



SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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Second Air Division Association Eighth Air Force

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President's Message

Fellow members of the
Second Air Division Association:

It was one of the, if not the greatest, moments of my aviation career, when at Palm Springs, I was elected and handed the gavel to serve as President of our Association for the next term. One has to be proud and grateful when accorded such an honor; only those who have been there know the feeling. We will do all possible to make sure that your confidence in me has not been misplaced, and we intend to do our best to carry on and expand upon the improvements and growth made in our organization by our past several Presidents and their staffs.



We have met and had discussions with most of our incumbent officers, and our feeling as we approach and acquaint ourselves with the office of President of our Association is, as the trite expression goes, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Those of you who read my last article as your Executive Vice President have an idea of my view of the Association. We believe, and assure you, that your Association is in capable hands. The condition of our Memorial Trust never healthier, our rapport with our British friends never better, and your monies are being wisely spent. Serving as your Executive Vice President has been an education in that regard. As we see it, each Group and Wing of the Division has a capable Vice President, and the important offices of the Executive Vice President, Treasurer, American Representative, Board of Governors, Secretary, Membership and Conventions, and others are most capably staffed. Any President should be so lucky to inherit such a cabinet.

The above is not to say we don't have room for improvement and matters of importance to consider. As our membership has grown, we find that our methods of operating when we were considerably smaller aren't satisfactory to serve our increased membership today. We hope and expect that membership to grow, and we must address that situation. Too, while we have a formulated policy for back-ups for our vital officers, we are not sure we have pressed those objectives with full attention. However, with the expertise on hand, and the uncataloged talent we surely must have in our membership of over 5,000, we believe we have excellent capabilities to care for these matters, or any others that may face our Association.

Finally, we espouse a complete and working loop of communications throughout our Association — from the most remote member to, and through, the chain of officers. Not that this hasn't been the case, but we emphasize the point. Every member has the right and opportunity to know what is going on within his/her association. First, we urge everyone to read his *Journal*, especially those articles to do with policies and the general business of the Association. The *Journal* is our mainstream of communications. People to contact about problems or information about various projects have been published in the *Journal*, and will be again, but if anyone has suggestions for the improvement of our Association, any complaints, or comments otherwise, and doesn't know where to send them, present them to your Vice President for an answer. If a satisfactory answer isn't forthcoming, you have our address.

We look forward to your continued fine support, cooperation, and friendship such as you have extended in the past. Under those conditions, there is every reason to expect a happy and successful term in office.

J. FRED THOMAS

REUNION 1985

Thursday 8/29/85 — Sunday 9/1/85

Americana Great Gorge Resort
McAfee, N.J. 07428

Complete details and reservation forms in March Journal.

450 rooms available.

Reservations by August 1st.

Reservations after August 1st will be space available.

Early reservations accepted from now on.

EVELYN COHEN

The Fifth Annual 2ADA Golf Tournament

by Pete Henry (44th B.G.)

The Fifth Annual Second Air Division Association Golf Tournament was held at the Rancho Las Palmas Country Club in Rancho Mirage, California, on Thursday morning, 4 October, 1984. We had 46 men and 5 ladies participating and 16 won prizes as follows:

NAME	EVENT	AWARD
Warren Vernier	First place—Mens Callaway	2ADA Plaque
Marian Tomich	First place—Women	2ADA Plaque
Paul Homan	Low gross—Mens Handicap	2ADA Plaque
Robert Wolfe	Low net—Mens Handicap	2ADA Plaque
Albert E. Jones	Hole in One	2ADA Plaque
Lee Covert	2nd place—Ladies	Gift
Mary Lorenz	3rd place—Ladies	Gift
Rene Jurczyn	4th place—Ladies	Gift
Joe Tomich	2nd place—Low Net	Hat
Gail Magaziner	*3rd place—Low Net	Towel
R.C. Boucher	2nd place—Callaway	Hat
Chuck Walker	*3rd place—Callaway	Towel
Warren Vernier	Mens Longest Drive	2ADA Key Chain
Charlie McBride	Mens Closest to Pin	2ADA Key Chain
Billie Minisci	Ladies Longest Drive	2ADA Key Chain
Marian Tomich	Ladies Closest to Pin	2ADA Key Chain

*Denotes scorecard playoff



Albert E. Jones

I cannot thank Col. Harry Orthman (44th/492nd B.G.) enough for the many hours he spent arranging and organizing the tournament at Rancho Las Palmas. Credit must also be given to Bernard Wacker (491st B.G.) for the work he did initially to get the tournament off the ground and the assistance he gave to Col. Orthman after Harry was appointed Chairman of the golf tournament. And thanks also to Rick Rokicki (458th B.G.) for the 2ADA plaques. They were beautiful as always, Rick, and much appreciated.

The 1985 golf tournament will be at the old Playboy Club, now the Americana Great Gorge Resort Hotel in McAfee, New Jersey. We have not set the exact date but the 2ADA reunion will be held Aug. 29 - Sept. 1, and the golf tournament will probably occur on Aug. 28.

489th Recall

by Charles Freudenthal (489th)

Make your plans for New Jersey in 1985! Palm Springs has come and gone; certainly the biggest and one of the best we've had. About 1200 there, soaking up the sunshine, finding friends from those long-ago days, swapping war stories, and generally having a ball! The 489th contingent went over the 60 mark (numbers, not age), which was also our best effort to date. Of special note there were 19 who were at their first reunion.

Before I get into the events of the mini-reunion, Helen and I want to express our gratitude to you all for the gift of the Waterford decanter and glasses. We were flabbergasted, and there's no way you can know how much we appreciate your gesture. You can be sure that we'll have it filled appropriately, and whenever you're in our area, stop by and we'll break it in (again and again!).

We now have an Assistant Group Vice President — Bud Chamberlain, who will not only provide back-up for me, but will be able to take over if I stumble. He has already fed a lot of 489th membership information into his computer, and when he and Mike come back from their trip to

New Zealand, we'll get together how we can expand that. And as you'll find out when you get the next newsletter, I was elected VP again.

November-December Diary

Group Hdqs. and cadre personnel arrived at Wendover on 13 December 1943, and the 489th became the first Group to go through all three phases there. A year later the "Ex Tenebris Lux Veritatis" Group had returned to the States and were about to start 30 days R&R from Bradley Field, in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. November 1944 was our last operational month; last mission was on the 10th, with 20 aircraft bombing four airdromes near Hanau. The 845th moved out the night of the 28th, and everybody else, clutching their C rations and souvenirs, followed the next day. Discovery: You can't heat C rations on the steam radiators of an English train. Those of us on the "Marine Robin" anyway, stayed tied up to the dock that night and had eggs, sausages and white bread for dinner. And the ship's Captain apologized! Said they were "victualing." A few days out, incidentally, Jim Wilno, our Athletic officer, flashed the Victory sign as he staggered to the tables where crockery had been replaced by trays and the sideboards put up. Didn't miss a meal either, it's been rumored.

And at Stalag Luft VI

Two entries from the diary of Art Cressler, radio operator on *Cover Girl*, which was shot down on August 6th: Nov. 30th — Thanksgiving Day!! Had a prayer before our barley. Had a big football game with band and all... All Stars played barracks VIII and won 19-14. Had thick soup almost like stew. Got our potatoes at 7:00 tonight. Cut our community cake around 5:00 and it was too wet. Our group almost made ourselves sick from eating so much pudding. I survived OK. Dec. 25th — Christmas Day!! Yesterday and today we were on parole. Lock up wasn't until one o'clock the 24th and midnight tonight. Each man got a #2 Xmas parcel, which was very nice. Marty gave Man a can of jam and me a can of cheese. We gave him some dates I fixed up with nuts, and rolled in sugar. I made some dressing — bread, pate, onions, salt and turkey, which tasted pretty good. Sang carols at midnight of the 24th, using sparklers for light. Willie gave Man and I a half box of crackers each."

All of Art's crew survived prison camp, incidentally, and he and Fred Meyer were at Palm Springs. Tops for crew reunions was the Joe Woerner *Callipygia* bunch with four — Joe and his co-pilot Ernie Davis, Dick Sanderford, the Engineer, and George Nokes, Bombardier.

The 37th Annual 2nd Air Division Association Convention/Reunion

Palm Springs, California — October 4-7, 1984

RENEWED— REFRESHED— REDISCOVERED FRIENDSHIPS — IN RECORD SETTING NUMBERS

We came together again — from all corners of our country — 1200 strong — in spite of unintentional date conflicts with other activities. We came from Alaska to Florida, from Maine to Hawaii, from Texas to Minnesota — to prove the validity of our Association purposes, the preservation of our World War II friendships, and the support of our Memorial to our fallen comrades. And from England, too, we came, in the person of Board of Governors Members Paul King (Vice Chairman) and David Hastings, accompanied by his wife Jean.



The Palm Springs Hilton Riviera where the 37th Annual Second Air Division Association set new records in attendance in both Mini-Reunion and Banquet nights.

And again we noted the warmth of the greetings between old friends, cutting broadly across Group lines, and the heartiness of the welcome to the "first timers" who accounted for about 30% of the attendance. It was great to see them rise to their feet when asked to do so at the banquet, and it was a pleasure to see and hear the ovation they received from those of us who have been going through these emotionally gratifying experiences on past occasions.

It struck some of us as particularly appropriate to overhear one of our number say to Evelyn Cohen, in parting, "You certainly have enriched our lives," and we could not help but look back over the years to the many fine Conventions we have had — each one apparently more satisfying than the previous. To many of us — this was the best ever!!!



It would take pages to adequately describe the 37th, blow by blow. Paragraphs could be taken in an attempt to describe the beauty of the natural surroundings afforded by Palm Springs. So we will try to be brief, and still be factual.

For the "Early Birds", activities started with a cocktail party Wednesday night, 3 October. We noted with a smile that it ended early — and not because the stock of refreshments ran out. Getting older??? or perhaps wiser??? The wonderful girls at the Convention Registration desk handled the surge of arrivals on Thursday with humor and efficiency, making all feel welcome. The Hilton staff and facilities made it possible for most of us to settle in for a pleasant stay, but again some arrived without reservations, were taken care of, making it difficult for a few who had to be temporarily inconvenienced. The weather cooperated for all of our stay, a bit warm perhaps, during the day, but cooling pleasantly for the evenings. Our Thursday night Cocktail Party, poolside (as they all were) got us off to a good start for the various Group Mini-Reunions. It looked crowded around the bars to start with, but we soon found out that there was plenty of



(L to R) General Leon W. Johnson; Paul King, Board of Governors; Major General Andy Low.

stock on hand, and I don't think any of us missed a desired beverage ration.

Friday morning the buffet breakfast attracted long lines — but they moved swiftly and efficiently after the doors were opened. After breakfast we boarded 23 busses for the trip thru interesting desert country to March AFB for a very moving Memorial Service on the flight line, in the presence of one of our beloved "Libs". We are indebted to 2ADA member Dick Butler (44th) for arranging the events, to Col. Terry D. Murphy for his cordial welcome, to Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling for his participation, to Chaplain Lt. Col. John Chambers for his beautiful service, to the March AFB Flight of the National Order of Daedalions for the wreath presentation, to the Missing Man Formation Flyover led by Major Nestor (whose father flew in Liberators) and to all the officers and men of March AFB for their friendly hospitality, and for the special edition of the base newspaper honoring the 2nd Air Division.

It was more than a thrill to have our own Gen. Leon Johnson (C.O. 44th BG, C.G. 14th Combat Bomb Wing, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient) join us for the Memorial Service and for the balance of the Convention.

Luncheon, and March AFB museum tours followed the Memorial Program — but most of us lingered for a while, on the flight line — to see, and touch, and remember the proud B-24, tail fins painted in the colors of the 458th. This was especially appreciated by our old friend Brig. Gen. Jim Isbell, Ret. (C.O. 458th) who, with his charming wife Virginia came all the way from Anchorage to join with us for the Convention. Parked next



March Field (according to Andy Low, this is one of the original buildings on the field). Administration Building.

to a K.C.10, the old "Lib" looked tiny, but none of us needed reminding of the gallant job it did in our time of service — nor of the men who flew in it — those who cared for it on the ground — and the countless thousands of those who supported the planes and the crews. Friday night's Cocktail Party, the barbecue, and the mingling and luxuriating in the company of old friends capped off a wonderful day. A great time was had by all.

The business meeting on Saturday morning drew the largest crowd ever, and the various reports presented, all indicated a healthy "state of the nation" — growing membership, increase in assets and activities of the Memorial Trust — sound condition of the Association Treasury, all of which is covered elsewhere. Our newly elected President, Fred Thomas (392nd) and Exec. Vice President, Bud Koorndyk (389th) and three new members of the Executive Committee (466 BG, 491 BG and 445 BG Vice Presidents) continue to provide fresh new voices in the administration of Association affairs.

Following the business meeting there was a Fashion Show and Luncheon for the ladies (which our wives tell us was well received) and a large audience attended a most interesting film session. In spite of the less than appropriate projector, we were again moved by David Hastings' film *Remember Them*, honoring all the 2nd Air Division which was shown last year in Norwich. As a topper to this David presented his latest production, another tribute to the Division, *A Village Remembers*. Although it features the village of Rackheath (467th) (where he lives) the entire film



The aircraft is painted in 458th Bomb

honors all the groups of the 2nd AD and their adjacent villages which still hold dear the memories of the Americans who look on them as a second home. Both films drew great applause.

After these tributes of friendship, we were treated to the hysterically funny and nostalgic presentation of Charlie "Moose" Allen's (453rd) Mission Briefing which we certainly will ask him to repeat next year. It has to be seen!!!

And finally, as far as the official program was concerned, the Saturday night Banquet, preceded, of course by another joyous poolside Cocktail Party at which Gloria and Jimmy Stewart joined us — just as Jimmy said last year they would if at all possible. We were delighted to see them again.

The Candle Lighting Ceremony which started the program induced lumps in the throat, some tears in the eyes, and then the fond smiles as we remembered those to whom the ceremony is dedicated. Every Group was represented in the Ceremony, and among the 24 Lighters and Escorts we were proud to have General Johnson, Major General Andy Low, Brig. Gen. Jim Isbell, Brig. Gen. Jimmy Stewart, and Col. Al Shower (C.O. 467th). We were equally proud of all the other participants, our WAC, our ground crew member (Witchcraft), our combat crew members, our staff personnel, each of whom represented all of those present, and all of you who served in the 2nd Air Division USAAF, in our tribute to those who are no longer with us.

A touching invocation by Jim Reeves and a rollicking song led by M.C. Hal McCormick led to a delicious dinner. Following dinner we were privileged to hear from General Johnson, outgoing President Charlie Freudenthal (489th), incoming President Fred Thomas (392nd), Treasurer Dean Moyer (Hdqs.) who presented a check for the Trust to Paul King who responded admirably. Acknowledgement was made by the M.C. of the Past Presidents, Group Vice Presidents (both with wives), other Association officers, the large contingent of WACS, and our dear Evelyn. We were then pleased to hear from David Hastings, and finally, from Jimmy Stewart.

We were particularly gratified with the fact that both General Johnson and Jimmy Stewart saw fit to recognize the value of the Association in that we have demonstrated since our inception in 1948, the same kind of patriotism and pride in our country and ourselves as was so evident at this year's Olympics. We have always felt this way about our wonderful collection of people, so different in ethnic backgrounds, religious persuasions, service specialties, Group backgrounds, rank, civilian occupations, geographical alliances, all coming together with a bond of enduring affection and respect. Our M.C. concluded the Banquet proceedings by reading a poem that says it very well — written by Associate Member Rhoda Bandler:

Second Air Division—In Retrospect

*Now, looking back, we grew together, men
United in perception of our goal.
Young fellows drawn from everywhere, and then
Developed towards an interlocking whole.*

*All hands were there when missions were assigned
Collective prayers travelled with each crew.
At take-off time, the rest who stayed behind,
In spirit, were as one with those who flew.*

*Has anyone forgotten our concern,
Our anguished tension as they went across.
The agonies of waiting for return,
The numbness of acceptance of our loss?*

*Some part of us remained with those who fell.
Some part of them remains with us, as well.*

Dancing followed the banquet — to music of our generation. Sunday's buffet breakfast was somewhat subdued, as once again many of us said our fond farewells. And now we are back home remembering the joy we shared.

See you next year in New Jersey!!!! Till then . . . our fondest greetings.

About the Memorial

by Jordan Uttal

For many years I have worked side-by-side with Howard Hinrichs in the New York Telephone Company, Midtown Division. Never did we ever discuss "What did you do in WWII" until he got a transfer to NC and suddenly he wrote, "Hey were you the guy, etc. etc." I sure was.

