

# Second Air Division Association

15 May 1951

## SPECIAL BULLETIN TO THE TROOPS:

This is a special issue to let you know that the movement to New York in October has grown to a good sized rumble already and shows every sign of being a loud roar as the date grows nearer. We hope that you too can join the throngs who will be at the Hotel New Yorker on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 19, 20, and 21.

Yes, we have decided that the Hotel New Yorker is to be the place. Everything considered, we believe that it is ideal. The prices are reasonable, the location is central and convenient, and they have guaranteed us enough rooms for everyone. *NOTE. Special room reservation cards will be enclosed with our next letter which will be sent to you about August 1st.* You will have no trouble getting a room as enough have already been set aside for everyone; but, in the meantime, take out your pencil (red one preferred) and put a circle around the 19th, 20th, and 21st of October. Remember—your friends will be present!

You can figure up how much it will cost and begin planning now. Tell your wife to take some money out of her household expenses and put it in the sugar bowl and mark it "for use in New York in October only." Or tell your wife that you will quit smoking, or better yet, give up that mid-morning cup of coffee—it's liable to give you ulcers anyway. In any case, here is the dope. Fill in the amounts in the right hand column and add it up. You can figure exactly what it will cost.

Hotel Room	
Single, from \$4.50	
Double, from \$7.50 .....	\$.....
Registration Fee, Friday Night Party	
Single \$1.00	
Double \$2.00 .....	.....
Banquet, Saturday Night	
Single \$6.50	
Double \$13.00 .....	.....
Travel Expense .....	.....
Incidentals .....	.....
Total .....	\$.....

This may look like a lot of money but everyone in the past has found that the enjoyment received was worth far more than the cost. Spread over the next five months, everyone should be able to raise the necessary amount.

### Program:

- Friday, Oct. 19th—Registration & Bull Session ..... 2:00- 6:00 PM
- Friday, Oct. 19th—Cocktail Party.... 6:00- 9:00 PM
- Saturday, Oct. 20th—Business Meeting .....11:00-12:00 AM
- Saturday, Oct. 20th—Banquet, etc. 8:00- ? PM (Cocktails & Conversation before and after.)
- Sunday, Oct. 21—R & R (Rest & Recuperation)

You will notice from the above that Saturday afternoon is free and can be used as you see fit. Some will want to take in a show while some of the wives may desire to do a little window shopping. Our past experience has also shown that there are always a good many "bull" sessions which seem to spring up spontaneously in various rooms in the hotel during the hours when no special event is scheduled.

Remember, if you cannot attend all the functions, be sure to come and attend as many as possible. If you cannot arrive for Friday night, come just for Saturday.

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*Since we have received several requests for information as to just how the Association got started, a committee was appointed at the business meeting last October to prepare a history. The following is the work of Howie Moore, Clem Kowalczyk, and Jordan Uttal.*

Like our great democracy, the Second Air Division Association was born of inspiration and determination. Clem Kowalczyk could be called the George Washington of our Association and Marilyn Fritz the Betsy Ross, for it was Clem's determination and Fritzie's inspiration that brought this organization into being.

One night in August of 1946, while visiting Howie Moore in Chicago, Clem suggested that something be done to perpetuate Ketteringham and Horsham memories. It was decided to marshal

the shakier types to discuss the matter. Meanwhile, independently, Fritzie in Abilene, Kansas, was maintaining contact with many of the 2AD officers via the medium of her personal news letters, which contained items of interest about the old gang.

Clem and Howie, aided by the counsel of Gladys Moore, decided to ascertain the probable reaction to a reunion idea by getting in touch with 2AD members in the Chicago area, with whom they had maintained contact.

Word was sent to these individuals to assemble at the Moore apartment in Chicago on Sept. 16-18. Ray Strong, Henry (Smiley) Brandt, Jim (Tiger) LaPonsie, Clem Kowalczyk, Jordan Uttal, and Percy Young responded, showing up in civilian garb, full of vim, vigor, and vitality. Joyce Uttal was in New York, so the better halves of the Moore, Brandt, and LaPonsie families served as referees and nurses. Ray, Clem, and Percy were still single at this time.

