



# NEWSLETTER



Vol. 10, No. 3

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

June, 1972

## NORWICH TURNS OUT (AND UP-SIDE DOWN) FOR 2nd AD

I think it is safe to say that nobody, but nobody, who flew over to attend the reunion in Norwich this year ever expected the kind and intensity of the welcome we received. Members who went on the charter flight came off their DC 8 to face a battery of television cameras and numerous English friends who had anxiously been awaiting their arrival for two and three hours.

Joe Whittaker no sooner stepped off the plane when he was called upon to face the TV cameras and make a statement. Despite the fact that he hadn't slept for many hours before and during the flight our President was up to the occasion. "We are looking forward to just paying tribute to our 6,032 officers and men we lost during the war and to getting back in Norwich and meeting with our friends we met during and since the war. It is a privilege to get together and be here."



Once cleared through customs the group was rushed by bus to their quarters at the new Post House Hotel where they immediately prepared for a reception being given by Mr. Richard Q. Gurney, Chairman of the Board of Governors Memorial Trust, in his home at Bawdeswell Hall. The champagne and conversation was thoroughly enjoy-

ed by 165 thirsty and conversant 2nd AD members. Everyone enjoyed wandering through this beautiful hall admiring antiques and the Gurney family memorabilia.

Saturday morning everyone attended the business meeting held in the majestic council chambers of the City Hall and this was followed by another reception given for us by the new Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Seabrook.

In the evening the 2nd AD held its own reception at the Assembly House and it appeared, to this participant at least, that the entire City of Norwich was present.

Sunday, after attending a civic service at the Norwich Cathedral, everyone took off to visit their old base. These visits brought back many memories and emotions. Joe Arbaugh, who was stationed at Attlebridge, said: "Some of the old buildings are still there and one of them is now being used as a pig house. When I saw the old place the memories came flooding back. I could visualize the base as it used to be."

Jordan Uttal probably said it best: "It is like coming home again. The way in which the members of the 2nd Air Division have kept together as an Association is 'absolutely unique' and that is partly due to the friendly ties and fond memories we have of England."

Among the comments made by other members were "Tremendous reception." "Overwhelming." "British warmth has not changed a bit." "I just can't believe it!" "Fantastic!" And so it went.

Dinner invitations and invitations to speak at private club meetings kept

pouring in but we just didn't have enough members present to enable us to accept all of them. Those we were able to attend were well worth the time it took. Everywhere we went we were met with an overabundance of warmth and good-will.

Now all we have to do is figure out how to say 'thank you' to so many marvelous friends who spared nothing to make our visit a memorable one.

## MASCOT RETURNS

During the dark days of the war years the life of 2nd Air Division WACS was considerably brightened by the appearance of a 12 year old boy on his bike at their Old Catton Headquarters. The youngster was eager to be of service and anxious to please everybody. He was so sincere and so insistent that the WACS adopted him as their official mascot.



[L to R] Evelyn Cohen, James Brierton, Hathvy Veynar.

At the conclusion of the war WACS and mascot parted with little hope that their fond relationship would ever be renewed. James Brierton, the mascot, gave a good example of how the world

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## Second Air Division Association Eighth Air Force

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## MASCOT RETURNS

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turns when he showed up at our reunion in Norwich eager to meet some of the WACS he had known.

Now 43 years of age, married and the father of two children he still retains the engaging personality that endeared him to the hearts of all the WACS. Only Evelyn Cohen and Hathy Veynar were on hand to greet him when the above photo was taken but that was enough for Jim Brierton. His lifelong wish to re-visit with some of the WACS he admired so much had been realized.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Troops:

It is with much humility and reservation that I assume the duties as President of the 2nd Air Division Association for this coming year.

I look back with not a little trepidation on the successes of Joe Whittaker, Ken Darney and the many who have held this position in the past, because the next thing that comes to mind is "how can one equal the successes our past Presidents have brought to the 2nd AD?"