Many of our children are getting to ask questions — "What did my father do in the Eighth AAF?" Among the list I have of Culver, Kennedy, Vance Garren, I now can add the name of Collar. His son, Douglas, asked me a few questions and he learned that his dad, George, flew 29 missions before he became a dropin guest of Stalag Luft 1. He was liberated on May 1, 1945 by the Russians.

Well, here I am, flying across the Pacific Ocean, on my way to Hawaii. I will try to put into words the great success and thrills that we all shared at our 37th Reunion. To all our first timers, it was something they did not expect, to our revisiting members it was a continuation of many memories.

The 445th BG had 75 people in attendance at our Mini-Reunion. A review of our progress and accomplishments of the past year was reviewed. E. O. Cross (TX), our VP, made a most earned award to Associate Member Mary Beth (Kennedy) Bernard. She purchased the entire History of the 445th on microfilm and then had it reproduced into a three volume set. Mary Beth presented the reproductions to Buddy and I. It has revealed much info for Buddy and I to work on.

David Patterson (CA), Past President, nominated me to continue as VP. I thanked them all and I will continue to serve you. David reviewed many other items of info to us all.

George Lynborn (CA) the "Kid" who made his first and only jump at the age of 60, gave a most interesting story as to "Why did I do it".

I think the highlight of this Reunion was when S/Sgt. Mark Hoage (CA), from the 445th Military Air Wing, came looking for me to show me some of the Army surplus odd lot that he purchased. Mark asked me if a Chuck Walker (CA) was present, because he had found Chuck's flight jacket. Chuck does not recall what happened to his jacket and was completely astounded and surprised. Mark also had his MAW color flag with all its combat ribbons on it. So you see fellows — we are still a flying outfit. Many photos were taken of the flag and if any of you want a copy, drop me a self addressed envelope and I will send you a copy.

Again we were honored by the presence of Jim Stewart (CA) and his wife, Gloria.

Our 38th Reunion information is listed elsewhere in the *Journal* — Register early.

My visit to Hawaii was made interesting by Vincent Mazza, a resident of Hawaii since 1969. We spent the entire day touring the island and talking about the 2nd AD.

Elizabeth and I wish you the Blessed Holy Holiday and a Happy New Year.

How proud we were in Palm Springs, that all of you who contributed made it possible for the Association to turn over to the Memorial Trust your gifts amounting to \$18,000.00!!! Presentation was made at the banquet on Saturday night, 6 October, by our Treasurer, Dean Moyer to Paul King, Vice-Chairman of the Trust. The 1200 people in the audience greeted this gesture with great enthusiasm. Needless to say, as a member of the Board of Governors, I was delighted that two of my fellow Governors attended our 37th Convention, Paul King and David Hastings accompanied by his wife Jean. At the same time we missed our friend Tom Eaton who could not manage to attend this year, but who nevertheless sent his warm greetings and thanks to all of us in the Association.

Originally it was our intention to give the money this year as a 2nd Air Division Association endowment specifically designated to build and maintain the School Library Project adopted by the Governors at our annual meeting in May. However, to avoid confusion with the Endowments already in existence, these funds were handed to the Trust with the stipulations:

- 1) That the income from this money be used to stock the project in the Norwich Central Library.

- 2) That after the first year, if satisfactory to the Governors, the income could be used for the next four years to stock and maintain four branch libraries with the School Project.

- 3) That after five years the Governors could decide how best to continue the use of this income.

Again, our grateful thanks to you all.

ROLL OF HONOR: Three new names have been added to the Master Roll of Honor, raising the official total to 6,085. The extracting of the Individual Group Rolls of Honor has been completed. It is expected that these will be in "first draft" form, and in my hands by Christmas. I will verify that all the corrections that I have requested have been made, pass on the list to the Group Vice President. He in turn, will review, return to me — be sent back to Norwich — completed — placed in each niche in the Memorial Room — a permanent copy sent to each Group Vice President. It is my feeling that as a result of this interchange more names will be found that should be added.

MEMORABILIA: It is the desire of the Memorial Trust that the Memorial Room be the Archive Center of the 2nd Air Division, USAAF Museum items, personal equipment, medals, etc. **are not desired.** Instead, we ask you for documentary memorabilia, in the words of the Librarian, "originals or copies of: letters, diaries, orders, concert or theater programs, social events, photographs — anything pertaining to an individual's service record, or the life and activities of the base. In addition, I would like a complete file of newspapers such as *Yank*, *Stars and Stripes*, etc." All this material should be sent direct to Mr. Colin Sleath, Norwich Central Library, Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk, England NR2 1NG. If you are in doubt about anything write Colin and ask him. We cannot guarantee when, where, or if these items will be displayed. It is a big job to organize, but it will be done. Be sure to identify any photographs you send as to names of people or places shown — as well as your own name and address.

FILM TRIBUTES TO 2nd AIR DIVISION: Last year David Hastings produced and showed to us in Norwich a wonderful film entitled, *Remember Them*, covering all the units of the Division.

This year he has produced an equally heartstring tugging film entitled, *A Village Remembers*. The new one, also a tribute to the entire division, centers on the village of Rackheath (467th) and incorporates the original color film shot during the war by Jim Mahoney, Deputy Commander, 467th, who graciously had a copy made this year for the Trust.

Both films were shown in Palm Springs and were extremely well received. In addition, on his own, and at his own expense, David had a master video made of both, had eight copies made of each, brought them over, and all were snapped up at his cost of \$80.00 per copy. If he receives orders totalling eight or more he can have more made, at a postpaid price of \$88.00. I am proud to have one of each, and anyone interested in ordering can write me, and I will send details as to how to do it.

MEMORIAL BROCHURES: I received 50 copies from England — 46 are gone — I can get more. Cost is \$2.00 each.

I have much more to communicate but, according to Bill Robertie, so do all the Group VPs, so I will save comments about RAF Neatishead, University of Maine, the expansion of the Memorial concept, and more until the next issue. Very best greetings to all — and repeated thanks for your support of the Memorial... Cheers!!!!

389th Memorabilia

by Bud Koorndyk (389th BG)

Once again as our 37th reunion becomes a page in our memory book, it is with a deep sense of pride and gratitude I wish to thank all the members of the 389th BG who contributed their part in making our reunion in Palm Springs such a lasting and memorable experience.

It would be hard for me to single out all the individuals who played their role in support of my work as your Group VP this year in attaining our goal of over 500 members. This goal was reached prior to our gathering in Palm Springs for our 37th reunion, and for that I say collectively "Thank You".

Our troops gathered for the first evening of our activities Thursday, Oct. 4 at the Palm Spring Hilton and met for dinner at 7:30 P.M. for our annual mini-reunion. This event was attended by 130 of our members and was the largest contingent of members we've had at any previous reunions.

The dinner was preceded by your Group VP asking for a minute of silence in memory of our departed members. Lloyd West then gave the invocation after which we introduced 32 new members who were attending their first reunion. Special recognition was also given to the widows, whose attendance we so appreciate, who attended in memory of their departed husbands who served so faithfully in the 2nd Air Division of the 8th AF.

After enjoying a delightful dinner hour, not only for the food, but also for a period of renewing old acquaintances and establishing new friendships with our new members we called our business meeting to order.

The business portion of our meeting was begun by informing the members assembled that with the help of so many members we attained our goal of over 500 members by our reunion date.

Evelyn Cohen then made an appearance at our meeting to present a special plaque to Roy and Mildred Jonasson in recognition of their tireless effort in assisting me in building up the membership of the 389th.

One of our members, Ralph Fowler, at this time also presented Evelyn with a check for \$300 donated by his V.F.W. Post, toward our Norwich Library Memorial Fund. A special thanks Ralph to your Post for this fine gesture of support toward our fine library in Norwich.

An acknowledgement of thanks was also given to Dorothy Gibson for the donations forwarded to the library in the memory of her husband Walt, our engineer, who passed away this year.

A motion was made and passed to make our 389th name tags available for \$2.00 with the proceeds to go into a fund to help keep up the dues of retired members who

may be financially unable to meet their commitment. A total of \$70.00 has now been placed in an escrow account which will be administered by Lloyd West.

At the time for election of officers for the year 1984-85, I informed the members that I have been nominated to serve as Executive Vice President of the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force for this period and, God willing, would serve as President the following year. As a result, I requested that I be relieved of the position of 389th VP. This request was granted.

Lloyd E. West's name was then placed in nomination, seconded and was unanimously chosen as our new Group VP. Earl Zimmerman, who was not in attendance, will be asked to continue as the 389th Assistant Group VP.

Bob Nicely and his wife Shirley were thanked for their work in beginning a 389th BG photo pictorial album. Bob thanks all those who sent him their old prints for the beginning of this task.

Because of Bob and Shirley's travelling around the country in their new motor home and not having a permanent address, he requested that we replace them and elect somebody to complete this task.

Dick Peterson offered to continue the work. So get your old pictures out of the trunks and forward them to Dick. His address follows below.

Then began two more wonderful days of getting together for various activities, climaxed by our annual banquet with its touching candle lighting ceremonies, remarks by General Leon Johnson, Jimmy Stewart and our friends who serve on our Board of Governors of the Library in Norwich, Paul King and David Hastings.

As a final remark, I would like to thank all the members again for the fine support given me as your Group VP during my three years of service. The friendship it has engendered will always remain with me as a most cherished memory. Our Group will now be served by an excellent man in Lloyd West, and I know you will all support him as you did me. The names and addresses of our new team is as follows:

Group VP

Lloyd E. West
Box 256
Rush Center, Kansas 67575

Assistant Group VP

Earl Zimmerman
8922 Haverstick Rd.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Group Photo VP

Dick Peterson
154 Via MontoDoro
Redondo Beach, California 90277

June and I also take this opportunity to wish you all a most blessed Christmas and the best of health in the New Year. May God keep you all in his care until we meet again.

Christmas at Ketteringham 1944

by Eleanor Storms

During holidays, home, family, friends act like magnets. They draw us back in our own cherished thoughts of past holidays no matter how near or far away one may be. This was especially so Christmas 1944 when the 2nd Air Division Headquarters WACS were far away from home and overseas. This particular holiday could not have arrived at a better time. The *Stars and Stripes* had been reporting for some time on the Battle of the Bulge. Our American boys were bogged down in Bastogne surrounded by the German troops. The situation was desperate and becoming more so. Little aid could be sent to help them for the weather was foul, foggy and dreary. It was a depressive time for many. Then a few days before Christmas the *Stars and Stripes* reported that General Anthony C. McAuliff replied in his famous one word message to the German Corps Commander's call for surrender — "Nuts!" On that same day, the skies cleared and an airdrop of supplies was made to the Bastogne garrison. This did not end the severe fighting to come — but for the moment it was a bright, shining glimmer of hope.

After that, as the holiday neared that barometer of hope kept rising. Choir practices were held for participating groups for the various religious services; WACS trekked to the woods to gather greens to decorate the doors of the huts. And the Christmas tree in each hut was embellished with odd, amusing and personally made decorations. The Red Cross did their share to make us all welcome and forget our loneliness; the mailroom overflowed with letters, cards and packages containing treasured items which indicated that the families at home had made special sacrifices by saving their rations to send especially tinned, sweet items, on overseas. Whatever the large and small packages contained, the WACS shared much of the contents — even to a pair of warm slippers that others wore while the owner was on her shift at work. The WACS who worked at the messhall put in extra time making the dining area as festive as possible and the Christmas dinner a pleasurable feast for all. Somehow for a few hours on that holiday the war was forgotten and hope was once again there.

And once again, 1984, the 2nd Air Division WACS' greeting goes out to all as depicted in the V-Mail Christmas greeting — HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Christmas, from now on, will have a deeper meaning for you after you understand...

Kelley's Christmas Gift

by Og Mandino

From the Book "A Treasury of Success Unlimited" (Pocket Books of N.Y.)

The month of December was cold and wet and gloomy in England in 1944. Although the tides of war had shifted in favor of the Allies, our casualties still continued high so our morale matched the weather.

Our B-24 *airbase*, fifty miles north of London, was just like a hundred others spread carelessly over the face of England and we were similar to all the others in planes and personnel with one exception — we had Kelley.

I don't remember his first name but I do recall he was a navigator... and a good one. Kelley had habits that set him apart from most of us who assumed a phony air of boldness to hide our fear. For one thing he was older than most of us... probably near thirty. When we went to London every two weeks and raised unholy hell he remained behind and wrote letters to his wife, his mother, his son and every other relative whose address he kept in a little brown book. A forty-eight-hour pass to Kelley meant stuffing his duffel bag with candy bars and canned food and bringing it to poor families in the village. Before each mission, Kelley attended chapel services while most of us slept those extra fifteen minutes. Yes, to many of us, Kelley was a strange guy.

Then, about two weeks before Christmas, Kelley got an idea. He decided that we would throw a Christmas party on our base for all the British kids that lived in the area. He sold the idea to our Colonel and then he assigned projects to all of us. It was difficult to say no to Kelley... and when we weren't flying missions we had plenty of time on our hands anyway.

Kelley set up collection boxes inside the Post Exchange and I painted signs that asked for contributions of candy bars, chewing gum, canned fruit and cookies

from each man's weekly allotment purchase. We filled dozens of boxes.

Then Kelley coaxed the mechanics on the flight line to make toys from spare parts and scrap metal. The carpenters got into the act and began building toy carts and crude rocking horses and even the nurses made stuffed dolls and animals. Everyone became involved and Kelley kept the whole operation coordinated in a way that would have made General Motors proud.

Two days before Christmas, the mess hall began to look like Macy's warehouse... and Kelley was all smiles... until someone reminded him that we had no Christmas ornaments or lights to hang. He solved this problem as swiftly as he solved the others. He commandeered boxes of silver chaff that we dropped during our bombing missions to confuse the enemy radar... and we had our "icicles." He had the base electrician wire a couple of hundred spare wing-tip lights to heavy cable and we spent a morning coloring them with paint that he produced from Lord knows where.

On Christmas eve we decorated the mess hall and although it was no Rockefeller Plaza we were all proud of our handiwork... even though none of us would admit it. On the way back to our barracks we got the "good news." We were flying a mission on Christmas Day. You can imagine the remarks next morning before, during and after the briefing. We were all thinking the same thing... what a day to die! Our mission, of course, wasn't going to affect the Christmas party. The base personnel all had their instructions from Kelley and all the buses from the motor pool had been assigned a special town or hamlet where they were to go to pick up the children,

When we returned on Christmas afternoon, from what had been a rough mission, we hurriedly changed clothes and dashed to the mess hall as soon as debriefing was finished. The place was bedlam. It looked like recess time at my old grammar school. Kids were pushing their new carts and toy trucks, little girls skipped and danced with their new stuffed dolls clutched tightly to their breasts, while the boys ran from one end of the hall to the other holding their miniature planes and imitating the sound of Spitfires and P-51's. Every smiling face was smeared with chocolate... many for the first time ever. The wing-tip lights blinked overhead in multicolored joy and someone had found a phonograph which was playing tinny but recognizable Christmas carols. I watched for a few moments remembering many happy childhood Christmases of my own. Then I left and slowly walked back to my barracks. In the distance someone gunned all four motors of a B-24, drowning out the joyous shouts from the hall.

I passed the chapel and then I stopped. Without even knowing what I was doing, I found myself walking back up the cobblestone walk and pulling open the metal door.

I stepped inside for the first time since I had been on the base. The outside world quieted down. I felt myself kneeling and before I could stop myself I was sobbing. It was the first time I had cried since my mother had died. Finally I prayed... prayed for Kelley and the rest of his crew whose plane I had watched explode into flames after taking a direct hit only a few hours ago.

Since that Christmas, so many years ago, I never hear a Christmas carol or watch a child open a Christmas gift without remembering Kelley and counting my own blessings. Why Kelley is not here to enjoy each Christmas like the rest of us is a question I stopped asking myself... I finally realized that Kelley's gift to all of us was the same priceless gift of sacrifice and love that we all received from Him whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas Day.

Open Letter To the 93rd

by Charlie Weiss (93rd)

By the time you read this many of you will have had an enjoyable time, as always, at the Palm Springs reunion. Sorry I couldn't make it. Wes Rankin, who was initially to have been my substitute, passed away in June. He is missed by all of his friends.

Hardwick 93rd Memorial: Contributions have been very slow in coming in. Gene Alvord is our project officer on the memorial and is working out the

design etc. Any of you who would like to help him, please contact him at 4902 N. McBride, Tacoma, WA 98407. Don't put it off. Send in your contribution to me. My address is on the inside cover of the *Journal*.

Video Cassette of 93rd Group (see March '84 *Journal*): Hugh McLaren tells me that quite a few members have purchased the cassette. He advised the profits over the cost will be donated to the 2nd ADA Memorial. Apparently all who have ordered the video cassette are pleased. He can still obtain more, so if you have let it slip drop him a line.

