



JOURNAL

Vol. 26, No. 3

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Fall 1987

May 21, 1987

When you bow your heads, what do you think about?
Do you think about their families who can never
know where their loved ones are lost.

To leave a loved one protected only by the Lord who
had to watch the men in the sky flying the B-24s.

The people must live without that person filling the
space in their hearts.

Grandchildren not knowing their real blue-blooded
grandparent must then turn to history books.

BUT! the ones who survived tell us many stories of
men they knew who they want us to remember and
spread to new generations.

I am glad my grandfather and the people I have met
are alive. If not, many words may not have been said
and life not brought into the world.

Cherokee Beaver
Age 11

*This letter was written to Leroy Engdahl by the
11-year old granddaughter of Richard and Bobbie
Kennedy at the reunion in Norwich.*

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JOURNAL

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President's Message

As we adjourned our reunion in Norwich, we closed the book on 4 decades of our existence. Little did we realize just what we had started, back in those somewhat grim and uncertain days. A little retrospection and a touch of introspection may be in order.

If it engenders a more than modest degree of pride - I think we can be forgiven. From our youthful exuberance of those days (which hasn't diminished too much), to our more mature present day outlook, we can all agree that we have nurtured and supported an organization that is unique among veterans' groups. One of our most outstanding attributes is that we do not exist for ourselves.

This is borne out by the fact that we are the progenitors and sustainers of our well-known Second AD Memorial Library. This "Living Memorial" has reached a state of maturity - a milestone if you will - that now requires us to rethink, perhaps recodify some of its concepts. It needs to grow - to encompass larger spheres of endeavor. This will not be a simple task. It has been discussed in basic terms, but needs much work and input from all those willing to offer suggestions.

"The Heritage League of the Second Air Division" has fledged its wings - a new concept - that maintains and promotes our dynamism. This too, I am sure will grow - and in the future become a surrogate for our organization when we have joined the Passing Parade.

Our individual groups function and flourish as never before. They are indeed the heart and soul of the 2nd AD.

Having looked back a bit, it seems quite fitting and proper that having completed forty years at our "Ancestral Home" we may well feel a sense of "de ja vu" as we embark on our next decade.

In closing, I would like to express my thanks to all for being extended the privilege and honor of assuming the Presidency of the Second Air Division Association 1987-88. I will rely heavily on my predecessors whom I will not name, for fear of omitting anyone. We all know who they are. The Officers and Executive Committee will be called upon for much help and guidance. And last but not least the body and soul of our Division - you.

C. I. Alexanderson



Folded Wings

44th

J.L. Hinely
James P. Hyder
Joe V. Avila
Elmer W. Smith
Harland A. Sommer

93rd

Andrew Mordovancy
Yale L. Clemmo
Earl C. Hurd
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389th

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392nd

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445th

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446th

Dean M. Peppmeier

448th

Paul G. Andrews
George W. Dickinson
Robert A. Prouty

453rd

Robert E. Dowse
Mose S. Lyon

458th

Harvey F. Beasley
Harold B. Dane
Robert J. Slencak

466th

J.M. Daniels
Thomas K. Trainer

489th

Joseph Chisling
Louis E. Corrington
Chester S. Weeks
Floyd C. Harville

491st

Lloyd Murff

HDQ

Bertha M. Barta
Howard W. Moore
Ethel Rudolph Jackson

65 FW

Robert T. Goodman

Financial Report — Second Air Division Association — June 30, 1987

General Fund Account:

Balance June 30, 1986 75,266.49

Receipts: Membership Dues	63,731.23	
Interest Earned	4,242.63	
2AD Plate Emblem Sales	540.00	
Computer Receipts & Plaques	336.31	
Pheasant Run Convention	<u>5,731.10</u>	<u>74,581.27</u>

Receipts and Balance 149,847.76

Disbursements:

V.P. Journal: Postage	1,189.68
Telephone	796.73
Gasoline	309.64
Office Supplies	63.50
Printing	253.65
Rent	5,900.00
Typewriter Repair	45.35

Journal: Printing	14,448.00
Foreign Postage	803.41
Postage	2,242.20
Envelopes	1,419.00
Composition	5,570.00
Postage-Corr. Adrs.	590.82
Film & Develop	364.90
Photo Copies	63.00
P O Box Rent	<u>53.00</u>
	34,112.88

Membership Expenses: Postage	2,696.15
Rent	5,200.00
Printing	<u>1,560.29</u>
	9,456.44

General Expenses:

Memorial Plaque - A.F. Museum	1,104.61
Memorial Wreath/Cambridge Cem.	37.50
V.P.s & Officers/Postage & Prtg.	3,076.86
Bd. of Govs. Mtg. - Oct. Uttal	526.74
Filing Fees, State of Illinois	25.56
Memorial Books/Hepworth & Moore	200.00
Treas. Bond/three years	156.00
Plaques/Reeves & Thomas	58.00
2 AD Decals (5000)	710.00
Exec. Comm. Expenses/Savannah	5,523.21
Audit Committee Expenses	1,001.81
Computer Expenses	314.29
H. C. Henry/Tape of B-24	<u>12.00</u>
	12,746.58

Capital Expenditures:

Rokicki - Desk & Hutch	364.70
Robertie - Computer/Disc/Printer/	
Cable	<u>1,968.22</u>
	2,332.92

Total Expenditures 58,648.82

Balance General Fund June 30, 1987 91,198.94

Memorial Library Fund Account:

Balance June 30, 1986 22,003.95

Receipts: Donations	29,079.68
Interest Income	758.73
Balance 2AD Ket. Hall Fund	<u>211.31</u>
	30,049.72

Receipts and Balance 52,053.67

Disbursements: to Memorial Library 43,100.00

Balance June 30, 1987 8,953.67

Library Plaque Fund - Balance as of June 30, 1987 543.20

Balance Cash on Hand, All Funds as of June 30, 1987 \$100,695.81

Dean E. Moyer
Dean E. Moyer, Treasurer

Second Air Division Association

Report by the Chairman for the Year 1986/87

by T.C. Eaton, Chairman, 2nd AD Memorial

In my report for the year 1985/86 I referred to the encouragement we had received from the decision of the Fulbright Commission to recognise the importance of the work of this Trust by awarding a scholarship in Library Science to an American librarian to be employed by the Governors to work in Norwich and Norfolk for twelve months from September 1986.

As a result, in September 1986, we welcomed to Norwich Miss Bertha Chandler from the Sharon Public Library, Massachusetts, and her appointment, combined with her activities as Fulbright Librarian, has influenced considerably and beneficially the work of the Trust throughout the year under review.

So good has been the effect of Bertha Chandler's appointment that in March 1987 the Fulbright Commission decided to renew the appointment for a further twelve months — from September 1987. That offer was accepted by Miss Chandler, who will now remain for a second year in England, working as Fulbright Librarian for the Trust. However, that is as far as the Fulbright Commission are able to help us and in April of this year we were told that the Commission would not be able to fund another librarian after Bertha Chandler's second year ends in September 1988.

The Governors understand and accept the reasons for that decision, which underlines how important it is that the Trust should have a sufficient endowment to be able to appoint an American as Memorial Librarian annually, independent of any external funding. (*Note: It is not the function of the Fulbright Commission to become involved with projects.*)

During her first six months with us, Miss Chandler has shown already how important it is to have an American presence, not only in the Memorial Room itself but in all the fields of human activity, intellectual and physical, to which the Memorial Library relates. Without such a presence the library will lack an element that is vital for its future well-being. There will be other occasions when tribute can be paid to Bertha Chandler's work with us and among us and I will therefore conclude this part of the report by saying that to have Bertha Chandler as Fulbright Librarian has been enjoyable, rewarding and stimulating, and in all that she has said and done she has endeared herself to us. We only hope that she enjoys life in England as much as we enjoy having her in Norwich and Norfolk.

Whilst the Fulbright Librarian has increased considerably the public interest in the Memorial Library, there have been other activities in the past year which have also made their contribution, including visits by Mrs. Anne Barne, Mr. and Mrs. David Hastings and my wife and myself to the 39th Annual Convention of the 2nd Air Division Association at Pheasant Run, Illinois in July 1986.

At that convention the Trust again received a generous donation from the 2nd Air Division Association, on this occasion \$22,000 (about 15,000 pounds) — "for the creation of outreach 2nd Air Division

Memorial Trust sections in five branch libraries in the areas of 2nd Air Division Bomber Bases (one in each wing)."

It is anticipated that work on creating these extensions to the Memorial Library will be started following the review of policy which has been initiated by our Fulbright Librarian. As I mentioned in my report last year, the Trust has to adapt to changing times if it is to make a meaningful contribution to the community it serves and the purpose of the policy review is to ensure that we make sensible decisions and in the right order.

During the year Mrs. Frances Davies was elected a Governor and already she has made very useful and helpful contributions to the work of the Trust. We welcome her as Governor and wish her well.

We also appointed Mr. Chris Williams as Honorary Treasurer as, with increasing funds, it was agreed that the time had come to have additional voluntary help in that field.

Mr. Tony North has continued with his invaluable work as Memorial Trust Aide and during the year his responsibilities were extended so that he could give us even more help than in the past.

To Mr. North, Mr. Chris Williams, the Norfolk County Librarians and the County Library Service at all levels, we are very grateful for all they do and have done to further the work of the Trust.

The Governors were saddened during the year by the death of Mrs. Joyce Uttal, the wife for over forty years of our American friend and colleague, Jordan Uttal. Joyce was a friend of us all and we shall miss her greatly.

However, Joyce Uttal will not be forgotten as with money donated by her many friends, and in her memory, important and useful equipment has been purchased for use in the Memorial Library. We are grateful to all who have subscribed to the Joyce Uttal Memorial and, in particular, to Jordan Uttal for his generosity, friendship and help over many years.

It has been an encouraging and a notable year, and for that I would like to thank my fellow Governors, as well as all our many friends, helpers and staff, who have made their joint and several contributions to what has been achieved. In particular the tremendous amount of work by the convention sub-committee under the enthusiastic leadership of our vice-chairman, Paul King, must not be forgotten.

We have achieved much since 1945 and particularly in recent years the pace of activity has quickened and more often than not one development or activity has led to still further interest in and use of the Memorial Library and all of this is very encouraging.

Nevertheless it is clear from the events and activities of this past year that the Trust has reached a crucial point in its development and that is of concern to us all.

If the Trust is to be positive and more than a small specialist collection of books in the Norwich Central Library, administered anonymously with the use of such grants as

are available from the Trust income each year, there has to be an American Librarian active and working in the Memorial Room and outside.

We have no doubt that is the key to the future. Such an appointment can only be made if the capital fund of the Trust is large enough to generate the income needed to fund a librarian every year. That means, realistically, an increase in the capital fund of not less than 250,000 pounds or 500,000 dollars. Such are the realities and responsibilities of maintaining the Trust as a living memorial to over 6,300 Americans of the 2nd Air Division "who, flying from bases in these parts, gave their lives defending freedom."

Declaration of Policy

Over the past few years there have been rumblings from some members that they have submitted material for the Journal and it has never been used. Some of this is true and much of it can be attributed to eager authors themselves.

I am constantly urging would-be authors to send me their experiences and a great many have responded. This is good as this is what makes the Journal the history publication it has become over the years. But there are problems.

First of all I am faced with a "first come, first served" situation. I don't think anyone will argue with that as it is only fair that the early bird gets the worm.

Next I am faced with articles that run 14-15 pages — single spaced! This is a tough situation as I DO want to get ALL material into the Journal which is a publication that will be read for years to come. I confess it to be a constant battle with myself as to what gets printed in a given issue of the Journal and what has to be passed over due to lack of space and composition time.

To those of you who have sent in material and haven't seen it in print, please accept my apologies. All the material I am sitting on will, I assure you, get printed. Just hang in there with me and between us we will get the job done.

When you write about your experiences don't begin your articles from the date you donned your first booties. Neither should you do the editing yourself as the story could be destroyed in translation. Just get to the meat of your article and I'll do the rest.

To those of you who have already sent in articles you have my thanks. It is you people who make the Journal what it is, not me. If your article hasn't been printed it will be. I cannot give a definite printing date on any article but I will do my best. Keep those stories coming. They are important to the history of WWII as fought from England, and your experiences DO count.

Bill Robertie

Bunchered Buddies of Old Buck

by Milton R. Stokes, 453rd

Cool night air blows in the windows now. Awakened just a short time ago...just had to start my report to you. You didn't know you had that effect on me. You are a demanding master. This report was started days ago but not finished so here goes again.

It seems as though we just returned from our Fortieth Reunion in England. But it has been almost a month now, so I must write while I can still remember some of the things that happened. So much went on that you should have been there.

It was a long flight over. One can never get comfortable in those cramped airplane seats. The movie was over; you slump down in your seat and try to sleep. You can only try because true sleep never comes. You are too excited...too much to think about...seeing old buddies again...so many "hellos" but you do doze off finally.

You awaken with a searchlight glare of brilliant sunshine flooding in the window through shades you had forgotten to close...at thirty-nine thousand feet that early morning sun can be blinding. In a B-24 bomber we would never climb that high. So most of us don't know how clear and unobstructed a view can be had at that altitude. The brightness hurts your eyes. Far below the sea is obscured by white clouds; a contrail is visible cutting through the cloud tops. The plane that made them must have been a supersonic military plane or maybe even the "Concorde." It left us as though we had our brakes on and our pilot told us we were going almost Mach .8 - that is over four hundred miles per hour; corrected for altitude, temperature, etc., we were going so much faster. First landfall was Ireland...still beautiful green...over the Irish Sea and into England. We had arrived in London, then on to Norwich by special train...all were excited. There was a band playing...people were everywhere...Andy Low and Evelyn Cohen were dancing on the station platform; news reporters and camera crews added to the melee. We were given a proper welcome by the people of Norwich. In my mind, I contrasted this meeting with the 453rd arrival in December 1943 at Old Buckenham...then we had the mud of unfinished roads...water-covered pathways between cold, unheated Nissen huts. The cold was penetrating, bone-chilling...no place to really get warm. It was quite a contrast to the warm, sunny days in California from which we came. And now this warm reception. The people of East Anglia really did remember us. It was to be this way for the next week...exciting and joyful.

The 453rd had one hundred and eight people in attendance at our mini-reunion banquet. In addition, we were honored with the presence of a young, budding aviation historian named Stuart Wright from Norfolk, England. Also in attendance was Ron Neumann of New York who was researching the story of the crash of Conrad's crew at Kenninghall on November 26, 1944...refer to the Summer 1987 "Journal"...but more on that later. We should list all the attendees at this convention but my space is limited so maybe it will appear elsewhere in this "Journal." If you wish I'll drop you a line with the list of those attendees...just ask in a letter. I would like to hear from each of you anyway. I sometimes get the feeling that this correspondence is a one-way street and I do all the writing, worrying and research. Your newsletters are few and far-between (I hope you take that with a grain of salt). I do like to receive your letters...please don't ask for a reply in the next mail. I'm snowed under right now. The convention has put me behind in my farm work. We came back to hayfields that had to be mowed, baled, and packed in the barn. The pastures and lawns all needed mowing...I felt swamped with work. Maybe really I was just feeling sorry for myself and my wife. The whole family pitched in to help with this work for which I am very thankful.

At our "mini" we had each man tell something of himself. That was all very interesting because there were a lot of first-timers with us who gave good talks. In fact, it was all so interesting that Frank Thomas had to break it up by telling us that we were going to be put out of the room unless we wrapped it up. It was 10:30 p.m. at that time and we hadn't conducted the election of officers yet. So officially I'm only "acting" as your Group Leader.

Wilbur Stites from Black Earth, Wisconsin asked the blessing at our meal; he did such a good job that some of our people asked if he was a preacher. Thank you again, Wilbur; we will call upon you again. You have too much talent to go unnoticed, and from Black Earth, Wisconsin, that is a name we can't forget. He and his wife, Jean, attended for the first time.

