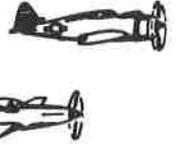




NEWSLETTER



VOL. 7 NUMBER 6

DECEMBER 1963

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This year witnessed the fulfillment of an inspiration which had its inception 18 years ago - in 1945. Many of us wanted a memorial established to honor those in our Second Air Division of the 8th Air Force who made the supreme sacrifice. That dream is now a reality. The American Memorial Room in the new Norwich Central Library Building was dedicated on June 13, 1963.

On June 10th, 139 of us - former members of the Second Air Division, members of our families, Gold Star Mothers and other members of the families of the deceased - emplaned in Chicago, flew on to New York to pick up the rest of our passengers, and landed at R.A.F. Sculthorpe about noon on Tuesday, June 11th. From the moment we landed on English soil, we received a welcome which we shall always cherish. The Station Commander, Lt. Col. John R. Hane, and his very able staff, welcomed us in a manner usually reserved for V.I.P. 's. We were fully briefed on plans for the day, assigned to a party under the "chaperonage" of one or two officers on Col. Hane's staff, and assured that the Station would furnish us transportation for all the various functions which would be given in connection with the dedication ceremony during the next four days. An extra-super buffet luncheon also was awaiting us, together with other types of refreshments, always dear to the hearts of Americans, men and women, civilian and military.

Our last Newsletter contained most of the details of our wonderful reception at Norwich. I will simply say that the day of the ceremony itself began with the Thunderbird Aerial Show at which we and a number of distinguished British notables were guests. After the show, we were again guests at a luncheon sponsored by the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Mr. Leonard Howes, at the Norwood Rooms. The memorial service itself was at St. Peter Mancroft Church (which was built between 1430 and 1455). After the service, the procession moved to the nearby Norwich Central Library where the American Room was officially opened by the Minister of the United States Embassy in London (Hon. G. Lewis Jones). Outside the American Room we admired the fountain containing stones which came from and represented each of the 50 states. These stones were obtained through the dedicated efforts of our late beloved Col. John Cunningham and by our equally beloved Gus Karoly. I doubt whether any one who may chance to read this paragraph will have any conception of the vast amount of dedicated work John and Gus performed so that we would have stones from every single one of the 50 states.

Following the opening of the American Room, the Lord Mayor tendered a reception at St. Andrew's Hall. Finally, in the evening, another reception was given in our honor at the Norwich Castle Museum. It is impossible to give adequate honor or to express adequate appreciation for the hospitality and generosity of the people in Norwich. More than 80 British families offered their homes to us as their guests during our stay in Norwich. This wonderful hospitality was in charge of Mrs. Jean Watt who was superb not only in her organizational talents but in her warmth and kindness to the Gold Star Mothers who needed so badly to find a kind and understanding friend.

Of course, Gen. Kepner and Hodges, our war-time commanding generals, were there as well as Gen. Butch Griswold, Gen. Bob Terrill and Gen. Milt Arnold. Four-Star General Truman Landon and Gen. Romulus W. Puryear also honored us with their presence.

I probably should not dare to attempt to name the many distinguished British friends who were so wonderful to us. But discretion was never numbered among my virtues, so here I go. Besides the Lord

Mayor (Mr. Leonard Howes), there was, of course, the Bishop of Norwich (Dr. Launcelot Fleming), the Lord Lieutenant for Norfolk (Sir Edmund Bacon), Sir John Baker-Carr (representing the Earl of Leichester, and Mr. Tom Copeman, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, and Mr. F. R. D. Walter, Clerk of the Board. Of course, there were dozens and dozens of other distinguished British men and women who honored us, not only by their presence, but by their warm and gracious hospitality, whom I would like so much to mention in these pages but the exigencies of space will not permit.

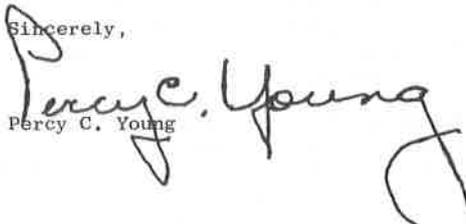
I shall add a few other names to the list of those to whom we are especially indebted - first, Hathy Veynar. No one knows, I am sure, the tremendous debt of gratitude we owe Hathy, not only for her prodigious efforts in connection with our Charter Flight, but also for her long years of faithful, loyal and hard working service. It might well be that but for Hathy we would not have succeeded in accomplishing the Charter Aircraft project. As it was, however, there were 66 additional friends who actually sent their checks in hoping that we would be able to have enough applicants to justify a second aircraft. Had Hathy had an additional two weeks in which to work, I am quite sure that she would have succeeded in filling a second aircraft. To Hathy I give my most sincere thanks for the tremendous job she did in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties. Also, we are especially indebted to Evelyn Cohen for her help all year, and to Jackie Touchet for her help enroute to and from England.