93rd History: Carlos and Nadine Vasquez are putting a lot of time and effort

in the 93rd history. They tell me that quite a number of members have sent them material, photographs, etc. to be included. We know there's much more info (photos, reports, etc.) out there among you 93rd members, so please send it in to them. They will copy it and return everything to you if that is your wish.

93rd Patch: Joe Beach has had a real neat 93rd 2ADA patch designed and if you care to obtain some drop him a line. M/Sgt. (Ret.) Joseph T. Beach, 4128 Galbrath Dr., N. Highlands, Calif. 95660. Joe said that all the profits would go to the 93rd Hardwick Memorial. Great!

Keep in touch and send letters and articles for the *Journal* to Bill Robertie.

8-Ball-Y-Hoo

by Will Lundy
(Asst. Group VP, 44th B.G.)

Our VP, Howard C. "Pete" Henry and his lovely wife, Mary, are enjoying a well deserved "Sabbatical" following the huge reunion at Palm Springs. They are visiting friends and relatives while taking in some California scenes enroute, so would not have sufficient time to write this article for the December issue. So Pete has asked me to write his column for him.

Given this liberty and rare opportunity, I want to express my thanks to Pete personally, and from all of us, for the splendid job he has done for the 44th BG as our VP for many years. Pete, like all of the VPs, must put in uncounted hours performing a multitude of activities on our behalf. Most of us see him or hear from him only occasionally, but daily he receives letters of requests for information about our group, researches and answers them, works with other VPs on business common to them, assists with mini-reunions, provides help by serving on 2nd ADA sub-committees, etc. But most of all, he continues the search for our long-lost former "Eight-Ballers". His success is reflected in the continued growth of our membership in the 2nd ADA until now we are approaching the 500 mark — or nearly 10% of the total membership. A super job! His wife, Mary, too works like a Trojan, especially at the reunions where she so pleasantly welcomes us all, assists with the registrations and makes us feel at home.

At the 44th's mini-reunion Thursday night, October 4th, Pete was again unanimously re-elected as our VP, reflecting his popularity and the satisfaction of us all. So we are assured of at least one more year of great leadership. Congratulations, Pete!

The reunion itself was yet another success, bigger and better. Evelyn Cohen had approximately 985 reservations and expected quite a few "walk-ins", but certainly not the quantity that eventually arrived. By the time of the Saturday night Banquet over 1200 of us filled the hall almost to capacity, placing considerable strain on the plans to seat us by Groups. With over 300 unexpected guests, it was remarkable that facilities could be provided in time to feed us, let alone seat us together at designated tables. There were some problems, of course, but Pete did his best to make the evening as enjoyable as possible under those circumstances. He, as well as all of our Officers, should be commended for their untiring efforts.

The publicity concerning the reunion here in southern California reached several of our Eight-Ballers who had previously never heard about the 2nd ADA as I'm sure also happened with the other groups. It seems that many of these people had

moved into California from other parts of the country, helping a bit to explain why efforts to locate them in their old home town areas had failed. Publicity such as these reunions appears to be about the only means now that can be utilized to locate more of them.

Too, I think that we all would be remiss if we do not pay tribute to the efforts expended by our own man, a veteran of Ploesti, Colonel Richard D. Butler, retired. Though unannounced and not generally known, Dick volunteered to undertake the task of securing the permission and then the splendid cooperation of the commanding officers at March Air Force Base. Much of the success of the program there on Friday was due to the many hours he spent at the base in preparation and planning. Not content with that, he personally spent nearly a month assisting in the "restoration" of the B-24 stored there. That old B-24 had deteriorated into a sad sight, but Dick had it steam cleaned and renovated — even painting the vertical stabilizers himself. The plane looked great and it didn't take much imagination to visualize her flying once again. Dick then topped off his efforts by acting as Master of Ceremonies for the grand affair. We are all indebted to him.

For the past several years I have corresponded with a Frieslander, (The Netherlands) Jan J. van der Veer. Jan is a former Resistance man, WW2 historian, author and writer, who has furnished me with exceptionally detailed documentaries of the many B-24s that crashed in Holland. Writing in English, I could then forward several to the VPs in the other Groups involved, so many have benefited from his records. Jan has published several books about the air war over Holland, plus one book (in Dutch) "De Dag Van De Liberator" which is a documentary of a 67th Squadron crew that crash-landed near his home town in Nov. 1943.

Jan and his companions have uncovered many American personal items at these crash sites and has asked me to help him find and return three of such items to next of kin here in America. The latest item was an I.D. bracelet that belonged to S/Sgt. Robert Lehman of Oklahoma, a gunner from the 466th Bomb Group.

Jan's file indicated that Robert Lehman was from Ada, Oklahoma, so I wrote to the Ada Chamber of Commerce last Spring after all other leads had failed. The C of C forwarded my letter to the Pontotoc County Historical and Genealogical Society; and they, in turn, placed an article about the bracelet in the March 8, 1984 Ada Evening News. Bill Lehman, Robert's older brother, recognized the information, and soon telephoned me!

I learned that Robert Lehman had been drafted and was assigned to the Air Force in Jan. '43. While stationed in Kansas, he met a girl named Kay, who gave him a

silver I.D. bracelet with his name and serial number on the front, and "Love, Kay" on the back. Robert went overseas in April '44 and was stationed at Attlebridge with the 466th B.G. On the 15th of August '44 Robert was a gunner on board a B-24 named *True Love* when it was shot down. A friend of Jan van der Veer, Wiebe de Vries, an eye-witness to the event gave me this account:

"It was a glorious, clear day. At 12:37 PM, a formation of 67 B-24s bombed a German fighter base at Vechta and were returning home. They had been right on target and lost little time in turning back. At 12:50 PM they were flying at 25,000 feet as they crossed back over the German-Dutch border and under no attack. But just above Havelte, Holland, 20 German Me 109s from Sachau suddenly attacked the second formation of 16 ships, coming out of the sun and undetected. It was a horrifying sight, with flaming wreckage falling everywhere. Although only four planes were shot down, they were hit at such a high altitude, exploding, they fell in many scattered flaming pieces. *True Love* was one of them."

Four men managed to parachute from *True Love*, while six bodies were found in the wreckage, one of them being Robert Lehman. He did not survive his 32nd mission, just 20 days short of his 23rd birthday.

Nearly 40 years later, de Vries and a friend, Johnny Visser, found a large quantity of .50 cal. rounds during a site investigation and among them was one bullet that had become completely rammed into its case. When the men shook it, out came the bullet — and then a *bracelet*! It was Robert's bracelet, a most unusual and unexpected find, and the inscription was still perfectly readable.

Jan J. van der Veer sent the bracelet via airmail as quickly as possible so that I could deliver it in person to Bill Lehman while I was enroute from California to Dayton, Ohio to attend the 44th Heritage Memorial reunion in May. What a thrill and honor it was to have the opportunity to participate in the final chapter of bringing to a conclusion another tiny piece of the war.

2ADA Members Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma Arkansas, New Mexico

An area Mini Reunion is planned for Dallas, Saturday, February 9th. If you haven't already received details in the mail, please write:

Gerry Merket
716 Top Hill Drive
Tyler, Texas 75703.

Bungay Bull

by Bill Davenport

Howdy. At our last convention — out West, you let old Vere down from the saddle after riding the range for the last eight years, trying to round up all those missing Bungay Buckaroos. The new wrangler is that guy you see over there. That is one of his most recent photos, taken about 1944.



Seriously, I was elected to be the Vice President for the 446th Bomb Group at the October, 1984 Convention of the Second Air Division Association of the Eighth Air Force. Vere McCarty, who has done an admirable job in shepherding the 446th since he took over in San Diego in 1976 felt that it was time that someone else occupied that "Hot Seat" for a while.

My tour with the Second Air Division Association has been relatively short. I first came aboard four years ago in San Antonio and was impressed with: the camaraderie, the accomplishments and the goals of our organization. I feel very honored to have received your trust to represent you in this office. I will do this to the best of my ability.

In addition to my election, Herb Gordon was elected to serve as my Deputy. I asked Herb to continue to serve as Secretary/Treasurer with Reba's help. The question is, Treasurer of what? (Well, we raised sixty-five dollars at that meeting.) I also appointed Bob Moore to continue his activity as Social Director, Master of Ceremonies, and Organizer of Reunion Activities, etc. Frank Yochem and Warren

Dempster were appointed as a committee to look at the St. Mary, Flixton, Church Gate Memorial situation — more on this later. Gordon Bishop, who could not attend due to recent by-pass surgery and Carl Gigsted will continue to explore the Air Force Academy Memorial Wall possibilities along with our well-known Col. Fred Knorre, former Air Exec for the 446th. Audrey Risley, who was given the task last year in Norwich, of investigating the memorials at the Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio made a fine pitch for us to do something here to memorialize the 446th. I asked him to continue with these efforts along with Paul Wermuth who lives down the road a short way from Dayton. The above covers the important business of electing and appointing a team to carry forward the 446th program. Vere continues as the Group Historian.

Now, belatedly, for some more background on this program. Over the past several years a lot of talk has centered on individual group memorials. The 446th, along with the raising of funds for its "Tail Feathers" for placement in the Norwich Library together with all the other Second Air Division Groups, decided to present to the Town of Bungay a plaque commemorating our appreciation for their warmth, friendship, and hospitality extended to the 446th during those war years.

This effort was well received by the townspeople and appears to have brought a closer bond among our members. Other groups have established in England, at or near their old bases, any number of different memorials, varying from plaques, way signs, and city building additions. As stated by one of ours (or someone) "Any more bronze plaques sent to England could cause her to sink." Also, a number of people say, "We are well commemorated

as the Second Air Division in England, but in the States where we and our families live, we have nothing to memorialize the efforts of our fallen comrades." The possibilities of small memorials doing just that, were investigated during the past year by Gordon Bishop at the Academy and Aud Rizley at Wright-Patterson. In addition to those, there is a problem with deterioration after 40 years with the first memorial created by the 446th to our fallen, the gate at the church of St. Mary, Flixton. During our visit in May '83 the gate had received a fresh coat of varnish, but this could not hide the forty years of British weather. So gentlemen, we have to consider as those present at the Convention did, three items of memorial nature. All were found worthy of doing — and in fact all can be done. Therefore, we are alerting you to send along those extra dollars so we can get started on firming up the plans for group memorials as requested by many of you. Your support to the Second Air Division Library Memorial should continue. These three suggested memorials are strictly 446th needs.

At Palm Springs we had 121 registered present. I believe this was the largest group attendance. Among these were a large number of first timers. I apologize because I was not able to spend as much time as I would have liked with all our people. That is a disadvantage of the large turnouts we have, but it is rewarding to see all having a great time and meeting new/old friends. That's what it's all about. See you in New Jersey, August '85 and Norwich '86, God willing.

Thanks again for your trust, and thanks for the stewardship by Vere and those preceeding him in this position. Keep tuned to Beach Bell. Happy Holidays and may the next year be a happy one.

Missives from The 492nd

by Bill Clarey (492nd)

On August 18, 1984, Al Mohney sponsored a meeting and dinner at the Howard Johnson establishment in Lansing, Michigan. He was ably assisted by Archie McIntyre, Judy, Tracey and Terry Mohney. Some very good pictures were shown regarding the building of the B-24 at Willow Run during war time. In addition to this, pictures were shown of aircraft fighter tactics in Festung Europe.

In the course of the business meeting, it was voted on, and passed, to establish a fund that would enable us to buy and install a plaque honoring the 492nd Bomb Group. This plaque would be installed at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. Please send all checks to Al Mohney, made

out to 492nd BG Memorial Fund. As of this writing, I think that we have \$295.00 in the fund and we need between \$1200.00 and \$1600.00. Al would have the total amount that we need.

Lately, I have been corresponding with a Reto Renfer of Lengnau, Switzerland. He sent me a picture of the aircraft, *Tequila Daisy*, that nosed down there on July 11, 1944. It turned out that three of the crew members from that plane were at the meeting in Lansing. A tape recording was made of their experiences concerning the landing. This will be sent to Reto as soon as I can add some more to it. The three crew members who were at Lansing were Archie MacIntyre, Joyce Freeman and Clyde Hatley. I consider this quite a coincidence.

Reto sent another picture of part of a crew that was flying *Meat Around the Corner* when they were interned. Does anyone remember that name and who the crew was?

So, fellow members, let's get those checks started, large or small, for our own memorial. It's really a worthwhile cause since time is growing short.

PS. I finally received some of my medals that I applied for fourteen months ago.

Notice

Many of our members have two addresses — one in the North during the summer months, and one in the south during the winter months. Lucky, Lucky you. This does not create a serious problem, but it does mean that in most cases we are sending out two *Journals* to the same person at different addresses. It would help a lot if you would notify us whenever you change addresses for a period of time. We would save on one mailing. Many thanks,

BILL ROBERTIE

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

June 30, 1984

GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT

Balance June 30, 1983			44,379.71
Receipts: Membership Dues	48,124.44		
Interest Earned	4,337.58		
Receipts 1983 Convention	6,892.81		
Sale of Decals, Rosters, etc.	<u>57.00</u>	<u>59,411.83</u>	
Receipts and Balance			103,791.54
Disbursements:			
Journal: Monthly Expenses	2,416.38		
Rent	5,200.00		
Extra Postage	1,114.00		
Extra Printing	33.00		
Journal—Printing	8,681.44		
Paste-up	2,720.00		
Stuffing Envelopes	417.92		
Envelopes	1,354.00		
Postage	10,674.28		
Delivery to Post Office	<u>106.00</u>	<u>32,717.02</u>	
Membership: Printing	1,042.95		
Prtg. Plastic Member Cards	1,452.60		
Postage	1,975.16		
Rent	<u>3,912.50</u>	<u>8,383.21</u>	
General: Exec. Bd. Postage	2,354.46		
Exec. Bd. Printing	1,495.85		
Computer Supplies	610.89		
Corp. Filing Fee/Illinois	5.00		
Treasurer's Bond	46.00		
Down Payment on Decals	350.00		
Exec. Bd. Meeting—Dallas	794.75		
Finance Committee Expenses	<u>133.67</u>	<u>5,790.62</u>	
Total Disbursements:			<u>46,890.85</u>
Balance General Fund June 30, 1984			56,900.69

MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND ACCOUNT

Balance June 30, 1983			21,323.79
Receipts: Donations to June 30, 1984	16,451.11		
Interest	<u>1,010.17</u>	<u>17,461.28</u>	
Receipts and Balance			38,785.07
Disbursement to Memorial Library July 1983			<u>20,000.00</u>
Balance June 30, 1984			18,785.07

LIBRARY PLAQUE FUND:

Balance June 30, 1983	7,142.40		
Receipts: Donations	<u>201.00</u>		
Receipts and Balance		<u>7,343.40</u>	
Disbursements: Payments to Library Board	<u>6,800.20</u>		
Balance June 30, 1984			<u>543.20</u>
Balance Cash on Hand, All Funds, as of June 30, 1984			<u>\$76,228.96</u>

As of June 30, 1984, the 2AD Association has donated \$100,000.00 to the Capital Fund of the Memorial Library in Norwich, England; this in addition to all separate donations of Memorial Books, private donations, and Endowment Fund donations. Congratulations to all Members.

DEAN E. MOYER, Treasurer, Second Air Division Association

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Thirty Seventh Annual Business Meeting

Palm Springs, California
Saturday, October 6, 1984

Meeting called to order by President Freudenthal at 9:07 a.m. There were 700 members in attendance at this time.

President Freudenthal appointed H. C. (Pete) Henry as parliamentarian and instructed the secretary to have the minutes reflect that all members in attendance were delegates to the 37th annual business meeting of the Second Air Division Association.

Father Murphy, 446th BG, was called on to give the invocation.

Mr. Freudenthal announced that veterans of the first Ploesti raid were to meet at the south end of the hall at the close of the meeting.

The secretary was called on to read the minutes of the 36th annual meeting held in Norwich, England May 28, 1983. The minutes were read and corrections called for to show Vince Larussa as being a member of the 467th BG rather than the 466th BG. Correction made. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the minutes as read and corrected. Motion carried.

Dean Moyer, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's report. Dean reported that the report would be published in the *Journal*. It was moved and seconded to accept and file the treasurer's report as given. Motion carried.

Andrew Low gave the finance committee report. Andy reported the association's records were found to be in excellent hands, Dean and Deanna Moyer. The funds found to be accurately reported and present in bank(s) as the records stated. The committee has suggested some minor changes in the method of handling the association's accounts. This has been changed in compliance with the committee's recommendation at this time. Long range plans for the Trust have been suggested and are being studied at this time. Low reported that the committee's report shall be made a part of the association's records. Other members of the committee were Pete Henry and Dave Patterson.

