

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

1 February 1951

Dear Troops,

At long last, here is all the dope on the big reunion and "wing-ding" which Chappie and Fen arranged at the Statler in Cleveland on October 20, 21, and 22. There was a very nice turnout for the event and everyone apparently had a fine time. First of all, here is a roster of those present and accounted for, taken directly from the register.

Billy Ash Molnar, Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Ayers, Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Bostick, Mr. & Mrs. Henry W. Brandt, Frederick V. P. Bryan, William L. Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Harry C. Carver, Marie J. Cizek, Evelyn Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Conroy, Mr. & Mrs. John J. Cunningham, Edward Ekey, Mary Frances Elder, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey C. Elliott, Virginia M. Fadley, Harriet S. Fau, Marilyn Fritz, Mr. & Mrs. George Gigliotti, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred E. Guarini, James Harrigan, Mr. & Mrs. Earl W. Heister, Dolores Hommer, Edward Hunton, Mr. & Mrs. James Kiernan, Dr. & Mrs. Leo H. Kuker, Mr. & Mrs. James A. LaPonsie, Doris Lundgren, Mr. & Mrs. Fen Marsh, Mr. & Mrs. Howard W. Moore, Mr. & Mrs. Dean E. Moyer, Irene Noble, Laura Smith Ramsey, Rev. Edward J. Seward, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Strong, Mr. & Mrs. John J. Tate, Mrs. Richard Turchet, Mr. & Mrs. Jordan R. Uttal, Gladys B. Veynar, Betty Wickersty, Percy C. Young, Olive H. Diffenderffer, Capt. A. A. Forbes, Mitty Panella, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Demick, Albert Levit, Harold Sears, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gregson, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Pinion, Allen C. House, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Parker, John "Gus" Karoly

A telegram was received in Cleveland from Sally Allen sending cheers and beers and regrets at being unable to attend. Also a cable came from Daphne Cumming Russell sending best wishes for a "Withered" reunion but we managed to figure out that Western Union must have snapped a cable somewhere and that Daphne could only have meant a "Wizard" reunion. Had a nice note from Frank Roe (Weston Favel, Northampton) wishing the reunion much success. There were also many nice notes on the cards which were returned to us and it appears that many old 2AD'ers are really interested in the annual gettogether even though they may not be able to attend each year.

Jordan Uttal recently received a letter from Lieutenant General Kepner which is quoted, in part, as follows: "As for the Alaskan assignment, I am looking forward to it with real enthusiasm. It certainly is something different, and I think I am going to enjoy it. There is one hitch, however, and that is I shall not be able to attend the Second Air Division reunion this year, much though I would desire to do so. However, if I can not be there in the flesh, I will be there in spirit just the same. Please tell everybody I thought about them the minute I found out I was going to be unable to come." All of us were sorry, of course, that General Kepner could not be present but there is great comfort in knowing that the Alaskan Command is in such capable hands. We can only hope that conditions will permit the General to be present next year.

Well, it seems to get bigger and better each year. With Chappie in command, you can imagine that it was a very sober and subdued affair! Just take a look at the names on the above list if you need any further proof. But it would take too many pages to begin to tell you about all of it. Suffice it to say that it was a success and that arrangements are already under way to make next years' reunion even bigger. The cocktail party on Friday night was a success — it accomplished what most such

parties accomplish — everyone got to feeling good. And the banquet on Saturday night was a success also as only it could be with the only and only Howard Moore as M.C. and topped off with a very timely little talk by Fred Bryan.

At the business meeting on Saturday afternoon, it was decided that the place of next years' reunion should be New York City. It was chosen in order to make it more convenient for many of those members in the East to get to the reunion and since New York is relatively easy to get to from most of the States and also holds many advantages for reunions of this type. Opinion was also expressed that it would be highly desirable for the reunion to move westward again after this year.

The election of officers was the next order of business with the following results:

Honorary President	Lieutenant General W. E. Kepner
President	John J. Cunningham
Vice President	Dean Moyer
" "	Harry Carver
" "	John A. Dee
" "	William L. Burns
Secretary	Raymond E. Strong
Treasurer	Harriet S. Fau

President-elect Cunningham announced the appointment of the Executive Board, as follows: Ben Nolan, John Paver, John Young, Howie Moore, E. J. Seward, and the officers as noted above.

The exact date of the reunion was to be left to the decision of the Executive Board but must be either the 2nd or 3rd weekend in October. (It has now been decided that the dates will be October 19, 20, & 21.)