Carl and Irene Lessing and Leonard and Evelyn King didn't stay with our group in the Post House but were billeted at Stower Grange Hotel. Their reservations were received too late for the Post House...ask them to tell you how they liked that antique-furnished,

comfortable old hotel.

On Friday, May twenty-second, the 2ADA packed the Norwich cathedral to overflowing. It was a moving memorial service to our KIAs and MIAs. This is a beautiful old cathedral; it was nice to sit in such a service and look at walls that are perhaps four hundred years old. At the close of the service, Vernon Key from Norman, Oklahoma came up to me and gave me a slip of paper. Vernon is an old friend from the 492nd BG and lived in the same town that Jim Munsey was from. All you old-timers knew who Jim Munsey was...he was someone special to me and those of the 453rd who knew him. He was shot down on the Hamm Raid, April 23, 1944. On that slip of paper Vernon had noted that Jim's wife had remarried and was in a nursing home with Alzheimer's disease. His daughter, for whom he had named his ship CeeGee, was married and living in Oklahoma. I shall write to his daughter at the address that Vernon Key gave me...more later when I have more news.

Patt Ramm, our good friend from Old Buck, took John Tangorra, his wife, Helen, my wife and I and our grandson, Matthew Vinson to Kenninghall to the site of the Conrad crash. From the photos we have of the crash site, one could easily identify the home that the bomber just missed in the crash. We met a young lad named Darren Farrow who now lives just off the site and collects artifacts from the crash. He had a box of old fifty caliber machine gun shells, bits of plexiglass and aluminum from the wreck. Aside from the crashes at Old Buckenham Base, this was the first time that I had visited a crash site of one of our 453rd planes. To think that twelve men had lost their lives...this made us feel more than a little uneasy. We photographed the site, talked to Darren and his parents at some length and departed. We said a prayer for our dead buddies and were reminded that "Greater love has no man..."

On 25 May at our Old Buckenham Memorial Service, we had met a Mrs. Honor Large who lived in Old Buckenham and remembered the stricken bomber taking off that morning. She said it didn't sound right and shortly she heard the noise of the crash. Ronald Neumann was standing beside Mrs. Large as she told her story. This was what he had come so far to hear. It wasn't good news but at least one person could remember that fateful tragic morning. There must be others who can recall that morning. There were perhaps one thousand men within hearing distance of those explosives but none can recall the details.

The memorial service at All Saints Church in Old Buckenham was packed with the two busloads of 453rd people and the parishioners from Old Buck. In fact, the church was overflowing...I began to wonder about the flooring in the eight hundred year old structure; the foundations of which dates back even farther.

Andy Low answered the Welcome of Reverend Keith Hawkes; Charles Allen and Frank Thomas spoke in memory of the dead.

This was a moving memorial service. We could still hear the bombers' throbbing propellers which have been silent for these forty-three years.

Lunch that day was exceptional. We entertained our friends in Old Buckenham. The Memorial Room was spotlessly clean...that is hard to do in a public building...next a tour of the village and the flights from the old air strip. There were three or four single-engine planes taking our people up. Again the Aero Club accepted no payment for their services. I wish to thank the members of the Aero Club most graciously for their freely-given rides.

If you wish to thank the people of Old Buckenham for their hospitality and the Aero Club for your flight, please write to Julian Goodey, 48 Hargham Rd., Old Buckenham, Norfolk NR 17 1SN England.

Our main banquet of the 2 ADA was held in a long, wide marquee erection on the fairgrounds. There was no one hall big enough to handle the almost thousand people who attended. It was a well-catered meal of fresh Atlantic salmon beautifully decorated and well-served. We even had a 453rd cake which was given to us by some good people from Old Buckenham. Accept our thanks again.

To sum it up in one letter or article is difficult. It is all very nostalgic, very moving, some very sad. Some of the experiences are very gratifying. For instance, we took three of our grandchildren with us and their greatest thrill was to fly in open planes from our main strip at Old Buckenham. My grandson Matt said, "To look down and realize that that was the same place you and your buddies fought so hard to come back alive made the whole trip worthwhile." I didn't think our grandchildren could be that perceptive, that sensitive, but then again we old people underestimate the intelligence of those who will replace us. All the white markers in the American Cemetery at Cambridge stand as silent testimony to the price that was paid.

It's Your Memorial. Can We Rise to the Challenge of Perpetual Growth?

by Jordan R. Uttal

We can all be proud of the creation and development of the unique, LIVING, 2nd Air Division (USAAF) Memorial that flourishes today in Norwich. It has grown considerably from the original concept. Let me review the background for you:

In 1945, the 2nd Air Division handed over to a newly created Board of Governors, Memorial Trust 2nd Air Division, the considerable sum of 20,000 pounds for the establishment of a memorial in the planned Norwich Central Library.

It took 18 years to be built. By completion in 1963, the funds had doubled. When we paid our share, the Governors still had about 20,000 pounds left.

There were, however, no plans for further growth. For a long while it remained exactly what was born, a dignified, quiet reading and reference room. Local residents could come and be reminded of the sacrifice of close to 6,400 young Americans, of the presence and service of tens of thousands of us who served and survived, of the great friendship that had been established between the people of East Anglia and the 2nd Air Division.

In 1948 the Association was created. Over the years the support of the memorial became a prime purpose. Since the early 1970s your annual contributions, with your dues, have enabled the value of the assets of the trust to grow from the almost 20,000 pounds in 1963 to 287,417 pounds as of 6 April 1987!

This could not have happened without your generosity, your annual \$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 or whatever contributions and the devoted and successful management of the trust by the Governors who have served over the years. In that time, more has happened than having our assets grow. Our activities have grown in the community accordingly, with the assistance of the six months presence of an American Librarian (financed by local British funds) in 1985, the part time assistance of Tony North, and since September 1986 by the efforts of our Fulbright Scholar Librarian, Bertha Chand-

ler, who will be with us until October 1988.

How have we grown? Our stocks in the Memorial Room and in the library have been kept as fresh as possible. They are used by increasing numbers of local citizens and researchers, and graduate students. We have added audio cassettes, video cassettes, magazines and periodicals and a stock of books in the children's section. We have sponsored showings of videotapes about the 2nd Air Division which play to full houses at the library and wherever they are shown in East Anglia.

Steps are underway to make our Memorial Room the most authoritative archive center in England of and about the personnel and operations of the Division.

However, we need more - and to delay no further in getting your attention - we are talking about a separate fund, entirely apart from what we already have, and from what it hopefully will grow to as you keep sending your annual remittances, A SEPARATE FUND OF \$500,000.00! THAT'S A HALF MILLION BUCKS!!!

Bertha Chandler wrote a comprehensive report for us before we left for England. I met her privately as soon as I arrived in Norwich. I met privately with the chairman, Tom Eaton, attended (accompanied by a committee of seven from the Executive Committee) the Annual Board of Governors meeting. There we heard further presentations from Bertha and from the Central Library Principal Librarian Colin Sleath, further exploration at the Executive Committee meeting, and finally, further light on the matter at the business meeting from Bertha and Tom Eaton.

It boils down to what is considered to be a pressing need, now and in the future, for a full time American Librarian, and a full time Librarian Aide. We are told that to achieve that goal a separate fund is needed as indicated above. The interest from that fund will take care of these needs for years to come.

The momentum we have achieved with Bertha's presence is incredible. We have had

exposure to eleven branches of the Central Library - talks about the USA galore to local organizations (45 in the first six months of Bertha's tour), contact with the school system, development of the Archive plans, review of the condition of the book stocks. In addition there has developed an increase in local publicity about our (your) memorial, which in turn has resulted in a steady stream of visitors, local and foreign seeking information about the USA, about the Division, about individuals, and an increased consciousness in the community about our existence, and a contribution to the cultural life of the Norwich area.

In Bertha's words, "To reach the potential indicated by these activities we need a full time professional American Librarian supported by a full time aide. Without such staffing the quality of the services provided by the 2nd Air Division Memorial will deteriorate seriously."

There are many who feel that to stand still is to go backward. So, we take this opportunity to advise all of you, almost 6,500 members of the Association that we have a challenge to face - THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING \$500,000.00 as a special fund for this purpose. (Let it be clearly understood that this is in addition to our usual annual contributions with our dues).

So we come to you to ask your opinions. Can we do it? How do we feel about it? Do you have some pro or con suggestions?

We are not asking for funds or pledges at this time. We want to know how you feel about it. It is your Memorial. Your views are needed. Will you please drop me a line right away and give me your opinion?

Simplistically it looks easy. Surely among our 6,500 members there are 500 who can give \$1,000 or 1000 who can give \$500, or any contribution larger or smaller.

The Executive Committee is getting together to arrive at a decision, based on your opinions, so that hopefully an effective plan can be created.

Please get in touch! It is your Memorial!

A Turn in the Road

barrier for their crops.

Now in 1987 my husband, Joseph F. Bradley, Radio Operator and C.D. (Cecil) Johnson, Flight Engineer, two airmen who had bailed out of that fateful B-24 on their way to Coblenz, Germany, met in Albany, Georgia, the first time they've met in 41 years. C.D.'s lovely wife, Simone, and I met at this occasion, and it is a privilege to be a part of the experiences and camaraderie of these men and women whom we've met during their reunions.

The sequel to this story is that their pilot, Lt. E. Johnson, no relation to C.D., had passed away on May 22, 1983 in Arlington, Texas. The fourth crew member was Stanislaus L. Mikelajcsyk ("Mike"). Mike's last known address was Brooklyn, New York. C.D. and Joe have made many attempts to locate him, but to no avail.

C.D. retired from Robins Air Force Base, Georgia as a master Sergeant after 24 years of service and resides in Georgia. Joe retired after 31 years in education and lives in New Jersey.

A sojourn of 41 years has come full circle, and we are grateful to the 8th Air Force 2nd A.D., and in particular to Floyd Mabee, V.P. of the 93rd B.G., for making this special reunion possible.

Sincerely,
Peggy Bradley
for Joe Bradley, C.D. Johnson,
and Simone Johnson

P.S. S.L. Mikelajcsyk (Mike) has been located in River Edge, NJ. C.D., Joe and Mike shall all meet in Atlantic City in September 1987.

As my beloved Dad once said to me, "There is a turn in the road for everyone." Mine came in 1970 when I married my husband. During these 17 years I have met the wonderful men and women of The Mighty 8th A.F.— 2nd A.D.

In 1972 we had the opportunity to visit Ingelmunster, Belgium, where on September 21, 1944 aboard a B-24 called "Naughty Nan," my husband, part of a crew of nine, had a mid-air collision. Only four in this plane survived. None of the crew of ten in the other plane survived.

The visit was emotional and full of memories. Some of the gracious people of Belgium who helped them were still there and so were their children. On their farm land they showed us the propeller of the downed 93rd B.G. airplane that had surfaced ten years later and in 1972 had become a



Arthur V. Cullen (44th)

Members of the 44th Bomb Group, about 40 strong, attended the 40th annual reunion of the Second Air Division Association in Norwich, England held in May, 1987. A very successful mini-reunion was held during the proceeding at the Nelson Hotel, at which occasion a copy of Will Lundy's "Roll of Honor" and statistical book was reviewed by those in attendance. Copies of the book were presented to the Memorial Room. This thoroughly researched work lists the individual aircraft losses of the 44th BG and includes whatever details that could be discovered as to the fate of the crew members. Will has agreed to have the book produced if he receives sufficient interest to warrant a regular printing. If interested send a check for \$25.00 to Will Lundy, 3295 North "H" Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405. If insufficient interest evolves the money will be returned. One of the hitherto unknown items produced by this research indicates that the 44th lost 859 men KIA during operations and an additional 866 losses due to injuries, P.O.W. or internment with total casualties amounting to 1725 from 1942-1945. Also evident from the statistics is the tremendous reduction in the loss rate beginning in late 1943 when the long range (P-47, P-51) escort fighters appeared in numbers. As an example the 67th squadron suffered 162 KIA in 1943, 79 in 1944 and 9 in 1945.

In fulfilling a long anticipated project, following the reunion festivities, I drove the 17 miles from Norwich to Shipdham to attempt to view the old wartime home of the 44th BG from the air.

At the Arrow Air Service, a general aviation operation located on the northwest corner of the old airfield, I contacted Stan Hodgkins, a certified flight instructor and former R.A.F. jet jockey who agreed to accompany me on the project. Of the numerous aircraft on the ramp, French, English, American, (even a 1/2 scale F.W. 190A) he suggested using a Piper Cherokee, and invited me to sit on the left side and fly the aircraft. After takeoff on Runway 21, the only serviceable runway surviving, we headed in the direction of 14th combat Wing Headquarters, scene of the now famous wall paintings and the "Eightball" insignia. Since I wanted to take pictures Mr. Hodgkins took over and we made a typical approach pattern so familiar to the aircrews during operations. Heading east, south of the communal and living sites, we turned on to base near the village church and then a left turn to the final approach. At this point the scene was pure nostalgia



Art Cullen still flying!

with the main runway ahead, only 300 feet of it remains, the 3 hangars and the control tower ahead on the left and the perimeter track paralleling the main runway. As we approached the threshold of the East-West runway a young man was flying a model plane on the remains of the old surface. There being no room to land we continued down what was the runway, now returned to agriculture, passed the old control tower viewing it from 100 feet in the air.

Although most of the living quarters are gone there are enough relics remaining so that with a little imagination you can recreate the very active Army Airfield 115 of 1942-45. The composite view from the air gives a more realistic impression of the old base than viewing the remains of the individual sites from ground level. For the record Sites 1, 3 and 5 have completely returned to the earth; the hospital site is recognizable as are 14th CW headquarters sites 2 and 4, the old W.A.A.F. dorm site and of course the flight line with the control tower, 3 hangars, utility buildings and the perimeter track. For whatever reason none of the dispersal areas adjacent to the perimeter track have survived.

The residential development of the village has crept almost to the area of the bomb dump in the southwest corner of the base. After a quick run to North Pickenham and Watton we landed at Shipdham and I headed back to Norwich quite elated at having revisited the airspace above this historic segment of the East Anglian countryside.

Restoration of B-24J, 44-44052, to flying condition continues with steady progress at the hangar in Stow, MA. The exterior of the fuselage has been completely stripped of the Indian AF camouflage and is down to base metal. No decision has yet been reached on the final finish - olive drab and gray or the natural aluminum. Outer wing panels and engine nacelles have been shipped to

Kissimmee, FL where a professional restorer will insure for structural integrity. Buick Division of General Motors and Pratt & Whitney have been approached to rebuild the engines. Buick built most of the R-1830 engines used in the "J" models. Final assembly and testing will be done in Florida. If all of the rebuild factors come together in time, it is expected that this B-24 will be flying for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Liberator in May 1989. Much more is needed in parts, funds and labor to insure its completion by this date. Contributions in any of these categories should be directed to the Collings Foundation (a non profit no salary organization), River Hill Farm, Stow, MA 01775. To view the aircraft and restoration proceedings contact Bob Collings at this address. Much of the work to date has been accomplished by Second AD Assoc. members including Bill Eagleston, 453rd BG; Jack Williams, 445th BG; Bob Eisenhower, 446th BG; Stuart Bemis, 445th BG; Al Cataldo, 44th BG; and Bill Robertie, 44th BG.

NOTICE!
*Dues are
due!*

About the Memorial

by Jordan R. Uttal

You will see many references in this issue to the terrific 40th Convention/Reunion of the Association last May in Norwich. Indeed, I am sure that there will be many expressions of thanks from those who were there to those who helped make it such an outstanding event. However, I cannot resist the opportunity to pass on my own personal accolades to our dear Evelyn for her overall supervision, and to our dear friends Paul King and David Hastings in Norwich, and the members of Paul's staff, Judy Keys and Carol Crowe, and to Bill Holmes, Peter Buckingham, Frank Gadbois and Tony North for all their dedicated work. And mention must be made of that great orchestral leader and his colleagues for such wonderful entertainment, and the special flourish composed in our honor.