You may have gained the impression that the dedication ceremony in Norwich was pretty close to 100% of our activities during 1963. That is just about correct. We did have a business meeting in Norwich - our annual business meeting - and I congratulate Jordan Uttal on being our President for 1964, and the others elected to serve with him. Finally, I want to thank in addition to Hathy, John Cunningham, Gus Karoly, Evelyn and Jackie, those other members of 2 A.D. who have worked so loyally not only in 1963 but throughout the years. We were particularly disappointed not only that Hathy could not go to Norwich with us, but also that our fine Treasurer, Deane Moyer, and wife also could not go. The same sentiments apply to our faithful executive Secretary, Ray Strong, and his wife, Ruth, as well as to the real daddy of the 2 A. D. Association, Howard Moore, and his wife, Gladys. Of course, we missed all who could not join us and we hope so much that each of you in this category will be able to visit Norwich in the near future and see the American Room which has been dedicated to those in our Division who made the supreme sacrifice, to take advantage of the wonderful invitation extended by the ladies of Norwich for you to be their house guests when you come to Norwich, and to have the privilege of being in Great Britain again and to visit once more one of the greatest nations in history, peopled by the finest, most superb men and women one can find anywhere on earth.

This is the third and surely the last year in which I shall have the privilege of serving as your President. I do not want my swan-song to end without paying tribute to our two great leaders and two fine gentlemen, Generals Kepner and Hodges. Also, I pay sincere tribute to our other Generals - Butch Griswold, Leon Johnson, Ted Timberlake, Westy Westover, Bob Terrill, Milt Arnold, and Jimmy Stewart (I deliberately use the rank "General" without any of the prefixes the Pentagon deems proper). Each of these individuals are, in my estimation, not only real Generals and leaders, but great gentlemen as well. And a final tribute to all those grand G. I.s, junior and senior officers without whom our Generals would have been helpless to achieve the heights to which they have risen. Each was a member of one of the outstanding teams in our military history. To each our Country owes a debt of gratitude which may be recognized but will never be paid.

And so, adieu. May each of you have an especially fine Christmas and a deeply rewarding New Year.

Sincerely,


Percy C. Young

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Your business meeting adopted a motion calling for a "permanent" hospitality committee in response to the warm, generous and gracious invitation of our friends in Norwich. These wonderful people have arranged to keep a permanent list of Norwich homes whose owners have extended a warm invitation to any of the families of those who made the supreme sacrifice and to any former members of the Second Air Division who wish to visit Norwich and to see the American Room in the Norwich Central Library Building. Members of the Committee are Generals Kepner, Hodges and Arnold, United States District Judge Fred Bryan, and myself (Chairman).

Our Norwich friends are extremely sincere in their invitation for us to come to Norwich and to visit them as guests in their homes. I assure each of you who may be so fortunate as to accept that you will find a warm and gracious people. I earnestly urge each of you who possibly can to take advantage of this cordial invitation. You cannot help but be inspired and to realize the genuine feeling of friendship that

The 16th Annual Meeting of the 2nd Air Division Association was called to order by President Percy Young at 11:00 AM 12 June 1963. The Lord Mayor of Norwich (Mr. Leonard Howes) delivered a most gracious address of welcome to the members of the 2nd Air Division Association and to the Gold Star Mothers and other members of the families of those who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II. Mr. Tom Copeman (Chairman of the Board of Governors of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust) addressed the meeting briefly, adding his welcome to that of the Lord Mayor. Mr. Copeman told us that the Board of Governors and indeed many of the citizens of Norwich and East Anglia felt so warmly towards the Americans, that a suggestion had been put before the Board of Governors for a permanent committee to be set up in Norwich which would maintain a roster of residents of Norwich who would welcome for a few days visit to their homes any Americans who wished to come to Norwich to see the American Room.

Percy Young expressed the appreciation of the entire 2 AD membership to the Lord Mayor for his warm welcome and to Mr. Tom Copeman for his remarks and particularly for the suggestion that a permanent committee be formed to encourage and to synchronize visits by Americans to East Anglia, particularly members of the families of those whose names are inscribed in the Book of Remembrance. He welcomed the delegates and expressed his regret at the unfortunate absence of Mrs. Hathy Veynar, Ray Strong and Dean and Deanie Moyer. He announced that each of these had sent their greetings to those who were fortunate enough to be able to attend and expressed their deep regrets that circumstances beyond their control prevented their own attendance. The minutes of the last reunion were read and approved. In the absence of Dean Moyer the Treasurer's Report was read by Percy Young showing a balance as of 10 June 1963 of \$998.37.