Following is a list of the members of the Membership Committee, as appointed by the President: Chairman John A. Dee, Warren E. Alberts, Dick Bostick, Smiley Brandt, Mrs. Glen Buck, Evelyn Cohen, Neal Curlee, Bill Dowling, Harvey Elliott, Major Marilyn Fritz, Mrs. Milton Veynar, Hal Hoerner, Mollie Kelley, Alice Kelly, Mrs. Jack Leddy, Doris Lundgren, Wm. "Giff" Newlon, Irene Noble, Beatrice Puch, Buddy Russell, Wm. F. Ryan, and Bertha M. Barta. Any cooperation you can give to the Membership Committee will be sincerely appreciated.

All of us were deeply grieved to learn that Frank Lewellyn was killed in an airplane crash in September. It was with regret that his reservation in Cleveland had to be cancelled since so many of us were looking forward to seeing Frank again.

Here are a few notes about some of the troops: A note from Howard Baum contains the information that he is now working for the Hershey Estates as Personnel and Operations Supervisor of the Amusement Park and Sports Arena. Charlie Marlatt appears to be prospering in California — which he claims heaven is a little part of. Also from California, Rudy Sherman sends her regrets at not being able to come to Cleveland. Henry Vaughn announces the opening of his Public Accounting Office in Selma, Ala. Pat O'Malley's wife, Rosalie, was kind enough to drop us a line to say that Pat (Duffy), she, and Pat Jr., are settled in Pico, Calif, and that Pat really doesn't have a broken arm — he just doesn't like to write. Tom Messenger is still in the photo business and suggests that, for good picture processing, be sure to send film to Mail-N-Save, PO Box 310, Quincy, Mass. (Tom, there will be a small charge for advertising.) You will all be pleased to know that both Bob Terrill and Joe Moffitt were made Brigadier Generals — Joe in the ANG. You probably all know by now that Fritzie is a Major and Captain Dave Lewis is back on active duty. Major General Francis Griswold has been elevated to the Munitions Board. Major General Jimmy Hodges is in charge of the Air Force in Europe and Walter Clatanoff is sporting a pair of new eagles.

(Some time ago, Ray St. asked Margaret Kirby for a few notes and observations about the Norwich area as it is today. Following is her reply.)

25 Pelham Road,
NORWICH.
6th. October 1950.

Dear Mr. Strong,

As promised, I am enclosing a few notes about Ketteringham Hall, Horsham and Norwich.

I should certainly like to be with you at the Re-union, but perhaps you will give my greetings and best wishes to everyone, especially ex members of A-2.

I think you should try to arrange a Re-union in Norwich at some future date. You could be sure of a very warm welcome.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

s/ Margaret Kirby

"There are a number of American Airmen stationed in Norfolk and Suffolk at the present time. They mostly belong to Bomber Squadrons. Some have come over on ninety day missions, but others are here on a more permanent basis and live with their families in the married quarters. Some have made friends with local people, but travelling is easier in Britain than it was during the war and many use their week-end furloughs to go to London and other places of interest. However, Samson & Hercules Dance Hall is still popular on Saturday nights. Although uniform is seldom worn, G.I.s are easily recognised by the cut and colour of their clothing. M.P.s still patrol the streets in the full "war paint" but they are not often called upon to perform any official duties.

During the last few weeks I have been revisiting old haunts of 2d Air Division Headquarters. I began with Station 108. Only the "old timers" will remember the huts at Old Catton which housed the Personnel, Adjutant's and several other important sections on their arrival in England in 1942. There is no sign now of the activity and bustle that went on there in those early days. The training Corps find it a useful headquarters.

The Station at Horsham St. Faiths was recently opened to the public in celebration of the tenth Anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Horsham is at present the home of No. 74 Squadron of the R.A.F. They fly Jet Meteors and are considered to be one of the "crack" squadrons of the R.A.F. They are the first winners of the Duncan Trophy presented to the R.A.F. by General Gervasio Duncan, Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Air Force, to be awarded annually to the day fighter squadron adjudged to have made the greatest contribution towards flying with safety under all weather conditions. The 74th. Squadron was most hospitable. They answered all the questions, and allowed small boys to climb over the wings of aeroplanes and even to sit in the cockpits. The old Link Trainer was on view and budding young airmen tried their skill. In the hangars were different types of aircraft engines, the Gyro Gun Sight, and safety equipment. The climax of the afternoon was the Aerobatic display. To see Meteors racing across the sky, chasing each other, rolling and turning as if with an excess of the joy of living was breath-taking in its co-ordination and manoeuvring in tight formation.

Apart from the personnel and aircraft, Horsham does not appear to have changed at all and it is easy to go back in memory six or seven years. To see the Chow line, the jeeps rushing too and fro like busy ants, the courier setting out with Secret instructions for the Groups, the General arriving for a conference in the War Room, the P-47s going out on their first Mission, and the Red Cross girls serving coffee and doughnuts. I made my way home along the path which leads to the Officers' Mess, under the trees. The very gardens look exactly the same and when I did see an American Officer walking in the distance, I almost expected him to be a member of 2AD.