And now to business: In accordance with our By-Laws, I submitted my report on the state of the Memorial at the Convention business meeting in Norwich. Due to my acute laryngitis at the time, the facts and comments I had prepared were admirably delivered by friend Andy Low.

I-we-he started by offering thanks to my fellow Governors, to the County Librarians, to our efficient, enthusiastic and personable Fulbright Scholar Librarian, Bertha Chandler, and to old friend Tony North who has been serving as a Librarian Aide.

The great news is that the Fulbright Grant has been extended for a second year, and even more happily, Bertha has agreed to stay on until October 1988!

The state of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF, and the Memorial Room of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF) (please note these correct official names) is excellent! Due to a newly installed computer system, we now have an accurate count of the numbers of books purchased with trust funds. Instead of the 7,500 as reported last year divided roughly as 2,500 in the Memorial Room itself, and 5,000 elsewhere in the Norwich Central Library, we actually have a total of 4,400. This is divided into 2,600 in the Memorial Room (present maximum capacity) and 1,800 on the outside shelves. However, in the opinion of Bertha Chandler, many of the 2,600 in the Memorial Room should be retired and replaced.

This changes considerably the opinion I have expressed to you for the last two years, based on the inaccurate facts given to the Governors, that book purchases were no longer a high priority. The difference between the numbers of books on the shelves outside the Memorial Room is due to inaccurate, manual statistical reporting of volumes that had become worn and discarded.

In view of the fact therefore that book (and periodical) purchases remain a priority item, the Governors voted a grant from current income of 5,250 pounds to the Library, 90% of which will be used for new books for the Memorial Room. Added to this, we presented to the Governors, through Tom Eaton, at the banquet, an additional \$5,000.00 for that purpose.

The usage of Memorial Room stocks this year was approximately the same as last year. In view of the fact that access to the Library was adversely affected for a period of six months due to structural alterations of the Library building, that's pretty good.

Financial Health (in Pounds sterling)	1987	1986
	(Market Value)	
8 Indiv. and Group Private Endowment	16,298	13,807
2ADA Librarian Endowment Fund	27,279	23,364
Capital Fund Investments-9 Securities	215,132	179,807
Current Assets	28,708	11,590
Total Market Value of all	287,419	228,568

These splendid increases are due to the recovery of the British securities market and the excellent management of the Board of Governors.

Total income from the sources for the current year came to 18,879 pounds as compared to 13,942 in 1986. We ended the year with a surplus of 2,620 pounds, as compared with 752 pounds in 1986, and as I recall a small loss in 1985!

Roll Of Honor: Another 65 authenticated names were handed over for addition to the Master Roll of Honor and the additional Group Individual Rolls of Honor. This brings the total to 6,394 names of our comrades who fell to enemy action.

I extend sincere thanks to the Group Vice Presidents and their designated colleagues for their diligence in going through the steps necessary to obtain official authentication through the Dept. of the Army.

Proposed Alterations to the Memorial Room: Your Executive Committee reviewed the proposals of the architect which I brought to them from the Governors who had expressed favorable reactions. They were similarly negotiated by the Executive Committee.

At the 2ADA members luncheon on Friday 22 May, Tom Nash, the architect, spoke briefly and displayed the three colored drawings of the proposed alterations. Without any comments from any of us, without any mention of, or request for funds for this purpose from the members at the luncheon, there was a flood of cash thrust upon him. This was a remarkable spontaneous vote of approval from the troops. Needless to say we were pleased with this unexpected and unplanned result, and welcomed this support. I am pleased to add that the Executive Committee supplemented the 700 or so pounds that were collected by presenting to the trust, through Tom Eaton, at the banquet, another \$15,000.00 of your donations for this purpose.

Proposed Permanent American Staffing at Memorial Room: Elsewhere in this issue you will find a separate report from me - **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION** - and especially for your comments to me about your reactions. I urge you to read it carefully, and give me the benefit of your thinking so I can make up a consensus for our Executive Board and Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust. I would appreciate a note from ALL of you.

Finally: My laryngitis cleared up in time for me to accept the honor of acting as M.C. for the banquet. I felt pretty strongly about this assignment because it was the 40th anniversary of our founding, and I am extremely proud of my involvement in our beginnings and growth. I tried to convey those feelings of pride and concluded the evening by reading a poem written by my sister in honor of all of us, present and absent. It is for you, for us, and for those who have left us:

CHEERS by Rhoda Bandler

Take them by decades, or one after one,
Our years that buzzed by in a flash.
We meet to remember things we have done,
The daring, the honor, the dash.

At Forty, then, here's to our comrades of yore
To Victory, Peril, and Pain.
To us who are living, to those gone before,
And to all who will gather again.

Subject: 40th 2nd ADA Convention

To: All Personnel

Since returning from England and our 40th convention I have received numerous letters, telephone calls and words of praise in support of our 40th convention. These communications have been received from our members as well as from the great people of Norwich. For the great success of this convention I claim no credit personally. It was the excellent leadership by members of our executive committee, our vice presidents, our great friends of Norwich and Norfolk County — with a great leader out front in the person of Evelyn Cohen — that made our 40th Convention the great success by which we will all attest.

In behalf of the office of the president, I have written a letter of appreciation to all members of the executive committee — to all vice presidents and thirty-five letters to our English friends thanking everyone for their outstanding cooperation and teamwork. For each of you who attended the convention, I wish to thank you for your attendance, your splendid cooperation, your expressions of appreciation and, most of all, for the great admiration within the ranks of our membership. You are, without a doubt, a member of one of the greatest (if not the greatest) veterans' organizations in existence today!

Let's keep the 2ADA flying high!!!

It was a great and wonderful experience serving as your president. Support Carl Alexanderson as you did me. He's a great guy.

Sincerely,

Jim H. Reeves, President 1986-87



2nd Air Division Headquarters Group

by Mary Frances Elder

WE DID IT!!! Evelyn and Dean unveiled the plaque at Ketteringham Hall on Monday, May 25, 1987 on a day full of sunshine and good fellowship. It was quite an occasion. We had our own Headquarters bus which got lost and we came in our old way - the back way - but, WHAT A WELCOME!!! The Rector of the church had music of the '40s going on his loud speaker in front of the Hall, the church bells were ringing and lots of the local folks were there to greet us!

Shortly after we arrived, about 80 389th Group from Hethel arrived with escort - a couple of jeeps and an ambulance of WW II vintage - so polished and shiny you would have thought they were brand new - the owners/drivers were British civilians who have formed a club to restore these vehicles and perpetuate their existence. They enjoyed participating in all the excitement as much as we enjoyed having them. We had about 150 people to help us dedicate our plaque.

After a short service, we welcomed the group and introduced Andrew Ferguson, who was from Club Team Lotus who owns Ketteringham Hall. He welcomed us and invited us to wander the grounds and gardens, as well as the building our old offices were in. Club Team Lotus has been undoubtedly the most cooperative group that I have ever had the pleasure of working with. After Andrew's warm welcome, the VIPs were introduced, including Tom Eaton, Frank Gadbois, Alfred Jenner, and our own Jordan Uttal, members of the Board of Governors.

Of particular interest to all of us was a letter received by Hathy Veynar from a local Norwich lady after hearing Hathy on the radio. In the interview Hathy had commented that we all wondered what had happened to the Nissen huts and barracks we left behind, full of so many memories...

The letter gave the history of our various huts, and the G.I.s and the Officers too. It seems that immediately following the end of hostilities and when the soldiers returned home, everybody was looking for a place to live. Due to the bombing, housing facilities were very scarce and, of course, essential building came first. So, some of the families (including the letter writer) moved into the huts at Ketteringham Hall and became what we call "squatters." Every hut was used. She spoke of the wonder of having running water in the ablutions block and the unutterable joy of being in their own quarters after having been crowded into a house with in-laws, etc. A bus ran from Ketteringham Hall to Norwich for supplies. Lots of babies were born there and lasting friendships formed. Finally, though, housing became available and the "squatters" moved out. From the tone of the letter you could tell that the primitive conditions were a welcome relief to those who lived there, and it was a wonderful thought to all of us to know that these barracks, where we shared so much joy and sorrow, laughter and tears were used to give shelter to our British friends.



Mary Frances Elder and Patrick Perry

John Saunders, our Associate Vice President, introduced our President Jim Reeves. Jim made a short talk reminding us of the time we spent at Ketteringham Hall and the work we had done, and some of the fun we also enjoyed. He emphasized the fact that our work was vital to the success of our Bomber Groups and also that since we were permanent personnel, our association with each other was perhaps stronger, therefore we should make every effort to contact our 'lost souls' and bring them back into the fellowship we shared so long ago, and still share today.

Jim called on Evelyn Cohen and Dean Moyer to unveil the plaque which is made of bronze and situated in an alcove on the south wall of Ketteringham Hall facing the little stream. The Club Team Lotus has put a very comfortable bench beneath the plaque inside the alcove for visitors to rest and reminisce.

After the unveiling the words on the plaque were read, followed by a unison reading by the entire group:

"We hereby dedicate this plaque to all of those who served in the full knowledge of their unselfishness and sacrifice. Recognizing the responsibilities left for us, the living, to continue the work they began - that of making the world a better place in which to live and a better place for our children and grandchildren."

"Let us remember: 'We are not feathers in the wind, nor straws on the stream, but people with souls and wills and conscience, and, as people we fix our destiny by our character, and we fix our character by our actions.'"

"Let us not forget the past...however, let us take action now...with optimism...with enthusiasm...and choose this day what we can do for our country and for the world...in honor and remembrance of those 'past days' and for the friends and companions we worked with who have folded their wings."

Our Dedication Service was closed with prayer by Jim Reeves.

The 389th had to return to Hethel and the Headquarters Group wandered about Ketteringham Hall and the surrounding area. We walked to the church - looked at the marriage register - Hathy remembered playing the organ and I remembered singing solos. The bell ringers were "ringing down" the bells. We walked down toward the living area - WAC and GI and Officer - and the old Opey House is still standing. Further down, where the WAC Day Room was there are partial remains of the fireplace. We looked for the old brick bar with the built in half-circle for the beer barrels but couldn't find it.

The huts and mess hall are gone, but the Opey House brought back some memories, such as Bing Crosby in "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," the time Jimmy Cagney came to camp.

Our memories were enhanced by the people who still live on the estate. Tommy Tomlin Davis found the little boy (now a grown man) she gave an orange to. He remembered the incident well - it was the first orange he ever tasted. All the people on the estate remembered various acts of kindness on the part of the G.I.s and Janes, and we could feel their love encompassing us as we talked of old times, with some tears and much joy.

We went into Ketteringham Hall and looked at the old offices. I found where my desk used to be in relation to the windows at the front of the Hall. Ray Strong remembered the Adjutant General's office next door and Jim Reeves the War Room. We located the switchboard and communications room. Although Ketteringham Hall had changed somewhat, there was enough to bring back lots of memories.

After a glorious morning we all went to the Park Farm Hotel for lunch, which was delightful, and then returned to the hotel to prepare for the gala banquet that night.

I have tried to keep this portion of my report strictly to the dedication of our plaque. However, please allow me to tell you how honored and humbled I was to have the privilege of participating in the ceremony at Cambridge Cemetery along with the other Vice Presidents. When Pat Perry of the 491st, Charles Freudenthal of the 489th and I went up to lay the wreath in honor of our comrades resting there, it was the high point of our reunion - for me personally - and I know for many others. When Ray Strong spoke of Ray Lofgren we all felt the same emotional impact. The beautiful surroundings gave a sense of security and serenity to those who had friends or relatives buried there. It gave us all a firmer resolve that such an enormous loss should never happen again. My thanks for allowing me to participate.

You will be hearing from me more in detail a little later. Oh yes, in case you didn't know, you have me for Vice President again this year and I will be calling on all of you to help us make the Headquarters Group grow again this year. I'll do my best to keep you informed on all the various activities of 2AD, and in return, please hunt up any old rosters or orders that have addresses on them, and see who you can contact. You'll be glad you did...and so will they.

Unlikely Meeting Occurs 3,600 Miles Away From Home

by Michael D. Benarcik

At the foot of the historic bridge at a crossroads in Scotland, 3,600 miles from Delaware, was a little sign that read, "Tea & Breakfast at Tee Pee Inn."

We drove on, looking for the village of Invergarry. After a few more miles and the absence of any houses, we assumed we had passed it. It was then past 1 and time for lunch, so we backtracked to the sign.

Within 200 yards of the bridge, nestled on a hill, was a quaint little home to which an atrium had been added to accommodate hungry travelers.

There were seven in our party. We had rented a mini-van to tour Scotland after attending a memorial convention of the Eighth U.S. Air Force, which was stationed in England and Scotland during World War II.

The Second Air Division of the Eighth Air Force returns at four-year intervals to pay tribute to the men who flew bombers over Germany during the war. The veterans return to their bases in East Anglia, near the city of Norwich.

On one day of the convention, there is a memorial ceremony in the cathedral, after which the Royal Air Force does a fly-by with the World War II vintage Lancaster Bomber and the famed Spitfire that escorted so many U.S. Liberator B-24 bombers back to base, protecting them after they'd been shot up during bombing missions.

On another day of the convention, 1,000 men and their wives visit the U.S. Airmen's Cemetery at Cambridge, resting place for

some 60,000 who did not return.

One of the visitors on Memorial Day 1987 at Cambridge was Winona Ousley Cobb from Amarillo, Texas. With her was her daughter — who never knew her father — and the daughter's daughter. The three placed a Peace rose on the grave of the husband-father-grandfather.

The English remember when, as they put it, "The world was on fire and they sent you here to help us put it out." They show their appreciation with ceremony: Airmen from today's Royal Air Force served the Americans luncheon in a huge hangar at Royal Air Force base, Coltishall, where the Spitfires were based. The Red Arrow team displayed precision flying, and precision paratroopers performed.

At a gala banquet in a huge tent on the Norwich fairgrounds, the living American airmen paid special tribute to the 6,400 men of the U.S. Liberator Bomber Groups who died.

After the convention, many of the airmen toured with their families — some in England, to visit friends made 44 years earlier; others in Holland or France. Our group already had been both places, so this time we chose to see Scotland at leisure. We left East Anglia and headed north to the highlands of Scotland.

Now, having parked at the Tee Pee Inn, we entered and approached the cafeteria-style display of food, placing our orders.

Seated at a table was a couple who were

not wearing Scottish attire, but looked more American. We asked if they were part of the airmen's convention; they said no. We asked what part of the States they were from. They said, "We are from the state that calls itself 'the Small Wonder' — Delaware."

"What part of Delaware are you from?" I asked.

"Wilmington."

"So am I, what part of Wilmington?"

"Sharpley; we recently moved to Greenville."

Though they looked familiar, I could not remember, so I added, "Sharpley is directly behind our offices — we were the former owners of Your Home on Concord Pike."

"Oh sure, we use the sidewalk you provided for Sharpley residents to the bus top on Concord Pike." They also remembered buying a Carolyn Blish painting at Your Home, and said they wished they'd bought more.

Strange that two parties from one state should travel 3,400 miles across the ocean, drive another 200 miles on winding roads in Scotland and stop at a small crossroads, at a bridge with a sign beckoning hungry travelers, at the same time on the same day.

The neighbors shook hands — Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Starkweather Jr. of Greenville Manor, and Michael D. Benarcik of Veale Road — in Invergarry, Scotland. And then the travelers went on, they north to Isle of Skye, we through the rolling hills and highlands of Scotland.