Evelyn Cohen, Vice President membership and annual meeting, gave a report on the Annual Meeting and the Banquet to be held this evening. There are in excess of 1,200 members and families in attendance. The banquet seating will be by groups.

There will be a sign in the lobby of the Mediterranean Room giving the table numbers assigned to each group. James and Gloria Stewart will be with us this evening. There were 5,123 members in the association as of 9/30/84.

The 38th annual meeting will be held at the Americana Hotel, Macafee, New Jersey beginning August 29, 1985. Details of the meeting will appear in the December *Journal*.

President Freudenthal reported on the *Journal* since Bill Robertie was not present.

Jordan reported on the condition of the Memorial Trust as of 4/6/84. There was £130,000 representing a 41% increase due to the appreciation value of our investment. Eight individual endowments were received by the trust since the 1983 Annual Meeting, three of these are endowments from the 44th BG, the 446th BG, the 445th BG and five are individual endowments. Interest income has been in the amount of \$9,639. Each Group of the 2nd ADA exceeded the \$750 per group needed to redecorate the Library Wall last year. The excess will be used to purchase needs for the library. Each group VP will authorize the method of using the surplus funds of his particular group.

These excess funds have been used to purchase additional books and two new book shelves. We have successfully carried on the goals and purpose established in 1945. The very proud idea born in 1945 nurtured and matured still exists as a living Memorial each generation can visit and be reminded of the contributions made by the Second Air Division Eighth Air Force. I remind each member that no donation to the Memorial Trust Fund is too small. Checks should be made out to the Second Air Division Association.

Contributions can be made to the Memorial Trust Through Estates (Wills) as well as through personal contributions. The Association has given to the Trust \$100,000 since 1974. This was made possible through donations from members. The Memorial room and the Second Air Division contributions are being made known to the school children of Suffolk and Norfolk area, through the cooperation of the University of Maine and College of East Anglia. Civic organizations are being shown the movies "Remember Them" and "A Village Remembers."

The update of the Roll-of-Honor will be in my hands by Christmas. The Group Vice Presidents will be given the updated roll for their checking. I am now using the figure of 6,100 2nd ADA deaths as we have verified 6,082 at present.

The Board of Governors would like the Memorial Room to become the Archives of memorabilia of the Second Air Division Eighth Air Force. Photographs, letters, original orders, etc. would be accepted.

President Freudenthal asked if there was any old business to come before the meeting. Being none, new business was asked to be presented.

Bud Chamberlain came forward to present material and ask for an amendment to the Associations' by-laws. (See Exhibit 1) Mr. Chamberlain moved acceptance of the proposal to change the Association's by-laws as they pertain to voting rights of members. Seconded.

Discussion of the proposal followed. Milton Stokes, Andrew Low, Warren Vernier, Bill Jenks, Jerry Merket and Jordan Uttal spoke to the proposal.

President Freudenthal stated that a 2/3 majority of those attending the annual meeting was required to amend.

Bud Chamberlain asked for the floor to make a point of clarification. Second ADA people of WWII and immediate family members are those people the proposed amendment pertain to. There is no intent to take into the membership members of any subsequent Second Air Division of either the Korean, Viet Nam or the present.

The vote was called. Motion failed.

Freudenthal asked if there was any other new business to come before the meeting. Jim Kotapish asked if any consideration had been given to the purchase of Pound Notes with our Memorial Funds, at this time of high dollar and low pound values. Dean Moyer stated the matter was being looked into.

Mr. Freudenthal asked if there was any interest in meeting in Norwich in 1985. The VPs will be polled to determine the interest expressed by the membership. It was suggested we consider Hawaii for the 1988 Annual Meeting.

It was asked what could be done to prevent the Annual Meetings of the 8th AFHS and the 2nd ADA conflicting in time held. We have the dates of the next three years annual meeting of AFHS and will be able to prevent future conflicts.

Dean Moyer instructed the delegates to keep good records of expenses to justify tax returns.

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn. FRANK THOMAS, Secretary

Metfield Musings

by Carl Alexanderson (491st)

Here we are at 39,000 ft. on American flight #46, LAX to EWR, better known as the "Red Eye Special". Most folks are asleep — others are watching a movie.

Each reunion is better than the preceding one, and Palm Springs was no exception. Weather, accommodations, and side trip to March AFB were great. Best of all was meeting old friends — and new ones. The 491st has come a long way! Attendance was close to 60. It's getting difficult to manage the crew, but I'm not complaining.

We did miss some of our old buddies that had been in Norwich with us, and also from prior reunions. Please don't miss the next one at the Americana in Great Gorge, N.J., August 29th.

Several of our first timers were so enthusiastic (weren't we all?) that they insisted that they be allowed to help swell our numbers through their local newspapers. That being the case, I will send them, and anyone else who so desires, background information, historical data, press releases etc. This of course is an ongoing thing with the 491st. I see no reason why we should hide our light under a bushel. This is obviously the philosophy of the Association, since we are now 5123 strong. 1109 attended the banquet, would you believe? If this keeps up, none but the larger cities will be able to accommodate us.

I feel constrained to apologize for having missed the September edition of the *Journal*. Hopefully, it won't happen again. The amount of correspondence has increased dramatically. There was a time I could respond to individual letters, however I may have to use this vehicle to do the job now.

John Leppert writes, he has much memorabilia and offers to send copies. This is always welcome. John when you're in the Albany area, please don't pass me by.

George and Lou Dumitras sent some lovely photos of the Nashville get-together. Thanks much folks. Letter from Lou Gallo! He was in the 492nd, and could hear our bomb dump go off in Metfield although he was in North Pickenham at the time.

I still feel there is something prophetic about the 491st and 492nd. Our destinies were so closely intertwined. John Steininger asks if I knew Bert Yoder from Pine Grove, Penn. Sorry John, I didn't. Had a great communication from Bob Yelland. He reveals Jim Keck and Al Hayduk were akin to the Gold Dust twins. Says Jim wound up flying what I would think by his description would be a Lockheed SR-76. Also says Jim ran for Senatorial seat from Nebraska, but lost! Bob reveals some interesting facts about our bomb dump explosion. Must be the most well known event in the entire ETO. Thanks Bob.

Our good friend Haynes Baumgardner, writes a fine letter revealing more info on

Jim Keck. Also many other sidelights, including ex-Luftwaffe photographer who took famous picture of B-17 tail section spinning down and the Tail Gunner surviving. Photo now resides in Lubbock, Tex. A young man by the name of Scott Gossett — friend of Hap Chandler sends a nice note. Don't know if I can bear to part with any of my pictures Scott, but I'll see what I can do. Also check with Evelyn Cohen on the roster.

I think that makes me current as far as correspondence is concerned, except of course for Tom Rodgers. That boy can out-write me once a day and twice on Sunday. Hang in there T.R. I'll get to you yet. Those of you who didn't receive a copy of the North Pick air base, drop me a line. I am having more copies made. I still have some 491st badges left also.

I just realized that as the 2nd ADA grows larger, it does so because individual combat crews do so. I'm sitting here looking at letters from two of my navigators, Leon Baumer and Jack Unverferth, one of whom has been in contact with our copilot, Carl Groshell, my Tail Gunner was in Palm Springs. I know the whereabouts of my Radio Operator, so that makes more than half of our crew.

I can foresee the day when we will have many full crews in attendance. As for myself, I am going to make a concerted effort to determine the whereabouts of the rest of my guys. As a point of information Ringmasters, yours truly was elected to the Executive Committee.

One more thing, before I bore you to death. There are times when I'm sure we all get feeling a little pompous, smug, impressed with our own importance, and need to be taken down a peg. We in our group have a Past Master at that and I for one am glad. I refer to our good buddy Jack Shay. He never lets me get too far out on a limb before he cuts it off and brings me back to earth. Thanks J.S. Here at home Louise handles that chore.

The other evening I noticed her chuckling to herself and shaking her head. When I questioned her, the answer was quite lengthy. It relates to our departure for Palm Springs. She began with, "You're unbelievable! You survived 30 combat missions over Europe — flew thousands of miles under the worst of conditions, dodged hundreds of German Fighters, bombed through the overcast, flew instruments for hours on end and never got lost — picked your way through concentrations of flak, missing some by only a mile or so. You have flown your own personal plane for years, and company aircraft from one end of the globe to the other." I answered, "Yes, dear. What's your point?"

She replied, "The trip to EWR. Because you had driven that route once 20 years ago, we take off at five o'clock in the morning in a driving rain, swirling fog and not so much as an obsolete road map in the car. The only thing you know about

Newark Airport is that it lies somewhere between eighty and a hundred miles Southwest of Pawling." At this point I thought I heard her mutter something about my being lucky if I could cross the street without getting hurt.

Her point was well taken, because two and a half hours later EWR was still not in sight. Eight o'clock (departure time) found us on Route 80. It might just as well have been the Autobahn.

We made it, but the long term parking lot seemed as far from the terminal as Pawling was from Newark. On arrival at the check-in counter, twenty minutes late, we inquired as to the next plane for LAX. They informed us that Flight #43 was still at the gate with two seats empty. Obviously ours. When I think of all the times over the years I have sat, engines running, fuel load dwindling, cussing ATC. Well, one never knows. That will be my cross to bear for some time. I deserve it.

In the end it certainly was worth it. Our reunions always are!

392nd BG Report

by Myron Keilman (392nd BG)

Congratulations — and three rousing cheers — to our Fred Thomas, newly elected president of the 2nd ADA.

The 1984 reunion at Palm Springs was another super-great occasion. Aside from being the largest attendance (1200) of any in its 37-year history, our 392nd Vice President, J. Fred Thomas, was elected president. He is the third person of the 392nd to serve as the Association's president. We can certainly be proud of Fred and the great 2nd Air Division Association record he has achieved. The 392nd roster alone has increased from 230 in 1980 when he was elected our VP to 360 to date.

There were 78 present at our mini reunion, and everyone enjoyed it. Fred T. briefed us on: (1) The proposal to extend full membership to family members and descendants beginning in 1996. (2) The possibility of a 392nd Memorial Tree, with plaque, at the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. The members present voted to contribute to the fund, and Bob Lane volunteered to manage the fund in coordination with Bob Vickers of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. \$420 was contributed on the spot. It will be a splendid tribute to perpetuate the memory of all 392nd people — both living and dead — and a small contribution of five to ten dollars per member will see it come to pass. Send your check, made out to 2nd ADA 392nd Memorial Fund, to Bob Lane, 6106 Fox Cove Court, Prospect, KY 40059.

Fred also reported on the status of the 392nd Memorial Obelisk maintenance fund. He passed around photos of before and after the brass plaques were cleaned

and polished. He thanked those who contributed toward the fund.

When it came time to elect next year's VP, Fred T. explained that he was going to retire, for the second time, from flying Boeing 747s this December and believed he would be able to continue serving the 392nd as he has. He was given a vote of confidence and re-elected by acclamation.

There were many interesting stories that didn't get told, but during the limited time in evening, recognition was given: To all those attending a reunion for the first time; to several that have attended many; to the 578th Squadron staff of Commander G. Player, Executive Officer B. Lane, Adjutant L. Wiffler, Engineering Officer R. Berthiaume, Operations Officers A. Duff and J.D. Long; to the large delegation from the Sacramento, CA, area; to the former POWs; to the several persons from the original combat crews that arrived with the 392nd in England, August 1943; and the group of six radar (Mickey) navigators present.

Several war stories were told before the curfew. A. Dovey revealed that while flying a practice radar mission over East Anglia, a German fighter shot up the airplane, and the crew had to bail out — but he didn't get credit for a mission or even the Purple Heart for his broken limb and smashed-in face. They weren't over enemy territory. W. Berry devised a means to cure his lower bunk-mate's nightmares. He took a wet towel to bed with him, and whenever awakened by the man below, he would throw the wet towel in his face.

C. Bader misses the 3-foot long salami sausages that his pre-war boss sent him every month while he was in combat. It

was hung up in the quonset hut, and the crew would cut off pieces as they pleased. It usually lasted about a week. Then there was the lieutenant that was never told about the takeoff, climb-out and assembly pattern. It seems he would climb out straight ahead, through two other group's flight patterns, until he broke through on top of the clouds. He would then join up and fly his combat mission with whatever group he caught up with.

One of our enlisted POWs told an amusing story of how he volunteered to work in the officers' compound. He devised a unique method of folding laundered bed sheets to short the count. In time, he had enough sheets to supply all his enlisted companions. E. Holmes told us of the mission that he and his crew, in the famous 392nd airplane, *Witchcraft*, were badly shot up. They barely made it over the White Cliffs of Dover and on to a Polish Air Force fighter base. The Polish commander extended all hospitality possible — including some of their short rations of whiskey and fresh eggs. Each crewman was poured a full glass of whiskey with two raw eggs in it. WOW!

The memorial service at March AFB was especially moving. An old B-24 was parked adjacent to the speakers' platform which added nostalgia to the occasion. A sharp colorguard of young airmen presented the colors, and a beautiful red, white and blue floral wreath was set in front of the B-24 in honor of the 6082 men of the 2nd Air Division killed in action. Words of tribute were spoken by the Air Refueling Wing Commander and the senior chaplain of March AFB. The climax came with the roar of four F-4 fighter-bomber

airplanes over our heads. Number two airplane shot skyward, leaving a missing man formation.

The Association's business meeting was relatively short. It may be of interest to note that the Norwich, England 2nd Air Division Memorial Library fund is strong. The Association membership rose to 5,123, all bills are paid, and some \$57,000 on hand. The Association is IRS recognized as a veterans non-profit organization. As such each member attending the reunion is considered a delegate and entitled to declare his attendance expenses as Miscellaneous Expenses on the long income tax form. The resolution to admit family members into the Association as regular members in 1996 was voted down. That afternoon two movies of the 2nd Air Division Operations were shown, and a rather unique take-off of a combat crew briefing was presented.

The banquet was a splendid occasion. D. Whitford and M. Keilman were selected, with Generals L. Johnson and Jimmy Stewart along with several others to light candles in tribute to those who gave their lives in the several campaigns and phases of the war in which the 2nd Air Division participated. Senator McCormick from Colorado, a long-time member of the Association, was a great master of ceremonies. Our Fred T., along with General Johnson and J. Stewart gave splendid and rousing presentations. The evening ended with a big band playing "oldies".

A note of interest: C. Neuendorf and R. Sabourn ate breakfast with General Johnson and Jack Martin. The two had flown on the Ploesti mission; so C. and R. heard some unpublished facts about the event.

Headquarters Report

by Jim Reeves (Hdqs.)

The 37th Reunion of the Second Air Division is now history. For those who were unable to attend . . . we must tell you that you missed a good one. Evelyn reported that we had 1220 reported in attendance for the farewell banquet . . . by far the largest group ever to attend a 2AD Reunion. The Palm Springs Hilton was adequate to accommodate the crowd. I also thought the food and service was very good indeed.

There were forty nine in attendance at our Mini Reunion. We were delighted to have several of our WACs in attendance. They added to the friendly atmosphere that prevailed throughout the convention. We were also honored to have David and Jean Hastings and Paul King from Norwich attending our Mini. David and Paul are on the Board of Governors of the

Memorial Trust. It was our great pleasure to visit March Field. Colonel Murphy and his staff really gave us a "red carpet welcome". They had on display for our viewing the various type of aircraft assigned to March. During the ceremony a "pass over" of Jet aircraft was most appropriate for the occasion. A delightful picnic was served and we were able to attend the March Museum which was most interesting. I would say that possibly the highlight of the March Air Base visit was the viewing of a B-24 as she stood gracefully on the flight line for everyone to view. We were told that this B-24 was from the 389th Group at Hethel and had reached the U.S. via India. I am sure that elsewhere in this edition of the *Journal* you will read more about this B-24.

It was indeed a pleasure to have General Leon Johnson, a former C.O. of the 44th Bomb Group at Shipham, a leader of the Ploesti raid and a Congressional Medal of Honor winner in attendance at our convention. The candle lighting ceremony directed by Jordan Uttal was impressive.

Hal McCormick, a member of Hdq.

Group, and a State Senator from the State of Colorado, was master of ceremonies at the farewell banquet and gave an outstanding performance in conducting the dinner meeting. (Hal, we members of Hdq. 2AD were proud of you!).

More good news!!!! — Mary Frances Williams Elder was elected to serve as Assistant Vice President for the coming year . . . for Headquarters. As your Vice President for the third consecutive year, I wish to state that I am delighted to have Mary F. as an assistant. Along with Eleanor Storms and her group of WACs we will be working diligently to increase our membership in Headquarters this coming year. Mary F. address: 1224 Franklin St., Burlington, N.C. 27215. Each of us will appreciate your cooperation in boosting our membership.