The Ketteringham Estate has been bought by the [redacted] of Westminster. All the cottages have been painted cream and look very attractive standing in their gardens of bright summer flowers. The Hall itself is being converted for use as a Preparatory School. So difficult is the housing situation that the old Nissen huts have been taken over by the County Council and let as houses. They contrast badly with the newly painted cottages. There are many people in Ketteringham who remember their friends of 2AD and would be glad to welcome any who return for a visit.

I had hoped to give you good news about the Library Fund. I wrote to Mr. Fred Henderson, Chairman of Norwich Libraries Committee, to give me up-to-date information which I could pass on to you. His reply is as follows:

"The fund you speak of is held by a body of trustees who were appointed by the Americans and some of them, I understand, nominated by the American Ambassador. I am not a trustee and have no personal knowledge of what they are doing about it, but I've seen several of them and this, I gather, is the present position. The memorial was to be incorporated in the new central Library which is to be built on a central site next the City Hall. But the severe restrictions on the use of any building materials other than dwelling houses have been held the building of the Library; and there is no immediate prospect - while the housing shortage remains acute, of our being able to put it in hand. I deeply regret this, as Chairman of the Library Committee, but the decision as to priority in the case of building materials is not with the City Council, but it is a national matter decided by the Government.

In these circumstances nothing has been done about the memorial except to put up a notice on the site telling visitors that that is where it will ultimately be. But the money is invested and interest is accruing. The Trustees, however, are not satisfied with that from their point of view any more than I am from the point of view of our local need for the new library, and they are, I understand, now considering the possibility of hiring temporary premises at which American visitors will be able to see the Roll of Honour and other things associated with the memorial; and a decision about that is likely to be made quite shortly. But for the permanent memorial, there is, I fear, nothing for it but to exercise patience until these difficulties about the use of building material ease up, as they will eventually. From the library side of the matter I shall shortly - in view of our urgent need in regard to the local library service - ask the Council to make renewed approaches to the Ministry for the necessary permits to put the work in hand; but the Ministry is very hard to move; as, I suppose they should be in safeguarding a necessary national policy against the multiplicity of appeals from local authorities to make an exception of this, that and the other project. "

S/ Fred Henderson

Since this letter much publicity has been given to the subject in the Press and Mr. Henderson and his committee are treating the matter as urgent.

Some building has been done in Norwich in recent years. Bomb damage is gradually being repaired, but there are still ugly gaps. A new housing estate is rapidly nearing completion at Lakenham. The N.A.A.F.I. building has been converted into a huge store, there are one or two new shops, and the Baptist Church which was bombed to the ground has been allowed to build a large meeting place on the site.

Norwich is to be one of the four provincial centres for the Festival of Britain celebrations between 18th and 30th June 1951. In spite of the uncertain world situation, plans are being made to provide entertainment to suit all tastes and to attract visitors from near and far. The proposed programme is as follows:

London Symphony Orchestra, the Norwich Philharmonic Chorus with guest Conductors. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, probably conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham. Pianoforte Recital by Dame Myra Hess. Organ recitals in the Cathedral.

Light Music - Tom Jenkins & Palm Court Orchestra
Graldo & Concert Orchestra.

Gilbert & Sullivan Operas.

"The Taming of the Shrew" and other plays at the Maddermarket Theatre.

Religious Drama at St. Peter Mancroft Church.

Art Exhibitions. Film Festival. The Royal Agricultural Show.

Conducted tours to country houses and other places of interest in Norfolk.

River carnival including sailing and rowing regattas on the Broads.

Lectures each morning by distinguished speakers.

Festival Balls and Open Air Dancing. Athletic meetings.

Norwich has survived many troublesome times in its long history. Now it is fast returning to its old status as a centre of culture, entertainment and commerce of East Anglia. Its narrow streets are thronged with people. And farmers come from long distances to buy and sell cattle on its market, and some of its industries are world famous. The theatre has included several weeks of Ballet in its winter programme as well as the long awaited "Annie Get your Gun". The Curator continues to arrange unusual and interesting exhibitions at the Castle. There is still plenty of good huntin', fishin', and shootin' in the county. Only the football team is a failure, but such is the optimism of mankind, even that has a regular following of about 25,000 every Saturday afternoon.

I am sure, if the many friends of 2AD in Norwich knew of the Re-union, they would join me in sending very best greetings to you all and express the wish that some of you will be able to visit England again in times of peace."

We believe that a hearty vote of appreciation should be extended to Margaret for her most interesting letter.

