they still cry poor.

With the rain we had earlier in the season (and snow), there must be something in the water up here that makes them want to give up the Dome, where the visiting teams generally mis-play two or more flies per game. Often the winning margin. Go figure. That was their winning margin in two World Series during 1987 and 1991.

This has been a bad winter for our 489th Bomb Group. Ralph Belward sent me a grand write up (via Ray Pytel) of incidents in the life of Billy Joe Loadholtes. Tom McQuoid wrote a touching tribute to our Bombardier, John Strauss.

Both Billy Joe and John Typify "The Greatest Generation." Asking no favors, they both were successful fathers, competent business men and worked their lives through to successful conclusions.

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around Norwich. When we go back for the rededication, I'm sure many of these sites will be visited."

In 1948, a Second Air Division Association Convention was held and there has been one held annually ever since, several of them in Norwich including the 1963 gathering at the dedication of the original library.

"The Trust Governors conducted a fund appeal in Norwich last year to raise £125,000 for the furnishing of the new room. They

INCOME:

Total Income from Pledges and Interest Earned	\$218,641.52
Total Income from Dedication Attendees	<u>21,770.00</u>

TOTAL AVAILABLE \$240,411.52

DONATIONS:

Robert Henderson, Sculptor	\$150,000.00
Heritage Museum, Savannah	25,000.00
Air Force Memorial	25,000.00
Fulbright Foundation	<u>8,492.75</u>

TOTAL DONATIONS \$208,492.75

EXPENSES:

Banquet and Buses	\$15,642.51
Refunds to Ill People	1,000.00
Printing B-24 History	12,595.16
Incorporation	583.00
Mailings, Postage & Telephone	<u>1,998.10</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$31,918.77

BALANCE ON HAND ZERO

Both men are mourned by a bevy of children, grandchildren and those of us who will follow their path in future months or years. Both would be embarrassed at the tears that were shed and would modestly say, "For goodness sake don't make a fuss over me."

To those of you who so generously donated money for the building of our 1/6 scale bronze sculpture of the B-24 Liberator, it seems appropriate to wrap up some of the details of where your largess was spent. (See above)

This was a magnificent response, spearheaded by the Group Vice-Presidents who were supported by grown children and friends who did typing and mailing, we far surpassed our goal and were thus able to help other Air Force related fund drives.

On behalf of the officers of B-24 Groups Memorial, Inc. of the Army Air Forces; Alfred Asch, Willis Beasley, Ray Pytel and myself, we recognize you in the forefront of "The Greatest Air Armada, lead by the peerless Liberator."

Thank you!

There have been a number of "The

Final Mission" flown to England in the past nine years. It appears that this might just be the final one. Correspondence coming to me has given regretful recognition to the fact that their bodies cannot tolerate the rigors of ten to fourteen hours of air travel followed by the bus/train to Norwich. Those of us who choose to enjoy Joe Dzenowagis' filming of the event, rather than participate, will once more be indebted to the Dzenowagis Family for their dedication to the History of the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force.

Dispatches from England reflect a growing excitement over the forthcoming dedication of the Millennium Building. Certainly it will reflect the civic pride of the entire East Anglia population. Our Memorial Library will continue to thrive with the generous gifts that have been made over the years, and the future gifts which the sight of the Millennium Building will engender.

To those of you who brave the journey, God speed!! ■

raised £182,000. That gives you an idea of how the English regard the USAAF and contributions they made during the war to assure England's freedom," said Jordan R. Uttal, honorary president of the Second Air Division Association.

Walter J. Mundy, a Second Air Division veteran, said "Special recognition must be given to the dedicated service of all the British Friends, especially those who have worked so diligently and given so generously of their time and money.

Some have often referred to this project as exemplifying a love affair between the Americans and British friends that began during the war and has continued to grow through the years.

"It is going to be the most amazing Millennium Library and the Second Air Division Memorial Room will be one that nobody from the initial 1945 fund-raising drive could have imagined would have resulted with this rebuilding," said Paul King, chairman of the Memorial Trust. ■

THE DEER HUNTING THING IN CHEESEHEAD COUNTRY – OR – “DEERLY DEPARTED”

BY RAY PYTEL, 445TH BG

Wisconsin's gun deer hunting season usually takes place the week of Thanksgiving Day, but the anticipation and preparation starts almost immediately after the Labor Day holiday.

All sorts of hunters, consorts, admirers and wannabees start to gather at the numerous places of fun and frolic, homes and parking lots, not only to relive the last year's hunt but to plan, plan and replan ad nauseum and ad infinitum the details of the upcoming event. More deer are actually shot and gathered at these various meetings than in the actual hunting season, which by then becomes an anti-climax to the whole occasion.

This particular Cheesehead needed a new gun, so being frugal, he figured he could get a used one at one of the numerous gun shows mushrooming in the state just prior to the hunting season.

On the opening day, he was prepared with a 'good used gun' and with his hunting buddies headed for the open hunting fields of deer filled Wisconsin. It was not long before he spotted a magnificent buck in his gun sight, pulled the trigger and felled the deer. Running over to where the deer lay, he noticed the well proportioned big horns on his trophy, and said to his

hunting buddy, "This will make a wonderful rack for my guns when I get home." He then arranged his gun in the deer's horns and stepped back to see how they would look as a gun rack on the wall of his home. He had been admiring the effect when the deer suddenly jumped up, shook itself, and raced away carrying his gun firmly stuck in its horns.

Both hunters quickly started to follow the deer which was fast racing out of sight when they heard a couple of shots, and when they came onto the scene they saw a puzzled hunter looking over his 'kill' with a rifle still stuck in the rack.

An argument developed about the rights to the "kill," the Cheesehead arguing that he shot the deer first, pointing to the spot his bullet entered, and claiming it was his rifle in the rack, and that he could prove it with a bill of sale he received from an exhibitor at the gun show.

The Conservation Warden at the Deer Registration Station listened to the stories by all the hunters involved, and said he is taking possession of the deer and rifle until the matter is resolved in court.

At the trial, when the Cheesehead presented his

bill of sale, he was immediately arrested for possessing a stolen rifle, since the exhibitor could not be found. Not being able to prove the ownership of the rifle, the court awarded the deer to the second hunter, and ordered the Cheesehead's gun to be returned to the original owner, fining the Cheesehead \$500 for possession of stolen property. The Conservation Warden then seized the license and revoked the rights to a license next year, since an illegal gun was used.