2AD Headquarters WACs Make Presentations at Norwich Convention



Before being transferred from Ketteringham in 1945, the Hqs. WACs contributed to the original Trust Fund and at this 40th Norwich Convention, they were again pleased to make a contribution at the Banquet. Mr. Jordan Uttal looks on as WAC Earline Embrey presents a check for \$600.00 to Mr. Tom Eaton, Chairman of the Board of Governors, for the Memorial Trust Fund, to be used for a visible and permanent remembrance to be placed in the American Library from the Hqs, Second Air Division Womens Army Corps. A scroll with the names of donors was also presented to Mr. Tom Eaton.



Mr. Tony North accepts from WAC Eleanor Storms a 90-page "History of the Womens Army Corps — 1942-1945" collected from the WAC files of memorabilia. The collection was dedicated to honor those women, living and those deceased who were once stationed at Headquarters, Second Air Division from 1943-1945, and is to be placed in the American Library.



Open Letter To the 93rd

by Floyd H. Mabey (93rd)

The 93rd attendance for the 40th 2nd ADA Reunion was 32 members, 23 wives and 1 guest. Most of the space I am allotted in our Journal, I will utilize to try and explain events for those not present at our reunion. On May 25, 1987, the dedication of our very handsome black granite Memorial.



Mr. & Mrs. David Woodrow had planned an all day affair for us, with the wonderful residents of TOPCROFT. Part of the property of our base is owned by Mr. Woodrow, and for several years has prepared and kept us a lovely flower garden with a flag pole, where he flies our American flag for us daily. Mr. Woodrow was a member of our committee and was given the choice for the location of the Monument. He had it placed next to the flag pole, and you can see in the picture the flowers and fence in the background. In back and to the side were two original buildings; someone said they were the Officers quarters and the Sergeants quarters.

Dave escorted our bus to the short landing strip at Hardwick where several folks from the village had already gathered, plus TV crew, an old restored military truck, and three restored Piper Cub WW II spotter planes, pilots from local clubs to take anyone up that wanted to see the old base from the air. What a wonderful moving feeling that was, to see the outline of all the runways, most have been dug up for road material, but I think you will always be able to see where they were. I hope for the sake of those that haven't been back, that Dave might save the short runway for a few years yet.

After the planes left, we bussed to St. Margaret's TOPCROFT Church, where memorial services were being held. It was a wonderful service; the parishioners had donated a plaque placed in the wall dedicated to those of the 93rd lost in action. The villagers had raised money for this from showing an archive film, and they also treated us after service to a luscious lunch at the town club house. Dave even arranged for

two Scottish pipers to serenade us while eating. After lunch there were a few speeches. I thanked all the villagers for the wonderful services and lunch. Dave had suggested I ask the vicar to say a special prayer in gratitude to the ladies for kindness to us. I then introduced our Memorial Chairman, M/Sgt. Joseph Beach (Ret.) and he made a presentation of two wonderful plaques he made and donated, to David Woodrow and John Archer for all of their help with the committee. I also introduced Edwin Baker, one of the 93rd original pilots of the 409th Squadron and he donated and presented two special gourmet cookbooks to Jean Woodrow and Lorna Archer, for their help and support to their hard working husbands.

We then proceeded to Dave's garden location, to dedicate our memorial. We had a presentation of colors by (RAF) Bentwater base color guard, a welcome address by Dave Woodrow and he introduced me as VP of the 93rd and I welcomed all. Our invocation was by Chaplain Col. Anderson (RAF) Bentwater base, the Lt. Charles Weiss (Ret.), our chairman of the preparations and dedication ceremonies, gave recognition to dignitaries present, remarks by Col. Kent Harbough (USAF) Malesworth Base, US Ambassador Representative. Charles Weiss read a letter from J.C. Wilson, Jr., Colonel USAF Commander Headquarters, 93rd Bombardment Wing, (SAC) Castle Air Force Base, Calif. This letter was in a folder presented to me by five fine handsome American Air Force officers and an enlisted man. The colonel wrote, "The accomplishments and sacrifices of the 93rd Bomb Group are well-remembered by the 93rd Bomb Wing at Castle AFB. We are proud to carry on the name of the only wartime organization in the Air Force that has not been inactivated since original formation. Presently, we are restoring a B-24 aircraft which will wear the markings of the 93rd over Ploesti. This will serve to both educate and motivate our young aviators." Due to lack of space, I am asking Mr. Robertie to print under the "Letters" heading of the Journal a letter I addressed to members of the 93rd BG; the letter is from David R. Kennerley, Capt. USAF 329 CCTS/CTOAN, 93 BMW, Castle AFB, CA 95342-5000. He tells in that letter about their museum, and the need for information from men that were in the 93rd Bomb Group during WW II. Please read the letter if Bill prints it. I just haven't had the room to put it in my Open Letter.

Back to the dedication: There was a scripture reading by John Archer, a memorial dedication by Charles Weiss, the unveiling of our monument by Weiss and myself, the national anthems both English and American by band, then the fly-over by the local aircraft clubs. They dropped 10,000 Poppies and Petals, a minute of silence as the Poppies reach the ground, Taps were played and benediction by Vicar S. Nairn from the TOPCROFT Church, Honour Guard retired the Colours and a last fly-over by several aircraft and gliders. A new flag that had flown over the capital was donated by Paul Harwood and was presented to Dave Woodrow. There was so much more I would like to tell about, but I just don't have the room.

To all committee members I want to thank you all again to have accomplished this

outstanding job for the benefit of all our members. This beautiful memorial you can be very proud of. At least, in years to come they will know we were there.

The wonderful dedication pamphlets were made up by Charlie Weiss. We handed them out at the services but we ran out; didn't figure on the crowd assembled. He plans to have more made up for requests from anyone that contributed for the memorial and didn't get one. Contact Charles Weiss, 21 Moran Dr., Waldorf, MA 20601.

At our Annual Meeting, I was elected to be your VP for 1987-88. I was also appointed earlier by the nominating committee of the 2nd ADA to be one of three Group VPs to a one year term on the Executive Committee.

William F. Doerner, 620 W. Highland Rd., Sagmore Hills, OH 44067 answered my request for a volunteer to be chairman to look into the costs and requirements of donating a memorial marker at Wright Patterson Air Museum. Information concerning this was noted in your June Journal.

Frederick A. Strombom, Box 646, Ogema, WI 54459 is taking over making up rosters for anyone that wants one. Contact him for current 93rd rosters. I have just received word from Mr. Strombom that he can make up the roster plus a geographical listing. I have heard that the 2nd ADA is not going to make up any more rosters as it is much too expensive. It will be left up to each group to make up their own. I'm not sure that this is true. So we are prepared.

I have decided that in order for Maj. Carlos Vasquez (Ret.) to have more time to spend on writing the History of the 93rd, I am replacing him as the Asst. Vice President for the 330th Squadron. I have not decided as yet who I will appoint for this position.

Change of Address

When you move please send your change of address to:

Evelyn Cohen
06-410 Delaire Ldg. Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19114

on the form below, as soon as possible. To send the change to anyone else (Bill Robertie or Group VP) simply delays the change appearing on our records. This could mean that the next issue of the Journal will go to your old address and could be lost in the great jaws of the Post Office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

name

address

group

Days of Nostalgia as American Ex-Servicemen Return to Suffolk

by Kevin Burch, East Anglian Daily Times

It was a day for nostalgia yesterday, as about 30 American ex-servicemen returned to the former Suffolk airfield from which they flew during the 1939-45 war.

Forty years on, the airmen — many of them visiting the airfield at Holton, near Halesworth, for the first time since the war — came back to reminisce and to remember comrades who died.

For local people it was the chance to pay their own special tribute to the men of the 489th Bomb Group — or "Holton's Boys" as they were affectionately known.

After a poignant service at Holton Parish Church the airmen, wives and families gathered on the former airfield to lay wreaths at a memorial stone, erected three years ago in honour of the bomb group.

After a pause, the still silence of remembrance was broken, as three USAF A10 "Tankbusters" roared overhead past the former runways and mess buildings to add their own tribute.

The visit was organised by The Friends of the 489th, a group set up several years ago to strengthen the links between the area and ex-airmen once based at Holton.

The 489th came to Holton in April, 1944, and flew 106 operational missions from the airfield in B-24 Liberator bombers, before leaving seven months later in November.

For the former airmen — among American ex-servicemen enjoying a five-day visit to see former bases in Suffolk and Norfolk — yesterday's reunion was a day of mixed emotions.

Holton's parish church was filled to overflowing for a reunion service and the dedication of a memorial plaque.

The visitors were welcomed by the chairman of the Friends of the 489th, Mr. Pat Cox, who said the service was an act of remembrance for the many young Americans who lost their lives.

He told the ex-airmen, "You are all remembered with such affection and gratitude in this area, and we hope you will always find a place for this special corner of England in your hearts."

Canon Clifford Mills said their visit was a memorable occasion, which would bring back both happy and sad memories.

A plaque in memory of the 489th was unveiled and dedicated and Canon Mills said it was fitting that it should be in the parish church.

At the airfield, veteran Mr. George Nokes, who flew from Holton with the 489th as a second lieutenant bombardier, summed up the feelings of many ex-airmen as he expressed their thanks to local people.

Mr. Nokes, now 63, of Austin, Texas, reflected how the airmen had come to Holton "lonesome, homesick and new to your country."

Local people had been short of so many



The Chairman of the Friends of the 489th Bomb Group, Paddy Cox, left, receiving the USAAF 40th anniversary award from Bud Chamberlain.

things, but there was no shortage of friendship, hospitality and spirit, he said.

He went on, "This is very sacred ground to us as we left many of our comrades here — your remembrance is highly significant."

Mr. Lee Baker, from Los Angeles, and a former first lieutenant at Holton, laid flowers on behalf of the 489th.

Other wreaths were laid on behalf of the Friends of the 489th, Waveney District Council, Halesworth Town Council, local Scouts and Guides, as well as several other groups.

Three USAF servicemen, based at RAF Bentwaters, formed a color guard for the ceremony and representatives from the Royal British Legion, representing Suffolk County "G" Group and Halesworth branch, bore standards.

The service was attended by a number of dignitaries, including the chairman of Waveney District Council Mr. Bob Niblett, the Mayor of Southwold, Mr. Joe Hurren, and the chairman of Halesworth Town Council Mr. Alan Holzer.

The visit to Holton airfield was especially poignant for Californian Mrs. Sharon Kiernan — daughter of the late Lt. Col. Leon Vance, who was deputy commanding officer of the 489th.

He named his plane the "Sharon D" after his daughter, Sharon Drury Vance, when he was assigned to fly missions from Holton airfield.

Lt. Col. Vance was destined never to fly the plane — suffering horrific injuries including the loss of his right foot, after being hit on a mission over France.

Despite his injuries, he continued to lead his formation on to raid an enemy-occupied coastal zone and successfully bombed it, before struggling home in the badly-hit plane and ditching in the Channel.

Lt. Col. Vance was tragically lost when a plane flying him back home for convalescence went missing. He was awarded

the Medal of Honor — America's highest decoration for bravery — for his courage in carrying on with the mission despite his injuries and for his valiant attempts to save the crew.

Mrs. Kiernan, who was two when her father died, said her visit to Holton airfield to see the base from which he flew, had been "indescribable."

Holton airfield served as USAAF Station 365 Halesworth, 8th Air Force 95th Wing HQ.

The 56th Fighter Group — which became the highest scoring US fighter group in Europe — arrived there in July, 1943 and remained until April, 1944.

In its place came the 489th Bomb Group, which stayed until November, 1944.

Holton airfield was used as a base for the 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron from January until June, 1945, when it was turned over to the RAF. It ceased to be an airfield in 1946.

The Friends of the 489th have picked up a prestigious award for their commitment to forging closer links between the Holton area and its former airmen. Chairman Mr. Pat Cox has been presented with an anniversary award from the United States Air Force Association.

It has been given to Mr. Cox and the Friends of the "meritorious service in perpetuating the memory of the 489th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force — April to November, 1944."

The air force association's General Doolittle Chapter 121 USAF 40th Anniversary Award was presented to Mr. Cox at yesterday's reunion by the chapter's executive vice president, Mr. Bud Chamberlain.

NOTICE HELP WANTED

1. Please let me know of your change of address. The Post Office charges us 86 cents every time they have to redeliver your *Journal* and send us the correction.
2. If you have a summer and winter address, please send same to me for a permanent record.

Evelyn Cohen
06-410 Delaire Landing
Philadelphia, PA 19114

BUNGAY BULL

446th BOMB GROUP
by
William F. Davenport



Once again we have returned from a Second AD Reunion in Norwich. It is hard to say that one is better than another, but this one certainly was a well done affair. The necessity for use of tents for the Division functions is fraught with all kinds of catastrophes, wind, rain and extreme cold. However, Mother Nature again supported those who plan well. Evelyn Cohen and her committee deserve a round of applause and a Thank You from those of us who enjoyed the benefits of their good work.

The 446th Bomb Group was again, as usual at these reunions, near the top in attendance with 82 people at the Second AD Reunion. We had a chance to meet again with those who attended past reunions and to make new friends. Unfortunately so many of our first time attendees and new friends never return to another reunion, while a few others become regular attendees.

Our business meeting, held at our mini-reunion resulted in the re-election of myself as Group Leader and Aud Risley as Deputy. The election gavel was held by Jack White and unfortunately it was not possible to get

other candidates to come forward. It is hard to understand why there is not more interest in these executive positions within our organization.

I don't want to mislead anyone that our Bungay Buccaroos are a quiet group who accept all decrees without question. This was certainly not true on several items of Division business which was brought forward for group discussion. The issue of a Heritage foundation led to considerable discussion. In fact it was not possible to obtain a motion of support or denial. It appears that most folks felt things were pretty good as they are. However, there was little, if any, support for the current proposal to raise additional monies for the Library Trust.

At the conclusion of the 2nd AD affair we again loaded buses for a trip back 40 plus years. We returned to the Bungay area and four country inns for two nights. The accommodations were not of the quality of the ones we left, but the good fellowship and time to spend with friends hopefully made up for those who had to "go down the hall."

The service at St. Mary's Flixton with our

own Chaplain John Gannon in the pulpit was, I am sure, a high point of our trip. We now have a beautiful book containing our Roll of Honor done in calligraphy located here for perpetuity. It is fitting that these men be listed in this church by which they passed on their final mission.

We are looking forward to our 446th Reunion at McChord AFB together with our successor group, 446th MAW. However, by the time you receive this it will have been all over and a decision made on the 1988 location. 1989 will be in Ft. Worth in connection with the 50th Anniversary of the Liberator, 17-21 May 1989.

Other dates to keep in mind are the 8th Air Force Reunion in Pittsburgh, PA 14-18 October 1987. The 446th will be at the William Penn Hotel. Come - you will enjoy and your organization treasury benefits from the rebate.

Another kudo to the Second Air Division staff. As we discuss activities outside the scope of the Second we must not lose sight of the fact that our 446th Bomb Group Association, Inc. would not exist if the Second Air Division Assn. had not been founded some forty years ago. It has been the instrument for bringing us together first as a division and then as a group. Thanks to all those people who got this organization underway. I am sure you never dreamed that it would grow and expand to its current size.

Thanks for your foresight.
Keep tuned to Beach Bell.

Notes from the 389th

by Lloyd E. West

On behalf of the members of the 389th who attended the 40th reunion in Norwich. I want to say many thanks to Evelyn Cohen and all those who helped her in the reunion. And a special thanks to Paul King, David Hastings and to all their co-workers who made our reunion so very enjoyable. To those who attended from the 389th I wish to say thanks for your cooperation and attention. This could be a good time to say 84 were in attendance - the second largest group there.

Our arrival in London was well-planned and the coordination of the airlines, Heathrow, buses and train into Norwich was unbelievable for such a large group. We were greeted at the Norwich rail station by a local band playing music of the 40s and a welcome by our English hosts.