New Business - The following representatives of Governor's were introduced:

South Dakota - Lenard Ludwig presented Gold Coin and Honorary citizenship to Lord Mayor.

Illinois - Henry Dietch - Letter expressing gratitude.

Georgia - Jim Reeves - Letter to the Lord Mayor.

Colorado - Letter to the Lord Mayor.

City of Los Angeles - Scroll from the Mayor.

Mrs. Bookwalter presented two (2) flags - 1 American and 1 2nd Air Division in Memory of Col. Bookwalter. Judge F.V.P. Bryan made a resolution conveying our thanks to Helen Bookwalter for the gift of flags.

Resolution was made and seconded thanking the Board of Governor's and members of the Memorial Trust Fund for their work over the past years in setting up the library and administering the fund.

Motion by Henry Dietch expressing thanks to Hathy Veynar.

"Mr. President - Anyone who has had any experience with a voluntary fraternal organization such as this knows how difficult it is to organize an activity of such a group requiring its members to move themselves physically - especially where a substantial financial outlay is involved. All of us who are here were strongly motivated to get here for the Dedication of our Memorial and many of us would have found our way somehow or other. But, on behalf of those of us who came as a group, I place on the floor a motion: "That the affectionate thanks of the 2nd Air Division Association be extended to Hathy Veynar for her untiring interest and extensive efforts towards making the trip by charter aircraft possible and for all the many other courtesies she has extended to those having the desire to attend the Memorial Dedication Ceremony at Norwich, all of which efforts were carried on in the face of the absolute certainty that she would not be able to make the trip herself."

Motion by Jordan Uttal expressing thanks to the Anglo-American Committee:

"Mr. President - One of the purposes of the 2nd Air Division Association as expressed in our original charter was to preserve the friendships and associations we were fortunate to have made during our service with the 2nd Air Division. From that point of view, one of the strongest of these associations was with our "English Cousins" and I believe that each of us, coming back to Norwich, has a feeling somewhat like "coming home". I know that we are all pleased and extremely gratified, but not too surprised, at the warmth of the welcome we have already received and we are grateful for the organized activities that still await us. So, Mr. President, I move: "That you be authorized and directed to write letters of thanks, on behalf of the 2nd Air Division Association to the Anglo-American Committee, expressing our deepest appreciation for the warm friendliness, the kindness and consideration, and the considerable efforts they have extended to and for us, to make this visit of ours to the Memorial Dedication memorable in every respect. In conveying this appreciation for us, Mr. President, will you please also express to those wonderful people our own feelings of friendship, of kinship, affection and understanding, not only for their hospitality this week, but also for having taken us into their homes, their thoughts and their hearts during our service days."

Motion by Lenard Ludwig expressing thanks to Col. Hane.

"Mr. President: Continuing in the direction of expressions of appreciation, it is truly amazing to me that you magicians, somehow or other managed to get us landed at RAF Sculthorpe, and into the waiting arms of the Air Force - who have - along with our English friends, stood on their heads to make the first part of our trip an outstanding success. When you told me on the way over of the friendly cooperation of Col. Hane, and showed me the plans that he and his staff drew up for us, I was somewhat surprised, but now having seen some of the results of the planning and effort, I am overwhelmed, and I believe so are all of us. Therefore, Mr. President, I move: "That you be authorized and directed to

the British have for Americans.

Those of you who contemplate making such a trip may contact Mr. Tom Copeman, the Governor of the 2 A. D. Memorial Trust, Norwich, England, or myself (1830 Exchange Building, Memphis, Tennessee). I expect to be in more or less continuous touch with the Norwich Hospitality Committee. I shall be glad to answer any inquiries and to assist in co-ordinating any visits you may have in mind. Also, perhaps Jordan Uttal, our President for 1964, may arrange either a Charter Aircraft Party or a smaller group which could travel at substantially reduced fares some time during the summer or autumn of 1964. Anyone who is interested in this project might write Jordan if you think that such a plan would be feasible.

At any rate, on behalf of our entire 2 A.D. Association, I want to express our warm appreciation and our sincere gratitude to the most generous and gracious offer of hospitality to us by our Norwich friends. The idea was a spontaneous one and is just another example of the warm feeling of friendship they have for Americans and especially for those who served in the Second Air Division.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust appointed a Library Committee to advise and to assist in the selection of books for the American Room. United States District Judge Fred Bryan of New York is Chairman of this committee and the other two members are Brig. Gen. Milton Arnold of Middleburg, Virginia, and Col. Ion S. Walker of Mobile, Alabama. Undoubtedly, our next newsletter will give more details of the work of this committee and of its accomplishments to date.