Your special attention is invited to that sentence in Section III of the By-Laws which says "Any person who served with any unit of the Second Air Division, either assigned or attached, and expresses a desire to become a member of the Second Air Division Association, shall be eligible for membership." This means that all personnel of the Wings and Groups and attached units are eligible for membership. However, we interpret "expresses a desire" as including payment of dues. We welcome and solicit members from Wings and Groups and if you have any names and addresses of people you would like to have as members, just send them to our Secretary, Ray Strong, and he will send them one mailing, including a special letter about the association. If, however, they do not become active (dues paying) members, they will be dropped from the mailing list since we do not feel it is possible or fair to maintain non-dues paying members on the mailing list with our limited treasury funds.

A motion was passed at the meeting in Cleveland to extend the time limit for accepting Charter Memberships. A Charter Membership includes payment of dues in the amount of \$10.00 for the years 1949 through 1953. Since this letter is a little late in getting into the mail, the Executive Board has decided to accept Charter Members up to March 31, 1951.

IMPORTANT! Those of you who desire to remain on an annual basis are reminded that dues for the year 1951 are now due. A membership blank is included with this letter. For those of you who have paid \$2.00 each for the years 1949 and 1950 can obtain a Charter Membership for an additional \$6.00 which will pay your dues through 1953. Send dues to Miss Harriet Fau, 245 Hawthorne Street, Brooklyn 25, N. Y.

A history of the Association and a roster of our present mailing list are in the process of preparation and a copy will be sent to all active members. (The roster runs 21 pages and printing costs prohibit distribution unless dues are paid.) Also, extra copies of the letters published last and copies of the By-Laws are available to anyone who would like them. Send your request to Ray Strong.

As was announced earlier in this letter, the next reunion will be in New York City on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 19, 20, and 21. The Officers and Committees are already working on plans and you will hear more about it later. However, here is some advance information so you can begin making your plans now.

After much investigation, it has boiled down to three hotels. The New Yorker and the Hotel Martinique seem to be leading due to better prices and accommodations. After much negotiation, we have found that we can have the cocktail party and banquet for approximately \$15.00 per couple. It has been decided, however, that the charge for the cocktail party will be \$1.00 to cover setting up the room and each one will purchase their requirements as they see fit. In this way you may have as few or as many as you desire, as well as control your expenditures.

The single rooms start at \$4.50 and double at \$7.50; on rooms for 3 persons at \$10.00 and with 4 or more in a room \$3.00 per person. From this you can judge your cost by adding your transportation cost and any extra money you want to spend for shopping in the nearby department stores. Arrangements are being made so that anyone that cares to attend radio and television shows on Saturday afternoon or Sunday will be able to do so. If you have some favorite show that you enjoy seeing or hearing, please let us know well in advance so that necessary arrangements can be made.

As you know, both the New Yorker and the Martinique are very close to the Pennsylvania Station, Macy's, Gimbles, Sak's, theatre district, etc. It can be a great or small meeting depending upon your response and willingness to make it what you want it to be. Make your plans now and we will give you more detailed information in the next letter.

Here are a few more bits of news: We discovered that our bandleader at the dance in Cleveland was none other than Joe Hruby who was with Nick's band at Ketteringham. Princess Mahine Banou Kadjar announces the marriage of her daughter Princess Guity to William Henry Wambold, Major, USAF, Saturday, November 11, 1950, Tehran, Iran. Congratulations Bill! Tom Conroy is now in the Pentagon with the Joint Advanced Study Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Val and Tom are living in Falls Church, Va. Jim LaPonsie was on orders for a one year tour of duty in England and was to leave in December. Jim said he hoped to get up to the Norwich area for a visit. Doris Lundgren is now attending Western Reserve University Graduate School in Cleveland. Blushful Billy Ash is now Mrs. Molnar.

Write to us -- let us know what you are doing -- many of the members are eager for news of their old buddies. We want to put news about you in this letter. Also let us know what you think of the way we are handling the Association, newsletters, etc.

IMPORTANT! Please, if your address has changed be sure to notify Ray Strong, Sec'y, 33-A Glen Lennox, Chapel Hill, N. C. We especially want the new roster now being prepared to carry your correct address. We have lost contact with several members just because they failed to notify us of new address and mail has been returned.

Ray Strong, Secretary
33-A Glen Lennox
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

John J. Cunningham, President
2 Lincoln Avenue, Elsmere
Delmar, New York

P. S. - NOTE: Here are 3 things to remember. Plan to be in New York in October. Send in your membership dues immediately - this Association cannot survive without funds to meet printing and mailing costs. Help mold the Second Air Division Association into an outstanding force for good fellowship among past, present, and future members of the Armed Forces.