The whole atmosphere of the reunion was overwhelming to me. I felt the English people were conveying to us "The Americans Came." Their friendliness, their hospitality, their many courtesies can never be forgotten.

Among the outstanding events would be the Memorial Service in Norwich Cathedral which was followed by fly over RAF and USA Airforces. Also the Memorial Service at the Cambridge American Cemetery, where 6000 Americans are buried. This was followed by our being served an elaborate dinner at the Cambridge University.

Not to be forgotten is our tour of Hethel where we were stationed 44 years ago. Each in his own way trying to determine just where he thought the runways and different

buildings were located. This tour was made possible by our newly acquired English friend, whom I want you all to know. He is Stuart Main, an employee of the Lotus Car Co. The company now occupies what was formerly Hethel.

Stuart has taken a great interest in our 389th group. He was asked to be our speaker at the 389th mini-reunion. It is hard to believe the amount of history he knows about our group. He has started a Memorial Room in part of what was formerly the control tower for our group. His work was discussed and a go ahead was given him to proceed with further development of the area.

We are happy to tell you he will be coming to Colorado Springs to our reunion in June 1988.

It was then decided by the group to ask for your help, in a monetary way, to further his work at Hethel and to pay part of his expenses to the States. Needless to say this young Englishman has endeared himself to those attending the reunion at Norwich. He served as our self-appointed host through the rest of our reunion.

Those of you wishing to contribute to this fund please send your contribution, made payable to 389th Memorial Fund, c/o Frank Vadas, 1026 South 9th Street, Allentown, Pa., 18103, or to Lloyd E. West, Box 256, Rush Center, Kansas 67575.

Your continued support of our work in the 389th, past and future, is always greatly appreciated.

Roger Freeman Needs Your Help — Again!

Anecdotes are sought for a proposed volume highlighting the personal experience of Second World War airmen in Europe. These can be on any aspect of wartime experience; training, operational or social; humorous or serious; grim or elating. If you served — ground or air — with the USAAF in Europe during the trouble with Hitler, and would like to contribute a tale or memory, please write:

Roger A. Freeman, May's Barn, Dedham, Colchester, Essex. CO7 6EW England.

ALASKA

A 10-day cruise to Alaska for 2ADA members is in the planning stages for August 1988. Estimated costs will range between \$2000-\$2500 per person depending upon cabin choice. Early booking by 12-1-87 is necessary to obtain special rebates. Interested parties should send \$50.00 deposit, per person (will be refunded if cruise is cancelled) to:

Pete Henry
164 B Portland Lane
Jamesburg, NJ 08831
Tel. 1-609-655-0982



491st BOMB GROUP THE LAST AND THE BEST the RINGMASTER REPORTS

by Patrick J. Perry

People — Places — Things

The French author Marcel Proust wrote: "Given the proper stimulus, however slight, your brain can replay the distant past with perfect fidelity, flooding your senses with sights, sounds, odors, tastes, and tactile impressions imprinted long ago..."

My personal time warp began in Liverpool Station, London boarding the train for Norwich, and came into brilliant focus on a cool morning ride in an open jeep (circa 1943) wearing my old uniform and returning, as if drawn by magnet, through winding country lanes, with field stone fences, impeccable crop and pasture lands interspersed with woods toward our "home base." My senses became very sharp as we went west from Attleborough through Little Ellingham, Watton, Ashill, South Pickenham made a sharp left turn and we stopped at the site of the main gate of Station 143, the base of operations for the "Ringmasters." I had been to England on business in the past but I never had returned to North Pickenham so I felt anticipation, excitement and a strong sense of belonging and attachment to this area.

Over forty veterans and wives debarked from our coach slowly and individually or in small group walked in all directions speaking softly in reverent remembrance. This is how our day at North Pick started and is something we will remember for the rest of our days.

I have experienced many incidents of personal attainment and tragedy in my life but the 40th reunion and anniversary of the 2ADA was six days of wave after wave of emotions that I did not realize were in me. Good, bad, happy and horrifying memories. The remembrance of open, selfless and complete friendships. Deep, physical, gut wrenching sorrow for those we left behind. A sense of honest and proper pride to have been a small part of that eminence crusade. A deep sense of humility to be associated with so large a group of valorous men.

Finally I repeatedly gave small prayers of thanksgiving to God for our freedom, health, good fortune, peace and happiness.

There were enough individual activities, reunions of a personal nature, and nostalgic meetings to make a best-selling book. Many thousands of feet of film and VCR tape were shot which will be condensed and edited and some will be available for viewing at future reunions or as additions to our own collections.

At this point I am confronted with a conflict that is interesting but solvable. We have a wealth of stories, anecdotes and specific details I am eager to pass along to all of my flight mates, however, Bill Robertie, our long-suffering editor, is compelled to issue deadlines and severe restrictions on the length of information that can be included in each issue of the Journal.

After a review of the alternative, I will attempt to solve the "BLIVET" (2 pounds in a one pound sack) as follows. In this issue of the Journal I will give an overview of things we as a Group have done or that will be done in the future. As an old adjunct to this I had mentioned, in the March 1987 issue, that we were considering a 491st Newsletter. Considerable work has been accomplished toward this end and within the next few months work with a dedicated cadre under the direction, counsel and guidance of Hap Chandler will proceed on the maiden issue which will contain detailed and specific stories of the reunion and other Ringmaster Only activities. We solicit input from all members and will do our best to include these in subsequent issues.

So that we may maintain continuity and an area association, please send your input or questions to your district "Flight Leaders" as identified in the March journal in my column. These men will then forward the information to Hap Chandler. As in most cases, nothing worthwhile comes without cost, in this case, we need to send money to defray some start-up costs. If every current 491st member would send ten dollars to F.C. Chandler, 5318 Fairfield West, Dunwoody, GA 30338, we will have funds necessary to initiate our Group newsletter, "The Log of the Ringmaster." Don't postpone this — do it ASAP!

A short statement about Group identity and recognition. We veterans of the 491st have a common and proud heritage to pass on to those who follow us. We were the last B-24 Group to be operational in the largest and most effective Air Force ever assembled in the history of conflict. We met a dangerous, dedicated and courageous adversary; we flew in atrocious weather conditions.

Headquarters 8th AF wrote, "...No other Group was ever committed to combat action so fast — flew so many missions in so short a time period and achieved such fine results..." We led the 2nd Air Division seven months in bombing accuracy and we led the 8th AF January through March 1945 in bombing accuracy (91% in 2000 ft.) We absorbed and rebounded from tremendous punishment (over 50% MIA on the Misburg mission. We were never turned back by enemy action. We were the LAST AND THE BEST!

Our group colors, green and white, were in evidence at all functions during the reunion in the following manner. Carl Alexander using "friendly persuasion" brought out considerable personal effort, and probably his expense a beautiful (bass wood) hand-finished green and white tail fin reunion rendezvous marker, 17 by 24 inches, with 491 boldly emblazoned across the white bar. Just try to miss that one.

In addition, I arranged the production and delivery of 25 green nylon baseball type jackets with the "Ringmasters Group" insignia on the left front placket and six B-24s in formation (head-on view) on the jacket back. These were proudly worn by our people along with our Ringmaster caps throughout the reunion.

We were the only Group so outfitted — they know who we are now!

Bill Robertie has promised to include a

complete list of all Group memorabilia in this issue. Some of these items will be available through your area Flight Leader and if not, contact me or Harold Fritzler.

As you all know, at each reunion a general business meeting is held and many things are reported on and an election is held so that new men may fill vacancies which occur by policy or attrition. Our Group may be forgiven for swelling in justifiable pride to see one of our own dedicated men assume the mantle of President of the 2ADA for the coming year.

Carl, you have our complete backing and cooperation individually and collectively in all things large and small. We salute you.

Finally, due to the space restrictions a condensed run-down of the reunion highlights. A combination of facts, not to be repeated, of time, place and dedicated, involved people resulted in a brilliant and indelible flower garden of memories to be revisited and savored time and again. It was carried out with style, grace and a generous serving of class. The English weather with minor signs of independence was wonderful.

We had a fine turnout of 42 which would have been in excess of 50 but for last moment cancellations for pressing personal and health reasons. Our attendance was close to the midpoint for all Groups — Good show!

On Thursday morning we gathered at Liverpool Station in London, which looks the same, and were directed to two special first class non-stop trains, with a bountiful lunch, that took us to Norwich in 2 hours. (What hath God wrought). The railway station was a wonderful surprise and waves of nostalgia surged as we were greeted by a large number of English friends from town and country waving flags and signs of welcome. Hand claps, hugs and not infrequent kisses as we slowly moved to the concourse where we were engulfed by the classic strains of "In the Mood" and "Sentimental Journey" by an 18 piece East Anglia band. At this point a state of joy and dancing broke out causing the planned movement to our hotels to slow to a trickle.

We were assigned to a small but comfortable and convenient Hotel Arlington which served as our base of operations. An attentive and gracious staff made our stay wonderfully pleasant. A very thoughtful assignment of specific coach and driver to our Group for the whole reunion was a real bonus. We had the only lady driver and she was a jewel — pleasant, knowledgeable, on time, thoughtful and very competent. We were all so very pleased that we gave her a green Ringmaster jacket and a small cash purse when we were ready to leave Norwich. Cheers, Lesley Mitner.

The planning, effort and extra care that were so evident by the Friends of the Eighth Air Force and the people in general that we met were evidence of the mutual respect and affection that has solidified our relationship which began so many years ago.

Our Group dinner was held at Stower Grange, a large first-rate country inn which served a wonderful four-course dinner with pre-dinner drinks and wines by a highly competent staff. We shared these facilities with the 466th BG in an uncrowded and altogether pleasant atmosphere.

continued on pg. 15

491st Continued

On Sunday morning we drove through very cool, damp weather with a solid overcast seventy miles to the American War Cemetery at Maddingly, just northwest of Cambridge. The weather matched the occasion, solemn, somber with cold wind and distant thunder; with this backdrop our large assemblage of veterans stood in reverent silence as symbolic wreaths were laid at the base of the cemetery flagstaff. Brief heartfelt eulogies were given by selected spokesmen to honor the 6,400 flight mates and friends who did not return. It was a privilege and an honor to lay one of the wreaths in this very sad, emotional but very necessary ceremony. They will not be forgotten!

After these ceremonies, we were free to go to the chapel, and walk along the long, long stone wall bearing the names of our comrades or visit specific graves. We then boarded our coaches and had a fine lunch at the dining halls of three of Cambridge University's twenty-two colleges.

At this point the 491st had a unique opportunity to participate in a six hour "behind the walls" tour of several of the colleges that represent the spirit, architecture, tradition and ambiance of the oldest and most renowned college in England. The tour was planned and conducted by Trevor Gardner of Cambridge University, Prof. Wm.

McClelland (491st pilot), and Prof. Marr (of Virginia) who was just finishing a two-year exchange at Cambridge. (Profuse thanks, gentlemen).

God was in his heaven in that he changed the weather to blue sky and warm sun for the rest of the day after we had lunch.

We attended 'Even song' served at St. John's College chapel and then had an evening meal with the students in their dining hall. A wonderful experience not to be repeated. We will cover some of these events in more detail in the newsletter at a later date.

On Monday, the last day of the reunion, we had our coach full as the 491st and a small group from the 492nd returned again to North Pickenham. The coach made a tour of the perimeter track and stopped at the few remaining buildings (Nissen huts, maycrete buildings, the water tower). We saw the beautiful countryside and our senses recreated the acrid odor of gun smoke, engine exhaust, gasoline fumes during refueling and the swelling crescendo of harnessed power as dozens of engines went to the full-throated baritone song during take-off sprint.

A dedication ceremony was held at the former site of our headquarters where a granite marker honors those who served at Station 143 during 1944 and 1945.



This was an unexpected remembrance, very touching, as it was initiated, funded and emplaced by our local English friends. Canon Derek Green (former RAF chaplain) led the ceremonies and introduced Dr. Raynor, the Chairman of the Parish Council. Carl Alexanderson gave our beautiful response, and many of us were again in the deep waters of nostalgic emotion.

A very specific and heartfelt statement of warm gratitude is given on behalf of all members of the 491st to Iris and Keith Thomas and Tony Wallace and family for their selfless and long-term actions for our Bomb Group.

Till we meet again.

466th Bomb Group

by E. W. Nothstein

Our 40th reunion is now history, I can truthfully say that it was my best ever! We should all say thanks for a job well done to Evelyn Cohen, Paul King, et al, also to gracious hostess Anne Barne, our guide to Attlebridge, Ted Clarke and all others too numerous to mention.

Plans for improvements to the American Room at the Library were disclosed during our stay in Norwich. Based on the proposals and the need, our 466ers saw fit to designate \$600.00 toward that end and the details have already been implemented. This leaves a balance of funds in our account of \$221.16.

We had thirty-one in attendance at the reunion. This year in addition to members, spouses and children, we had grandchildren with us. Hopefully this is a sign that the Heritage League will become a force to be reckoned with. As none of us are getting any younger maybe someday they will be willing to continue our Association. I am pleased to report that our own Vicki Warning has been appointed to the Executive Board of the Heritage League and will act as our liason.

THINGS TO REMEMBER: The friendly greeting at Heathrow...the enjoyable train to Norwich...the memorable welcome at Thorpe Station...Sotterley Hall's hospitality...memories evoked at Attlebridge...the poignancy at the Norwich Cathedral and the Cambridge Cemetery...all of our friends from the U.S. and the U.K. We enjoyed being with you again.

I have included a list of all new members from July 1986 through June 1987. If you recognize any of the names and wish to get in touch, write me for their address:

Gerald Alport
Warren T. Baczik
John Bratnick
Thomas A. Brooks
Kenneth Dufault
Harold E. Engberg
Carl W. Falk
Charles E. Fetterman
Edward H. Gore
William N. Groesbeck
Carlton L. Hakanson
Harold K. Jordon
Robert J. Kerr
Edwin N. Kimmel
John R. Martin
Francis R. Meduna
John P. Mitchel
Angelo J. Paluzzi
Robert E. Peterson
Joseph M. Ryan
Robert R. Rottman
Donald W. Shanklin
Edwin R. Terry, Sr.
Associate Members:
Art Peterson
Marilee M. Paynter

One final note, we all missed Gerry and Sammy Merket at this reunion. Gerry suffered a heart attack shortly before the departure date. Heard that he is progressing well. Expect to see you in Colorado Springs, Gerry.

Postal Service

As you most likely know, those of us who daily handle mailouts find ourselves encountering the 'slam, bam, thank you ma'am' procedures of the U.S. Postal Service.

Quite frankly it is disturbing to recognize the depths of callousness to which overall postal service has sunk for those who make above-normal quantities of mailout. Cases in point: 4th class mailouts returned because the last number of the street address was incorrect (postage due anywhere from 30 cents to \$1.69 — sometimes with this degree of variance for identical pieces!); 3rd class newsletters returned for similar amounts of postage due because the last digit of the zip code was incorrect; or a "Temporarily Away, Postage Due" return of a mailout because the addressee only left instructions for handling of his first class mail! As a crowning occurrence we cite the non-delivery in certain areas of hundreds of our June 1987 Journal. You can draw your own conclusions as to what happened to the mailouts we paid to have delivered.