"Well, it could have made a nice gun rack," concluded the sad Cheesehead. This story is true, only the names have been omitted to protect the guilty. ■



PRESERVING FREEDOM WITH THE LIBERATOR

BY GEN. RALPH E. "ED" EBERHART

Thank you, General [Buck] Schuler, for that kind introduction and thank you Cater [Lee] for your hospitality and all you have done for this great association. It's an honor and a privilege for me to speak to this distinguished group of warriors and heroes as well as your families and friends.

What a wonderful place to have a reunion. Not only is Savannah a beautiful and exciting city, but it is also the birthplace of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in January of 1942. How appropriate that Savannah now serves as the home of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. This afternoon I visited the museum for the first time. After my tour, my only regret was not having gotten down here much sooner to see it. The museum facilities, the thought-provoking displays, and the professional staff are absolutely world-class. People for generations

to come will be able to learn about the incredible record of the 448th Bomb Group and the Mighty Eighth Air Force at this museum.

Of course, the museum did not happen by accident. We owe a special thanks to General Buck Schuler and General Lewis Lyle for their leadership and vision over the long years it took to see this project through. Thanks also to the countless volunteers who gave their enthusiasm, time and money to bring the museum to life.

The museum and reunions such as this serve to remind us that freedom isn't free. Those called upon to defend freedom paid for it with their service, selflessness, and sacrifice. Some paid the ultimate price by giving their lives. As I toured the museum today, I was moved by the simple, yet powerful inscription on the 448th Bomb Group memorial marker at the museum

that reads: "We came from all states of the United States of America. Some were so young, just out of high school, but most were in their late teens or young twenties, eager to do what they could to preserve freedom."

What the 448th did to preserve freedom is written in the pages of the history books. Some of that history is highlighted in the program, but I'd like to take a few minutes to review the story of the 448th Bomb Group. It was activated 1 May 1943 at Gowen Field, Idaho, and began preparing for combat with a rigorous training program. From there, the training continued as the Groups moved first to Wendover, Utah, and then to Sioux City, Iowa. By December of 1943, the 448th was in place at its wartime home in Seething, England. Within

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days of arriving, the Group flew its first combat mission on 22 December against Osnabruck, Germany.

The 448th's last combat mission was flown on 25 April 1945 against the marshalling yards in Salzburg, Austria. In between the first mission and the last one, whenever something important had to be done, the 448th was there with its B-24 Liberators. All told, the 448th flew 265 combat missions comprising over 7,300 sorties that delivered some 15,000 tons of bombs and 140 tons of supplies.

You flew those combat missions in the toughest of circumstances. Hundreds of bombers taking off from over 40 fields in East Anglia, climbing to rejoin into a mass formation prior to crossing into enemy territory, often times through bad weather, was challenging enough. But that was only the beginning, as you then had to fight your way through enemy controlled skies against a determined and skillful foe doing everything possible to shoot you down.

Again and again you went into the most deadly of arenas and did so with steadfast courage. In February of 1944 you struck at the German aviation industry as part of the famous Big Week operation. March 1944 saw you attacking the very seat of Nazi power in Berlin. By May 1944 you were shaping the battlefield for the Normandy invasion with attacks against airfields and transportation targets. You also dealt devastating blows against the Axis oil refineries. Of course you were there on the Longest Day, D-Day, 6 June 1944, attacking coastal defenses and choke points to help ensure the invasion was a success by delaying and destroying enemy reinforcements. Flying overhead Normandy on D-Day one of your own observed, "Those murderous beaches — they will live in my mind and heart forever."

Not only were those beaches murderous — so were the skies. From March to June of 1944 alone, Eighth Air Force lost 724 heavy bombers in which over 7,200 brave airmen were either killed or captured. In the 448th Bomb Group, 460 of your fellow warriors gave their lives to preserve freedom during the course of the war. Indeed, the 448th Bomb Group did its part to preserve freedom and did it magnificently. When the shooting finally stopped, the 448th Bomb Group in concert with all of our soldiers, sailors, seamen, and Marines as well as our Allies were the defenders of freedom, the liberators of Europe, and the victors of World War II.

However, your service didn't stop on V-E Day or V-J Day. Some of you went on to serve in the Korean War, and then Vietnam. Others served in the Guard or the Reserve or Civil Service or as teachers, craftsmen, Rotarians, and Shriners. You raised families, paid your taxes, and were law-abiding Americans. As Tom Brokaw stated in the title of his book, you were the "Greatest Generation."

The spirit and the legacy of the Mighty Eighth

are alive and well. As the Commander of Air Combat Command last year, I had the opportunity to fly with today's Mighty Eighth in the B-1B, the B-2A, and B-52H. I can assure you that your standards of courage, bravery, and skill burn brightly in today's generation of airmen. There are, however, some changes that have occurred over the last 55 years.

From a height of 2.3 million people in the Army Air Forces during World War II, we now have just over 350,000 people on active duty in the Air Force. Our total number of all aircraft types has gone from about 97,000 down to slightly over 6,000. The number of bombers has declined from 35,000 to 200. What is important to note is that offsetting these reductions have been dramatic improvements in our ability to find the target, neutralize it with precision and to do so at much less risk to our airmen.

To see the effect of this technological transformation, consider one of the Eighth Air Force's missions on 12 May 1944, the first day of the Oil Campaign. Among the targets that day was the synthetic oil plant at Zeitz. To ensure that the desired level of damage was done, a total of 116 Liberators were sent in against this target. Thus, 1,160 people were put at risk to drop a total of 1,778 bombs on the refineries at Zeitz. Post-strike analysis showed 10 direct hits and 13 near misses on the primary aim points and 32 direct hits and 25 near misses on other parts of the facilities. Today, three B-2s with precision-guided munitions have a near certain probability of getting direct hits on those same 42 primary and alternate aim points and still have a few bombs left over for other targets while placing just six airmen in harm's way.

Think of what it would be like to have today's technology supporting you and in your Liberators over the skies of Europe in 1944. During mission planning, you use modern computers to plot each point to the target and get exact coordinates for all the aim points. Detailed pictures of the target area aim points would be available for study. You know the weather en route and in the target area because satellites provide near-real time views from space plus you have supercomputer-aided forecasts. Any changes in the weather can be relayed to you in the cockpit.

With today's technology you know when enemy aircraft get airborne, how many there are and whether they are heading your way. If any of these enemy aircraft appear to be a threat, friendly fighters will be directed to intercept them before they can get close to you. As ground threats become known, they will be automatically displayed in the cockpit to warn you in time to avoid them or use countermeasures against them.

Taking advantage of the Global Positioning Satellite system, or GPS, you know your position precisely at all times. There will be no need to see ground references or receive ground-based navigation signals. Using a variety of weapons with your "new and improved" Liberator, you will not need to see the target. Cloud cover or darkness of night

will not stop you from striking your objective because the weapons will guide themselves to the target using GPS signals from space. Each GPS-guided bomb you drop has a very high probability of hitting a separate, distinct aim point. Imagine: one target, one bomb — you are now thinking in terms of targets per aircraft instead of aircraft per target.

