

June 8, 1953

Dear Old Gang:

I have just retired from one job after 41 years and, like all old fire horses, still listen for the bell. So, while listening, I heard another bell. This time it was a civilian bell, i.e., Mr. L. D. Bell of the aircraft business that bears his name. He suggested that I go to work, and here I am, Executive Vice President of the Bell Aircraft Corporation in Buffalo, New York. It is a fine job and practically guaranteed to keep my blood pressure up about normal, at least for the time being. I like the idea of "wearing out" rather than to "rust out".

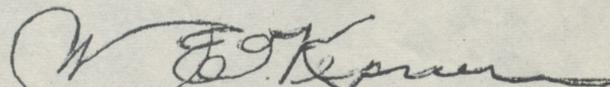
I am a firm believer that as long as you keep trying you continue to live and accomplish something. When you quit, you start to die. Even a good bomber airplane (brand new) needs continuous action and operation of some sort to avoid rusting to final complete deterioration and a mass of shapeless ruin.

Do you remember one of our B-24's made more than 130 flights without aborting a single time? It made this record (I believe a world record) because it was kept active by a crew that made it live. They furnished the life blood and the brains for a gallant old bomber that could only do its part if others also functioned as necessary. That was a proud ground crew, who could see each day something to be done so the bomber continued to keep going. I get a thrill when I remember that B-24. But I get a distinct lift in morale when I recall how faithful that ground crew was. I'll bet they are still faithful and conscientious to the present responsibilities wherever they are.

The Second Air Division Association, like its former B-24, needs people to make it live. It will exist and sparkle as a living unit only so much as its members provide plans, objectives and operating incentives. These, of course, have to be supported -- not by a few, but by all. We were all in the Second Air Division. It belonged to us in combat and we kept it going. It always did an outstanding job.

Now in peace we remember our associations of England. We would enjoy meeting our buddies and hashing over old times. We can best keep in contact if there is kept somewhere a list of addresses. This can and should be done by 2AD Association; that is, it can if all of us will devote a little time to write the president and officers, offering to help as much as we can. I know we want to do this and I think I know you well enough to promise that you will again come through. After all, there isn't much required, just really belong and help the officers we elected. Let's tune up the motors, run through the check list, get cleared by the missus and kids for a cross country mission to the next reunion, or better still, take them along. I'll be seeing you and Happy Landings.

Yours in comradeship, with admiration for the past and expectations for the future.

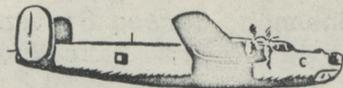


General Bill Kepner

(Always on active duty with 2AD)

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Second Air Division Association



June 15, 1953

DEAR TROOPS:

To all of you we extend cordial greetings and sincere apologies for the long delay in getting to press with this first communique. We hope to make up for past deficiencies and bring you up-to-date in a hurry -- and in great detail -- and to keep in closer touch with you from now until reunion time.

About the biggest and best news we have at this time is the fact that the boss, Lt. Gen. Bill Kepner has concluded a glorious and distinguished military career, and is now a civilian. However, he is still air minded (and you can just bet Air Force minded) in his new capacity as Executive Vice President of Bell Aircraft Corporation in Buffalo, New York.

"General Bill" has met with your secretary and treasurer and has been in touch with your president and past president - and he is eagerly looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next reunion. The Second Air Division Association is very dear to the General's heart, as you can see from the attached letter to you all, and the success and growth of the 2nd Air Division Association is as much his desire as it is ours.

You can look forward to hearing things of great interest from General Kepner at the next reunion. In our opinion, his last command, Commander in Chief, Alaskan Command, was/is one of the critical spots of modern times. We are sure that as far as he is able within security limits, he will describe to you what it was like being within gunshot of the Russians.