Attendees — Norwich Convention

44th

Jean & Gloria Bressler
Arthur Cullen
Patricia Cullen
Merritt Derr
Bob & Irma Dubowsky
Walt Fitzmaurice
Jim Forrest
Bud Glickman
Griff & Bobbie Griffin
Bill Hawkins
Charlie & Marilyn Hughes
Bob & Ruth Lawson
Will & Irene Lundy
Ray & Mary McNamara
Cliff MacDougall
Elmer Reinhart
Bill & Hazel Robertie
Jack & Gwen Russell
Norm Tillner
John Wilson

93rd

Bert & Shirley Alexander
Ed & Thelma Allen
Charlie & Roseanne Aton
Ed Baker
Tom & Ina Bamford
Joe Beach
Harold Burks
Nick Caruso
Bill & Jo Doerner
Mike Donahue
Jim & Rhoda Dunn
Leo & Lorraine Hebert
Mark & Barbara Hontz
Harry & Louise Kelleher
Joe Kelly
Ed & Doreen Kromer
John & Elizabeth Lee
Floyd & Dot Mabey
Chuck & June Merrill
Bill & Dolores Neumann
John & Jean O'Grady
Tom Parry
Paul & Kathryn Peloquin
Tom & Letha Scott
Harold & Erma Secor
Walt Smelt
Don & Marylou Spencer
Dick Stanton
Fred & Inez Strombom
John & Bee Sullivan & Tena Jones
Charlie & Peg Weiss

389th

Irv & Sylvia Belsky
Paul & Margaret Bonnell
Gaynell Clark
Jim & Ava Collins
Chuck & June Dearing
Bill & Helene Denton
Bernie & Nancy Dispenza
Barney, Emma & Jennifer Driscoll
Charlie & Betty Ducsay
John & Rosemary Fino
Tom & Madelyn Garrison
Geb & Betty Gebhard
Vince & Pauline Gonzalez
Allan & Jean Hallett
Gene & Nancy Hartley
Bruce Helmer
John & Lorraine Kane
Ted & Natalie Katz
John & Theodora Koepper
Bud & June Koorndyk
George & Evelyn LaPrath
Felix & Marjorie Leeton
Al & Pat Leighton
George & Martha Makin
Cecil & Kay Martin
Jack & Donna Mercer
Bill & Elsie Meyers
Dan & Helen Muat
Dorothy Adcock Norman
Sean O'Driscoll
Skip & Zona Pease
Dick & Florence Peterson
Clark & Bea Robinson
Jack & Ruth Spooner
Jeff & Mary Steinert
Bob Stone
Frank & Grace Vadas
Ben & Barbara Walsh
Wall, Marilyn & Arlana Welch
Lloyd & Clara West
Warren & Beth Wheelwright
Ken & Ruth Wise
Earl Zimmerman

392nd

Joe & Anne Bonanno
Don & Anne Clover
John & Wanda Conrad
Jim & Marjorie Davey
Arnold & Cleome Dovey
Don, Ann & Dianne Gephart
Lawrence & Marjorie Gilbert
Jim Goar
Fred & Lorraine Hollien
Jim & Rebecca Hoover
Harold & Mary Hutchcroft
Ray & Norma Kopecky
Larry & Claire Lassins
J.D. & Emily Long
Randell & Rita Mayer
Keith Roberts
Bill & Thelma Singleton
Stan & Betty Stupski
Fred Thomas
Harry & Edythe Vasconcellos
Bob Vickers
Joe & Mary Westbrook
Don & Emily Whitford
Stan & Mildred Zybort

445th

Henry Backowski
Pete & Mary Beth Barnard
Tony & Lois Bertapelle
Frank & Mary Bertram
Ben & Helen Bodziak
Dick & Val Boucher
Fred & Virginia Bromm
John, Thelma & Patricia Burke
Al Ciesliga
Fred & Marjorie Dale
Bill & Marilyn Dewey
Paul & Grace Dickerson
Frank & Elizabeth DiMola
Dick & Thyra Dixon
Leonard & Margaret Dubinski
Leroy & June Elfstrom
Roy & Dot Farnsworth
Elmer & Jeanne Fischer
Bernie & Estelle Fishman
Jim Kidder
John & Meg Lynes
Glen & Jean Marsteller
Reg & Peg Miner
Manny & Clara Moreno
Don, Donna & Meredith Myers and
Denise Cork
Dave & Joan Patterson
Ed Peterson & Karen Gilm
Lyle & Ivy Platner
Don Pryor & Janet Westhaver
Ray Pytel & Twyla Kieffer
Al & Dot Querbach
Carl Rambo
Ed Roloff
Terry & Mattie Sather
Charlie & Anna Scheer
Jermene & Pat Steinhauer
Billy & Elaine Stephan
Joe Swanick
Ford & Wilma Tracey
DeWitt & Ruth Tucker
Bill & Florence Vinton and Randy &
Vicki Jadcak

446th

Bob & Mary Alexander
Carl & Helen Bargmann
Bill Booth
Harry & Sally Clement
Winona Cobb and JoBeth & Lori
Medanich
Sid Dailey
Art & Joyce Darrigand
Bill Davenport
Irv & Marin Day
Marv & Mary Finger
Bernie Fisher
John Gannon
Don & Penny Geary
Dick Ghene
Frank & Arlene Gibson
George, Leona, Katherine & Pat
Gigstad
Carl Gjelhaug
Charlie Hay
Jack & Noreene Heuser
Dick Hevener
Virgil Huddleston & Lamar Mayfield
Henry & Suzanne Kingsbery
Walt & Dot Lofgren
Jim & Nancy Longstreth
Max Minear

Warren & Rosemary Monaghan
Bob & Lorraine Moore
Frank & Sandra Naccarato
Ted & Barbara Nichols
John & Helen Patton
Joe & Kay Redden
Mitch & Nettie Reno
Jim Riedel
Vince & Shirley Riel
Aud & Fern Risley
Jack & Anna Scott
Joe & Cass Soder
Marv & Margaret Speidel
Ray & Helen Tate
Bill & Ruth Thorpe
John & Ruth Toljanic
Rudy & Connie Vidmar
Dick & Ruth Wann
John & Mignon White
Bob & Marilyn Williams

448th

Ed & Lucy Anderson
Ron & Gloria Berryhill
Julian & Winnie Blake
Steve & Barbara Burzenski
Allen & Dot Cassidy
Aubrey & Ann Cates
Charlie, Bonnie, Julia & Anita Cupp
George DuPont
George & Marguerite Elkins
Leroy Engdahl
Ben & Charlotte Everett
Frank & Lorraine Gibson
Gaylord & Dot Graf
Bob & Zella Harper
Paul & Mary Ellen Homan
Tom & Elizabeth Keene
John & Grace Keller
Dick & Bobbie Kennedy and Cherokee
Beaver
Dick Kimball
Irwin & Rose Lane
Cater & Sara Lee
Charlie & Agnes McBride
Neil McCluhan & Peggy Wright
Milt & Ruth Nichols
Al Salotti
Ed Schroeder
Elvin & Inez Sheffield
Harold Smith
Walt Smith
Veryl Sneath
E.A. & Lou Solberg
Sid & Irene Stephens
Pat Terranova
Wayne Wanker
George & Mildred Watkins
Henry Weigel
Dearl Whitaker
Charlie & Betty Yant
Frel & Roy Youngblood
John & Dot Zima

453rd

Will & Marion Adler
Charlie & LaRue Allen
Irving Appel
Bus & Ruth Badgett
Sheldon & Sylvia Baker
Ed Becker
Mike Benarcik
LeRoy & Gloria Berg
Al & Claire Biel and Irene Hurner
Dwight & Doris Bishop
Mel Borne
Dick & Cora Brown
Wilbur, Diana & Pamela Cingan
Bob & Jean Coggeshall
Ralph & Helen Colliander
Ralph & Phyllis Ford
Bill & Carol Garrett
George Giovannoni
Jim & Anastasia Hailigan
Russ Harriman
Jack & Jane Harris
Jay & Ann Jeffries
Odell & Virginia Johnson
Bob & Betty Jordan
John & Frances Kassab
Leonard & Evelyn King
Doug & Jane Leavenworth
Carl & Irene Lessing
Andy & Helen Low
Dennis & June McElhinny
John & Teresa McGough
Jim MacNew
Guy & Norma Martin
Walt & Betty Mayer

Johnnie & Barbe Miller
Jo & Ludie Morris
Ron Neumunz
Charlie, Loretta & Angela Parker
Frank Parker
Phil Parsons
Bob & Helen Pedigo
Frank & Yvonne Pickett
Lloyd & Irene Prang
Dan & Muriel Reading
Dick & Heloise Robert
John & Marie Roth
Irv Shuffler
Wilbur & Jeane Stites

Stokes Family: Milt & Lucille, Ginger
& Ken Brubaker, Ken, Carolyn, Ashlee
& Aimee Stokes, Matthew Vinton
John & Helen Talbot
John & Helen Tangorra
Frank & Jackie Thomas
Warren & Thelma Vernier
Willie & Mary Jean Wilson

458th

Bob & Mary Armbruster
Ray & Norma Ash
Charles & Lolly Booth
Dick & Edith Butler
Harry Craft
Bill, Mickey & Mike Cunningham
Bob & Ana Marie Davis
Bill & Kathleen Edkins
Stu & Suzanne Goldsmith
Jane Grahlmann
Kermit Greene
B.P. & Georgie Hebert
Bob & Kathy Hiemstra
John & Mildred Holodak
Jim & Ginny Isbell
Bill & Maurice Jameson
Tom & Velda Jones
Ernie Kelly & Eleanor Truitt
Homer & Norma Knisley
Bill & Lou Lemkowicz
Frank & Gert Limbert
Harry & Eleanor Parker
Bob & Marty Renn
Rick & Ceil Rokicki
Bill & Lucy Seaman and Anne Morton
Stan & Helen Sievertson
Durward & Doris Trivette
Art & Geraldine Vanderbeek
Morell & Jean Whipple
Bill & Shane Wilks
Gene Young

466th

Allen & Deloris Becker
Frank & Louise Bostwick
Margaret Calderalo
Chadbourne Family, Dan Sr. &
Marina, Dan Jr. & Cathryn, Jean &
Dan III
John & Marjorie Fay
Everett Jones
Perry, Joyce & Jay Kerr
Jim & Mary Lorenz
Elwood & Lucille Nothstein
Bob & Sybil Patterson and five family
members
Art & Barbaa Sessa
Kurt & Vicki Warning
Ted & Phyllis Watson

467th

John Balog
Forrest & Pat Brown
Charlie & Eloyce Caldwell
George & Katherine Church
Jim & Joan Coffey
Walt & Phyllis Colvin
Bill & Vernice Dillon
Joe, Sr. & Helen and Joe Jr. & Joan
Dzenowagis
Charlie Finn
Jeff & Terry Gregory
Weldon & Helen Gruver
Joe & Evelyn Hodge
Charlie & Norma Kagy
Andy Kapl
Vince & Gloria LaRossa
Will & Cecily Noden
Joe Nogan
Earle & Aline Page
Wilson & Betty Rapp
Lyle & Betty Schrader
Bill & Eileen Sheldrick
Al Shower
John & Lucille Stevens

Dave & Jackie Swearingen
A.P. Wheelock

489th

Lee & Maxine Baker
Ralph & Ginny Belward
Otey & Ruth Berkeley
Francis, Virginia & Therese Bodine
& Loretta Effertz
John & Pat Brody
Ivan & Lillian Brown
Bud & Mike Chamberlain
Don & Betty Champagne
Bob & Teresa Cline
Jim & Jean Davis
John DeCani
Charlie & Helen Freudenthal
David Hillstrom
Christopher Hincley
John & Irene Homan
Jim & Sharon Kiernan
Joe Loadholtes
Seth & Muriel Lobdell
Ted & Gladys Maruschak
Fred Meyer
John & Camilla Moir
George & Virginia Nokes
Jim & Mary Margaret Pace
Ed & Barbara Phillips
Wyatt & Joanne Porterfield
Ken Rogers
Frank Skeldon
Neal & Pat Sorensen
Dick Stenger
Al, Marge & Terry Telson
Don & Betty Wayne
Bill & Marion Wilkerson

491st

Carl & Louise Alexanderson
Frank & Lee Bachman
Byron & Catherine Calomiris
Hap & Margaret Chandler
Harry Coleman
Dave & Edith Dougherty
Seymour & Hazel Eisenstat
Mike & Margaret Fagen
Dudley & Doris Friday
Lou & Anne Gallo
Henry & Harriett Gibbs
Don & Velet Gowans
Bill & Lucille Greer
Jim Holloway
Bill McClelland
Harry & Laura Mellinger
Wilbert Mishler
Bill & Betty Nelson
Ted & Fanny Parker
Pat & Betty Perry
Dean & Pat Stewart
Jim & Mary Wakley

492nd

Bill & Norma Beasley
Bill & Maxine Clary
Gilbert Green
Vernon & Bobbie Key
Art & Betty Raisig

Headquarters

Howie & Jo Baum
Rose Halloran Berwaldt
Evelyn & Lillian Cohen
Virginia Thomas Davis
Hermione Beaber Denker
Delas & Mary Francis Williams Elder
Earling Embrey & Janie Groninger
Harriett Fau
Chris Collins Henderson
Harold & Trudy Gill
Henry & Kitty Mason
Charlie & Madeleine Mills
Dean & Deanie Moyer and
Barbara & Harold Coverdale
Sid Piper
Jim & Edna Reeves
John & Janice Sanders
Bill & Eleanor Storms
Ray & Ruth Strong
Lida B. Cowan Thompson
Jordan Uttal
Milt, Hathy & Caron Veynar
Joe Whittaker

56th Fighter Group

Marty Stanton

NBC-TV-Atlanta

Paul Crawley
Willis Boyd



The planes have grown faster. The pilot a bit slower.



Luftwaffe ace — Dave Patterson glares at painting of WW II control tower. Evan Harris is chairman of the gliding club.



England's precision flying team. DUCK!!!



Carl & Louise Alexanderson. Our new President.



Kurt Warning, Goodman Griffin, Hazel Robertie and Bobby Griffin



I'll kill him! Vickey Warning, 466th



2nd ADA people get into the swing of things...Not bad considering.



The 445th Group around their Memorial.



Can't knock this welcome!



Remembering a friend.



Our leader. Front row, second left.



The service at the cathedral for the fallen



IN MEMORY TO
THE MEN OF THE USAAF
WHO FLEW FROM
NORTH PICKENHAM
1944 - 1945
492 BG.
APRIL 1944 - AUGUST 1944
491 BG.
AUGUST 1944 - MAY 1945







The dance band played all WW II tunes.



World famous author Roger Freeman relaxes. Actually he fell over!



Bertha Chandler, Fullbright Librarian of the Memorial Room, followed by Evelyn Cohen.



Rick Rokicki, Lillian and Evelyn Cohen and Ceil Rokicki eschew modern transportation for a horse and carriage.



Hazel Robertie loves flowers and these were fresh every day.



Over 60,000 gave their lives. Count your blessings.



Nobody outtalks Evelyn Cohen. Not even the Bishop of Norfolk.



Norm Tilner and English friend search skies for any returning B-24s. Hope springs eternal.



Mary Frances Elder and Pat Perry pay homage in WW II uniforms. Can you get into yours?



New President Carl Alexanderson quickly recruits a crew and a jeep. Prez is upper right hand corner — about to get dumped!



Will somebody tell these guys that the war is over!!!



Thorpe Station will never be the same again. The welcome the 2nd ADA members received on arrival.

The Invaders Return

by Jane Flatt, *Eastern Daily Press*



Angel, a B-24 Liberator, comes in to land at Rackheath.

Over-sexed, overpaid and over here. The phrase crystallised the resentful attitude of many English people — particularly men — to the “friendly invasion” by American forces during the second world war.

There were scores of US air bases in Norfolk and Suffolk alone, thousands of young men flying and servicing the fighters and bombers of the 8th Air Force doing their bit against Hitler’s Germany.

Their popular image is of the dashing and sex-mad Yanks who filled the dance halls in their free time overshadowing the local lads and dazzling the girls with their movie star accents and gifts of silk stockings and chewing gum.

The truth, for many of them, was a long way from that. They were lonely and bored and cold and frightened, thousands of miles from home and family, and grateful for any kindness from strange people in a strange land.

One of them was a teenager from Kentucky called Melvin Borne. He was stationed at Old Buckenham with the 453rd bomb group, 2nd Air Division. Not a hero, just a boy with a young wife at home.