On behalf of the entire membership I want to thank you, Joe Whittaker, for the tremendous job you did this past year, and also accept our congratulations for the manner in which you handled the Norwich reunion. It was magnificent.

As we move into the new year I'm certain we will find it difficult to push the memories of our Norwich reunion into the background, but before you realize it we will be planning for next years reunion at the Air Force Academy. In fact we already are. If you

## TV DOCUMENTARY PULLS HIGH RATING

The half hour TV Documentary film of the 2nd Air Division created by Ron Olsen of Anglia TV proved to be a great deal more than the 'mild' success originally predicted for it. Under the rating system as used in England the program pulled a 70% viewing audience. This is unusually high for a program of this nature.

Unfortunately, nobody on the charter flight was able to see this marvelous production. The program was scheduled to be shown on Thursday evening, the original arrival date of the Association, but a late change in airlines before leaving Philadelphia delayed the charter flight by one day. As a result only a few members who had arrived early were able to view this spectacular program.

Don't give up yet, however. Arrangements have been made with Anglia TV to have a copy produced for the Association and when that is received it will be shown at any and all reunions. A few details have yet to be worked out but these are of a minor nature and we should have the program shortly.

have attended reunions in the past I know you won't want to miss this one. If you haven't you won't find a better time to start. Let's make 1973 the biggest reunion ever.

Also, your new officers will constantly be working towards increasing our membership, but we DO need the help of everyone. Last year the membership increased by over 200. I am asking that all of you join with us in our attempts to double that figure. There are still thousands out there who qualify for membership and would happily join if they only knew we existed. You can help get the message to them by writing to those you served with and whose current address you have buried in that old address book. So how about dropping them a short note?

If you need help don't be afraid to give any of us a call or drop us a line. That is what we are here for and I speak for all the officers when I say "we consider it an honor."

As ever,

Bill Robertie  
President  
2nd AD Asso.

## WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T TURN THE CLOCK BACK!

One of our member couples who attended the Norwich reunion, Joanne Affronte Moran and Dallas Moran, decided that 28 years of married life was enough for one stretch so they decided to start over again — with each other of course. So off they went to Gretna Green in Scotland chauffeured by Milt Veynar and accompanied by Caron and Hathy Veynar and Evelyn Cohen as witnesses.



[L to R] Joanne Affronte Moran, Caron Veynar, Milton Veynar, Hathy Veynar and Evelyn Cohen.

After the Moran ceremony was completed out came the rifle and sledge hammer (what ever happened to the shotgun?) and on went a second marriage ceremony with the principals this time being Hathy and Milt Veynar. "Better bed than dead" said Milt. Good thinking!

The comment of the four 'newly-weds'? "Try it — you'll like it!" So we'll try it — next time over.

## DARNEY FLYS AGAIN

(Ken Jr. that is)

Word has just been received by the newsletter that Kenneth A. Darney, Jr. has received his appointment to the Air Force Academy. Considering that over 6000 apply and only 1500 are chosen THAT is no mean feat. He is due to report on July 3 for two months of training prior to starting regular schooling in September.

Ken Darney is a past President of the Association and did much to bring our membership to its present level. We know that Ken and his wife are justly proud of Ken Jr., and I might add that the entire Association is also. Good luck Ken Jr. and we will see you at our reunion next year. Your Father and Mother will be with us I'm sure.

## 2nd AD TRAVEL SERVICE AT YOUR SERVICE

For the benefit of our members planning on a trip to Norwich later in the year — or at anytime for that matter — the newsletter has a few suggestions to make.

First of all write to Mr. John Delaney, Mgr. Post House Hotel, Norwich, Norfolk, England for reservations in any of the Post House Forte Hotels, and do so well in advance of your departure date as these hotels are very popular with the public.