1952 REUNION: Those of us who have attended some or all of the reunions, and those who have only been able to make it once or twice, are all agreed that it is a tremendous thrill to see our former wartime associates at the reunions. We've noticed that no matter how much or how little we had to do with each other, there is a warmth that is great to feel when we see each other after these years of separation. We all shared an emotional experience, being together overseas, an experience that has created a bond that is impossible to find in civic, fraternal and social groups. It's a good feeling to be together again -- and the gang who assembled in Chicago on Oct. 24-25-26, 1952, at the Hotel Sherman gave ample evidence of enjoying themselves to the fullest.

Once again, we had former associates from all corners of the country at the last reunion. The clan assembled from Georgia to Washington state, from New York to California, and from all over the South, Southwest and Midwest. Here is a list of those who attended: Joanne Affronte and sister, Mr. & Mrs. John Anderson, Bob Archambault, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Ayres, Mr. & Mrs. Art Bernstein, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brandt, Marie Cizek, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Cody, John Cunningham and son, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Devlin, John Diehl, Henry Dietch, Bill Dowling, Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Echales,

Mr. & Mrs. Don Elgas, Marilyn Fritz, Tom Holmes, Dolores Hommer, Mr. & Mrs. Karl Hopper, John (Gus) Karoly, Helen Kehoe, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Clem Kowalczyk, Tom Landrum, Mr. & Mrs. Jim LaPonsie, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Ludwig, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Moore, Irene Noble, Beatrice Puch and sister, Marvin (Bob) Roberts, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Schmidt, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Sears, Father Edward Seward, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Shannon, Teresa Stevens, Ray Strong, Jackie Grahovac Turchet, Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Uttal, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Vydarney, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Wetzel, Harveston Wing, and Percy Young.

Quite a gang, what? And they all had a bang up time at the Wing-Ding. Wouldn't you have liked to have been there? (Copies of the reunion photograph may be had for \$2.00 from the Rialto Service Co., Room 320, 127 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 2, Ill.).

Although the reunion didn't start until Friday, October 24th (According to the program), some of the gang arrived on Thursday, the 23rd, and there were about 10 of us that night getting a headstart at Joyce and Jordan Uttal's apartment in Chicago.

Friday afternoon at 5:00 P.M., the cocktail party started, and as you can imagine, by 9:30 we were ready to take on some solid nourishment. As at past reunions, we split into small groups for dinner and all reassembled the next morning for our very interesting business meeting. Saturday night was highlighted by a most enjoyable banquet, very ably M.C.'d by Howard Moore, followed by dancing until after one o'clock in the morning. Sunday, after a suitable period of rest and recuperation, most of us left for home -- sorry to take leave of our friends -- and looking forward to seeing them again. The consensus of opinion was that the Convention Committee (Dietch, Vydarney, Moore, Uttal and Kowalczyk) had done a fine job.

BUSINESS MEETING: A most interesting session developed around the reports of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reunion Committee and Memorial Committee. Officers elected for 1953 were as follows:

President	- Jordan Uttal
Vice Presidents	- Joanne Affronte, Evelyn Cohen, Gus Karoly, Percy Young
Secretary	- Irene Noble
Treasurer	- Bob Roberts

The new president appointed to the Executive Committee: Marie Cizek, Ray Strong, H. Sears, John Cunningham, Bob Ayres, Howard Moore, Art Bernstein, Chester Schmidt, Beatrice Puch, John Anderson, Henry Dietch and Bill Dowling.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the 1952 administration, headed by President Ray Strong. Great credit is due to all of our people who have worked so hard and sincerely to build and nurture the Second Air Division Association. We sincerely feel that it is right and good to perpetuate - as we are trying to do - the friendships we formed, and the memory of those who are no longer with us.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: To retain the gains we have made and to grow further, we must stimulate additional interest on the part of those of us who have been inactive and to reach more of our former buddies, of whom we have no record. In order to attempt to accomplish this, a Membership Committee has been appointed consisting of all the officers and executive committee, plus the following: Dick Thigpen, Clem Kowalczyk, Percy Young, Jackie Turchet, Marilyn Fritz, Dolores Hommer, Whitey Thomas, Tom Messenger, and Buddy Russell.