He told his story in a letter to Jackie Stuart, of Unthank Road, Norwich, who is writing a book on the social and psychological effects on the Americans who were stationed in this area in the 1940s.

She has contacted some 200 former airmen, mostly Liberator crews in the 2nd Air Division, whom she feels get “a raw deal,” overshadowed by the gutsy romance of the B-17 Flying Fortress men of the 1st and 3rd Divisions. It is they who are beginning their 40th reunion in Norwich today.

“A lot of them wanted to forget about it after the war, and they’re only just now

beginning to find out about the reunions,” she said. “The older they get, the more keen they are on getting back in touch with people.”

Mel was a member of the ground crew, who, unlike the pilots, was expected to stay in England for the duration of the war. He arrived in December 1943, and left in June 1945.

Life at Old Buckenham was good for a while, but then the “Dear John” letters started arriving from wives who had got tired of waiting. Mel received his in 1944, on Thanksgiving Day, the Americans’ national day of celebration.

“My morale dropped sharply. Of 36 men in my barracks, 14 received ‘Dear Johns.’ I was lucky in a way, I had no children, but the older men had the pictures of their children by their bunks, and they lived for mail-call daily.

“We all survived by helping each other (there were some that didn’t survive, that were not in our barracks). Mostly we got each of the fellows to go to London or Norwich, after meeting some of the English people it helped change their feelings.”

Mel and his best friend Bill Schlacher cheered themselves up by going absent without leave on their days off to visit a couple they knew in Luton, scrounging food from the mess hall to supplement their hosts’ meager wartime diet. The couple called their first child Ian Melvin, after him.

“We loved Luton, because there were no Yanks there, and we could go out without a tie, wear our flight jackets and relax. The pubs were great, plenty of beer, some whiskey (I drank a lot, due to losing my wife. She ran away with another man).”

Mel was being treated in the base hospital

for his drink problem when he started going out with “a wonderful girl” called Betty Read, who lived at 66, Onley Street, off Unthank Road.

“Betty really helped me get through the roughest time of my life. I fell in love with her. And then the war ended, I came home to my native Kentucky.”

Mel and Betty corresponded for a while, and his father urged him to marry her. “Believe me, I wish I had listened to my dad, but it seemed too soon to get married and ask her to come and live in America.”

They lost touch, and Mel married someone else. He was married for more than 25 years, but has now been divorced for 14 years, and wants to find Betty again. He has come back to England every year since he retired, looking for her, and is among the veterans arriving today.

“Maybe she still lives around here, I know she is married, has children and grandchildren. I would like to treat her and her husband to dinner for all the good things that were done for me by the English. I love England and the English people.”

Mrs. Stuart has done her best to track Betty down, but naturally enough the family no longer lives at the same address, and she does not know her married name.

“There is a possibility that the lady won’t want to be found,” she said. “But it would be so nice if she did.”

“When I see pictures of boys like Mel when they were young, I think, gosh, I can see why the girls went mad for them then.”

Mrs. Stuart’s book, “Friendly Invasion” is still in its early stages, and will not be published for 12-18 months.

The 445th Reporting

by Frank DiMola



Tuxedo Junction, The Little Brown Jug, String of Pearls, etc. How can we ever forget these famous songs of the past? It was "in the mood" of songs that we were greeted by the people of England at the Liverpool Railroad Station. When we arrived in Norwich, what a sight, what a thrill. Who could ever forget the emotion and moist eyes that surrounded both Elizabeth and me and the many hundreds of us arriving from the States?

This was just the beginning of all the activities that were to follow. A full schedule was planned for all of us, nicely done by Evelyn Cohen and published daily by David Hastings. Many thanks to the D.J. Associates.

We had transportation to take us to the English countryside just outside the town of Norwich. The Braham Broome Country Club was our quarters for the entire stay which was surrounded by an 18 hole golf course, tennis and swimming pool. At this time of the year you can forget the pool.

In our visit to Cambridge we all went to the American Cemetery at Madingley, where I was honored in placing a wreath in honor of our fallen comrades.

The highlight of our particular group had to be our visit to Tibenham, our old air base. The people of Tibenham were wonderful to have treated us the way they did. A huge buffet was set up for us to enjoy alone with mild and bitters and all the other brews that they had.

The dedication of the war memorial was made in our honor. It is attractively surrounded and it will be nicely landscaped by the people of the glider club. We got plenty of publication by the local press and also some television coverage. Since the Norfolk Glider Club has purchased the air base we were able to make plans to have a memorial placed on the grounds. Many thanks go to the director, Evan Harris of the club for his assistance and planning of the memorial.

I started a late "445th Memorial Fund" drive in April and in that short time (four weeks) we were able to raise just over \$2,900.00 of which I able to make a \$2,500.00 presentation to the glider club. Since my return home I received additional funds, making the grand total of \$4,097.00. We are planning to make an additional donation to the fund by the end of the year. So those of you who have not contributed please do so and make out the check to "445th BG Memorial Fund." Thank you for your support.

Elizabeth and I were escorted by a young English lad of 14 years old who made plans to spend the day with us. Stuart Wright was a most enjoyable lad who took the trip with us to Coltishall, RAF Air Base. We all enjoyed the RAF Red Devils air men who put on an exciting show. Stuart is planning a trip in July to visit the colonies. The best. I was asked to point the highs and lows of our group and I was able to reach W.W. Jones, one of our group leaders and this is

what he reported to me: "Among the 14 bomb groups in the Second Air Division we the 445th were second in the assigned aiming points. I think that perhaps our second proudest moment was born out of tragedy. That had to do with the mission to Kassel on Sept. 27, 1944, during which we suffered the heaviest loss ever of any group in the Eighth Air Force during World War II. 37 attacking the target, 25 were shot down. Tragedy there. We made a navigational error and we paid a horrible price from the Nazi fighters. But we didn't cry. The next day we put up what we could, 10 aircrafts and back on the same target with good results. We were proud that day." Well said, W.W.

The 445th and the 453rd are planning a mini-reunion on September 20-22 in Dayton, Ohio. I do not know if this article will be released by then but in any case, if it is, call 513-426-7800 and ask for Sandra Wade for reservations. It is the Holiday Inn on Route 75.

DUES

Annual dues statements will be mailed Oct/Nov. 1987 for 1988 dues.

Those who join after Aug. 1 will not be billed until the following year. If you do not receive a statement, you may assume that your 1988 dues have been paid.

If for any reason you cannot afford dues, please write and let me know. This will be confidential information and your records will be marked Life Member.

Evelyn Cohen

CONVENTION 1988

Date: June 23-26, Clarion Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO.

Reservation forms, etc. will be mailed with the December Journal. For those wishing to make early reservations, we will accept them at any time. Deposit \$25.00

Evelyn Cohen



Window Decals Available

No charge. Send stamped, addressed envelope to Evelyn Cohen.



by Rick Rokicki

NORWICH

Now that the 40th Annual Reunion in Norwich is history, I must say that it was one of the best ever. Again Evelyn Cohen simply outdid herself and everything appeared as smooth as clockwork. Obviously, it was just plain great organizational planning, to say the least. My original listing showed 60 from our group attending, but check the attendance sheet for the final count. Seating of about 1100 people for the reception and later the banquet was accomplished by using a giant sized "Marquee" (which most of us would call a Super Sized Tent, in this country), and was pre-warmed by hot air blowers, the kind you've seen used by pro football teams. All planned affairs, including visits to the airfields were right on schedule. Although the weather was not the best, it finally did shine on our behalf. I know from personal experience that shopping was just great and the exchange rate was favorable, being \$1.60 to the Pound Sterling. I've included several photos with this column, however, they may appear in another section of this Journal, so be on the look-out. Feel sure that Bill Robertie will be swamped with photos.



Ceil and Rick Rokicki. Rick was reelected 458th V.P.

THE MEMORIAL

Your Wright-Patterson Air Force Memorial Dedication team met and you should have received notification of costs, planned events, etc. by this time. If you have not, please let either Durwood Trivette or myself know, and proper action will be taken to get you the word. As noted, the \$50.00 registration (per person) fee covers all activities except lunch at the museum,

cash bar and hotel accommodations. Hopefully, those of you who intend to be there on October 3 have already submitted your fee. As I understand, the dinner seating is limited to 300, so I am not aware if that can be expanded further. In any case, do not wait until the last minute, please.

Durwood Trivette made another run to Richmond, Indiana for a final check on the monument after returning from Norwich. The engraving mat was in place and it was ready for sand blasting. The best I have to offer is a photo of the preliminary layout of the monument stone. I realize it is difficult to read anything other than the shape, but it does give you an idea of the design. Size, as mentioned previously is over seven feet tall and almost five feet wide. The sidewalk and viewing area were finished in early May. A small souvenir commemorating this dedication is planned and will be available at the banquet. The cost has been included in your registration fee.

The October 3 date falls within the Yom Kippur holiday and will cause some of our members to miss this dedication. As I've replied to this problem, the date settled upon was dependent on many factors that had to "dove-tail" into the event. Alternative dates were in early December or in early spring next year. Although our planning appeared to be early enough, the best available date to encompass the Museum, Black & Lee Monuments and hotel rates were in October. Our hope that all who can possibly make it will be there. Without doubt, it will be the largest gathering of the 458th since the end of our England days.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 26 more members since my last report of "Additions to the Roster." Only the names will be given here. If you see someone you want to write to and need an address, let me know and I will forward the address to you. I would appreciate a stamp along with your request, since as I mentioned before, our postage is refundable only for that spent in "recruiting" new members.

Herman Anderson, Robert Attenborough, John Barillaro, Jamie Browning, Glenn Carlson, William Coleman, Robert Eidsberg, Freeman Estes, Joseph Flach, Herman Harney, Harold Keim, George Kosier, John Kowalczyk, Jr., Gregory McDonald, Elmer Moe, Al Panarese, Chas. Peters, Earl Quackenbush, Rev. David Reid, Joseph Schultz, Herbert Struck, Robert Sturenfeld, Joseph Wagner, Charles Wright and Charles Wysocki. In answer to requests for a 458th print-out of the latest roster, just send your request to me with \$3.00 to cover the cost of Xeroxing the pages and for the postage, and I will get it on its way to you.



"B.P." and Georgia Hebert and Bill Lemkowitz at Banquet.

We have lost three more members who were reported as "passing on." They are Harvey Beasley, Bob Slencak and Harold Dane. I knew Harold quite well since he and Chuck Pool (report of his passing was mentioned here in the March Journal) were pilot & co-pilot on Crew #67. Condolences were expressed to their families. There are times when I learn of the passing of one of our members after this quarterly column is submitted. Be advised that I acknowledge that event with an expressed card of sympathy as quickly as I can, in speaking for the 458th BG membership.

Once again I wish to thank all members at the Norwich mini-reunion for re-electing me as your Group Vice President to serve another term. I shall continue to do my utmost to further build up the 458th BG. As of this writing, we are at 510 members and still adding. Please note that I sincerely need your help with names and addresses of any potential members you may know who can qualify as members. It makes little difference if you have previously submitted a name and that person did not join. Do it again...send me his name and address and let me try once more. I have a program which has been fairly successful and guarantee that I will follow up on all leads.

News Stories Needed

Needed for the official records of the Association: copies of any news stories that have appeared about the 2nd AD or its members in local or national publications. Please make copies and send to:

Frederic A. Mayer
Director of Public Relations
106 Nottoway Drive
Penllyn, PA 19422



392nd B.G.

by
John B. Conrad

May and June marked two reunions for members and spouses of the 392nd Bomb Group. The 2nd ADA held its 40th Annual Reunion May 21-25 at Norwich, England, with some 900 attending. The 392nd BG members and guests participated in dinners, memorial services, and receptions, receiving warm English welcomes on all sides. Most of the 392nd contingent was housed in the Oaklands Hotel in Norwich, where the 392nd's mini-reunion dinner was held. The hotel's food and service was excellent, followed by a program in which each member present participated by recounting individual backgrounds and experiences.

Bob Vickers briefly reviewed his book, **Liberators From Wendling**, which has been reprinted and is available again. J.D. Long, Jr. reviewed the history of the 392nd BG as a recognizable unit (entitled to group recognition and mini-reunions) and its succession of vice presidents in the 2nd ADA. At the 1973 reunion in Colorado Springs Myron Keilman (Commander of the 579th BS) organized a meeting of 6 members who had served in the 392nd BG and elected Joseph B. Whittaker as the group's first vice president in the 2nd ADA. Since then, 392nd mini-reunions have been held each year, with group vice presidents elected or re-elected each year. Joe served until 1976, when Robert E. Vickers, Jr. was elected. Bob served until 1979, when J.D. Long, Jr. was elected. J.D. served until 1981, when James Fred Thomas was elected. Fred served until 1986 when the present group vice president, John B. Conrad, was elected. It was also noted that three of the 392nd's vice presidents, Joseph B. Whittaker, J.D. Long, Jr. and James Fred Thomas, subsequently served as president of the 2nd ADA. All of the group's former vice presidents were present at this year's mini-reunion. The Heritage League, an auxiliary of the 2nd ADA as described by Director Emily Long, offers membership to spouses, children, and grandchildren of 2nd ADA members. It is an organization to assist in carrying on the work of the 2nd ADA. Keith Roberts, impressed by the warm English welcome, announced that he and his wife Patty, a travel agent, would plan a return trip next year, staying in hotels in Kings Lynn, for any who wished to come.

We were honored by the presence of Albert and Grace Kimble, and Denis, Hilary and Julie Duffield, English friends of the 392nd BG. As a mark of appreciation of their friendship and many kindnesses performed in our behalf, plaques were presented to Grace Kimble and Denis Duffield and other mementos were presented to Hilary Duffield and Albert Kimble.

On May 25, the 392nd BG members and guests spent "A Day at the Base" - Wendling,

Station 118. Old memories came flooding back as our bus approached and stopped at the east end of the main east-west runway. Turkey sheds occupy each side of the runway now with a service road down the center. Denis Duffield had arranged with the owners for us to drive around the perimeter to the west end of the main runway where we joined to what had been the main road into the base, driving a few hundred feet north to the Wendling Memorial, where the main gate into the base was located in 1943-45.



Wendling Obelisk-392nd Bomb Group. Carroll W. Cheek, left, who served as lead crew pilot and Lawrence G. Gilbert, last C.O. of the 392nd, are leading a drive to improve the Obelisk site. Cared for by local residents, the site was in excellent condition in May, but subject to standing water and poor drainage at other times.

At the Memorial, we were met by some 70 residents, including Mrs. T.H. Scott, Chairwoman of the Beeston Parish Council, who made us very welcome. The Memorial grounds had been very carefully trimmed and tended (with many plantings added since the writer's last visit 4 years ago) by Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Parker. A memorial service had been planned, with a wreath sent by Grace Kimble being laid by James Fred Thomas. Rector Munt of the Church of England led a brief moving service in which he expressed thanks for our day of fellowship, remembrance of those who gave their lives at Wendling, blessings on those suffering as a result of war, and healing of the world's sorrows.

Our bus then proceeded to the site which included the briefing room which is still standing, but difficult to recognize now as it is used as a parts depot. We then moved on to the combat officers mess, which is also a parts depot. Remnants of 392nd murals are still visible on a couple of walls. A few quonset huts are still standing along this road to Beeston Village. These are used to store hay and farm equipment.

In Beeston, the residents had prepared and served refreshments. We were again made welcome by Mrs. Scott, with a reply

by Lawrence G. Gilbert thanking them for their hospitality. It was a wonderful homecoming to Wendling.

For those who were not there, there is a VHS tape available, approximately 2½ hours, edited and titled from several hours taped at the mini-reunion and the Day at Wendling including lunch at the "Rose Cottage," the pub in Wendling Village. This recording reflects the warmth and hospitality we experienced while with our English friends. At this writing the cost of the tape is \$23.00 postpaid. If you would

like a copy, please advise the writer.