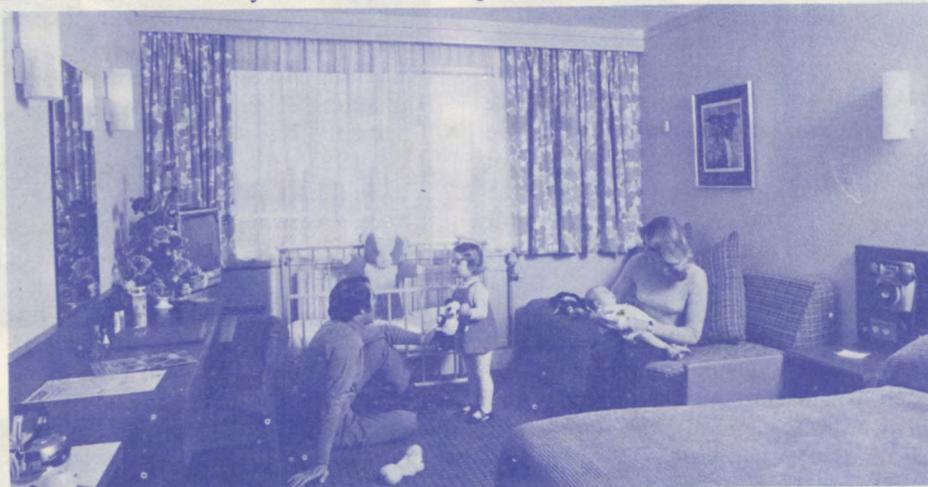
The Post House Hotel is part of the Post House Forte chain with hotels scattered all over Britain and the continent. The price for a double room averages \$18.00 a day, and you won't beat that anywhere. In addition there is no 'service charge' added to the bill nor is any tipping allowed. That's a refreshing departure from norm.

If you plan on spending a few days in London sight-seeing (and you should) make reservations at the Post House Hotel in Hempstead a suburb of London from where you can take the

'tube' downtown — a 15 minute and 15 pence (.40) ride. All reservations can be made through Mr. Delaney at the Post House in Norwich whether you plan to stay there at the beginning or end of your trip.

If you stay at any of the hotels in London it will cost you an average of \$38.00 per day, PLUS a 12½% service charge, PLUS a 10% room service charge AND you will still be expected to tip. It will work out at roughly \$50.00 per day. Of course if you can afford the tab we highly recommend the Mayfair Hotel or the Britannia where the group stayed. If you're on a tight budget, however, follow our advice and stick with the Post House Forte chain wherever you travel. As the photos below will prove, the accommodations are first class.

Mr. Delaney and his entire staff at the Norwich Post House Hotel not only made us welcome but they made us feel at home also. We were friends, not simply customers to be tolerated. It takes a good Hotel staff to accomplish that.



A family room has a double bed, a divan and sufficient space for a cot or Z-bed. One or two children under the age of 16 sharing their parents' room are accommodated free of charge.



The spacious reception area gives the guest a "through" view of the lounge and restaurant, and has easy access to the bedroom blocks.

## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

There is no doubt in my mind that I speak for the entire 2nd Air Division membership when I extend our sincere thanks to two ladies who year after year make our reunions an occasion to remember. Evelyn Cohen and Hathy Veynar literally knock themselves out throughout the entire year to insure that each reunion will be a howling success.

This year in getting the Norwich reunion together they responded above and beyond (way above and beyond!) the call of duty. After a beginning with 200 plus who indicated they wanted to go it appeared about midway in the preparations that only 50 were prepared to sign on the dotted line. This meant going from a larger to a smaller plane, from one airline to a different one plus a change in date. This situation see-sawed back and forth to the extent that Evelyn and Hathy didn't know which end was up.

More than once the problems brought on by indecision on the part of many of us who had indicated we wanted to go but hesitated (me included) almost brought the operation to a screaming halt. But Evelyn and Hathy would have none of that. They were determined that this mission would 'Go' — and 'Go' it did.

The success of the Norwich reunion is not only a tribute to their tenacity it is also a tribute to their skill in running these affairs and their love for the 2nd AD which they founded 25 years ago. So speaking for the entire 2nd Air Division Association I say "Thank you Evelyn and Hathy for this year's reunion and the ones you have made so memorable in the past."