For the success of this great reunion, I want to pay tribute to Evelyn Cohen. As always she did an outstanding job. In the event you missed this reunion — there's good news in plans for the future. You will hear from Evelyn and the Executive Committee at a later date.

Poop From Group

by Jim Coffey (467th BG)

The 467th Bomb Group turned out an impressive delegation of 59 veterans and 37 family, a good representation for a Group late to arrive in England. With the help of Jeff Gregory's high-visibility caps, it was easy to find each other in the crowd. In a spirit of camaraderie, we renewed our wartime bonds, sharing the experience with family.

Our business meeting was opened by veterans introducing themselves and family. First timers were recognized to a round of applause, as were José "Joe" Ramirez and George Dong, Crew Chief and Assistant Crew Chief on *Witchcraft*.

I reported that, since the Dayton reunion, 1) we gained 71 new members, but lost 7 (5 deceased, 2 by own request), bringing our 2nd ADA membership to 385, less than half of our known 467th veterans. 2) the memorial bench has been installed in Rackheath, a project of Phillip Day's, 3) a photo-montage has been installed in our Nissen huts now at NATO's radar control center, a 2nd ADA project, and, 4) we donated a picture of *Witchcraft* to the church in Rackheath.

Floyd "Dick" Kingsley gave the Treasurer's report on behalf of Phillip Day. After expenditures of \$1,590 (\$1,081 for "Poop from Group", \$450 for memorial benches, and \$59 for a wreath for Adam Socio) we have \$614 left.

With the Group's consent, I appointed

Phillip, our Editor, Treasurer as well.

On recommendation of the nominating committee (Ken Darney, Fred Janzen and Hank Wedaa), I was re-elected 2nd ADA Vice President for the 467th; Floyd Kingsley was elected Deputy. I am, as at Dayton, happy to have the opportunity to serve and grateful for your support. I enjoy the job! I'm sure Floyd feels the same.

In the year ahead, we will persevere on membership, encourage the sending of copies of orders, taped/personal histories, etc. to Norwich (orders also to Phillip), a 2nd ADA project, and consider a new way of raising funds for Group projects.

Rather than depend solely on contributions, the Group agreed to ask its members (which includes those who have not yet joined the 2nd ADA) to pay dues of \$5.00 a year, most of which will fund Phillip's *Poop from Group*.

Andy Kapi suggested the Group establish a "living memorial" for the late Adam Socio, a pioneer in 467th reunions and a close friend.

I was surprised and pleased to receive an award from 2nd ADA President, Charles Freudenthal, for "dedicated service".

David Hastings arrived accompanied by wife Jean. David, a member of the Library's Board of Governors and 467th fan and advocate presented the Group with, 1) a mounted piece of the runway at our base, together with a copy of the original plans, and 2) a selection of documents reflecting current life in Rackheath. He is working for the rehabilitation of our tower and briefing room.

The Group elected David its first honorary member in appreciation for his enthusiastic dedication and contribution to the 467th Bomb Group; he received a standing ovation. I will arrange for a certificate.

After the meeting, David made available tapes of his film "A Village Remembers," a superb documentary of the wartime work of the 2nd Air Division, with contemporary views of the area and reminiscences of local people. The tapes included considerable footage from wartime color film taken by Jim Mahoney. Jim graciously provided the film and agreed to its tape reproduction, proceeds going to the Memorial Trust.

Al Shower, our wartime Commanding Officer, still concerned about every member of his 467th "family", received two introductions, one from Dave Swearingen and one from me. Both introductions and the sustained round of applause reflected the esteem, respect and love, which his family has for Al. Al responded as "humble" and appreciative and talked about his doctrine of "do it right" and "try for the best," basics which served us so well.

As the meeting approached its close, the Group gave Phillip Day, absent but much in the hearts of those present, a standing round of applause for his dedication to the welfare of the 467th.

Let's get our new approach to raising funds off to a good start! Please send your check for \$5.00 (or more) today, made out to Second Air Division Association - 467th BG, to Phillip Day, 237 Pennsylvania, Shreveport, LA 71105. Thank you.

448th Speaks

by Leroy Engdahl (448th)

To report on the 448th Group at the Palm Springs reunion.

I had sent letters to all those who had planned to attend from a list Evelyn Cohen had provided all Group VPs and had sought a few human interest facts and the answers were as follows. 1) George Elkins of Munster, Ind. had the oldest living parent, age 98. 2) Ben and Charlotte Everett of Adelphi, Md. had the most children — eleven and 3) two of our members had 20 grandchildren and one couple had 2 great grandchildren.

Four couples traveled more than 2800 miles to the reunion. About 20% attended a reunion for the first time, but the majority had visited England since WWII. About 80 husbands and wives were at our mini-reunion banquet.

George DuPont and Robert Harper were presented citations for their outstanding contributions toward the success of the 448th D-Day Memorial Dedications at Seething Airfield and the Village of Seething churchyard.

All 448th members who attended the Memorial Dedications have been made Honorary Support Members of the Waveney Flying Group and have been mailed a very attractive membership card.

The Waveney Flying Group, who now owns the land that was our WWII airfield, has chosen to begin a restoration of our old control tower which is in a bad state of



repair.

The 448th voted overwhelmingly to assist financially toward the completion of this project. There are at this time three

ways to help. All checks should be made out to Ralph Whitehead and mailed to Leroy J. Engdahl, 1785 Wexford Drive, Vidor, TX 77662.

1) To make a cash contribution and mark on your check "For control tower restoration". Your contributions are tax deductible and your cancelled check is your receipt.

2) You can purchase a runway plaque, having a piece of concrete mounted on a 4½" x 6½" walnut stained board with gold lettering stating "A piece of runway 07/25 - Seething-Norfolk, England". These sell for \$20.00 each.

3) You can purchase a beautiful scarf or tea towel 30" long and 21" wide with a map of Eastern England showing all WWII air bases with their names with an overview of planes of U.S. based in England. These sell for \$10.00.

I will keep a tab on all donations and items for our 448th records and will make periodic reports through the *Journal*. Thanks for your support on this most worthwhile project.

I have a supply of updated 448th Group Rosters. If you want one send one dollar to help offset cost, plus a 20¢ stamp.

**Speech given by Paul R. King, Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, American Memorial Library
at the Banquet of the Second Air Division Association's 37th Annual Convention
held at the Hilton Hotel, Palm Springs, California, 6th October 1984 and attended by 1200 people.**

Mr. President, Friends,

It has just been wonderful to have been back amongst you all this week.

What a joy it is to feel so at home when one is over 6000 miles from Norwich! I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the amazing welcome which you have accorded to Jean and David Hastings and myself.

We were pleased to learn this morning of your plans to return to Norwich in 1986. I had better make sure those extra 28 bedrooms my company is going to build next year at Hotel Nelson are finished in time for your arrival!

The railway line from London, Liverpool Street, is being electrified just now, and there has been a long running correspondence in "The Times" newspaper about the delays passengers have been experiencing. One correspondent wrote:

"Miss Smith's lengthy delays on Norwich to London trains are nothing new. That route was originally the preserve of the Great Eastern Railway, about which many apocryphal stories have been told, usually on the subject of timekeeping. One concerned a diligent ticket collector who accused a youth of 16 of travelling at half price, only to be told by the latter that he had been 12 when the train started!"

Perhaps the moral of the story is that you had better set off for Norwich now!!

Writing of the Dedication ceremonies of the Memorial Room in June 1963, the leading Norwich journalist of the day, Eric Fowler, commented:

"The Old Comrades, when they came into the church with their families, and widows of the fallen, were middle aged and in some instances elderly!!"

That was 21 years ago, and today you all still look to be in the prime of life. Membership of the 2nd Air Division Association must be a prescription for perpetual youth.

What a place this is for a Reunion! Evelyn (Cohen), I do congratulate you upon all the arrangements you have made. Having been responsible for organizing the Convention in Norwich last year with David Hastings, I know just how much hard work is involved.

This City must be the eighth wonder of the world. To find lush green golf courses and water in abundance in the middle of a desert is miraculous. The ninth wonder of the world must have been that queue, or line as you say, for breakfast yesterday morning!!

We have had our own hot weather in the west of England and Ireland this summer, and water rationing was even introduced in some areas.

The Irish, whose logic I sometimes question, were reported in "The Dublin Times" to have closed two lanes of the city's olympic size swimming pool to save water! Maybe they sold it to Los Angeles!!

From Norwich I bring you the special greetings of the Chairman of our Board of Governors, Tom Eaton. He has attended almost every Convention and I know that you are missing his company as much as he is missing yours. His Churchillian style of oratory on these occasions has always been a great inspiration to us all. His work and that of Jordan Uttal has resulted in our Library being in a thriving position today, and we are hoping to appoint in the near future an American interne librarian on a six month assignment from funds raised locally.

My fellow Governors also greet you and have charged me to convey to you their deep gratitude for your continuing magnificent support, not only financially but in so many other ways. I know when they hear of the gift of this check tonight for \$18,000 they will be as overwhelmed as I am.

Your generosity is boundless, and as Jordan Uttal reported this morning, has resulted in our income reaching something in the order of £10,000 per annum.

On a personal note, I was speaking with Hester over the telephone today, and she asks me to send her love to our many friends here.

I have been advised that this address should be kept short. I was always told that a speech should be like a lady's dress — short enough to be interesting but long enough to cover the essential parts.

Seriously though, I should like to take as my theme tonight — "40 Years On" —

During this summer of 1984 I have been forcibly reminded of the debt we, of a younger generation, owe to you gallant men and women, who were based in East Anglia when we were children.

The Allied Heads of State marked in Normandy this summer those momentous events of 40 years ago in which many of you participated.

We, who were too young to recall much of those exciting days in June 1944, were able to watch with our children, extensive television coverage and documentaries of those exploits and feats of military planning and joint co-operation.

This August our family spent a most wonderful vacation in a house we rented in Provence. During our stay local ceremonies were held on the 15th August to mark the invasion by American and Allied Forces of the South of France. Close to our house over 600 American veterans were present to commemorate the drop of 2000 parachutists into France and to remember their several hundred comrades who perished and are buried in the town of Draguignan.

During those gloriously carefree days of summer, my family, who have thankfully been spared the horrors of war, thought of you a great deal.

We are ever mindful of our many blessings, but these can so easily be taken for granted.

I thought of General Kepner's words about our Memorial which he said "reminds all of us that greater love hath no man than those 6,082 who gave their lives so that we might live in freedom. They are truly among the greatest Americans of all, because they paid the supreme price in order that we might live in freedom's happy future."

I often thought of those films I had seen at Nashville and in Norwich of your war-time exploits, for those of my generation have had such comparatively easy lives suffering none of these hardships and deprivations and sacrifices you made so that we can enjoy our lives to the full today.

I, and others of my generation in England, salute you and thank you for all you did for us. I believe that those who died did not die in vain.

I was particularly moved by the way in which "Moos" Allen expressed the self-same sentiments this afternoon.

President John F. Kennedy prayed at the time of the Dedication of our great American Memorial Library that "Their sacrifice might continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship between our two nations, allies past and present, against tyranny."

I think that there can be no finer practical example of the way in which bonds of Anglo/American friendship are fostered and strengthened than through our Association and the Memorial Library.

How great was the vision of those who decided to establish a Memorial which lives and which we, in Norwich, are determined will live in perpetuity as witness to the courage and tenacity of members of the Second Air Division.

I wish to quote now from the concluding remarks of Leroy Engdahl at that very moving 448th Bomb Group Ceremony of Dedication held at Seething in June this year and at which I was privileged to be present:

"There is no substitute for freedom. Our two countries have stood side by side in the past helping weaker nations to enjoy self-government by a democratic choice.

We hope and pray that this great alliance will endure forever.

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!
MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!"**

Letters



Dr. Roy Baker
School of Education
University of East Anglia
Keswick Hall
Norwich NR4 6TL, England

Dear Doctor Baker:

Recently, I reread a copy of *Second Air Division Association Journal*, Vol. 23, No. 1, March, 1984. When I first read it, I did not notice your request on page 20 for reaction to the three essays written and compiled by school children of Old Buckenham. Dr. Baker, those essays brought tears to my eyes. To think that after 41 years, the people of Old Buckenham remember the Yanks of the 453 Bomb Group, with respect and affection, humbles me. May I respond to the three children...

TO SIMON GRADON

Simon, I well remember that tree at the end of the main runway at our airfield... and I cannot forget the crashes. I was a photographer, and often had the unpleasant task of taking pictures of these accidents. In February of 1944 we lost our first Liberator. The pilot could not get the heavily loaded airplane to stay airborne. I was working in the Base Photo Lab. T.Sgt. Frank Potter of San Antonio, Texas was with me at the time. We heard the Lib's engines strain and then cut out, followed by a tremendous explosion that shook our lab violently. Potter and I grabbed our cameras and the jeep and sped to the site of the crash. Fortunately, the Lib had hit the ground just before 732 Squadron's Officer Quarters. Otherwise, there would have been frightful carnage. As it was, the crash was terrible enough. The bombs had exploded, leaving a huge crater in the farmland. The petrol tanks were afire, sending a big cloud of smoke into the air. The remaining Liberators of our Group took off through the smoke, knowing that ten of their comrades had "got the chop" even before they met the enemy. It was an eerie scene... and the top of the tree at the end of the runway was snapped off, too.

In another crash, Captain Brown, 732 Squadron, went down in the Winter of 1944, just around the time of the great battle in the Ardennes Forest, France. After takeoff, he was heard to say to the radio tower, "I cannot keep her up. We have had it." I witnessed Brown's struggles to stay aloft. His Liberator slanted down, until it disappeared over the hedgerows. I knew what was coming, so... I threw myself on the ground, and waited for the explosion. BANG!! A thundering crash, the usual column of black, oily smoke, and the pop, pop, pop of exploding machinegun ammunition. I said a prayer for the ten dead men of that aircrew.

I said to myself, "There will be no one get out of that crash." But, incredibly, there were survivors! Three ratings, Sergeants Richmond, Mackey, and Dickson had leaped out the waist window, as the big Liberator was going down at approximately 90 miles an hour. They sustained many contusions, abrasions, but they were alive! Then the bombs blew up when their plane crashed... and, Simon, they survived that, too. They

became legends on the Old Buckenham Air Base. Their story is recorded in the official history of the 453 Bombardment Group.

Simon, I might comment that it was a combination of overly loaded bombers, ice forming on the leading edges of the wings, plus poor weather conditions that caused most of these accidents. (We flew in weather that a commercial airline would never fly in.) Also, many of the pilots were in their late teens or early twenties, with no prior experience flying multi engined aircraft weighing 32 tons. The young aircrews came from all walks of life: accountants, lawyers, laborers, college students, etc., etc. all volunteers, the best young men our country had to offer. We lost a horrible number of these fine men/boys to accidents.

Enclosed is a photocopy of a tragedy that took place in 1945. Lt. Rollins and Lt. Glass, both of 734 Squadron, collided in full view of the ground crews. Lt. Rollins, and his entire crew died in the crash. They are buried in the American Cemetery at Cambridge. I visited the Cemetery in 1976 to pay my respects. I had hoped to remove them from the wreckage.

Thank you for your essay, Simon. It is nice of you to be considerate of the Yanks who were in your country so many years ago.

TO LIAM SIMINGTON

Liam, I was one of those "who arrived by ship (HMS Queen Elizabeth) just before Christmas, 1943." I remember the townspeople of Attleborough and Old Buckenham lined along the roadway leading to what was going to be our base for the next 17 months. They exchanged shy greetings with us as we marched up the road in "route step." (Informal marching order). They eyed us curiously. "What's this lot going to be like," seemed to be the question written on their faces. They were genuinely amazed at the equipment we carried on our person... helmet, liner, greatcoat, cartridge belt, first aid pouch, mess kit, leggings, gas mask, M1 carbine, (or Thompson submachinegun, as I carried), and a 65 lb. duffelbag complete with blankets, fatigues, (our working uniform) coveralls, spare socks, shirts, etc., etc. We wore our "Class A" dress uniform. The townspeople seemed confused by our loose marching formation. I am sure that they expected a more formal parade style. I have no doubt Liam, that the people of Old Buckenham and Attleborough thought that they were being invaded by "forces from Mars." That they should turn out to greet us was very pleasing to us Yanks.

What they could not know Liam was that deep inside of us, we knew that if it had not been for the courage of the British people, and especially your servicemen and women, we would not have had the time to equip ourselves in such a manner. Much of our weaponry were modifications of what your forces had developed earlier in the war. We also knew that many of these people who were watching us march past were veterans of many bombings. We knew we were untested.