Over several pints of tea and crumpets and after three days of continuous conversation, it was decided that an association should be formed and a get-together planned for the fall of 1948.

In the latter part of 1947, Marilyn Fritz offered to send a query (mind you) to all 2AD personnel on her mailing list in an effort to determine the prevalent attitude toward the proposed reunion. The response was very enthusiastic and so it was "Katie Bar the Door." A reunion committee consisting of Percy Young, Jordan Uttal, Ray Strong, Clem Kowalczyk, and Howie Moore was formed and decided to hold Reunion No. 1 at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago in October 1948.

All 2AD personnel whose addresses were known to the committee were invited to attend with their wives, husbands, and guests. It was felt these spouses would appreciate seeing first hand what a motley crew won the war.

Twenty-eight Liberty Run refugees from scattered parts of the country assembled at the Sherman to bat the breeze and to revive auld lang syne. It was a good show, featuring a cocktail party, banquet and a business meeting. (No dart or cribbage games.) At the business session, the group decided that "Operation Bonhomie" should be repeated and that a regular organization be established. Preliminary steps to achieve this end—with the assessment of dues—were taken.

General William E. Kepner was appointed Honorary President of the fledgling organization. Howie Moore was designated as President for the 1949 meeting and Marilyn Fritz, Doris Lundgren, Harry Cody, Jordan Uttal (as Secretary), Smiley Brandt, Mike Vydarney, Henry Dietch, Percy Young (as Treasurer), Ray Strong and Clem Kowalczyk agreed to assist in drawing up the new organization's by-laws for presentation at the 1949

reunion. This group also followed through on all necessary arrangements for the 1949 convention.

The 1949 reunion was again held at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago (Oct. 18-19). Approximately 36 stalwarts, plus spouses and guests, attended. General Kepner was in attendance and again provided priceless inspiration to those present by his emphasis on the values to be gained by continuing and enlarging friendships stemming from mutual experiences. The by-laws were adopted and the Second Air Division Association became a reality. Membership, it was decided, would be extended to all military and civilian personnel who had served with the Second Air Division in England.

It was a successful gathering, highlighted by a cocktail party, business meeting, dinner dance and optional professional football game (Philadelphia Eagles-Chicago Bears).

Concurrently, the Division Headquarters WAC detachment held a reunion at Chicago's Palmer House. They graced the 2AD dinner dance and cocktail party by their welcome attendance.

The 1950 officers of the Association elected at this Chicago meeting were: The Reverend Father Edward Seward, President; Ray Strong, Secretary; Fen Marsh, Treasurer; aided by the following vice-presidents: John Cunningham, William Burns, Marilyn Fritz and Harold McCormick. The 1950 reunion was scheduled to take place in October in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland's Statler Hotel on October 20-21 was the setting for Reunion No. 3. The 1950 officers certainly expended much effort to insure a most successful "do." In addition, as a result of Ray Strong's and Marilyn Fritz's endeavors, the 2AD mailing roster had been greatly expanded to include the names of many of the personnel of 2AD Headquarters Wings and Groups.

This reunion proved that the idea of continuing comradeship had intrinsic worth. Discounting the behavior of Smiley Brandt and Dick Bostick, it was apparent the Second Air Division Association was destined for a long life potentially replete with pleasant memories. The exhilarating atmosphere of the occasion was enhanced by the attendance of many of the former 2AD enlisted personnel.

The 1950 reunion featured an enjoyable cocktail party, a well-attended business meeting and a dinner dance. Frederick V. P. Bryan keynoted the after-dinner remarks with some interesting information on the 2nd Air Division Memorial in Norwich.

Officers chosen for 1951 were: John Cunningham, President; Ray Strong, Secretary; Harriet Fau, Treasurer; and the following vice-presidents: