

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Special Report
to the
Membership

1 Sep 52

On October 24th and 25th, the Second Air Division Association will hold its Fifth Annual Reunion in Chicago. Since I was one of those who was present at the inception of this organization, have attended each reunion, and am honored to serve as its president for 1952, I feel it my duty to make a special report to you -- the membership.

I sincerely believe that there is a great value to this organization and particularly in that part of Section II of the By-Laws which states the purpose of the organization to be "----to perpetuate the friendships and memories of our service together in the 2nd Air Division----." I feel that this purpose will be of even greater meaning to us as time rolls on.

However, there were those back in 1948 who said that this organization could not survive -- that it would fold up and die in a year or two. There are still some who suspect that the Association cannot endure and that the men and women who served in 2AD are not interested in perpetuating their friendships or at least are not sufficiently interested to take an active part in it. I am not one of those. I believe that the vast majority of you made many friends during your stay at 2AD. For 33 months, I lived with many of you, worked with you, ate and spent my off duty hours in your company. I came to know many of you perhaps as well as I shall ever know anyone. I believe these friendships are worth continuing and expanding. And I believe that most of you had a similar experience and feel the same way about many of the people you worked and lived with.

At the 1948 reunion, there were 28 of you present with your wives and friends. Each succeeding meeting has shown a slight increase in attendance. Our treasury balance has been able to break even. The growth, both in attendance at the annual meetings and in the treasury balance, has not been nearly as great as we had hoped. The response to our various inquiries to you has not been what we expected. We are not discouraged, however. We believe that the Second Air Division Association will continue to grow. That is, we believe that you will support the Association by coming to the annual reunions whenever possible; by answering our inquiries; by keeping the Secretary informed of your activities so that we can publish an interesting newsletter; by letting the Secretary know when you change your address; and by payment of the annual dues to the Treasurer in order that we can meet mailing and printing costs. With these beliefs firmly in mind, I believe you would be interested in knowing what the officers of your Association have been doing during the year.

Due to a multiplicity of circumstances, we have not published our newsletters as often as we had planned. We have, however, made specific plans for 1953 to publish a minimum of 3 newsletters. The first letter will go out immediately following the reunion in October. Specific plans have already been formulated for gathering all the news at the reunion and this letter will go into the mail early in November. An interim letter is planned for March 1st. And another newsletter will go out about July 1.

Tentative plans are also underway to publish a new roster of the mailing list. However, much work and expense is involved in publishing this list and it depends upon the time available by our Secretary and upon the funds available in the treasury.

Our Treasurer has been working very hard in an attempt to put our financial and membership records in good business order. We believe that those of you who have overlooked sending in your membership dues will do so shortly. A complete financial report will be published after the reunion.

As you know, our Association has been very interested in the Second Air Division Memorial project in Norwich and in the progress being made toward its completion. At the reunion last year, a special committee was appointed to study the question and to report its findings at the reunion in Chicago. This report will also be published in our newsletter after the meeting.

A huge amount of effort has been put forth by the Reunion Committee. Co-Chairmen Howard Moore and Jordan Uttal have spent many hours of their time in making arrangements and plans for the program and in outlining sub-committee assignments. Those of you who come to Chicago in October can be assured of an interesting and entertaining program. The only reward this committee wants is a good attendance.

Should you have any criticism of the way in which the affairs of this Association have been conducted, please write to me. If you are not satisfied with the way the reunions have been operated or if you do not like the newsletters, you can be assured that your comments will receive earnest and sincere consideration. Your suggestions for improving our operations are always welcome.

If you are not a Charter Member and have not sent in your annual dues for 1952, I hope you will do so at once. This, of course, is vital if we are to continue our mailings to you and if we are to expand and improve upon the newsletters and rosters which we plan to put out. If you have any comments or suggestions, send them along with your check for \$2.00 to Dietch.

You have received, or will receive in a few days, a newsletter with all the information about the Chicago meeting. We realize that it is not possible for all of you to attend the reunion each year. But we do know that those who have attended in the past have found it very much worth while.

You can further show your support of this Association by keeping us advised of your latest mailing address and in giving us bits of news and information about your activities. Remember, other people are interested in hearing about you. Also, we like to hear from the wives of our members. The wives who have been attending the reunions have been having a wonderful time and many of them look forward to the meeting each year almost as much as their husbands.

Remember, this is your organization. Its success or failure is tied very closely with how well you support it.

Raymond E. Strong, President
1 September 1952

33-A Glen Lennox
Chapel Hill, N. C.

P.S. Please, if you have not already done so, send in the Audit Sheet which was attached to our April newsletter and was also enclosed in our last letter.