I was surprised to learn from your essay that the Irish had constructed the "Old Buck" airfield. (I am of Irish descent.) The field was not quite finished when we moved in. We cursed the mud, grumbled at the lack of hot water. But, we reserved most of our wrath for the outdoor toilet privies. However, we had an R.A.F. ground detachment fresh from North Africa working with us. They, not too politely, told us of some of their experiences in the desert. We Yanks suddenly realized that "we never had it so good!" We dried the mud, learned the intricacies of English plumbing, and made the airbase very liveable.

Soon, we began to notice that many townspeople came to watch us "form up for a mission." (R.A.F. called these "raids") They

were also there watching us when we came back. They would count the Liberators to see if any were missing. They would look for the two red flares that meant "wounded aboard." Then we started to notice the children who came by our base daily. We made friends with them, because we missed our young brothers and sisters who were over 3000 miles away. So, we "adopted" many of the English children in the area, and many are still friendly to us even to this day. They were good for our morale.

I may have been one of those Yanks who gave Mr. Ramm his first sweets. I remember giving one boy a banana. He had never seen one before. I had to show him how to peel it. Your people were heavily rationed during World War II, Liam. Often, they shared what little food they had with us when they invited us into their homes. Later, when we found out how little meat they had, we brought our own rations from our mess halls with us when we stayed in a home. We were horrified to find out that a family had put its whole monthly meat ration on the table when we visited. Such generosity as this, we can never forget!

Liam, I helped organize the Christmas party for the children which Mr. Ramm recalls. I also, remember the Liberator, "Liberty Run," loaded with toys bound for children in France. I remember, with joy, the English kids who took such an active part in sharing half of the few toys they had with French and Belgian kids. I had an orphan in my lap named Geoffre laughing and applauding as his gift was placed aboard Liberty Run. His father had been killed in France, his mother and sister died in the bombing of Norwich... and, here he was sharing. I will have fond memories of Christmas 1944 for the rest of my life, Liam. I forgot the war on that day.

We left Old Buckenham and Attleborough as quickly as we had arrived. On May 8, 1945 we marched down the road to Attleborough, boarded trains, and left for Southampton. We went through deliriously happy London, which had abandoned British reserve, and was going all out in rejoicing the end of the war in Europe. We were happy, too. We were going home, but only long enough to get new weapons. (B29 Superforts) Then we would join in the assault on Japan. We boarded U.S.S. Hermitage, and two weeks later sailed into Boston, my home city.

We never got to Japan. The 453rd was disbanded and the men transferred to the Air Transport Command for the remainder of the war.

Liam, we took many fond memories home with us, memories of a tough, courageous, generous people who put up with, and forgave our foibles and remembered only the good in us. It is wonderful that they continue to do so. Thank you very much for your essay.

TO LOUISE ARNUP

Louise, I remember the N.A.A.F.I. and those cheerful women who brought around our base a "little bit of home" to us. For a few minutes we could forget the war when they were on the base. Let me make a few changes in Mrs. Barton's recollections, if I may. Louise. Jess L. Gerding was indeed, the Group's Photo officer. Jess was from Fort Worth, Texas and held the rank of Captain. He was in command of a detachment of 20 men who installed cameras in the Liberators, flew on the combat missions, developed and processed the films, etc. I was one of the members of Captain Gerding's Photo Lab. Enclosed is a photocopy of a snapshot of me made in 1945.

Lester Hardwick was also a Captain. He was the Group's Photo Interpreter Officer. He served under Major McFadden, Group Intelligence Officer. Les would examine the

strike photos to see if we hit the target or not. He married an English girl and they live in this country. I have his address if you would like to hear from him. Don Cannavaro, Assistant Photo Officer also married an English girl. She was a beauty as I remember her. Don was a Lieutenant, and a pilot as well. Enclosed are photocopies of photographs of Jess and Don. I do not have a photo of Les Hardwick. See if Mrs. Barton recognizes them.

After the 453rd Bombardment Group was disbanded in 1945, all of its personnel were transferred to the Air Transport Command Stations in the United States. I have never heard from these three men since then. I did hear that Jess Gerding died in 1983. He was a fine officer. I liked him very much.

Thank you for your essay, Louise. You brought back many memories of people who touched my life when I was a young man of 22. My duty on a Yank airfield in East Anglia was one of the highlights of my life. We spent 17 months in your beautiful country, flew on 269 raids, and left 389 of our comrades behind. It is awfully nice of you to wonder what we were like.

Dr. Baker, I have an album of 100 plus photographs of 453 Group activities at Old Buckenham airfield. Though it is slanted heavily with 732 Squadron personnel, it is, nevertheless, a photographic history of the Group. It is over 40 years old, and conse-

quently very brittle. So, I have photocopied every photo in the album onto a 2" x 2" slide. From those slides I've made some excellent quality 4" x 6" prints. If you would like, I can make you a listing of them and then, if you would like prints made, I can order those you want. Do not worry about the cost. I would be glad to obtain them for the children of Old Buckenham or Attleborough. It would be a pleasure.

Thank you very much for publishing the essays of the children. If they have any additional questions concerning our Group and our relationships with the people of the surrounding towns, I would be most happy to respond. If it would be more appropriate, I could respond by cassette tape. Enclosed is a photo of me as I looked in September 1945. The black hair has receded and turned grey, and I'm about 35 pounds heavier. I left the military in October 1945 and turned to a career in Education. I have been happily married for 33 years and have four children, two sons, two daughters. I live at 12 Auburn Street, Reading, Massachusetts 01867. I would be honored to hear from you or any of the school children. Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,
Francis X. Kyle
Formerly,
Sgt. Francis X. Kyle
732 Bomb Squadron
453 Bombardment Group
U.S. Eighth Army Air Force
Old Buckenham Airbase

Dear M. Cohen:

I recently acquired the name and address of Mr. Milt Stokes, and as I was in the 453rd Bomb Group, Second Air Division I checked with him to find out if our old outfit had reunions and he told me that I missed the last one in Ohio, but the 2nd Division was holding one in Palm Springs, Calif. I will be unable to attend this one for I have already made plans which I cannot change. I would very much like to be a member of the 2nd Division Group and would appreciate the information on how to join, also any other information you might give me to bring me up to date for I have been out of contact with the 453rd since the war.

I joined the 453rd Bomb Group at March Field as a Surgical Tech. and served under Maj. L. L. Lloyd at the Base Hospital. After Germany surrendered we returned to Ft. Dix, N.J. where after a furlough the Group was broken up and I was assigned to the Air Transport Command in Greenwood, Miss. until the end of the war.

The reason for the brief history is in case you know of anyone who served with me under Maj. Lloyd, I would like their address and phone number.

Earl J. (Jack) Roberts
Route 1, Box 194
Hatfield, Arkansas 71945
Tel. (501) 394-1536

Dear Bill:

I would like to appeal to your readers of the *Journal* who were in the 445th Bomb Group and can provide me with information on B24 Liberator H 42-7568 *Consolidated Mess* of 701 BS.

The official records state that this aircraft was originally crewed by Lt. Awalt, C/P Lt. Boucher, B Lt. Kelso, RO T/Sgt. C. Platz (others unknown), but on 20th Dec. 43 during a mission to Bremen its Pilot, Lt. Awalt was seriously injured.

It flew again on the 31st December 43 to St. Jean d'Angeley with the following crew — Pilot, 2nd Lt. F. Malen; CP, 2nd Lt. K. Covey; N. Lt. O. Kilner; B. Lt. H. Bonney; T/S. J. Chambers; R T/S P. Forrest; G S/S W. Cole; Sgt. R. Gohl; S/S F. Cittadine and apparently returned safely if the records are to be believed.

There is evidence that the aircraft crashed while landing at Gosfield since it was listed as salvaged on 3rd Jan. 1944 by 3st Air Dept.

Any help either by information on, or the loan of photographs of this aircraft to copy and return, would certainly be appreciated.

Ian C. Mactaggart
Craig-y-Llyn,
Baintree Road
Gosfield, Halstead,
Essex. CO9 1PR
England

Dear Chuck: (Charles H. Booth)

Thank you for answering my letter. It is very difficult to find those helped by the underground. My wife and I are trying to locate so many of those brave ones. Over 3,300 airmen evaded or escaped, however only 250 are members of the AFEES.

We know one Dutch helper who aided 120 allied airmen and she has only located 7 Americans and 5 Canadians. She was arrested April 1944 and was one of 30 who survived of the 304 arrested.

When we were in New York City last week for a AFEES meeting we met a French lady who hid 32 in her home. She has not found one. The Germans caught her, treated her badly, but she later escaped. Please announce at your reunion that such a society is active.

Clayton C. David
215 Dennis La.
St. Clairsville, OH 43950

Dear Evelyn:

When I started to write this letter today, the date triggered something in my memory, so I checked my diary and sure enough this was the day we bombed a jet propulsion factory at Hall, Germany in the Ruhr Valley. We got hit so badly by flak that we had to leave the formation and request fighter support to protect us. We were carrying incendiaries and we were hit in #2 engine and fuel tanks. Looked like "smoke" coming out of the wing. A friendly P-51 named *Beau City Charlie* heard our call and vectored us in to a P47 base at Coulommiers (30 miles outside of Paris). They had just chased the Germans out the week before. We made a good landing, fixed up the Lib and took off the next day for Shipdham — arrived safe and sound, but all of our clothes and personal possessions were gone because we were reported on fire and going down! Got most of the stuff back. As you probably know, they did that for psychological reasons for the other crews sharing our Nissen hut.

Enough of the war. Evelyn I need two more 2nd Air Div. decals. I had to replace a windshield on the Olds when a rock came thru, result damaged decal.

I don't want you to feel ashamed of me if I have to come to Palm Springs with a messed up decal, less I be put on K.P.

Thanks in advance Evelyn. Rita and I are looking forward to Palm Springs and meeting you.

Ed Barton

Dear Evelyn:

Regarding Harold Nordlicht's question about the "Bunny Rabbit" insignia in the June 1984 *Journal*:

That insignia belonged to the 376th FSq. of the 361st FG.

The 361st FG. consisted of the 374th, 375th, and 376th FSqs.

The group went operational in Jan. 1944 flying P-47 A/C.

They flew both P-47 and P-51 A/C in May 1944 and were completely converted to the P-51 by 1 June 1944.

David P. Overholt

Dear Ms. Cohen:

With genuine appreciation, I accept on behalf of the United States Air Force and the USAF Museum your flag staff band and 8th Air Force patch as cataloged on the attached list. They have been added to the Museum collection and permanently recorded as a donation in your name under Accession Number 1984-162.

For the moment, your items have been placed in our study collection, since less than 20 percent of our items are on public display. The remaining 80 percent are being carefully preserved in storage where they serve as a repository available for researchers and historians and for future exhibits, as well as a source with which to support our external loan program. With this external loan procedure, we provide items to other USAF base museums and to educational nonprofit civilian museums.

Providing exhibits of historic items for today's visitors is only part of our responsibility. Equally important are the acquisition and preservation of items for tomorrow. We look forward 20, 50 and even 100 years into the future, and there the true importance of our study collection becomes evident. This extensive resource provides both flexibility for our own exhibits and artifacts for loan by affording a wider choice of items to better portray USAF history.

Whether your gifts are displayed immediately or at some future date, you have contributed significantly to the preservation of our history, our Air Force heritage and tradition, and the memory of those who led the way.

Thank you very much for your generosity and patronage.

Sincerely,
Richard L. Upstrom
Colonel, USAF
Director
Department of the Air Force
Air Force Museum
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Ohio 45433

Dear Bill:

A note to advise the membership of a book about the 8th A.F. Münster: *The Way It Was* by Ian Hawkins.

The book is obtainable from:

Robinson Typographics,
1614 South Clementine St.,
Anaheim, CA 92802.

Mr. Hawkins has provided a copy of his book, suitably inscribed, to our Memorial Library in Norwich.

Regular Edition \$23.50 plus \$1.50 postage.

Deluxe Edition \$35.00 plus \$2.00 postage.

The book is 6"x9", 427 pages, contains 284 photos, 9 maps/illustrations and four WWII cartoons by the famous British cartoonist "Giles".

John Rex
8 S. Davis Ave.
Audubon, N.J. 08106

Dear Bill:

This is a story of a small world.

Jimmy Stewart was born and raised in Indiana, Pa and the family visited here often during his youth. While in England in 1983 at the reunion I again had the pleasure of meeting Jimmy after 39 years.

To go to the story, I have a friend here in Apollo, Pa. who is past 70 years old and he lived in Indiana, Pa. in the '30s. Jimmy's grandfather had given out as souvenirs a pocket knife at his hardware store and my friend, Mr. Barr, has kept it all these years. He expressed to me his desire to give this knife to Jimmy. I, in turn, sent the knife to Jimmy's home with a cover letter explaining the knife.

Jimmy sent a letter to Mr. Barr thanking him for the knife as he had carried his through most of the war and then lost it and could not replace it. Jimmy also sent a note to me thanking me for sending the knife and I have attached copies of these letters. I was going to present the knife to Jimmy in person but due to business and personal reasons I could not make the reunion in Palm Springs.

William "Bill" Nelson

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Sir (Charles J. Weiss):

In cooperation with the "Historical Research Group Eemnes", I am collecting information about events which happened in Eemnes, during World War II. It is our ultimate goal to write a book about this period, to show our children, without leaning to sensation, what actually has happened.

Because of my interest in the Airwar 1939-1945, they have asked me to investigate bombings, fighter attacks and aircraft-crashes in our neighborhood.

On February 24th, 1945 a Consolidated B-24J Liberator 42-51495 crashed. According to the MACR list (MACR 13348, which is not yet in my possession) twelve crew members were missing in action. I have reason to believe that Captain Gene Leroy Maddocks, USAAF 0-818902 belonged to the crew of that aircraft.

From the end of February 1945 till the end of the war, he was hidden by the underground in Blaricum, a village nearby Eemnes. After the war he visited the family where he had stayed, several times.

According to information received from that family, he died in 1971.

Could you give me information about the aircraft and its crew? What happened to the other crew members? Every piece of information would be very welcome.

Thank you very much. Meanwhile I remain,

Jack van der Woude,
Troevenen 17,
3755 JV Eemnes
The Netherlands

Dear Bill:

In looking over the Sept. 2nd AD *Journal* on the back page is info on a new book by Roger Freeman called *Mighty 8th War Manual*. On the back jacket is a photo of our BG 93rd 329th Sqd. lining up on the taxiway for the trip home. I might be in this photo as we flew S for Sugar home from Hardwick. I had flown 23 missions with the 330th Sqd. and about the time the war ended our crew was transferred to the 329th, why I have never been able to figure out. Can you put me in touch with someone (maybe Freeman) so that I could purchase a copy of that photo. I would be interested in the photo even though I might NOT be in the pic. I was there on that day and remember getting ready for the take-off.

I would like very much to attend a 2nd AD reunion, but it must be closer to Minn. as I have had some heart problems and feel I will not travel too far. I am able to drive to Florida every winter.

I would like to make an effort to write an article and have you edit the thing. Had a couple of missions that were barn burners and maybe they would go good in the *Journal*. One mission was the Rhine crossing (got the hell shot out of us by groundfire) and it was rather exciting.

I was co-pilot with Lt. John Alexander and we stayed together during all our combat. John was a nice guy with lots of ability and after checking out as first pilot I asked to stick with the guys and did so. I have kept in touch with most of them and just now I mailed a lot of info to Carlos Vasquez who is writing a history of the 93rd.

I build models all over the basement and have about 500 on display. I write to lots of people about the war and airplanes in general. I love warbirds and will drive to hell and back to see anything from WWII. I do winter in Fort Myers and find myself chasing around Florida looking for anything from our era of WWII.

Hope you can give me some light on that photo in the *Journal*.

If you feel like a letter I would be MOST happy and if you need anything from me just get in touch. I love airplanes so much I talk with people all over the country (phone bill is terrible) but it is worth it.

Lin Burgess
P.O. Box 387
Tower, Minnesota 55790
218 753 4410

By the way: My Minnesota license plate on my Olds reads: FLY B24

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Ms. Cohen:

Enclosed is my personal check in the amount of \$10.00 for membership dues as an Associate Member of 2nd Air Division Association.

My father, Sgt. William L. Vance, Jr., who was in the 2nd Air Division, 445th Bomb Group, was killed during WWII, and I have recently been in contact with members of the 2nd Air Division Association, many of whom are trying to help me locate someone who might have known my father. I feel that being an Associate Member and receiving all the publications might help in my search. Also, I am glad to be able to support the Association in their worthwhile activities.

Please let me know if additional information is necessary, and I would appreciate being on the mailing list of the 2nd Air Division Association as soon as possible.