After you get back to the home airfield, you see how well you did because spacecraft will have surveyed the bomb damage. If any new parts for your aircraft are needed in the unlikely event of combat damage or a failed component, a computerized logistics system will use inventory control technology to locate the needed parts and get them to your maintainers in the shortest possible time.

However, the most important impact of this advanced technology is that it significantly reduces the number of our men and women exposed to combat while improving our ability to strike the desired targets. The recent action in the air war over Serbia illustrates this point. In 73 days of combat operations, we flew over 9,200 sorties, in the face of several thousand surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery pieces. Only two aircraft were shot down and there were no combat casualties during the entire operation.

Hopefully, you have gotten a sense of how your Liberators could have benefited from what today's technology brings to the fight. But while technology has always been an important factor in warfare, it is the warrior spirit, the "can do" attitude in the face of adversity that delivers the victory in conflict. In the skies over Europe in World War II, the 448th Bomb Group rose to meet an incredible challenge with courageous determination. You can take pride in the continued advancement of airpower for it was built upon the great warrior spirit and heritage you established.

In closing, let me again thank all of you for what you did and continue to do for our nation. There is one thing I would encourage you to do and that is to share your experiences with others. I know you don't talk about it much. I know because my father was a B-17 pilot during the war and he didn't talk about it much. One of my regrets is that I didn't talk to him more about his World War II service. Please take every opportunity to talk about what you did and why you did it. It is a story that you must continue to tell in person, through reunions like this and in the museums like the Mighty Eighth's here in Savannah. In doing so, you help to pass along the great legacy you provided our nation. It is a legacy you built by putting your lives at risk time after time in the honorable pursuit of preserving freedom. You saw many of your friends, husbands, brothers, and fathers pay the ultimate price for that noble cause. As the success of the movie "Saving Private Ryan" demonstrated, people today are in awe of what the "Greatest Generation" did in World War II to preserve freedom. It has been my honor and great pleasure to be with this gathering of the heroes of the 448th Bomb Group tonight. ■

The 448th Speaks



BY CATER LEE

The 448th Bomb Group held its sixteenth consecutive group reunion May 9-12 at Barksdale AFB, Shreveport, LA, and our reunion headquarters was the Holiday Inn Financial Plaza on the west side of the city near the airport, for those that flew in.

Having the least distance to travel were Mae Sawyer and Gabe Downey who are from Shreveport and first timers. We hope it won't be their last. Also first timers, I believe, were Budgie Parkinson and wife, J.P. from Wichita Falls, TX, and Stan Johnson and wife, Jan from Salt Lake City, Utah. Johnny Birkhead and wife, Thelma from Elberfeld, Indiana, were at the reunion thanks to Ira Wells, who had a one page article in the spring issue, page 23 of the 2nd AD Journal.

It was good to see Stu Barr back from the same crew as Walter Farmer of Corsicana, Texas. Glad Sparkie Bourne and wife, Martha, were back after their absence. Also good to see Dane Burton with his son, John, and his wife, Joan of Bentonville, Arkansas;

Don Johnson of Jamestown, New York; and C.J. Leleux and wife, Josephine of Houston, Texas. Great to see Miles Drawhorn and Evelyn Brockman of Redding, California; it had been a while since they attended a reunion. Dan McGrew of Dallas, it was nice to see you again, and last but not least it is always great to see Mike and Nancy Westgate of Savannah, Georgia. If I left out anyone, I apologize.

This year we held a Memorial Service honoring the 460 buddies of the 448th who were lost in combat while fighting to preserve the freedoms we all enjoy today. We also included all those who survived the war but have since passed on to join their 460 buddies, and we also included the wives who have also passed on.

This ceremony was held by a B-24 Liberator, the same one where we held our very first group reunion at Barksdale in 1985. It was homecoming to many of us but a lot of those attending in 1985 are no longer with us.

The ceremony included the placing of an 18-inch red, white and blue memorial wreath with 448th diagonally down the center in front of the B-24.

The National Anthem was sung by "The Wild Blue Yonder," a quartet made up of Air Force retirees.

Two of our veterans gave speeches. Colonel Charles McBride (USAF-Retired) gave a speech about his plane running out of gas and his having to bail out over France, and for five months beginning on April 1, 1944 until September 1944 he was aided by

the French underground. In September 1944, he was flown with several others who had avoided the Germans back to England, and after several days of processing, returned to the States where his wife Agnes and son greeted him.

The other veteran to give a speech was Eugene Dworaczyk, radio operator/gunner on pilot Jack Black's plane. On this same mission they thought they could make it back across the English Channel, but with only one good engine they were forced to ditch. S/Sgt. Dworaczyk, on his third day, finally got the dinghies released and saved nine of his crew. The co-pilot could not swim and drowned before he could reach the dinghy. The engineer/gunner was severely injured on the landing, died in the dinghy and was buried at sea. A British fishing boat rescued the crew, who were cold and wet from 44 hours in the Channel. Dworaczyk was awarded the Soldier's Medal for his heroics.

The visit to Barksdale included a wind-shield tour of the Base, a visit to the 8th Air Force Museum, and lunch at the Base Officer's Club. We had an informal banquet Thursday night, and a coat and tie banquet Saturday night with Lt. General Thomas J. Keck, Commander of the 8th A.F., as our banquet speaker.

We had a few first timers and a few who had serious illness the past year who were unable to attend.

Next year's reunion will be in New Orleans and we hope to see you there. Take care of yourselves. ■

WORDS FROM WINSTON CHURCHILL

*...as reprinted in "Air Power,"
newsletter of the General Doolittle
Chapter, 8 AFHS....*

We need to pay our tribute of respect and admiration to the officers and men who fought and died in this fearful battle of the air, the like of which had never before been known or even with any precision imagined. The moral test to which the crew of a bomber were subjected reached the limits of human valor and sacrifice. Here chance was carried to its most extreme and violent degree above all else.

There was a rule that no one should go on more than 30 raids without a break. But many who entered on their last dozen wild adventures felt that the odds against them were increasing. How can one be lucky thirty times running in a world of averages and machinery?

Detective-Constable McSweeney, one of Scotland Yard officers who looked after me in the early days of the war, was determined to fight in a bomber. I saw him several times during his training and his fighting. One day, gay and jaunty as ever, but with a meaningful look, he said, "My next will be my twenty-ninth." It was his last.

Not only our hearts and admiration but our minds in strong comprehension of those ordeals must go to those heroic men whose duty to their country and their cause sustained them in super human trials. I have remembered facts like "The Americans had 60 of their large Bomber aircraft destroyed out of 291," and on another occasion "out of 795 aircraft dispatched by the British Bomber Command against Nuremberg, 94 did not return."

The American Bombers carried a crew of ten men, and the British night bombers seven. Here we have each time six or seven hundred of these skilled, highly trained warriors lost in an hour. This was indeed ordeal by fire.

In the British and American bombing

of Germany and Italy during the War, the casualties were over a hundred and forty thousand, and in the period with which this chapter deals, there were more British and American casualties than were killed and wounded in the great operation of crossing the Channel. Those heroes never flinched or failed. It is to their devotion that in no small measure we owe our victory. Let us give them our salute. ■



Churchill who used an early version of the Liberator as his personal transport, salutes the crews of the RAF and 8th AF.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AT MARGRATEN...

BY TINY & HENNY KWIK

Last year stormy weather, bitter cold and heavy rainshowers — this year on May 27, 2001 the weather was warm with a friendly sun looking over the thousands of graves at U.S. Military Cemetery at Margraten, Holland.

When we arrived at the Cemetery at 1345 hours all seats on both tribunes were full of waiting people and by the time the Ceremony started at 1500, hundreds of seats reserved for the many Dutch and International guests were filled. We think a total of 4,000 attended the Memorial Ceremony.

Among the speakers were the Ambassador of the United States, Cynthia P. Schneider and Major General Kenneth R. Bowra. Master of Ceremonies was as usual our Dutch friend Mr. Frank Lahaye, who did the job very well with his warm voice.

There were about 75 wreath layers, an emotional part of the total Ceremony and again there was a wreath from the 492 Bomb Group Association and the 91 BG Association. Tiny and I were honoured to be wreath layers for the whole Second Air Division Association. Later on, a friend of ours took our picture while we were standing beside these wreaths.

At the end of the Ceremony there was a fly over by jets of the Netherlands and American Air Forces. And the closing prayer and last post was as emotional as last year.

After the Ceremonies were ended many visitors walked around the Cemetery. We walked around also and took more photographs that evening. Silence came over Margraten where 8,302 young Americans rest in peace. Far from their homes they have our respect from day to day because they gave their lives to give back our freedom. The Memorial Day Ceremony is more than just a day in May....! ■



HENNY KWIK AFTER CEREMONY AT MARGRATEN.



LEFT: HENNY AND TINY BESIDE THE 2ND AIR DIVISION WREATH.

BELOW: MANY WREATHS WERE LAID.



458th BOMB GROUP

HORSHAM ST. FAITH



BY RICK ROKICKI
MEMORIAL LIBRARY BEQUEST
& CAPITAL FUND

It is with great pride that I can tell you that 458th members have exceeded in every effort that they were called upon to deliver. In the late 70's, there was a need for more shelves and chairs in the Memorial Room. All Group VP's called upon their members to help raise the necessary financing. I can't remember there being any quota, but I do remember our Group helping smaller Groups to make it. Total money raised solved that problem. Mission successfully completed.

A few years ago, our members responded to a proposed Book Endowment Fund. Again, we came up with more than \$3,000 which has enabled the 458th to be financially responsible for the purchase of dozens of books bought within the confines of our agreement. Once again, a great response by you, and another successful "Mission" completed.

After attending the mid-term Executive Committee meeting in Colorado Springs in late April, the Association had to face the fact that the new Library Room would need to have its corpus raised so that the interest would continue to support the expenses incurred in our larger Memorial Room. These needs were explained in Chuck Walkers' article, "Report From The 2ADA Representative To The Board Of Governors," paragraphs #3 and #4 on page 6 of the Summer Journal.

Again, each Group VP had to go to his members to see what funding could be raised. Then, Bud Koorndyk issued his challenge (see page 3). As a result of this offer, I wrote a personal letter to our members to give what they could afford to this funding.

I was totally overwhelmed by the response from you. As of this writing in mid-July, the 458th has come through with over \$11,500.00, with 177 of you responding. We have until the end of September to complete our Bequest and Capital Fund Drive and I consider it to be one of the finest, most generous giving on your part.

As this, our 3rd Mission comes to a successful termination, I want to thank each and everyone who replied to our need. I sincerely appreciated hearing from those who said they were having serious health and financial problems. My heart reaches out to them and offer the sympathy of all members. It looks increasingly good that the 2ADA will once again succeed in what may very well be our last mission: increasing the Capital Fund where the interest on our investments will support the Memorial Room to its new financial needs.

We see and hear of the stunning Millennium Library which has been named "The Forum." This name is meant to reflect the variety of activities and services it will offer. It was recently announced that the BBC would move its Regional Offices and Headquarters there. Many of us will be attending our 2ADA dedication in early November. Several of our members will be attending the dedication, while others will be repeating what they did in June, 1963.

Once again, I find it very difficult to express my absolute and sincere appreciation with just the written word. I would like to respond

to every one who gave to this program, but found it was impossible to do so quickly. Perhaps in the future, I might be able to do so.

AV GAS & OTHER THINGS



EX-NAVY N2S-3 WARTIME TRAINER, ALSO KNOWN AS THE NAVY'S "YELLOW PERIL"

A friend from the Potomac Antique Aero Squadron called me in June and wanted to know if I was interested in flying to the Eastern Shore and lunch in either Cambridge or Easton, MD. When there's an invite to an open cockpit, helmet and goggle flying in a "two winger," it's an offer you can't refuse. After several hours went by, we returned to our local airport to refuel and hangar the aircraft. We noted that the cost of LL 100 Av gas had gone up about .07¢ per gallon to \$2.40 per gallon. A placard along the pump offered some explanation which read as follows: "We checked the local Wal-Mart to see how other products you use stack-up against our \$2.40 per gallon. Here are the results of our scientific and useful research."

On a PER GALLON basis:

\$10.32 for diet Snapple	\$10.17 for Gatorade
\$33.60 for STP brake fluid	\$84.48 for Scope Mouthwash
\$178.13 for Vicks Nyquil	\$123.20 for Pepto Bismol
\$21.19 for Evian water (bottled in 9 oz. bottle for \$1.49).	