By this time, the Membership Committee should have received lists of names, on a geographical basis, from Howard Moore. It is planned that the members of the committee will contact the individuals on their list to promote greater participation in the Second Air Division Association. We urge you to join with us in helping our Association grow.

If, by any chance, any of you have names and addresses of former 2AD personnel who are not on our roster, we would appreciate receiving the information.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Enclosed herein you will find a statement for 1953 membership dues which are payable by annual members. Please mail your two bucks to our treasurer, Bob Roberts, as soon as possible. Dues from charter members will not be due until 1954.

PERSONNEL QUESTIONNAIRE: We request your cooperation in filling in the enclosed questionnaire and mailing it promptly to our secretary. An envelope is attached for your convenience. In our next newsletter, we'd like to give out the latest news of you all -- and we can't do it unless you give us the dope -- SO, PLEASE DO IT TODAY.

NEWS: JOANNE AFFRONTE and her very charming sister attended the reunion in Chicago. Jo reports that she is doing some work with the Volunteer Air Reserve Training Group in Long Beach, Cal. BILLIE ASH, at our last report, was on active duty stationed in Japan. WARREN ALBERTS is Assistant to Vice President for Flight Operations of United Air Lines in Denver, Colorado. Al served as civilian consultant to the Dept. of Commerce, Defense Air Transport Administration in Washington for 45 days, during which time he saw a lot of the old gang. HOLMES ALEXANDER is a columnist for the McNaught Syndicate and covered the two political conventions last summer. We understand that he is now writing a book about the Air Force. COL. JOSEPH BAIRD, as of Nov. 1952, was on active duty in Washington. CARL & JOAN BARTHEL wired their greetings to the last reunion from Waco, Texas. HOWARD H. BAUM is married, has 3 daughters, and is operations supervisor for the Hershey Park and Sports Arena in Hershey, Pennsylvania. HAL BILYEU was last reported on active duty at SAC, Offut Field, Nebraska. MAJ. HOMER BELL, at last report, had been back in the States for several months, finding life in Florida to his liking. He is now operations officer with an air refueling squadron. DR. REUBEN BERMAN was contacted by Jordan Uttal in Minneapolis. Doc and Mrs. Berman have a fine family of six children. COL. WILLIS E. BEIGHTOL is director of Operations of the 14th Air Division at Travis AFB, Calif. RILE BLACKWOOD, an old "pickhandler" is going to try to make it to the next reunion. HAZEL BULLEN received her Masters degree from Boulder University and is teaching in New Hampshire. TOM CONROY got home to Val and the children from a European trip just before Christmas, 1952. WALTER CLATANOFF was reported to be on active duty in Washington in Nov. 1952. Walter and Mrs. Clatanoff have 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys. BILL CAMERON was reported to be on active duty in Washington in Nov. 1952. WENDELL E. COOK, when last heard from, was county judge in Winkler County, Texas. EVELYN COHEN AND LEE SHOEMAKER drove across country from Philadelphia to the "wide open spaces" on

a 25 day vacation last summer. They visited Puch, and stopped to see Jackie Turchet. We think that the 1952 reunion was the first Evelyn failed to attend and we missed her. BILL COBURN bought a new home in Sept. 1952 in Hampton Virginia, after being elected City Manager of Hampton in July, 1952. HARRY CARVER, in addition to his regular and full teaching load, is working on a regular research project for the Air Force. In Dec. 1951, Harry flew over the North Pole from Alaska, testing a new Celestial navigation method he dreamed up. While in Alaska, he had a nice visit with Gen. Kepner. MILDRED CORNWELL is now living in Los Angeles and attending UCLA. LUTHER CLOXTON could not attend the last reunion as he had visited Chicago the week before. Luther's family now includes three lovely little daughters. BETTY SHEARER CALHOUN was hospitalized last October for surgery and has recuperated nicely. She and her husband will try to be with us at this year's reunion. M/SGT E. J. DELIA was on an overseas assignment at our last report. FRANKIE FIAZZA is living in Weirton, West Virginia, and has a little daughter almost three years old. ABBOTT FENN writes that he is co-owner of a boys camp in Vermont, and that he spends the winter months in Florida. (What a deal!) KEN GREGSON was seriously ill at the time of the Chicago reunion, but he was reported to be on the road to recovery at our last report in January. Best wishes, Ken, and we hope you can be with us this year. HOWARD B. HUFFMAN is married, and at last report, was Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Bowling Green State University teaching statistics and accounting. RAY HESS reported that Col. Westover is no longer at S.A.C. Ray saw HAL & PEACHES HOERNER in Savannah where they now reside, and he lunched with Veyette, Lund and Fritzie in Washington. ED HUNTON was stationed in Bermuda at the time of our last reunion, and was still there in April. We hope that he can be with us for the 1953 reunion. DOC HECKER is an obstetrician in Washington, D. C. He and Annabelle have two fine children. CHARLES HAMSHER was due to be back on civilian status in Sept. 1952, but we haven't heard further from him. Mrs. Hamsher reported that he was scheduled to rejoin the G. C. Murphy Co. GEN. LEON JOHNSON was prominently mentioned in connection with the recent convention of Congressional Medal of Honor winners. Gen. Johnson escaped injury in the crash of a C-47 last August while on his way to review the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. MARGARET KIRBY (Norwich, England). It is with much regret that we learned of the death of Margaret Kirby

after a very brief illness on April 20, 1952. Her mother advised us that Margaret succumbed peacefully in her sleep. All of us who knew her mourn her loss. FRANK LEADEN was transferred from the Pentagon to Mitchell AFB where he was to work for Gen. Leon Johnson. HAL LUND was last reported on active duty in Washington in November, 1952. LEONARD LUDWIG and his charming wife attended the reunion in Chicago and reported that he is representing the State Automobile Insurance Association. They make their home in Yankton, South Dakota. ALVIN MUNN, according to a report from his wife, was in Europe in Nov. 1952, on an assignment of several months. The Munn's have three lovely daughters -- Penelope, Melissa and Deborah. CARL L. MORTON (Prang) couldn't make it to the last reunion but he sent his best greetings to all the old gang. FEN MARSH and Dixie of Cleveland, Ohio, wired their regrets to us at the last reunion. JIM MARANTOS was last reported on active duty at March AFB, California. He had three months TDY in Old Blighty and had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances that brought back many nostalgic memories of our K-Hall days. HOWARD MELSON was last reported on active duty in England. JOHN MEANS sent his regrets at his inability to attend the last wing-ding and suggests that we work on a plan to have a reunion in East Anglia. JOE MOFFITT sent his regards and his assurance that he will try to attend the next reunion. HOWARD MOORE is still beating the drum for the Salvation Army and beating his brains out in his own Public Relations Firm, Midwest Associates, Chicago. His Chicago associates report that Gladys and their two adorable children, Maureen and Jimmy are a family to be proud of. GIFF NEWLON, as of Sept. 1952, was living with his family (2 children) in Saugus, California, where he is associated with the McBean-Newhall Ranch. He had a nice reunion with Holmes Alexander who visited out there last September. PICKHANDLERS had themselves a "ball" at the Chicago reunion, and included in the group were Karoly, Wing, Wetzel, Sears and Roberts. RAMSAY POTTS, as of Nov. 1952, was reported to be located in Washington, D.C. M/SGT BEATRICE B. PUCH was warmly welcomed at the last reunion. She was on her way East with her very nice sister, and we hope that they both will join us again this year. BONNIE PAULHAMUS is at Felixstowe, 50 miles from Norwich, where her husband is stationed. JOHN PAVER sent his greetings and regrets to the reunion. BOB QUINLIVEN was found by Jordan Uttal in Kansas City. Bob is married to a charming Shirley and they have one child. Bob is at present working for TWA. JIM REEVES took a month off last year to tour Mexico and the West. (Furniture business must be good in Georgia.) OSCAR RINEHART, we understand,

