



# NEWSLETTER



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The Second Air Division Association's big reunion and dedication in Norwich is over and we are long past due with a Newsletter. A formal and complete report is being prepared by Jordan Uttal and Percy Young and we hope it will be ready for distribution shortly. Apparently, everyone who went on the trip felt that it was a truly great occasion.

The next reunion, in the Fall of 1964, is now in the planning stage. Jordan Uttal, and Harold McCormick the new 1964 President and Vice President respectively are already at work.

As all of you know, in September of 1962 John Cunningham was elected President of the Association for 1963. John died in October and was replaced by Percy Young. John's wife, Helen, went on the trip to Norwich last June and she has been requested to write down her impressions of the trip. Following is quoted from Helen's letter:

"As you know there was a delay in getting off from Idlewild on the 10th-but it was fine for we had a chance to catch up with some of the characters before the flight. BOAC did a fine job of taking care of us all. Meals at all hours, drinks any time and quite a lot of weaving back and forth to chat with this one and that one. You probably have the list of most of those who went-I lost mine someplace-but a great many of the faces and surprisingly enough a lot of the names were familiar. However, our personal party was widely separated-and I was among nice people, but none I'd been too intimate with during our 2 A D meetings. Percy did struggle back early in the morning to say that he had a program worked out for the landing. He wanted me to be one of the first off along with Mr. Pallette, who had donated the large stones for the fountain and John Karoly, who had done so much work collecting the smaller ones. However, as the morning progressed and Percy thought it over he changed his mind and said it would be much too much to try to set up that arrangement. So we skipped the whole deal and clambered off-catch as catch can when we arrived.

The Air Force boys were lined up so we walked through the aisle and through a receiving line of the Anglo-American Relations Womans organization of Norwich, the Boy and Girl Scouts were lined up to greet us along with the band playing

lustily in the back ground.

The management of everything after we arrived at Sculthorpe was truly incredible. Our baggage was tended to by the Boy Scouts, there were comfortable chairs for us to sit in while we waited for customs (which was't hardly necessary-they never asked up to open a thing). Then in my case, there was a staff car to take us where ever we wanted to go from there. We each had an officer who briefed us on what was going on and where we could contact him if we met any obsticals. Along with all this, a delightful English gal attached herself to us as a guide. We left the hanger and went to the base officers club for tea (?) -a lovely buffet. Later we offered our guide, Mrs. Gibson, a ride home. She lives north of Sculthorpe-and Norwich is south and west of the base. We rode around those narrow roads up to the Wash to Hutstanton and back by the way of Cromer and the North Sea, so saw a great deal of the agricultural country side that we probably would not have done if Mrs. G. had lived close in.

Eighty Norwich families had opened their homes to the visitors, and from those who stayed with them, we heard wonderful reports of how kind and generous they all were to us Americans. However, we had made our own reservations through a travel agency, since we had not had any word before we left the States on the hospitality offered.

Pub crawling might have been in order if things had been different-but we were pretty bushed and a couple of drinks and dinner and bed were as much as we managed that night. Our hotel was out Thorpe Road, which is the main road to Great Yarmouth-in case you remember, Howie. It was horribly modern and we were envied by some of those who had put up at some of the center of town inns and hotels. We didn't find anyone else who stayed at the Lansdowne from our outfit. I suspect that it was too modern to have been considered for placing those "Ol'men of the 2 A D." Anyway, it was fine for us and we were happy with our choice, or the travel agencys choice for us.

We three had signed up for one of the three tours listed for Wednesday. We chose Sandringham, where we went through the Chapel and walked all over the grounds where they were getting ready for the Flower Show due the next week. Of Course Elizabeth was not there, so we could snoop all we wanted to. They were washing windows and sprucing up the place. Back to our Air Force bus and to high tea at Ingoldisthorpe, a former country home of some wealthy English family, but now a resident hotel. Back to Sculthorpe in time for the cocktail party given by Generals Kepner and Hodges. The report of the morning meeting of the 2 A. D. was in, and Jordan had been elected Pres. for the following year-whenver that begins. At the party we met the girl who had designed the mosaics for the fountain and the entrance to the American Room of the library. Laurel Cooper, with her most attractive husband, Bill, had done the fountain mosaics in February during a spell of cold rainy, sleety weather. We met Mrs. Boylo (sp?) the former owner of Ketteringham Hall, the family we were supposed to have stayed with, and dozens of the English families as well as many Gold Star Mothers, over to find their sons graves-it was a big big mob scene, and there were so many people to talk to and so many things to talk about that it was time to go find a meal before we knew it. The Coopers suggested a Chinese Restaurant that they knew would be open at that time of night, so we all piled into their tiny car and ended up eating Chinese tasties around 10 P. M. As we were leaving, in walked Jackie Turchet-Evelyn Cohn etc., etc. But we kept right on going-we were again bushed from all of the outdoor activities, plus the cocktails etc.