That little "awakening-to-reality" placard certainly made the price of Av Gas a lot easier to take. It's a good thing that the 145hp "round-engine" was made to run on one of the less expensive liquids, doncha-know? Sorry to admit I remember when I used to taxi up to the pump and pay .47¢ per gallon to feed that thirsty 65hp Continental that was on the front end of my Aeronca Champ. Yes there are some memories one continues to cherish. The Champ? I bought it for \$600.00 in 1949, spent another \$600.00 for new tires, prop and engine repairs and spent more time fixin' than flyin' and eventually sold it for \$600.00 when United transferred me to Logan International Airport in Boston. Bought my new house in Danvers, MA just a stones throw from a small airport! Oh, by the way, the fellow who bought my airplane, stove it into a large haystack in a farmers field near Wyoming Valley Airport, near Wilkes-Barre, PA a few days after he bought it. So goes the battle!

Stay well and don't forget to take your pills! ■



AERONCA CHAMPION

BUNGAY BULL

446th BOMB GROUP
BY AUD RISLEY



Once again the 446ers have come through supporting those things which are important to us all — namely the Memorial Library in Norwich. When I asked less than a month ago for donations from our 254 2ADA members, the response was great. The Bud Koorndyk Challenge (see page 3), sounded like a big job.

However, I am pleased to report that with 145 responses we have exceeded the goal. Hopefully, the other groups have received the same support.

With the responses we received were more than generous donations. There was news of our members—sadly, some who have recently died. From Bloomington, Indiana, word from Jo Royer that her husband, **James H. Royer**, died February 1, who said that she knew “he would want this to go through.” Also received was news of the death of **Edwin Bobutski**, who died in January. The death of **Fred Freeman** on May 12, 2001, was reported by his wife, Frances. Fred died in Birmingham, Alabama. Word was received from George Gigstad of the death of **John E. Fretwell** of the 704th.

In May more than 200 members, friends and family gathered for the annual Meeting of the 446. As usual, it was a grand event starting at the Hampton Inn in a lovely setting significant of the city.

A highlight of our meeting was the visit to the newly opened D-Day Museum where we viewed the Academy Award nominated video titled, ‘D-Day Remembered.’ It was breathtaking and filled with “indelible memories and unforgettable images,” according to the New York Times. We brought one home to share with all of our family so this time in history will never be forgotten at our house.

You were missed if you weren’t there. Try to make it next year when we plan to get together in Dayton, Ohio. It was sad to note in Ted Tate’s report at the meeting that during the past year the 446th has recorded 45 deceased members. We hope that you will be with us next year and for many years to come.

Keep your news coming. You may call, (847-741-7757), write (682 Slade Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120) or e-mail me at Risely446@aol.com. We appreciate hearing from

those of you who contribute to this column. Thanks.

Nineteen members of our group have big plans for the November trip to Norwich for the first look at the Memorial Library and The Forum as I hear the structure has been named.

In response to a request from Sam Mastrogiacomo of the 445th, is the notice of the Swedish and Swiss Internee Associations meeting to be held at the Hampton Inn in New Orleans, October 26-28. Call Sam, who is president of the Swedish Association, at 856-629-0812 for more information.

Finally, I am happy to know that I am still the life of the party...even when it lasts until 8 p.m.

See you along the way and be sure that you keep in touch. ■



CHECKING THE BOOKS AT THE D-DAY MUSEUM ARE ED AND NELLIE MIMS OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA. ED WAS WITH THE 705TH SQ.



HAPPY WITH THE 446 FESTIVITIES ARE JULIE AND BARNEY FRISCH OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.



THE CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY IS A SPECIAL TIME FOR ALL 446ERS. FROM LEFT, FRED BREUNINGER, MARVIN FINGER AND ERIC SHERMAN LIGHT THREE COMMEMORATIVE CANDLES AT THE BANQUET.

KETTERINGHAM HALL DIVISION

HQ

BY RAY STRONG

In the Spring issue of the Journal, I had an article about Howard Nisbet and the 28 missions that he flew with the 93rd Bomb Group. Recently, I had the following letter from Harry F. Bush, 602 Goldsborough Way, Smyrna, DE 19977.

Dear Ray,

I read your story about Howard Nisbet in the 2AD Journal. Found it very interesting.

My name is Harry Bush and I was the Right Waist Gunner on Howards crew from the start of training to the last of our missions.

Howard and the entire crew are and were very fine men.

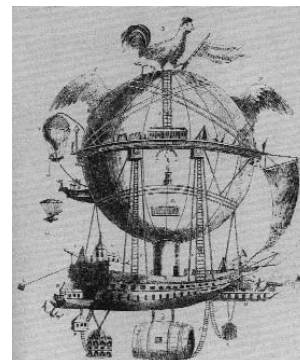
In your story you said you would like to know what happened to Milo Miekelson. We lost Milo about 5 years ago. We sent Christmas cards for several years. In one of the cards Milo’s wife informed me that he had passed on. We also lost our Engineer, Ed Kromer about 3 years ago. Ed and I visited at his home in PA one time before his death. I still keep in touch with our first Co-Pilot, John Abajian who lives in Walla Walla, Washington.

Please excuse my scribbling. I have a bad right shoulder that affects my writing. Hope that letter finds you and your family in good health.

Sincerely, Harry Bush

The above is about all the news that I have received recently. Most of my time has been spent in getting ready for the trip to Norwich and in getting the HQ members to contribute

to the Koorndyk Challenge (see page 3). I am extremely proud of our members. As of today, July 10, 56 members have given \$6,700 and an occasional check still comes in. I will include the final results in the next HQ Newsletter, which I hope to put in the mail in early September. ■



THE BRITISH AIRWAYS WITH ALL THE MODERN CONVENIENCES

The Military VideoHistory Project

REMEMBERING THE 2ND AIR DIVISION 8TH USAAF IN WORLD WAR II



Since 1986 the Dzenowagis family has produced over 20 documentaries about the 2nd Air Division. Three more documentaries are in production. Many have been shown on public television, at national and regional reunions, and at national and state oral history conferences. These documentaries

have been honored with 12 national television awards. Consider purchasing these award winning programs as gifts for your family and/or for donation to your local library.

EIGHT CANDLES FOR REMEMBRANCE

English friends and bittersweet memories greet the 2nd Air Division as they return in 1987 to air bases in East Anglia. Covers the re-dedication of purpose at the American Cemetery in Madingley.
73 minutes

DISTANT FIRES

They are the WWII generation who saved the world. In 1995 they return to England and share the memories of their most heroic hours. A CINE Golden Eagle national award winner.
56 minutes

PARADE

In-depth coverage of the 50th Anniversary of Victory in Europe parade held in Norwich, England. British and 2AD veterans march the streets celebrating this historic event.
56 minutes

FACES OF THE 2ND AIR DIVISION

Closeup reality of war and its lasting effects are revealed on the faces of airmen and ground personnel in this Emmy nominated documentary. Moving stories told by the men and women who lived them.
55 minutes



MEMORIES OF WAR

Where the bomb runs are taken and the battles fought yet once again for all to see and try to imagine. Awarded a 20th Anniversary Classic Telly.
30 minutes

RAF TRIBUTE TO THE 2ND AIR DIVISION

This stirring ceremony by RAF COLTISHALL Honor Guard and RAF Wyton Military Band highlights the reunion of the 2ADA, Norwich, England in 1990.
50 Minutes



THE DAYTON TAPE "PRIDE OF THE NATION" HIGHLIGHTS

This program previews the forthcoming documentary on the 445th Bomb Group's tragic mission to Kassel, Germany, September 27, 1944. Premiered at the Dayton Air Force Museum.
87 minutes

GERMAN FIGHTER PILOTS

Three Luftwaffe pilots explain the tactics behind the surprise attack during the Kassel Mission. Most of the Liberators were shot down. With English translation.
87 minutes

INTERVIEW WITH WALTER HASSENPLUG GERMAN HISTORIAN AND CITIZEN

As a 12 year old boy in Bad Hersfeld, Germany he gives a vivid account of the Kassel Mission battle and his capture of an American airman. With English translation.
48 minutes

THE STORY OF THE MEMORIAL ROOM AS TOLD BY JORDAN R. UTTAL

An absorbing account of the development and future of the Memorial Room by a leader and founding father of the 2nd Air Division Association.
35 minutes

Quantity	Title	Price	Total
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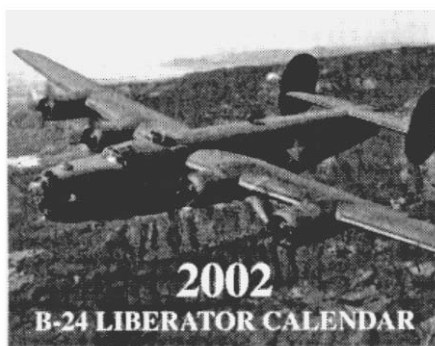
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THE PX PAGE



This calendar is packed with photos and historical information.

Order your copy today!

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AFTER THE LIBERATORS

A Father's Last Mission, A Son's Lifelong Journey

Reviewed favorably by Len Deighton, Roger Freeman, and Richard Snow of *American Heritage Magazine*, this is a heart-rending story that parallels the movie "Saving Private Ryan." Bill McGuire was an infant son when his father was killed flying as a B-24 Liberator navigator with the 392nd Bomb Group from Wendling on a mission to Friedrichshafen in March of 1944.

This true account reads like a novel that, once begun, you will find very hard to put down. An incredible journey started when Bill McGuire came upon an obituary of an 8th AF veteran which seemed to offer a clue. Obstacle after obstacle was overcome by the author in his search for his father's combat story.

Bill McGuire traveled extensively to interview crew members, pursue information, interview witnesses at the crash site in Germany, and visit his father's grave in France. This is a well-written, deeply moving book, which deserves a place in every World War II air war library.

The author encourages others who want to trace their relatives' wartime records by providing a thorough list of information sources, a good bibliography, and a complete index.

Softcover, 6 x 9, 200 pages. 51 black & white photographs, formation diagrams. \$16.95 plus \$4.05 shipping and handling, includes a \$6.78 tax-deductible donation to the Kassel Mission Memorial Association, for a total price of \$21.00. Send your check to **KMMA, INC., PO BOX 413, BIRMINGHAM, MI 48012.**

Red Roses and Silver Wings

A World War II Memoir

Author Kitty Strickland Shore has written a beautifully romantic story about her years during World War II with Jack Strickland, her high school sweetheart and husband. From a woman's perspective, she takes us through Jack's cadet pilot training and later combat experience with letters, pictures and document copies.

Jack Strickland was killed while flying as the deputy lead B-24 in the 445th Bomb Group out of Tibenham, England, which was leading 240 Liberators of the 2nd Bomb Division on the low level mission of March 24, 1945. "Operation Varsity" had the bombers flying at treetop level dropping supplies to the Allies crossing the Rhine. Accounts of this unusual mission, along with detailed accounts of life in a foreign country and combat experiences, are spelled out in letters from Jack and surviving fellow veterans.

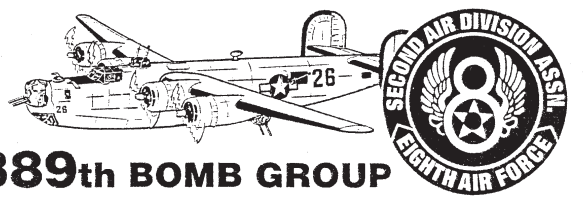
The author provides an interesting documentary of life during those traumatic war years. She traveled to Jack's former base at Tibenham, England, and interviewed extensively. The book provides formation diagrams of Jack Strickland's missions to Koln, Berlin, Hamburg, and other combat details, along with letters from knowledgeable air crew survivors.

Easy to read, this book will appeal to veterans, history buffs, and anyone who has been in love will identify with these two young people. The dust cover is beautiful, and should be featured on any coffee table.

Hardcover, 6 1/2 x 9 1/2, 340 pages, 44 black & white photos, numerous documents. \$22.95 plus \$3.05 shipping and handling, includes a \$9.18 donation to the Kassel Mission Memorial Association, for a total price of \$26.00. Send your check to **KMMA, INC., PO BOX 413, BIRMINGHAM, MI 48012.** ■

BUMPER STICKERS AVAILABLE

Featuring YOUR BOMB GROUP



Order your bumper sticker today! Please specify the bomb group you were a member of. Cost is only \$2.00 for one, \$3.00 for two. Prices include postage and handling. Two colors, red and blue.

**G. Goehring, 799 Pleasant Ave.
Westbury, New York 11590**



To the Editor:

During World War II, Eighth Air Force personnel were in the United States Army Air Forces.

Not the United States Air Force!!!

If you want your records or recognition under the General Orders awarding you your medals, or for the medals themselves, (medals you did not receive)... contact the following:

U.S. Army Command
Ms. Virginia A. Barrett
Chief, Army Reference Branch
National Personnel Records Center
(Military Records Branch)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Make your requests under (NRPM ARMY)

“AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE OF AWARDS”

AR672-5-1; The proponent agency is (CDCSPER)

Any action on your request will be sent to:

Commander
U.S. ARMY Support Activity
Philadelphia, PA 19101-3460

If you do not receive the medals after you have been notified of their issuance, you should send a copy of the award letter (DA FORM 1577, AUG 90) to:

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological
Chemical Command, IMMC
Soldier Systems Directorate
700 Robbins Avenue, PO Box 57997
Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997

Remember!!! You were a member of the “UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES!”