is living in Brazil. CAROLINE SCHAUFFLER (Brownie) -- we learned in Nov. 1952 that Caroline and Dick's son was named Peter Brown and that the family has moved to more spacious quarters in Montana. T/SGT MARY SABIN was reported in Nov. 1952 to be on duty in Air Force Communications System. Her office is close to Fritzie's and they meet frequently. She is living near Washington - on the Maryland side. EVERETT STEWART was reported to be on active duty in Washington in Nov. 1952. CHARLIE SALISBURY and family have moved from Detroit to Catonsville, Maryland. Charlie represents Anchor Hocking Glass. HILDA BERRY SANFORD is married to Bud Sanford, business manager of Yale University, and they have a little daughter. MAJ. FRANK STOOPS reported to us in Sept. 1952 from England where he was stationed at Bentwaters, 15 miles NE of Ipswich. He has his wife and five year old son with him. WILBUR SIMONS is much improved in health. Wilbur has stopped in to see Ray Strong several times (Wilbur's daughter is enrolled at the university) and hopes to get to a reunion soon. TONY SHTOGREN is C.O. of the Weather Group at Langley AFB. JEANNE SMITH, at last report, was finishing her job in Albuquerque and was planning to go to Alaska. RICHARD "SHUTDEDO" THIGPEN could not make it to the last reunion because of the pressure of business. However, he recently had an informal reunion in Chicago (May, 1953) with the Howard Moores and Clem Kowalczyks at the Uttal's home. He reports that Mary Mac and the chillun are fine. JACKIE TURCHET attended the last reunion and had a great time. She reported that she, Evelyn and Lee visited WINNIE NETTLETON at Crockett, California, last summer. CAPT. LLOYD URBINE, at last report, was on active duty and stationed at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. JORDAN UTTAL ran into Buddy Russell and Bob Quinliven on trips to Kansas City. Jordan is still selling cheese for Blue Moon Foods (Vice President-Sales) and traveling extensively. JOHN VEYETTE was reported to be on active duty in Washington last November. BEN WALSH - In Nov. 1952, we learned that Ben had an assignment in Paris and that Mrs. Walsh preceded him for a visit in England and then joined him in Paris. JOE WHITTAKER is now living in Lombard, Illinois and working as District Sales Manager for the American Cyanamid Corporation - Explosives Division (to which we add Natch!) ELIZABETH CUTTS WARREN writes that the three children are "precious", but taking care of the family does not permit much time for the reunions. BOB YARLING -- we have finally received Bob's address from Jim Reeves

who reports that Bob and his family visited with him while they were touring the South. Bob now lives in Shelbyville, Indiana. We have just learned that LT. COL. CHARLES GRAYDON is now located in Chicago, just having been transferred from Kansas City. He is still with Selective Service, and his new office is at 79 E. Adams St., Chicago.

That about winds up our news for now, but we hope to publish another newsletter soon.

MEMORIAL FUND: In the near future, you will be receiving detailed information from the Memorial Committee regarding the status of the 2AD Memorial. With this communication will be a questionnaire for you to fill out, and it is very important that you give the Committee the information they request. Very briefly, it seems almost certain that an alternative will have to be found for the original purpose of the fund because it is doubtful that the new library will be built.

Although the fund is administered by a specially elected Board of Governors who will finally determine the alternative to be selected, the opinion of the 2nd Air Division has been asked, and we feel that we should let them know how we feel about the Memorial Fund. Your cooperation in replying promptly will be much appreciated.

NEW ROSTER: A new roster has been compiled and will be sent shortly to all dues paying members, and to those who are not members yet but request a copy from the secretary.

It's been fun visiting with you guys and gals. Please help your officers and the various committees by sending in the questionnaire promptly, your dues, and any suggestions or comments you care to make.

Best regards to you all,

JORDAN UTTAL, President

IRENE NOBLE, Secretary

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