If any of you have any really good books, new or used, by outstanding American authors which you would like to donate to the American Room in the Norwich Central Library, I am sure that such gifts will be welcomed. These books may be sent simply to Norwich Central Library, Norwich, Norfolk, England, with some notation or some letter to the effect that they are being donated for use in the American Room. A most attractive plate has been designed which will show at the front of the book the name of the donor and, if one wishes the book to be a memorial to one of those who made the supreme sacrifice, that name also will be included in the plate. I regret that I don't have any more definite word from the Library Committee. I have been in correspondence with members of the committee, and I know that its members are hard at work. I hope each of you will be on the lookout for information in subsequent newsletters. I cannot and do not suggest that any of you write Judge Bryan about this matter until you have received some official notice in our newsletter. Judge Bryan is such a busy man that I am sure it would be an unfair burden for him to be asked to handle a substantial number of inquiries when the whole subject can be adequately covered by a few paragraphs in our newsletter.

DEAR TROOPS: FROM HATHY

You, like me, are probably wondering just where the year 1963 has gone. It seems as though it was just yesterday that I was wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and here it is time once again to wish you a Happy and Most Prosperous New Year for 1964. The Year 1963 has been a very busy year for those members of the 2nd Air Division Association who were fortunate enough to attend the Dedication Ceremonies of the American Room in the Norwich Library in England and do a little traveling abroad. For those of us who were not able to go I'm sure have enjoyed the reports from those who did.

Before I proceed any further, I would like to express our most heartfelt thanks to Percy Young, our President; in the name of the Association, for his untiring and unselfish work in making the Dedication a success. I couldn't begin to enumerate all the little details which were necessary to accomplish this mission. I'm sure that Percy really had no peace of mind until the final note of the Dedication was sounded. I propose that a unanimous vote of thanks be given Percy Young without untiring efforts and guidance this Dedication would not have been possible.

In regards to the Charter Flight, I think the hardest thing that Percy and I had to do was to cancel the second aircraft. Time was our enemy and quite a few next-of-kin were disappointed. We are ever so grateful to those who understood the situation and were able to make other arrangements in order to join the group in Norwich. I was very disappointed that I was unable to join the group for this memorable occasion since it was so near and dear to my heart for so long. Out of our disappointments sometimes comes great happiness and such has been my case. Milton and I were blessed with the birth of our little daughter Caron Dawn on 1 July 1963. She decided to make her entrance into this world ahead of schedule and almost didn't make it so we were doubly blessed.

MINUTES OF 1963 MEETING HELD AT NORWICH, ENGLAND

write on behalf of the 2nd Air Division Association to Col. John R. Hane expressing our appreciation and admiration for the marvelous work he and his staff have done in providing for our comfort and safety, and for the very fine attention to detail that his staff have given us, for the generous provision of military transport and for his untiring graciousness, good humor, kindness and consideration, during the organization of our trip and now that we are here. Also, that another letter be written to Gen. Leon Johnson, one of our original group and wing commanders and a Medal of Honor Ploesti veteran, expressing our thanks for all the kindness and consideration extended to us by Air Force Personnel in England and asking General Johnson especially to convey to Lt. Col. Hane and his staff our repeated thanks for everything they have done for us."

Motion expressing thanks to Lord Mayor of Norwich by Harold McCormick

"Mr. President - It seems to me that we are indebted in many different directions, and in addition to the previous motion recognizing the Anglo-American Committee, I move: "That a similar letter of sincere appreciation be directed by you to the Lord Mayor of Norwich expressing our gratitude for all that he and his staff have done, and according the program will be doing for us, and particularly for the graciousness of his hospitality in inviting us tomorrow for the luncheon, tea and reception which are scheduled."

Motion relative to official delegates by Jordan Uttal.

"Mr. President - I place on the floor a motion, as follows: "That each individual present, who formerly served in the 2nd Air Division be declared an official delegate to the 2nd Air Division Association Reunion being held here in Norwich, England, representing the unit of 2nd Air Division with which he last served during the World War II."

General William Kepner expressed to Percy Young the sincere thanks and appreciation of the membership for his untiring efforts to make this reunion a success and for the work he has done over the past years.

A Motion was made by Charles Stine to the effect that should a president elect pass away prior to taking office, as was the case of John Cunningham, that the Vice-President elect be appointed President and a new Vice President be appointed by the Executive Boards. Motion was seconded and passed.