Thursday A. M. the USAF Thunderbirds, gave an aerial demonstration at Sculthorpe-but it was much too early for us to go out. Those who did attend said it was wonderful, and I'm sorry that we did not go-however, there were some tickets we had to get for the rest of our stay, and we took our time getting to the City Hall for the start of the Dedication Ceremonies. The luncheon was most formal- Admission by card only and names announced as we arrived, sherry before lunch, beautiful floral arrangements, and the formal announcement 'Luncheon is served.' We toasted Her Majesty-The Pres. of the US and the English toasted us with a response by Colonel Ion S. Walker, Founder Member of the 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial Trust. A couple of short and to the point speeches and back to the bus and cars to go to St. Peter Mancroft Church. I didn't see too many 2 ADers at the luncheon but suppose they were there. I sat with 2 English Trustees and their wives-the sheriff of Norwich-Gens. Terrill and Riddle and John Karoly and his daughter, Naida were supposed to be at the table but I guess John got tied up with T. V. interviews and never made it. Jordan has told you about the services at the church but just to complete it: The order of Service: The Choir-The Clergy-The Civic Procession-The Colours-The Book of Remembrance---We all sang The Star Spangled Banner, the Hymn-don't know the name-the first line is: 'O God, our help in ages past,' - THE LESSON: Ecclesiasticus-Ch 44 vv 1-15-read by Fredrick vanPelt Bryan, OBE-Prayers-The Lord's Prayer-The Dedication of the Book of Remembrance (Lt. Gen. W. E. Kepner requests the Rt. Rev the Lord Bishop of Norwich to Dedicate the Book of Rem.) - The Rt. Rev. Ld Bshp of Nrwh will preform the Dedication-Let us pray-Hon. G. Lewis Jones, Representing the U. S. Ambassador to G. B. gave the address - Hymn-The Battle Hymn of the Re.-God Save the Queen-then TAPS-the blessing and we groped our way out after the clergy, the colours, the book of rem. and the civic procession, the bells of St. Peter Mancroft ringing.

From the entrance to the church to the entrance to the library is a short walk-through another aisle of Air Force boys at attention. Gen. Arnold did not show up, so Gen. Kepner asked the Ld Bshp of Norwich to dedicate the Room-the Bshp did, and we prayed. Most of the honored guests were supposed to be in the room at that time-but mainly the Gold Star Mothers were, and that was as it should be. We stood in the court yard and listened over the loud speaker and then went to look at the fountain before inspecting the Room. The Coopers had caught up with us by then and she showed us most of the important things that she had done-under the architects guidance-oh, we met him at the cocktail party too, but he didn't make too much impression-he was happy to have the thing over with and was leaving for a holiday as soon as the dedication was over.

I have asked them to send you a copy of the brochure so it should have a description of the room and the fountain etc. and I won't go into that.

The Coopers took pity on our poor tired feet, and asked us to go to their home for tea instead of a reception at St. Andrew's Hall. We did go with them, and loved every minute of it. Their boy and girl, Laurels Mother, Brother and his wife were there to greet us. Her Dad was away on business. We had tea and they turned on the T. V. and there we all were trooping into the church for the dedication. After tea-with our shoes off and our feet up on hassocks-someone suggested it would be nice if we han't seen a local Pub-we might like to see the one in their tiny town-and we did-the only one we saw during our stay-or I should say-the only one we visited. We were all due back at the Castle for a reception at 8:00 P. M. so we took off-we were almost to Great Yarmouth at this point. There are yards and yards of museum before you get to the Keep at the Castle where the reception line again-they must have been weary of seeing the same faces and shaking the same hands, but they were smiling and delightful each time we went through. Wine

and sandwiches were served constantly, and I met up with more people who must have arrived on their own-I'm sure most of them had not been on the charter flight-and it was nice to see so many of Johns friends-even tho I had to cover up the feelings it brought up not having him there to greet them also. When we finally decided to leave my poor arches had caved in, so I took my shoes off and walked on Norwich Castles marble ways in my stocking feet. To a Loberster Pot for dinner, and more 2 ADers came in as we were leaving. We had an early morning train to catch for London so we were happy to say goodnight and thank everyone for a perfectly wonderful three days." - - - - -

Will have another report to you soon. Meantime, if you haven't sent in your dues, please do so. As of June 1st. there was about \$900.00 in the treasury and it costs money to prepare and mail these letters. Send your dues to Evelyn Cohen, 5448 Euclid Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. If you have suggestions for the 1964 reunion send them to Jordan Uttal, 3600 North Shore Drive, Apartment 2819 Chicago 13, Illinois.