P.S. I haven't forgotten you Milt baby for without you there would be no Hathy. Besides, your the best minibus driver in the world, particularly when heading for a Pub on strange roads in a foreign country. I can say that only because we kept our eyes closed!

Bill Robertie

## NOTICE

Ken Darney advises that there is still a small supply of 2nd AD pins available. If any of you were planning on sending for one and just haven't got around to it yet better do so now. Send your check in the amount of \$2.00 to Kenneth A. Darney, 4510 Ridge Rd., Baltimore, Maryland 21236.

NORWICH  
1972

by Philip Hepworth

We looked forward to your arrival for so many months, and while we are still getting your thank-you letters and enquiries from the general public who saw the TV programme on the night before you came, cannot realize that you're not still just up the road at the Post House you well and truly inaugurated before the Norwich citizens even realized it had opened.

Most enjoyable were the personal chats in my office, at home, or on the psychedelic settees of your hotel with some who in the nine years since the inauguration had grown from names to close friends, and others we met for the first time. Hazel and Bill Robertie arrived early. Thank goodness when I hastily wrote the American Memorial Trust Booklet in 1963 I knew the difference between a Liberator and a Fortress!

Next came Jordan Uttal, whom Tom Eaton and I had first met a few years ago, and who, more than any other Association member, had revived the somewhat tenuous links between the Association, the Trust and the Norwich Libraries. We loved Jordan not only for himself but for the complete file of the *Newsletter* he brought with him, from its early typescript days of 1945. Soon there will be three bound-up copies of this priceless record and one will go to our strongroom to join the four microfilms and six original Unit Histories that we so greatly treasure. David Stoker, my assistant reference librarian, had put out for your visit some of these, and some equally valuable photographs. Occasions like your visit that a librarian can suitably enrich by display, give him the greatest professional satisfaction of all.

How much I enjoyed my illuminating talk with Hathy and Joe Whittaker about all the Association meant and stood for, about Percy Young and others whose significance I hadn't fully realized in 1963.

On Saturday I was able to delight many of you with two slides of nine librarians being entertained in 1969 in Hathy and Milt's delightfully cool home — the only party I have ever been to that had no definite beginning and end, no set time for coming and going, and at which I had to have forty winks in between sessions.

It was a great joy to meet Milton Arnold again and to realize that the charming lady who had entertained us on Cape Cod when he took me to his Chatham home in 1969 was now his wife. We spoke of many things and I am sure he will tell his fellow founder governors, who, like General Kepner, could not get over this time, that they made no mistake in establishing this living memorial.

I don't know which of the social events I enjoyed most. The Chairman's party at Bawdeswell was blessed with delightfully warm weather. To hear American laughter and witness American enthusiasm in such surroundings brought back for me memories of my 1969 visit to Mount Vernon, a house not markedly different in size. There is no more touching experience in touring an English Country home than to contemplate oil paintings of the owner's ancestors — mortal, too, like the 6,032 whose premature loss you remembered.

I believe you had a satisfactory business meeting, and know you enjoyed the return to the Memorial Room. I was wondering how to get you all in the Lecture Theatre for the presentations when Mr. Tom Eaton had the happy thought of welcoming your generous gifts in the courtyard alongside the Memorial fountain. We were pleased that those of you who had not seen the Memorial before thought it so appropriate, and we welcomed your generous gifts, and your interest in the literature describing the room.

I was delighted to come with some of you to Ketteringham and Hethel. It was indeed industrial archaeology to watch you pacing out the ground, carefully measuring whether this hangar or that mess room had been moved, and noticing in minute detail the changes of thirty years.

Your own party was a riot. I didn't think I could take champagne two nights running, mixed with chopped eel and strawberries and cream. Two of my four flash shots of that crowded gathering came out quite well, including the resplendent chandeliers, to be inflicted on you, doubtless, when you come here again in 1976. I treasure greatly my badge as an Honorary Member of your Association.