The Nominating committee whose chairman was Jim Reeves presented the following slate of officers:

President - Jordan Uttal
Vice President - Harold L. McCormick
Treasurer - Dean Moyer
Vice President - Publicity - Hathy Veynar
Vice President - Membership - Evelyn Cohen
Executive Secretary - Ray Strong

A motion was made and seconded that the above slate of officers be elected unanimously. Motion was passed.

The next Reunion is to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

Percy Young then called to the attention of the meeting remarks of Mr. Tom Copeman and the very warm and generous suggestion that many of those in Norwich and East Anglia would be happy to open their homes for American guests who wish to come to Norwich to visit the American Room and to pay their respects to those names inscribed in the Book of Remembrance. General Kepner then moved that the President appoint a permanent committee to synchronize and coordinate the action of those in East Anglia with the members of the families of those whose names are inscribed in the Book of Remembrance. Mr. Jordan Uttal seconded this motion and the motion was unanimously carried. The President then appointed the following permanent Library Memorial Committee: General Kepner, General Hodges, General Arnold, Judge Bryan and Percy Young. The latter was appointed Chairman of the Committee."

Committee for Publicity for Library is to be Howard Moore and Gifford Newlon.

"Jordan Uttal moved that the Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue checks in the amount of \$100.00 to Hathy Veynar and Evelyn Cohen as a small recognition of our deep appreciation for their hard work during the past year for their loyalty to the 2nd Air Division Association. Jim Reeves seconded the motion which was unanimously adopted."

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned."

1964 ANNUAL REUNION

Full details on the 1964 Annual Reunion to be held in Chicago, Illinois will be forthcoming in the

February Issue of the Newsletter. Just keep in mind that it is to be held in October and be planning now to attend. How about those of you in the Chicago Area giving Jordan Uttal a call and offering your services to help plan the 1964 Reunion or dropping him a note at 3600 Lake Shore Drive. Believe me there can never be too many helping plan a reunion so stand up and be counted and help host your fellow members who will be traveling great distances to come to your city to be with you. I mention this because I think that some of you think that the planning and executing of the Annual Reunion is done only by members of the Executive Council, and I wish to correct this if it is the case. Don't wait to be called. Just get on the phone right now and call and offer your services. The more the merrier and there is more than enough work to go around to all when planning a reunion. We'll be looking forward to seeing you all come next October.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES????????????

Check your dues card and see if your dues are ready to expire or have expired. If this is the case, please send your check to Evelyn Cohen, 5448 Euclid Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., before she has to send you a notice informing you of this fact. If you will do this, it will cut down on our expenses considerably. By the time you receive this Newsletter, Evelyn will have received the new dues cards so if you have sent in your dues and have not received your card it will be forthcoming shortly.

ATTENDANCE AT THE NORWICH REUNION

I hope to have a complete list of those attending the Dedication Ceremonies of the American Room by the February Newsletter. If this is impossible, I shall just include the names of those who were on the Charter Flight and those who made their own arrangements to attend.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Many thanks to retiring President Percy Young, and to the editors of our Newsletter for their invitation to say a word or two to the troops in this last Newsletter of 1963. Apart from expressing my feeling of appreciation for the honor of being elected to serve as your President for 1964-and because of the very many words already published from me in the last Newsletter, I could confine my few words to just one..... HELP!!!!

As one of the charter members of the 2nd Air Division Association, I recall very well that one of the three stated purposes of our association was- and is- to perpetuate the friendships and memories of our service together in the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force in England during World War II. I truly believe that our Association has tried valiantly to do that-and to the few who have worked so hard and so long to help us do that, each of us is greatly indebted.

We urgently need more than the efforts of a few. We need the help of every member of our Association----to get back at least one old member who may have strayed away---- to get one new member who may never have joined.

We need your dues-which Evelyn will be requesting in January-to keep these Newsletters coming. We need your news-your advice-your suggestions-your guidance-your criticisms-your help!!!!

We need your company at our next reunion in Chicago in October 1964-we need your participation in future trips to our Memorial in England-your assistance in letting our English friends know that we will welcome them as warmly as they did us.

If it strikes you that I am saying that we need a lot from you-please just reflect for a moment that from giving all this- you in the long run will surely experience the most precious of all rewards- the feeling of warmth that comes from being with old precious friends- reliving old precious memories.

Just ask anyone who was on our Memorial trip last June.

So please, old friends, we need your HELP!!!!

Your comments are requested-and will be warmly welcomed. My address is: Apt. 2819, 3600 Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60613.

Very best greetings of the Season- to each of you.

Most Cordially,

Jordan R. Uttal