Judy Vance Garren
1009 Gawaine Circle
Box 427, Lake Wildwood
Macon, Georgia 31210

Dear Frank:

Your card received and will try to give you some info about the reunion of the Baldwin Avery Crew. Attended by 8 members and their wives. Everyone enjoyed their 3 day stay at Devils Head Lodge. One day we visited the Wis. Dells Area as guests of the Ducks Boat Co. and the Tammy Bartlett Ski Show. Everyone attended a picnic at the Cliff Syverud home before their departure.

We plan to have our next reunion in 1986 at Denver, Colorado with Bing Sipes as host.

This photo was taken 2 years ago at our first reunion.



Front row (l to r): Ralph Jacobson, Gunner; Bill Bower, Gunner; Ralph Moore, Engineer; Walt Chamberlin, Gunner; Bing Sipes, Gunner.
Back row (l to r): Ken Dougherty, Navigator; Baldy Avery, Pilot; Nolan Gershenzon, Navigator; John Lawson, Co-Pilot; Orland Hasselbach, Bombardier; Cliff Syverud, Radio Operator; Bob Zimmerman, Gunner.

Frank to explain why we have 12 men in photo.

Bill Bowen replaced Bob Zimmerman on the Gotha Mission 2-24-44, was shot down so Bob came to our crew as replacement.

Ken Dougherty joined our crew when we went to the 389th as the extra navigator on the Pathfinder ships.

Hope this gives you some help.

Cliff Syverud

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Dear Evelyn:

In talking with an Eighth Air Force Pilot, he suggested I write to you regarding my uncle who was with the Eighth during WWII. I was given a copy of the *Journal* and read it completely through the first day. I would like to become a member and get the *Journal* on a regular basis. Please inform me of the membership dues.

It is my hope that I can be able to find some people who knew my uncle during the war and perhaps even find some of the remaining crew members of his B-24, "Boomerang II".

My uncle was a bombardier in the Eighth, 328 Bomb Squad/93rd Bomb Group. He was shot down on his 20th mission over Bremen, and was reported missing in action on December 22, 1943. He and two of his crew members were killed, and the rest bailed out. My uncle was 1st Lt. Jack H. Roach 0733357, aged 24 when he was killed. Those members of his crew that bailed out spent the remainder of the war as POWs.

I hope that you can help me in my quest, and hopefully if you can print this letter in your *Journal*, someone might be able to shed some information about my uncle, and his last mission.

Kent Jaquith
Rt. 1, Box 1401
Zillah, WA 98953

Dear Bill:

I am sending you two snapshots of our crew, taken thirty nine years apart! At this stage in time, this type of thing will be hard to come by in the future. Perhaps it will serve as a reminder to those who now only contemplate—before it's too late!

Quintin R. Wedgeworth
Rt. 1, Box 300A, Weiser, Idaho 73672

392nd BOMB GROUP CREW REUNION

The entire nine members of the "Agony Wagon" crew were reunited for the first time in thirty nine years at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, on the 15th, 16th and 17th of September. The 578th Bomb Squadron crew served with the 392nd BG from October, 1944 until the end of the war.

The members were accompanied to the reunion with their wives and the entire entourage were given special VIP treatment by the Air Force Museum personnel. After a tour of the regular display area they were escorted through the restoration shops and were able to view some of the actual aircraft in various stages of reconstruction.

The photos show the crew as they were then and now. From the left, standing, are Michael Weber (CP), Boyd D. Adsit (P) and Quintin R. Wedgeworth (N). From the left, kneeling, are Ray C. McDonald (E), Paul M. Ritty (CG), Kenneth L. Timmons (AG), and Harold R. Close (R). From the left, sitting, are Herbert T. Taylor (CG) and Wendell G. Anderson (CG).



Before the Battle

"Agony Wagon" crew, Sept. 1944 at Pueblo, Colorado. The 10th man (3rd from left) standing, was the bombardier. He was subsequently withdrawn prior to overseas duty.



After the Battle

"Agony Wagon" crew, Sept. 1984 with the "Strawberry Bitch" at the Air Force Museum.

Dear Pete (Henry):

Thanks for your quick response and letter in regard to my request. The film "The Men Who Flew The Liberators" arrived in time for the scheduled meeting, and there were several veterans there who thoroughly enjoyed it, scratches, noise and all. Perhaps you have seen the film many times and know it by memory. I was about surprised out of my seat, about halfway through the film there is a short shot of a couple ground crew working over an engine, and in the next view, there was "My Everlovin Gal". I'm sure others flew her before we arrived, but most of my 21 missions were flown in "My Everlovin Gal". And of course the sad part is that my last one was flown in her also. I don't know if you had ever noticed the name of the ship or not. Anyway, to say the least it was quite a thrill to see her again. Just for the record, Gerald S. Westcott's crew was flying her on that fateful mission over Magdeburg, Germany, June 29, 1944. We had dropped the bombs, and then were hit in the bomb bay area, puncturing the hydraulic reservoir and possibly some oxygen tanks. The radio operator Fred DuBose tried to close the doors, when she went up in flames. He jumped and seconds later she exploded. Joe Morris, tail gunner and I, waist gunner, were ejected from the debris by pulling the rip cord. We three miraculously survived. The tail section must have separated from the rest of the plane at the waist window area, making our escape possible. Our ball turret gunner, Joe Gorsky was not with us on that mission, as Bebe Daniels had invited him to London to have part in her radio broadcast. So we were a 9 man crew that day. Those whose memory we hold dear, are G.S. Westcott, pilot; Robert Reeves, Co-Pilot; Arthur Toepel, Bombardier; Thomas Hine, Navigator; Eddie Thompson, Top Turret; Frank Artym, Jr., Waist Gunner.

I have returned the film and insured it for \$200 as you requested. I am wondering if that is the only one in captivity? With modern technology I wonder if it is possible to restore the sound somewhat and get it on video tape, or is that feasible? Thanks again Pete for your time and all the effort you put forth on behalf of 2ADA and the 44th. I am happy this film was available, and will hope to see the others at a later date. I will keep in touch.

Walter (Tex) Lawrence
44th BG — 506 BS
R.R. 4, Box 323
Arkansas City, KS 67005

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Dear Bill:

For several years I have been working on a story about the Bombing of Switzerland on 1st April 1944 and 4th March 1945. I am writing an article about this event as well as one about a 389th BG Liberator in German hands.

You will receive these two articles in one or two weeks, but first I would be interested in getting Myron Keilman's address since he wrote an article about the bombing of Switzerland on 1st April 1944 when Schaffhausen was bombed in error.

For that reason I would be most grateful to receive his address as well as other 392nd and 44th BG members. These two Bomb Groups bombed Schaffhausen, Switzerland in error on 1st April 1944.

The 2nd Air Division Association *Journal* is always very interesting and I really enjoy all the stories in this magazine.

Well, Bill, I am looking forward to hearing from you soon and wish you all the best.

Hans-Heiri Stapfer
Bergstrasse 35
CH-8810 Horgen/ZH
Switzerland

□ □ □ □ □

Attendance at Palm Springs Reunion

October 4 - October 7, 1984

44th

Carl Appelin
Bernie Bail
Ed & Rita Barton
John & Neal Bledsoe
Dick & Ardith Butler
Bob & Catherine Eddings
Joe & Anne Flaherty
Mike & Kaye Fusano
Bill Hawkins
A.H. Hayslett
Pete & Mary Henry
Clarence & Martha Hines
Charlie & Marilynn Hughes
Gen. Leon Johnson
Bob & Roberta Johnson
Al & Peggy Jones
Ralph & Betty Jorgensen
John & Phyllis King
John Kirby
Marvin & Doris Kite
Warren & Myril Kookan
Joe Kuklewicz
Ira & Shirley Lee
Will & Irene Lundy
Dave & Gini McCash
Don McLean
Ray & Mary McNamara
Gil & Louise Magaziner
Roger & Una Markle
Ben Mazza
Leon & Edith Meyer
Bill Middlebrooks
Ed & Joan Mikoloski
Milt & Jackie Munro
Ed Murphy
Loy & Arlene Neepser
Roy & Ola Porter
Milt & Leila Rosenblatt
Al & Betty Ruby
John & Mary Scholl
Art Stanton
Norm Tillner
Jack Whittle
Jim Williams
John & Lois Wilson
Joe Wolfe

93rd

John & Mary Lou Abajian
Sam Bain
Ed & Dee Baker
Joe Beach
Henry Betz
Joe & Margaret Bradley
Harold Burks
Herman & Pearl Cook
Tony & Juanita DeCillis
Al Esparcia
T.C. & Dot Gibbs
Herb & Vera Glick
Clint Gruber
Otis Hair
Ken & Jan Hebert
Paul & Martha Hood
John & Gloria Julian
John & Helen Keever
Pat & Marje Larson
Jim McMahon
Floyd & Dot Mabey
Bud Manning
Prince & Jewell Martin
Roy & Polly Martin
Bill & Dolores Neuman
Bill & Phyllis Orient
Ray & Beverly Osterman
John Pace
Paul Peloquin
Ray & Mary Rhoades
Jim & Jo Ronsick
Joe & Anita Rosacker
Tom & Letha Scott
Bob & Lorraine Shaffer
John Sherman
Mahlon & Frances Shipley
Ed Spencer

Fred Sparrevohn
Fred & Inez Strombom
John & Bee Sullivan
Carlos & Nadine Vasquez
Ed & Helen Weir
Don & Laura Whited
Dick Wilkinson
Dusty & Connie Worthen
Howard Young

389th

Charles Anderson
Paul & Phyllis Anderson
Leonard & Peggie Auger
Roy & Dot Baxter
Irv & Sylvia Belsky
Sylvester & Virginia Bergman
John & Leva Blackis
Paul Blakeman/Ruby Bedwell
Bob & Georgette Bousquet
Vern & Flossie Brown
Orland & June Call
Max Cavey
Gaynell Clark
Bill & Bonita Coalson
Jim & Ava Collins
Ernie & Helen Cox
Charlie & June Dearing
Bill & Helene Denton
Jules Domecq
Ray & Ollie DuFlon
Ralph & Helen Fowler
Andy & Irene Friesema
Tom & Madelyn Garrison
Geb Gebhard
Al & Leona Giardina
Dorothy Gibson
Allan & Jean Hallett
Gene & Nancy Hartley
Russ & June Hayes
Neal & Kay Head
Don & Mary Alice Hickey
Howard & Joyce Hinchman
Bob Hoffman
Dal & Betty Howard
Roy & Mildred Jonasson
Ken & Junice Jones
Jim & Joanne Kissling
Bud & June Koorndyk
Jerry & Iva Kuhlmann
Paul & Sylvia Kunz
Felix & Marjorie Leeton
Tony & Phyllis Locorini
Hugh McLaren
Ken McCoy
Frank & Hildegard McLaughlin
Bill Mace
George Makin
Tony Mammolite
John & Vae Martin
Dan Montoya
Gene & Hazel Motley
Oliver & Pauline Mottice
Dan & Helen Muat
Bob & Shirley Nicely
Jim & Mary-Helen Nye
Frank Pease/H.A. Mosher
Dick & Florence Peterson
Dave Powers
Lee & Carol Rackley
Roberto & Gloria Ruiz
Frank & Vera Rutledge
C.F. & Lynne Sampson
Bob Schwellinger
Carl Schott
Bob & Ruth Seagle
Ray & Peggy Shannon
Al Sheard
Lee & Jeanne Slessor
Joe, Helen, Jane & Pat Sullivan
Wilfred Toczko
Frank & Grace Vadas
Jim & Mae Vollmer
Ben & Barbara Walsh
Lloyd & Clara West
Sid Westlund

392nd

Art & Mary Arce
Charlie & Eleanor Bader
Bill & Marilyn Barry
Vern & Hulda Baumgart
John & Bobbie Becker
Ray & Hazel Berthiaume
Joe & Anne Bonanno
George Bremer
Pat Burns
Gene & Audrey Butts
Alan & Dolly Clarke
Don & Anne Clover
Mike & Monica Connery
John & Wanda Conrad
Jack Crane
Arnold & Cleome Dovey
Allen & Elizabeth Duff
Henry DeKeyser
John Donnelly
Herm & Bessie Mae Garner
Tom & Edna Gartner
Dick Griffin
Ed & Lee Holmes
Howard & Mary Jennings
Bill & Reny Jurczyn
Myron & Blanche Keilman
Frank & Helen Koza
Bob & Marilyn Lane
Will & Anne Levin
J.D. & Emily Long
Bill & Viola Long
Norm Mellow
Will & Dot Miller
Charlie & Helen Neundorf
Norris & Rosa Nilson
Pete O'Neill
Roland Opsahl
George & Anne Player
Bob Powers
Roland Sabourin
Francis & Chong Im Sassamon
Palmer & Helen Taylor
Fred & Elva Thomas
Harry & Edythe Vasconcellos
John Walters
Don & Emily Whitford
Norbert & Marian Wick
Wip & Mary Wipfler

445th

Don & Ruth Allison
Sheridan & Mary Beth Barnard
Dick & Val Boucher
Palmer & Myrtle Bruland
John & Thelma Burke
John & Nina Campbell
Buddy & Wanda Cross
Leroy & Merle Dabney
Frank & Elizabeth DiMola
Henry & Mary Dobek
Al & Irene Ellwein
Elmer & Jeanne Fischer
John Goad
Carl Kleeman
Dick & Marjorie Littlefield
George & Bruce Lymburn
John & Meg Lynes
Art & Margaret McDermott
Carl & Betty Marino
Bob & Pat Mead
Sam & Pace Miller
John & Jean Miner
Manny & Clara Moreno
Clair Nelson
John & Dot Nortavage
Dave & Joan Patterson
Al & Dot Querbach
Ed & Margaret Peterson
Jack & Barbara Reed
Ed, Sue, & Randy Roloff
Bob & Jean Russell
Horace & Dot Shankwiler
Bob & Lee Springer
Ford & Wilma Tracey
John & Marie Vessels

Bill Vinton
Chuck Walker
Will Williams
Harold & Anna Wolfgang

446th

Bob & Mary Alexander
Paul Ananion
Marvin Anderson
Jim & LaVonda Beattie
Amon Belcher/J. Wakeman
John & Alma Bittner
Fred & Phyllis Breuninger
S.G. Cain
Harry & Sally Clement
Dave Cook
H.E. & Dot Cordell
Bill, Jean & Bill, Jr. Davenport
Warren & Eleanor Dempster
Harold & Ruth Deverick
Jim Dorsey
Lou & Dotty Dubnow
Harry & Edith Evans
Jim & Lillian Forrest
Don & Elizabeth Forsyth
Rex & Ruth Fryer
A.H. Gallardo
George, Leona & Patty Gigstad
Carl Gjechaug
Bob & Marjorie Gore
Herb & Reba Gordon
Cyril Hanko
Charlie Hay/Polly Jo Hay
Pappy & Sappho Henderson
Hank Hirsch
Howard & Genevieve Horton
Eldridge & Virginia Howard
Wendall & Amy Hunter
Dan & Doris Hunter
Dave Jacobson
N.M. & Doris Jacobson
Francis & Margaret Jones
Henry & Suzanne Kingsbery
Fred & Evelyn Knorre
Cy & Geraldine Kopecky
Vere & Marie McCarty
John & Vicky Madge
Harold & Lillian Maslyn
Tom & Kay Mason
Harry & Addie Mayer
Don & Datha Messick
Bob & Lorraine Moore
Alden & Pat Moyer
Father Joseph B. Murphy
Al & Muriel Pearson
Howard & Verla Phillips
Mitch & Toni Reno
Aud Risley
Harold & Margaret Roach
Jim & Ruth Schultz
Bob Seaman
Eric & Ethel Sherman
Bill & Nina Simmons
Joe & Kathryn Soder
Thurman & Mary Spiva
Dale & Vivian Story
Bill & Lela Mae Swartz
Bob & Scottie Tannahill
Walt & Juanita Toronjo
John & Dean Watt
Paul & Ether Wermuth
John & Mignon White
Bill, Jean & Jeff Woodburn
Frank & Nancy Yochem

448th

Sid & Mary Allen
Jack & Martha Jane Barak
Stu Barr
Frank & Virginia Benjamin
Al & Jeanette Bishop
Julian & Winnie Blake
Allen & Dot Cassidy
Garth & Eleanor Connole
Burt & Bonnie Dane
George DuPont
George & Margerite Elkins
Leroy Engdahl
Ben & Charlotte Everett
Gen, Louise & Robert Gaskins
Frank & Lorraine Gibson
Frank & Raymond Grew
Bob & Zella Harper
Paul & Mary Ellen Homan
Harold & Helen Ingebretnsen