We in Norwich thank you for your great generosity, for your promise of further support and for the enthusiasm you so obviously showed in this continuing link. Many of you have commemorated your trip already — by

bringing over books or by handing cheques. If any others wish to commemorate their visit in this way I can best refer them to the leaflet originally circulated with the Memorial booklet:

"If you would like us to purchase a book on your behalf, please send to the City Librarian, Central Library, Bethel St., Norwich, Norfolk, NOR 57E, England, a cheque or money order made out to the American Memorial Trust and we will notify you as to the title purchased with your gift. An inscribed bookplate will be placed in the book, giving your name and that of any person in whose memory you have given the book. If you already have a title in mind, it will be appreciated if you will first let the Librarian know the title before you purchase it in case we already have a copy in the collection. Alternatively, you could if wishes, give a sum of money for investment in the funds of the trust in commemoration of one of the Fallen. This will help to augment the annual sum spent on the purchase of American books and periodicals. Donations should be sent to the Chairman, The Memorial Trust of the Second Air Division, U.S.A.F., Castle Chambers, Opie Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NOR 35E, England."

We would be most grateful.

*NOTE: Mr. Philip Hepworth, whose own war service took him to the Middle East and Italy has been City Librarian of Norwich since 1951. In this capacity he has seen the development of the American Room from a promissory stone on a now-demolished wall, the doubts as to when and what would happen to the original conception, the building up of book stocks temporarily located at the Norwich City College from 1958, and the one-day advance creation of the room for a royal visitor six months before its official opening. He and his wife Blanche have entertained visitors both in 1963 and 1972, and he made contact with Hathy Veynar, Milton Arnold and Frederick Bryan while on a library trip in 1969. On the English side he has known three Clerks and two Chairmen of the Trust. No one has a greater sense of satisfaction at what has been achieved by the efforts of so many from small beginnings.*



The happy arrivals at Mildenhall. Joe Whittaker followed by a beaming Evelyn Cohen.



Anglia TV Cameras and newsmen greet Joe Whittaker, Joyce and Jordan Uttal.



Those country roads haven't widened a bit, but the countryside is just as pretty as ever.



Gen. Milton W. Arnold and our new V.P. Leon Klinghoffer enjoy a relaxing moment.



Bill & Hazel Robertie, Joe Whittaker, Lady Bacon and Sir Edmund Bacon.



George DuPont, Dr. John Jacobowitz, Mrs. John R. Godwin and Col. John R. Godwin, Commanding Officer RAF Mildenhall.



Jordan Uttal explains how the Memorial Trust works to the members.



The offspring enjoyed it also: Carole McCormick, Ellen McCormick, Roy Reeves, Bret Jacobowitz and Karl Jacobowitz.



Lawrence & Mrs. Gram with the creator of this beautiful display, Milton Veynar.



At the Lord Mayors' reception for the 2nd AD.

## GIFTS FOR THE 2nd AD MEMORIAL ROOM IN THE NORWICH LIBRARY

In warm sunshine members of the Association gathered in the forecourt of Norwich Central Library where they presented a check for \$500 for the upkeep of the American Memorial Room.



[L to R] Hathy Veynar, Miss G. E. Amiss, Mr. R. Q. Gurney and Philip Hepworth.

Mr. R. Q. Gurney of Bawdeswell Hall, Chairman of the Memorial Trust, said the memorial would "continue to give understanding between our two countries as to how we can work and grow together for the good of the world." He said he would not be living where he was now if it had not been for the contribution made by the Americans in two wars. "Thank you for what you have done for our country and Norwich," he said.

Miss Gladys Amiss, chairman of Norwich Libraries Committee said the memorial room was one way "we can keep the friendships of the countries together. The men who flew from the local airfields would always be remembered."

Mr. Tom Eaton, vice-chairman of the Memorial Trust, said of the memorial; "I can think of no finer way to remember those who have given their lives for our freedom and what we hope will be the freedom of those who follow us."