James H. McMahon
P.O. Box 1327
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1327



To the Editor:

I agree it is a fine book Granholm has written about Switzerland, the bombing incidents there and the subsequent investigations.

However, like all things in war and peace, there is the rest of the story.

We need a fully documented and researched story of the several hundred 2nd Air Division men who were interned in Switzerland during WWII. Their stories are largely untold in the popular media.

Did you know that 62 American airmen died and were buried in Switzerland during the war?

Did you know that many endured brutal hardships in Swiss civilian jails and in discipline camps under guard?

Did you know that many 2AD crews were shot down and crashed in Switzerland?

Of the 1,510 Americans interned in Swiss territory, approximately 600-700 were B24 crewmen, mostly of the 2nd Air Division.

Did you know that Camp Moloney was named after the first American enlisted aircrew member to die in Switzerland?

I know. I was one of these internees. Their stories need to be told in a well documented book. It is part of the history of the air war and, more importantly, of the 2nd Air Division.

It is my hope that most of these men still living will submit their stories to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich, so they may be part of the proud record of this distinguished unit.

Forrest S. Clark
703 Duffer Lane
Kissimmee, FL 34759

Editor's Note: Are you saying we should have bombed Switzerland more?



To the Editor:

I am finalizing work on a booklet about crashes of 458th BG aircraft. Primarily, it is about those that went down in the Norfolk area, but will also include all losses. The book will be dedicated to the 285 members of the 458th KIA, and the proceeds will be donated to the Memorial Library.

Members of the 458th who have photos and/or details about crashes are requested to send them to me. The photos will be returned to you. I plan to finish the book this year, and any submissions are needed ASAP.

George A. Reynolds
3850 Galleria Woods Dr. #314
Birmingham, AL 35244-3063
(205) 988-8791



To the Editor:

Just received the Spring issue and it's terrific. I especially like The Wild Blue Yonder, since I don't believe I have previously heard all of the verses.

One word of protest! As a former 491st Lead Navigator (Division Lead) I resent the concept of any 491st navigator being lost! It just never happened!

Temporarily misplaced, perhaps, but lost? Never.

Clason L. Rohrer
Chaplain, LtCol, USAF, Ret
7618 Woodside Drive
Stockton, CA 95207

Editor's Note: No lost souls in the 491st? My, my, what did the chaplain do?



To the Editor:

I'm a Polish Air Force officer interested in USAF participation in WWII over Poland. I intend to create "The Honor Roll" about USAF losses over my country. I would like to find eyewitnesses, places where the planes fell and explain what happened. I can't manage to find any information in the Polish archives, so I'm asking for help. I'll be very grateful for any information about men and planes lost over Poland, including losses in FRANTIC missions and Stettin, Danzig, Gdynia, Politz, Pozen, Rahmel, Trzebinia, Breslau, Oswiecim, Blechhammer and Biala-Podlaska areas.

Jerzy Boć
ul. Wawrzyszewska 2/16
01-162 Warszawa
Poland



To the Editor:

My thanks to the many people who have sent me cards, e-mails, mass cards and prayers during the past 18 months. I still feel normal and energetic. However, I am on a program of more intensive chemotherapy each week (with the usual side effects), and am optimistic that I will get through this period (six months) successfully. I know the best therapy is keeping busy, so I am still researching 2nd AD crashes and accidents for the Liberation Museum in Holland. They are building a record of all 8th and 9th AF personnel losses. This will be the most complete and informative record available for these incidents as the Dutch researchers are able to include data from German sources, burial information, and official listings in the roster of US War Dead.

Phyllis DuBois
22 Hungate Street
Aylsham, Norwich NR11 6AA
(dubois@netmatters.co.uk)



To the Editor:

I am 81, totally disabled. As a member of the 389th, I flew as a nose gunner and was shot down and taken captive. I flew off the wing of actor Jimmy Stewart who became my best friend in the army air force. I wrote last year to the address you gave to put a B-24 on a stamp. It was turned down, so recently I sent the enclosed photo to the Postmaster General with the same request again.

Paul E. Lanning, 389th BG
1280 Tusca Road
Beaver, PA 15009



The Collings Foundation B-24. One of the last flying today — out of over 19,000 manufactured in WWII.



To the Editor:

Thanks for printing my story on “Waste Gate Electronics Regulators.” I was very pleased to see it was printed in the Spring Journal. However, on reading it in the Journal, I found that one line of the story was left out which makes the story somewhat confusing. The article should have ended as follows:

Our navigator (I Moyer Hunsberger) and bombardier (Austin R. Schmidt) were grateful. In the next few days they went to bat for me in a meeting with higher ups to see, if what I did was worth a citation or an accommodation. They came back and told me that the Brass said it was just *part of my job as flight engineer to do those things. I didn't disagree but I will bet that no other flight engineer in the Eighth Air Force had that kind of experience to talk about.* They also told me that in the meeting they didn't get much help from our pilot Bill Beno. So it went down in the record books as just another mission with no mention of it on my flight record.

Mr. Delbert Shaffer, 458th BG
2200 Buttonwood Ave.
Hollywood, FL 33026-1718



To the Editor:

There is a talk, given by a Tom Vlachos of

Thousand Oaks, CA, to a group, the EAA chapter 723 in Camarillo, CA, in July of 2000. Tom claims to have been on the Ploesti raid on 1 Aug '43 and landed at Haifa. Among other things he has claimed, had one dead man aboard, half the tail shot away, etc. He does name some of the crew members and his bomb group, the 98th. I have checked with the 98th on the internet, they never heard of Tom. Also ran a check of the official records in the AF, no record. As of now I have tried to contact Tom and get no response. Am getting a helping hand from Bob Sternfels, the author of “Burning Hitler's Black Gold,” he lives in CA and is attempting to talk with Tom. I have corresponded with Bob Sternfels as he landed in Cyprus after the Ploesti raid and would know if any plane went beyond Cyprus. Also, have talked to many who were on the raid and not one of them believes the story. I checked the internet and was amazed to find a web dedicated to “Phonies and Wannabes.” Lots of guys out there giving speeches, some charging a fee, and are phonies. They found one guy, a Judge, who had no military records but claimed all kinds of combat...

In the e-mails I have sent to Tom, I just asked for more information on his crew as we would like to get it into the record books.... so far no one has responded.

If you have a computer and want to listen to his talk, log on <http://www.eaa723.org/>

speakers/gs200007.htm. In any case, I can quote a few things from Tom V's speech as I made a tape. Would like to get the thoughts of all the Ploesti guys.

Earl L. Zimmerman
8922 Haverstick Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46240



To the Editor:

Former Prisoners of War: The VA Wants You!