Gail & June Irish
 Marshall & Mary Johnson
 Patricia Jonson
 Joe & Kathleen Kasacjak
 Tom Keene
 Dick & Bobbie Kennedy
 Charlie & Agnes McBride
 Jerry & Mary Mejeur
 Dave & Sylvia Mellott
 Don Millett
 Joe Mlynarczyk
 Ed & Maureen Moran
 Warren & Juanita Mounsey
 Milt & Ruth Nichols
 Larry, Cathy & Kitty Putgenter
 Julius Rebeles
 Dale & Joyce Rummens
 Hobert & Betty Sale
 Lillian Sansburn
 Alex & Eloise Shogan
 Harold & Betty Smith
 Bob & Lorraine Smith
 Art Steele
 Jim & Aneth Sullivan
 Downey & Dannielle Thomas
 Bob & Marguerite Williams
 Francis Young
 John & Dot Zima

453rd

Will & Marion Adler
 Bob Allen
 Moose & LaRue Allen
 Bob & Evelyn Anderson
 Irv Appel
 Junior, Jackie & Judy Austin
 Les & Camilla Baer
 Wes & June Bartelt
 Ed & Evelyn Bebenroth
 Pete Becker
 Mike Benarcik
 LeRoy & Gloria Berg
 Al & Claire Biel
 Dwight & Doris Bishop
 Lew Blais
 Herb & Cynthia Bradley
 Luther & Marie Clark
 Wilbur & Diane Clingan
 R.D. & Jean Coggeshall
 Seymour & Anita Cohen
 Dave & Jane Cowen
 Neil & Virginia Crowley
 Bob & Jane Cunningham
 John DeLury
 Bill & Dorothea Eagleson
 John & Maxine Fiorillo
 Andy & Ruth Fleckenstein
 Bill & Carol Garrett
 Don Gillies
 Russ Harriman
 Ray & Florence Hunt
 Ed & Ruth Jackson
 Wendall & Gretta Jeske
 Jay & Anna Jeffries
 Clint & Dee Johnson
 Gus & Gloria Johnson
 Gene Klein
 Jim & B.J. Kotapish
 Herb & Nona Lambert
 Doug & Jane Leavenworth
 Ed & Evelyn Limstrong
 O.K. & Lovey Long
 Andy & Helen Low
 John & Teresa McGough
 Jim McNew
 Orvis & Norma Martin
 George Mazzarra
 Dorothy Middleton
 Ed & Ramona Myers
 John & Clarinda Nortridge
 Don & Mimi Olds
 Charlie & Loretta Parker
 Frank Parker
 Phil & Nina Parsons
 Bob & Helen Pedigo
 Paul & Lucille Pflug
 Paul & Virginia Poitras
 Carl & Rita Powell
 Dan & Muriel Reading
 Elden & Helen Rhode
 John & Marie Roth

Irv Shuffler
 Joe Stangl
 Maurice & Nancy Steel
 LeRoy & Violet Steingraber
 Jimmy & Gloria Stewart
 Milt & Lucille Stokes
 Al Thomale
 Frank & Jackie Thomas
 Glen & Edith Tisher
 Pete & Eleanor Veilleux
 Warren & Thelma Vernier
 Bob & Isabelle Victor
 Del & Doris Wangsvick
 O.F. & Jennie Warrington
 Kaylor & Shirley Whitehead
 Julian & Mary Wilson
 Bob & Helen Wolfe

458th

Francis Atkins
 Lew & Georgia Bacon
 Stan & Barbara Beckett
 Charlie & Lolly Booth
 Harry & Nancy Brown
 Lew Burtis
 Birt & Jean Brumby
 Dick & Edith Butler
 Bill & Barbara Case
 Gerald & Barbara Covey
 Bill & Mickey Cunningham
 Porter & Geneva Danford
 Dario DeJulio
 Dale & Virginia Dyer
 Bill & Kathleen Elkins
 Dick & Lois Fairfield
 Carl & Thelma Feldhamer
 Don & Carolyn Fraser
 Elmo & Betty Geppelt
 Elden & Gerta Gebaroff
 Stu & Suzanne Goldsmith
 Bob Grahmann
 Kermit Greene
 Stan & Dot Hammell
 Dick, Eldora & Amalia Harland
 B.P. & Georgia Hebert
 Art & Iola Hendrickson
 Bob & Kathy Hiemstra
 Bob & Mary Jane Hunter
 Jim & Virginia Isabell
 Bill & Maurice Jameson
 Stan & Royna Johnson
 Ernest Kelly/Eleanor Truitt
 Tim & Annette Kinnally
 John Krpan
 Norman & Pearl Lakey
 Elmer & Rene Lanini
 Stan Lentowicz/Anne Rippon
 Bob & Jean Minarick
 Bob & Maggy Morford
 Herman & Bertie Peacher
 Charlie & Skeet Pool
 Bob & Marty Renn
 Rick & Ceil Rokicki
 Bob & Norma Ruark
 Bill & Jerry Sanders
 Bob & Anne Schmidt
 Ed & Barbara Silver
 Joe & Marian Tomich
 Art & Gerry Vanderbeek
 John & Edith Waag
 Tom & Alberta Walsh
 Jim & Elaine Wedding

466th

Jim & Bernice Adams
 Harold & Jeanette Anderson
 Joe & Irene Arbaugh
 Jim & Snookie Auman
 Frank & Louise Bostwick
 Pappy & Roberta Daniels
 Al & Gertie Farnholtz
 Glenn & Halleen Hill
 Jim & Mary Lorenz
 Gerry & Sammy Merket
 Elwood & Lucille Nothstein
 Bob & Sybil Patterson
 John & Maryann Rogers
 Jim & Elinor Russell
 Art & Barbara Sessa
 Tommy & Wanda Thompson
 Vicki & Kurt Warning

Frank & Phyllis Wolcott
 Charlie & Ruthe Woodbury

467th

Les & Evelyn Anenson
 Bob & June Baker
 Charlie & Katherine Ball
 Don & Helen Bisbing
 Forrest & Pat Brown
 Charlie & Eloyce Caldwell
 George & Katherine Church
 Jim & Rose Ciancitto
 Jim Coffey
 George & Mary Condry
 Vance & Mildred Cridling
 Ken & Dot Darney
 Lloyd & Rae Davies
 Tony & JoAnn DeBiasse
 Bill & Vernice Dillon
 George Dong
 Ralph & Yvonne Elliott
 Charlie Finn
 Curtice Fry
 Paul Gourd
 Jeff & Terry Gregory
 Weldon & Helen Gruver
 Joe & Florence Haenn
 Bob & Bernice Halloran
 Joe & Vera Imburgia
 Fred & Clio Jansen
 Howard & Gretta Johnson
 G.B., Naomi, Chris and
 Edith Johnston
 Jim & Audrey Johnston
 Andy & Anna Kapi
 Floyd & Eleanor Kingsley
 Kay Lanigan/Mary Burns
 Ed Mahoney
 Delbert & Ann Mann
 Joe & Mary Mulheran
 Walt & Ruth Mundy
 Earle & Aline Page
 Jim, Eleanor & Lawrence Peters
 L.T. & Ruth Piland
 Floyd & Anne Pugh
 Joe Ramirez
 Joe & Catherine Reilly
 Rocky & Ida Rothchild
 Elbert Sablotny
 Mort & Marilyn Schechter
 Tom & Betty Lou Shaughnessy
 Bob & Rosemary Sheehan
 Al Shower
 Jack & Lucille Stevens
 Jack & Anne Stratton
 Dave & Jackie Swearingen
 S.L. Taylor
 Jerry & Margo Tracy
 Allan Tucci
 Hank Wedaa
 Bill & Betty Williams

489th

Chuck & Twyla Baker
 Lee Baker
 Ray & Lynette Blanchard
 John Becker
 Frank Bodine
 Chuck & Mary Bouchard
 Loren & Betty Bryan
 Bud & Mike Chamberlain
 Bert & Jean Crawford
 Art & Winifred Cressler
 Les & Marge Dahn
 Ernie & Jeanne Davis
 Jim & Jean Davis
 Charlie & Helen Freudenthal
 Jim & Charline Gililand
 LaVerne & Dot Graf
 Homer & Geneva Haile
 Morgan & Ella Higham
 John Lamar
 Joe & Germaine Lapierre
 R.G. & Evelyn Lingenberg
 Ted & Gladys Maruschak
 Fred Meyer
 John & Camille Moir
 George & Virginia Nokes
 Dick & Rose Sanderford
 Dick & Beverly Stenger
 Paul & Mae Surbaugh

Bob & Miriam Thomas
 Van & Jerry Vanerwegen
 Glenn Walker
 Don Wayne
 Joe, Virginia & Steve Woerner

491st

Carl & Louise Alexanderson
 Hugh & Gloria Bennett
 Byron Calamoris
 Jack Chapman/Roy Joyce
 Harry Coleman
 Ray & Lee Covert
 Marty & Barbara Davis
 Art & Marie DeGennaro
 Bob & Mary Dicken
 Dave & Edith Dougherty
 Ed & Helen Duffy
 Mike & Margaret Fagen
 Don & Betty Ferguson
 Dudley & Doris Friday
 Harold Fritzler
 Bill & Vicki Getz
 Don & Velet Gowans
 Carl & Isabell Groshell
 George & Rita Hoffman
 Ross & Vel Houston
 Morris & Doris Jones
 Hank Liljedahl
 Dean Miller
 Wilbert Mishler
 Bill & Virginia Nolen
 Ted & Fanny Parker
 Pat Paterek
 Ed & Dot Parsons
 H.F. & Joanne Patterson
 Francis & Ruth Rondinone
 Bob & Dee Sand
 Ray Snook
 John Taylor
 Jack & Margie Van Acker
 Keith & Edith Voorhees/
 Doris Stone
 Bernie Wacker

492nd

Bill Clarey
 Vern & Bobbie Key
 Harry Orthman

56th FG.

Don Henley

Hdq.

Rhoda Bandler
 Rose Halloran Berwaldt
 Hazel Bliss
 Warren & Norma Burman
 Elinor Callihan
 Evelyn & Lillian Cohen
 Val Brinegar Conroy
 Delos & Mary Francis
 Williams Elder
 Earline Embrey
 Harriett Fau
 Bill & Mary Jenkins
 Ernest & Dottie Reim Krogmann
 Amber & Jerry Lindsay
 Hal & Jeanne McCormick
 Charlie & Madeleine Mills
 Al & Billie Minisci
 Dean & Deanie Moyer
 Rena Owen
 Bea Puch
 Jim & Edna Reeves
 Mattie Kirkpatrick Reinhardt
 John & Janice Sanders
 Helen Hanson Sheppard
 Bill, Eleanor & Kathleen Storms
 Lida B. Cowan Thompson
 Jordan & Joyce Uttal
 Hathy & Milt Veynar
 Joe & June Whittaker

Board of Governors Norwich Memorial Library

Dave & Jean Hastings
 Paul King

458th BG News

by Rick Rokicki (458th BG)

Those of you who were there, know it was the most successful Reunion/Convention to date. Totals reached approximately 1126 for the Banquet, but "late-comers" and last minute appearances swelled the total to over 1200, I'm told.

The 458th had the largest gathering ever with a total of 91. Because of the Yom Kippur holiday, some of our friends couldn't be present at the banquet, but did attend the Mini-Reunion. We had a "veteran" group who make almost every reunion mixed with a good number of first timers. It all made for a very good feeling and personally, I was moved by the comradeship of our Group. I'm sure you will read elsewhere of the great things that were a part of this excellent turn-out, so I will confine my remarks to our Group.

First of all, General Isbell and his lovely wife, Virginia, were with us. Those of us who remember "Colonel" Isbell in '43-'45, couldn't mistake our Commander. Still tall, straight and lean, but with a full head of silver hair, (the latter will mislead you a bit over the last 40 years), Jim Isbell was once again in our "formation". Those of you who met or knew Virginia, in the states, would easily recognize her. That was confirmed by several of our members.



Our big day at March Field was highlighted by the B-24 that was being restored to flying condition by ex-44th retired Col. Dick Butler. The aircraft is still owned by Dave Tallichet, well known restaurateur who owns several dozen WWII vintage aircraft. Those of you who were able to make the Norwich reunion in 1979 may remember seeing this aircraft at Duxford, but in the colors of the 389th B.G. Well, needless to say, this aircraft appeared in 458th tail colors with the 755th Bomb Sqdn. identity J 3 on the fuselage. Fellows, this just did not "happen" by accident. We can all thank General Isbell for getting our Group identity displayed. Those of you who might want to send a Christmas card to Jim and Virginia, feel free to drop me a postcard for their Anchorage, Alaska address. It's only because I would run a postdated Summary court martial that I haven't printed his address in this column.

453rd BG Corner

by Don Olds (453rd BG)

Palm Springs, CA, our place in the sun and the site of the 37th annual reunion of the 2nd ADA. Although things were a little crowded from time to time, most indicated they had an enjoyable reunion. One thing for sure, it was our largest from the crowd standpoint.

Thursday evening the 453rd had about 130 present for their mini banquet in the Normandy East Room of the Hilton Hotel. Some stories were told and retold. Slides of the group from Pocatello to March Field to Old Buckenham were shown and some business attended to. Frank Thomas, who served as treasurer of the Old Buckenham Memorial Room committee, gave a report on some funds that remain after all the bills were paid. Rather than print the report here I'm sure Frank will send you a copy if you write him. His address is inside the front page of the *Journal*. Milt Stokes was chosen, and has accepted the job as Vice President of the 453rd BG. I'll continue to assist him, at least through the coming year. I know everyone will want to give Milt the same kind of support you gave me in years past.

Friday was spent at March Field where a moving memorial service was held on the hardstand next to a B-24. It was climaxed with a flyover of four Air Force jets, one of which pulled out of the formation at midfield to signify the missing man formation. The jet pulling out of the formation was piloted by a young major whose father was killed flying a B-24. The young flyer had requested this assignment in memory of his father. After the ceremony we were fed at the base kitchen. Things have improved in this area... no green eggs.

Saturday morning the usual business meeting was held and in the afternoon we saw combat films, and Moose Allen of the 453rd, gave everyone a little different version of a pre-mission briefing. That evening more than 1200 people filled the convention center for the final banquet. After dinner, and some speakers, dancing went on till after midnight. By Sunday

Again, I would like to express my thanks to the attending members for electing me to another term as your Group VP. It has always been an honor and privilege to serve and I shall continue to do my very best, with your help. As I mentioned in our mini-reunion, during the calendar year (October, 1983 to October, 1984) we added 95 new members. Our total membership reached 395 just before the Convention in Palm Springs, but that number included Associate members and those who also belonged to other Groups or Headquarters. Still need all the help I can get to meet the new goal set for the New Jersey

afternoon the hotel was noticeably quieter than it had been for a week. It was good to see so many of our old friends again and also welcome many who were attending their first reunion/convention. Many of them are looking forward to New Jersey in 1985.

Still trying to fill in the gaps on the names of the original 453rd aircraft and the pilots assigned to them. Does anyone know who was the original pilot assigned to *El Flako* of the 732nd Sq., *Shack Rabbit* of the 733rd and *War Bride* of the 734th? If you know, drop me a line. I didn't get much response from the four aircraft I asked about in the last *Journal*. Any assistance would be truly appreciated.

Some additional copies of the 453rd Bomb Group history are still available and those wanting one can write me. While visiting the museum at March Field during the reunion, we found they had a library but didn't have a copy of the history. The librarian said they would be pleased to have a copy of the history for their shelf, so one has been sent to them.

In Palm Springs we had the opportunity to visit with Paul King, Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors Memorial in Norwich. He reported that the Memorial Room at Old Buckenham is being used to the fullest extent and reservations must be made well in advance by groups and organizations wishing to use the facility. I'm sure it is satisfying to all of us to know that the room is being utilized in the manner for which it was intended.

As we come to the end of another year, and reflect back on it, 1984 has been a good one for the 453rd BG. We brought in several new members and lost only five. Several from the group attended their first reunion and expressed interest in coming back next year. Members of the group planted a tree and set a marker at the AF Museum dedicated to the 453rd BG. Thanks to all who helped to make these events happen. Also thanks to those who donated to keep my little operation going here in Rolla, MO. As the holiday season approaches, Mimi and I wish to extend to all, a happy holiday season and best wishes for 1985. We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

reunion in 1985. In order to get an additional 100 members by then, please take the time to write me names and addresses on a postcard. I will then get my "new and improved" recruiting kit on its way.

Please note elsewhere in this issue that plans for the 1985 reunion in the New Jersey "ex" Playboy Club are proceeding rapidly. Also, note that we are limited to approximately 450 rooms, so if you have even the least intention of being there, get your small deposit in for space reservation. Date and particulars should be noted.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and certainly a Great New Year in 1985.