Joe Whittaker, President of the Association, said; "Thank you for your dedicated years and continued service for this fine memorial to those we have lost from the Second Air Division."

Two checks totalling \$125 were presented to the Memorial Trust by Joe

Whittaker. They were donations made by Miss Mary C. McCormick of Waltham, Mass. in the amount of \$100 in memory of her brother George who served with the 93rd BG, and Mrs. Helen W. Tomlinson in the amount of \$25 in memory of her son Robert W. Later, at the banquet in London, another donation in the amount of \$25 was made by Aaron Schultz and his wife.

## 1973 COLORADO SPRINGS AND THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY



View of Cadet Chapel, U.S. Air Force Academy

Difficult as it might be to divorce oneself from the heady 1972 reunion at Norwich time marches on. Site for the 1973 reunion will be Colorado Springs with some of the festivities conducted at the Air Force Academy

Details are under the direction of Hal McCormick, Headquarters and Bill Brooks of the 466th. Each year our reunion becomes more memorable and although it might prove difficult to top this 1972 reunion look for Hal and Bill to do it.

If my information is correct this will be the closest the Association has come to the West Coast and it will be very much of a trial balloon. Should the turn-out of our West Coast members be significant then there is every possibility that future years will see us alternating between the two Coasts. But we do need a large attendance so start your planning now. Details will be appearing in the newsletter from time to time as the planning progresses.

Any Group desiring to hold a mini-reunion dinner prior to the 2nd AD banquet should get in touch with Hal and/or Bill early so they can make the arrangements. Write to Harold McCormick, P.O. Box 271, Canon City, Colorado 81212 or William Brooks, 350 Norton St., Boulder, Colorado 80302. Don't wait - do it now!

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AT 2nd AD RECEPTION

Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Norfolk Sir Edmund and Lady Bacon; The Lord Mayor Designate of Norwich, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Seabrook; The Sheriff Designate of Norwich Alderman and Mrs. R. J. Symonds; Alderman Miss G. E. Amiss; The Town Clerk Mr. Gordon G. Tilsley; The City Architect Mr. and Mrs. David Percival; The City Librarian Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hepworth; The Deputy City Librarian Miss Joan Benns;

Chairman of the Memorial Trust Mr. & Mrs. R. Q. Gurney; Governors to the Memorial Trust - Mrs. Michael Barne, Lady Mayhew, Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Copeman, Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Eaton, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil G. Gowing, Mrs. Frank Thistlewaite, Col. and Mrs. E. R. Johnston, Col. and Mrs. T. H. Curtis.



[L to R] Mrs. I. M. Courtney, Lady Mayhew, Mrs. Vera Rutledge.

The Chairman of the Norfolk County Council Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Hayden; The Chief Constable of the County of Norfolk Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Garland; Clerk to the Governors of the Memorial Trust Mr. & Mrs. John H. Howard; Col. and Mrs. Dan D. Pittman Commander 48th Tactical Support Gp, RAF Lakenheath; Col. & Mrs. John R. Godwin Commander 514th Combat Support Gp. RAF Mildenhall; Mrs. Jean Watt, Chairman of Norfolk Anglo-American Relations Committee; Mr. & Mrs. Lon Olsen Anglia TV Ltd.

Also, Mr. & Mrs. James Hoseason; Mr. & Mrs. Roger Freeman; Mr. & Mrs. A. A. Jenner; Mr. & Mrs. Eric Sexton; The Very Reverend the Dean of Norwich; Mr. & Mrs. John Archer; Col. & Mrs. M. A. Meiklejohn; Mr. & Mrs. C. Moore; Mr. & Mrs. J. H. West; Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Holmes; Mrs. F. R. D. Walter; Mr. & Mrs. Basil Robarts; Col. & Mrs. J. H. Jewson; Mr. & Mrs. James Reeve; Commander and Mrs. Watt; Mrs. F. Russell Walker.