Of all former prisoners of war, with approximately 46,000 still living, only about 35% have connected with the Department of Veterans Affairs to accept the benefits for which they are eligible. Now is the time to step forward.

If you are an ex-POW or know of someone who is, please respond to this announcement. The American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc., has worked hard over the past 20 years to determine the effects of the POW experience on the health in later years of our POW veterans. The VA provides benefits related to over 20 health maladies that were presumed to be initiated because of severe prisoner of war conditions suffered in the hands of the enemy. These presumptives include frostbite, heart problems, post traumatic stress, malnutrition, osteoarthritis, and many others. For instance, we who were shot down and experienced the forced marches in the coldest winter, 1944-45, northern Germany had had in years can well remember the swollen, cold feet; and later heart problems and residuals of frostbite are presumed by the VA to have resulted. Tax-free disability compensation is provided for such.

Our volunteer accredited National Service Officers will do their best to help you present your valid claim to the Department of Veterans Affairs, without charge. Learn more, call, write, or join the American Ex-Prisoners of War, to be kept informed about the special benefits due former POWs and their spouses or widows.

American Ex-Prisoners of War
c/o New Member Committee
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy. #40
Arlington, TX 76010
(817) 649-2979

OR

American Ex-Prisoners of War
c/o National Service Office
DVARO
3225 N. Central Ave., Ste. 407
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2421
(602) 745-2201; (602) 745-2203 FAX



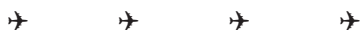
To the Editor:

Hello airmen of the 8th Air Force helping us to fight the nazis during WWII and to liberate Denmark from the German occupation May 5th, 1945.

Many of your aircraft were shot down over Denmark. As a 15 year old boy, I helped 2 airmen hide in a small pine wood, and later helped many Danes sail across the water to freedom in Sweden.

I would like to be contacted by all of you who have been downed in Denmark and escaped German capture and evaded to Sweden with the help of the Danes. There are many exciting but also dangerous stories to tell, which should not be forgotten.

Ejvind Friss Jensen
Agervej 2
DK 4262 Sandved, Denmark
email: friis.jensn@get2net.dk



To the Editor:

I made a solo trip to England during the first week of May. I stayed in Norwich, visited the library and received outstanding assistance from Carson Holloway, our headman at the temporary library. He set up a visit to Tibenham, my old airfield, (445th BG) for me and it was great. Paul Thrower, who lives close to Tibenham, drove up and picked me up and I met Evan Harris, a senior member of the glider club at the field. Evan set me up for a 30-min. flight in a glider and I was able to take some pictures of my old airfield. Carson Holloway, and family, drove me up to Duxford for an air show and visit to our Memorial Museum. I also visited Cambridge and the Madingly Cemetery. It was a quick trip but very satisfying.

Richard H. Frank, Lt. Col., USAF Ret.
118 Pt. Fosdick Circle NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335



To the Editor:

RE: The Shack Rabbit Mystery

Following the recent death of my mother, Mrs. Anne Barne, who had been a Governor of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust for 50 years, I had the task of sorting out her possessions. Among these, I came across a picture of Pulls Ferry, an historic Norwich feature on the river Wensum. It was signed by a Charles Parker with the inscription to "Anne Barne in appreciation of your lengthy dedication - from the crew of Shack Rabbit."

Curious to know who the Shack Rabbit crew members were and where such an odd name as Shack Rabbit came from, I made some enquires in Norfolk, but with no immediate result. Meantime, Bud Chamberlain had

come to my mother's funeral and agreed to see if he could identify the Shack Rabbit crew and, to this end put a note in the Journal. It turned out that there were a number of Shack Rabbit aircraft. However, among these, was one piloted by Eino Alve and in his crew was a certain Charles Parker - a well known artist and later diplomat. Eino had published a booklet on the exploits of this Shack Rabbit crew, which he kindly sent to me together with an explanation of the title Shack Rabbit. In his words, "Parker came up with the name Shack Rabbit. We were late in arriving at a meeting while still in training and interrupted the meeting. The instructor made the comment 'Here comes the Alve Shack Rabbit crew.' That struck a cord with Charles and we had a name for the upcoming new aircraft." He continued, "The phrase 'Shack Rabbit' refers to a group of ladies that followed the service men to their bases, sort of a 'shady' meaning."

The new B-24 was to be picked up at Lincoln AAF and they painted the name on

the side of the new aircraft and flew it to Valley, Wales where it was taken from them never to be seen again. However, the name Shack Rabbit stuck with them through their many dramatic wartime missions although the AF refers to them as the Alve Crew.

Unfortunately, Charles Parker is no longer with us so I couldn't find out the exact circumstances of his gift but at least the back-ground is now clear. The accompanying photograph shows me handing his picture of Pulls Ferry over to Trust Chairman, Paul King. Paul has agreed to display it in the new Norwich Library (now christened the Forum) together with Eino Alve's booklet.

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Dudwick Cottage
Buxton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR10 5HX
Fax: 01603.279990
Phone: 01603.279249
E-mail: c.briscoe@paston.co.uk



Charles Briscoe (Left) presenting Charles Parker's picture of Pulls Ferry to Trust Chairman Paul King.

To the Editor:

While in New Orleans, we visited the D-Day Museum. We were not too surprised to find that the 2nd Air Division's participation was almost completely ignored. In a massive display of the D-Day landing, showing models of all the landing craft, and overhead bombers, I could not see any B-24s. In the lower left-hand corner of the display, was a small picture of our beloved craft that must have been overlooked by the majority of viewers. Perhaps our administrators can contact someone to rectify this situation.

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Warminster, PA 18974
RandDVine@aol.com

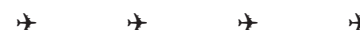
Editor's Note:

Dave Patterson, 2ADA secretary replied:

I will bring the subject up at our next Executive Committee meeting for their review and possible action. (We B-24-ers should have had that extra crew member that the B-17 guys had on board... the "PR Man"!!)

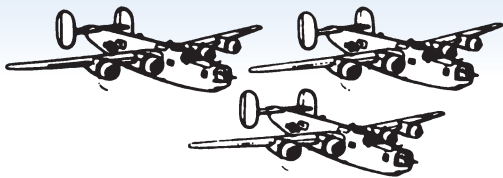
And the Editor adds:

Next time, ask for your money back and hit 'em in the "Kiskas." (The wallet.)



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'Green Dragon'



392nd BG
WENDLING
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41-23689
'Minerva'



448th BG
SEETHING
B-24D-5-CO
41-23809
'You Cawn't
Miss It'



453rd BG
OLD BUCKENHAM
B-24D-1-CO
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RACKHEATH
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'Pete the POM
Inspector'



489th BG
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42-7552
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