The second reunion available to those who served in the 392nd BG was sponsored by the 392nd BGMA and held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 25-28. The many fine features of this well-attended gathering will be reported by vice president and editor Bill Richards in the **392nd BGMA News**. Perhaps of particular interest to those 2nd ADA members who are not also members of the 392nd BGMA are the steps taken by 392nd BGMA President Lawrence G. Gilbert and Wendling Memorial Chairman Carroll W. Cheek in developing and implementing plans to enlarge and enhance the Wendling Memorial which have been approved and adopted by the general membership. Your writer has had the pleasure of being involved in the development of this project and would like to urge all who served in the 392nd BG to lend moral and financial support to this undertaking. Please contact the writer if you want more information or wish to make a pledge or contribution. The 392nd BGMA will hold its next year's annual membership meeting at Colorado Springs in conjunction with the 2nd ADA's 41st Annual Reunion in June 1988.

Green, White and Yellow Tales

by Charlie Freudenthal

Some fifty-seven 489th veterans gathered in Norwich on May 21st last to enjoy what surely must have been one of the great reunions since Stanley and Livingston. The Norwich program was outstanding, and the memorial service at Norwich Cathedral is something we will long remember. Even the weather cooperated, and the fly-bys and airshows went as scheduled.



"It was not over there, I think!" The Boys from Halesworth on Perimeter Road.

The 489th people had two opportunities to see Halesworth again. The first time on Monday when everyone scattered to the runways, hardstands and buildings they got to know so well in 1944. Because a number of people had commitments to meet as soon as the Norwich affair was over, the party for the overnight visit was reduced to forty-one. In a way, that might have been a good thing, because we sure packed the Triple Plea to the rafters!

The Friends of the 489th Committee arranged for a bus to pick us up at the Norwich Hotel, and because they had already spent a great deal of money and had given a great deal of their time to setting up the program, we thought it only fair for us to chip in for the bus, so we did.

The program started with a reception at the Chateaubriand restaurant, and was followed by a service at St. Peter's Church in Holton in which Canon Mills dedicated a plaque made by Tony Kerrison of the "Friends of the 489th." I don't know how many of us sat in St. Peter's in 1944, but it was packed to the rafters this time! After the service we went over to the memorial airfield for a short service of remembrance and the laying of wreaths and flowers. Lee Baker laid the 489th wreath, which was of yellow, white and green flowers and ferns - all the Group colors. Other wreaths and flowers came from the Halesworth Town Council, Royal British Legion, the Mayor of Southwold, the Scouts, Friends of the 489th, John & Camille Becker, Jon & Nita Kaplan, Bob & June Coburn, Joe Wiener and the Callipygia crew, and a lot of individuals who left no cards with their bouquets. Three A10s from the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing at Bentwaters made a low pass over us and down the runway, then came back to do the "Missing Man" formation.



Ted Maruschak, R. W. Porterfield, John Moir, Fred Meyer and Tony Kerrison at Halesworth, trying to remember where it all was. Otey Berkeley, Dick Stenger, and (almost hidden) Frank Skrzynski (now Skeldon).

The next event was the tour around the field, led by the Friends Committee. Believe me, we would never have found or recognized these sites, but suddenly the foundations and crumbling walls, often hidden in thick underbrush and trees, came to life. "This was the Aero Club," "This was the Mess Hall for the ground crews," and "Holton Hall was right there." I asked George Foster if he knew approximately where Col. Napier's quarters had been. "Approximately? I know exactly," he said, and off we plunged through the bushes and nettles and trees so thick you could hardly get through. All of a sudden we were standing on an old concrete floor. "This is it," George said, "my parents and I lived in these quarters for 12 years after the war, because we couldn't find any other place." George said that after the war a lot of families moved into various buildings on the base because of the severe shortage of available housing. "At first there was no water or light or heat," he said, "but finally the authorities relented and turned everything back on, and we stayed until I was called up for the Army."

The final event of the day was "Pub Night" at the Triple Plea. The bar was open and busy, and Paddy Cox and the owner had arranged with the authorities for a later curfew than usual. "Sausage and Mash" was the menu, and the singing was loud and cheerful. Paddy and Tony had their accordions, and were joined by a friend with his banjo, and off we went, down memory lane of course, but learning a lot of new ones too. Finally, in the wee hours we drifted away to our various quarters - except for David Hillstrom, who was invited to be an overnight guest.

Most everyone was on the way to London or elsewhere the next morning, but most of us stayed for a tour of the old Holton mill, where the American flag once again flew at the top of the sails (propellor? fan?

anyway, the part that goes round and round). And just like the other days, the sun was shining and our hearts were full.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS: "Billy Joe" Loadholtes, the mayor of Ft. Meade, Florida, talking about his dog Rodney; Father Hinckley, looking not much older than he was in 1944; that "built to last a lifetime" bench built for the memorial by John Baker; Dave Hillstrom getting together with Don Champagne, Bill Wilkinson and Lee Baker from his dad's old crew; TV crews from NBC and from WXIA-TV, Atlanta, giving the whole reunion great coverage. Hap Chandler was largely responsible for the Atlanta team being there, and they not only filmed at our mini-reunion, but at Halesworth too. Unfortunately for us they had to film at Halesworth before we were there, but guess what? Yours truly wound up on the NBC "Today" program, being one of three presenting a wreath. The only reason I got in there, I'm sure, is that the other two wore WWII uniforms and so made good subjects - and there was no way to cut me out! Thanks to the Atlanta crew, I will have seen their 30 minutes worth of films on TV here by the time you read this, and if I can record it, will make it available for loan.

LAST REUNION NOTE: Jake Jabos, Louis Duke, and six more of their original 846th crew will have a reunion in October in Florida. Any others?



Don Champagne, John deCani, and Fred Meyer at RAF Coltishall for the airshow.



"Boy! Has that girl changed!"

Remembering Wendover of '44

by Robert Buck, 489th BG

Our train left Salt Lake City about 1100 hours on the 10th of January, 1944. I had just finished school for POGT (Power Operated Gun Turret) mechanic, and was going to my next duty station — Wendover. There were maybe half a dozen other troops in the chair car, going to the same place. Since none of them had the same MOS as I did, there was little interest or conversation. No one knew about or had heard of Wendover. And all those who went through Wendover know why there were no great praises or fine memories of our stay there.

and folds in the canvas were sprinkled with chalky dust. We threw our duffle bags on and climbed aboard, taking seats on the wooden benches along the sides. After a ride of a couple of miles we came to a cluster of low, one-story tar paper barracks. There were still no trees or weeds. When the truck stopped, all the others got off, but the driver told me to stay on, and we continued down the road a little way, stopping by a small building with a bulletin board in front. This was the 846th Squadron, and the driver told me to report in there. I drag-

along one side, and the troops lined up along this side, inching their way up the line to get near on of the stoves. I pulled KP there several times, firing up those stoves. The cook stoves were old Army coal ranges, and it seemed the cook was always hollering for more coal. The food wasn't a delight, but was better than we would have at our base in England.

We soon found out, of course, that Wendover was our base for overseas training. Sometimes it seemed that reading the bulletin board was our most important task, directing us to appear at our duty stations in one of the hangars, or to report to the supply room to draw field gear — a pistol belt, canteen, mess kit, shoulder straps which attached to the belt and a field bag which attached to the straps. Around the field bag was a blanket role; two OD blankets rolled in a shelter half and tied in a horseshoe form around the field bag. An extra pair of shoes was tied into the upper bends of the blanket role. Taking a new pair of shoes was important, because we were told we wouldn't get any overseas. We also got a helmet and liner and an M1 carbine with two clips — and no ammunition. That was issued when we got to Halesworth. Once we had all the items, it was almost a daily occurrence to fall in with full gear. We always fell in alphabetical order. For security reasons, individuals didn't get copies of orders. There were only two sets made. The 1st Sergeant used one set for all formations, and the other set was kept by the Adjutant. They said this was so that if you were captured — or fell overboard — the enemy wouldn't get any information about your outfit. What if the 1st Sergeant was in danger of certain capture? Well, I guess he was supposed to eat them!

Soon after the Group had passed the ORI, we were told to pack all our gear, put our duffle bags in the squadron area and get ready to move out. One thing, incidentally, that nobody packed, was coat hangers. We thought we'd just get more when we got to wherever we were going. Wrong. There were no coat hangers to be had in England, and we had to make some out of heavy wire. They were crude, but served the purpose.

We boarded the train late one afternoon, right on the base, stowed our packs at either end of the car, and our helmets and carbines anywhere we could. Then, as we figured we would, we sat around for a while, before starting out on what was a five day trip to Camp Miles Standish, by way of Canada and northern New York. I don't remember how we got from Miles Standish to Pier 54 in New York, but we did, and boarded the USS Wakefield for the second leg of the trip. But that part is another story.



There were some bright moments at Wendover. These are 845th people at a squadron party. Names anyone?

The signs of civilization soon faded from the train windows, and the landscape was only sand dunes, with no trees or even weeds, let alone houses or gas stations. After a ride of about two hours, the train stopped, and some of the guys jumped up and got off. I stayed on the train, since I didn't believe my duty station could be here in this desolate location. The conductor leaned in the doorway and said, "This is your stop." I asked, "Are you sure?" "Oh yes," he said, "your baggage is on the platform."

The station was a small brick building, about 12' by 20' with a brick platform, with no roof, in the front. In the center of the platform was a pile of duffle bags. I went over and found mine, and since there was an airfield in sight I thought I would inquire inside the station about transportation. The station was unmanned and locked, and I couldn't find a telephone on the outside. After we stumbled and mumbled around for a while, someone said he thought they would come and get us. In about twenty minutes there was the sound of a truck from behind the station. It was the usual GI taxi, a 6 x 6, with a canvas top. The seams

ged my duffle bag to the steps of the Orderly room, then went in and presented my orders. The duty sergeant took all of them, saying, "You won't be needing these anymore." So I don't have a copy of the orders assigning me to Wendover.

I was given an upper bunk near the front door of the barracks. That was always good for a blast of cold air when someone went in or out. It was chow time, so I followed the crowd to the mess hall. The big joke, everyone told me as soon as I got there, was "Don't ask to see the Chaplain, because he just took six men and went over the hill." The only bit of civilization near Wendover was the State Line Hotel, up on a hill by the main highway. There was a bar there, since it was on the Nevada side of the line. I was there only once, getting the bus to Salt Lake City.

It's been quite a long time since Wendover, and someone might remember better, but I recall that the mess hall was not a building. It was a large tent, connected to a wood structure which housed the kitchen. There was a four foot board wall along the sides, and the tables were on a dirt floor. There were two or three potbellied stoves

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Much will be written about the Norwich reunion in this issue of the Journal so I won't even try to cover all the exciting events we attended. But certainly some of the highlights of our 467th BG should be of interest to you.

There were 46 of our group who were billeted at The Maids Head Hotel, a charming old typically English inn. We are indebted to many people for all the planning and execution of all those plans to make our visit a memorable one. Certainly Evelyn Cohen and our 2nd ADA officers and executive committee deserve our most sincere appreciation. The people from the Norwich area who worked so very hard to make our visit enjoyable, words are inadequate to express our thanks! These people were the David Hastings, the Eatons, the Kings, the Traffords, the Sleaths, the Bonds, Mrs. Anne Barne, Lady Mayhew, and many many more.

Nine folks of the 492nd BG joined us on Friday evening for our mini-reunion dinner at our hotel. We were especially pleased to have them with us! Due to an oversight on my part their BG number and name was not on the pre-printed menu for which I was most apologetic.

Our honorary 467th BG members from Salhouse, Norfolk County Jean and David Hastings were our special guests. They presented our group this beautiful colored plaque with our Libramus Shield and Sword insignia. David gave us a most welcome talk.

At our dinner all had the opportunity to introduce their wives and tell about their experiences during their time at Rackheath and since. Col. Shower gave us an up-beat talk with much emotion.

We were especially treated to the preview of the video tape the Dzenowagis's have been and are producing which they have named "Faces of the Second Air Division." As of the date to leave for the reunion they had been able to complete the first 28 minutes of the edited version. I have written of this project several times before. It really got off the ground last July at Pheasant Run. This is a unique family and one we of the 467th BG are most proud.

Joe, Jr. and his sister Joan were everywhere from the time we arrived at Heathrow Airport til we headed home taping all the activities of the reunion. Joe, Sr. and Helen were everywhere, too. Joe, Jr. and Joan had gone over early and had rented a station wagon and all kinds of expensive taping equipment to use and they really did use it.

At the dinner when I called on Joe, Jr. to give some introductory remarks prior to showing the tape, he convinced me again we

have the finest young people of any generation. Smart too! As he pointed out, our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren want to know about our World War II experiences but won't have the opportunity unless we express them as we are on video tapes.

The Dzenowagis's plan to have this first documentary tape finished by the time we meet on September 24th in Shreveport. Attending our 467th BG reunion just to view this tape will certainly make your trip worthwhile. It's a professional job! You'll also have the opportunity to participate in this project by agreeing to be interviewed.

Our visit on Monday at Rackheath was beyond description. We arrived at the Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre to be welcomed by a large group of Rackheath and Salhouse villagers! The ladies had prepared tables of delicious pastries, breads, all kinds of goodies with coffee, tea and soft drinks.

David Hastings welcomed us and introduced Reverend Martin Benains, Chairmen Tagg and Fielder of the Rackheath and Salhouse City Councils and others. All made us so very welcome!

In response I thanked them for all they had done to make our visit to their communities so enjoyable. I then called on Col. Shower who presented the members of the Centre one of the original copies of the history of the 467th BG by Alan Healy, which also included a copy of the short-snoter spotlighting the Witchcraft and 200th mission.

Next Jeff Gregory presented them a newly bound attractive roster of all members of the 467th BG who had served at Rackheath during 1944-45. Vince LaRussa presented them a new scroll which is to be framed and hung on the wall of the Centre. These last two items had been done by Phillip Day for which we are most grateful.

For the Group I was presented a beautiful hand knitted angora wool sweater with the Rackheath sign on the front and a B-24 Liberator on the back. This sweater had been knitted by Mrs. C. Bishop, a member of the Centre. Also I accepted on the behalf of our Group a radio program cassette entitled "Village Voice" and covers the Village of New Rackheath. I also accepted one of the first issue stamp "Official Commemorative Covers" dated 22 May, 1987 titled Rackheath Reunion with Col. Shower's personal signature. All of these items will be at Shreveport for you to see and enjoy.

Col. Shower was also presented several of the covers headlining the 40th annual reunion of the Second Air Division Association.

The highlight of the day was the dedication of the new gates Jim Coffey's crew had raised money for and presented to the Church and Centre lot and building.

Then on to the All Saints Church (vintage 1300) for a beautiful memorial service conducted by Rev. Benains. At the end of the service Jim Coffey accepted a sketch painting of the newly renovated interior of this ancient House of God.

We also received another plaque with the picture of a B-24 Liberator with our Group numerals and our red and white tail fin slashes. On the plaque are 2 testimonials authored by John Wright and Geoffrey Gorcham. This is a very moving tribute to "...brave men who came to Rackheath from far off America and with honor did their duty."

Lunch at the Green Man Pub was great. We didn't have much time at the old air base but we did appreciate Peter Bond, Alan Last, Tony Dungan and other spotting signs to help us know where sites and buildings were when we were there in '44 and '45. They were also there to help us tour the base. We also appreciated Jim Coffey preparing in advance a blueprint copy of the base which helped us to identify points of interest.

There's no way I could cover a fraction of our trip and visit. Please come to Shreveport and hear more from all who were there.

See you on September 24th or 25th in Shreveport!

Campaigns of the 2nd Air Division

Air Offensive Europe

7 Nov. 42 — 5 Jun. 44

Tunisia

13 Dec. 42 — 20 Feb. 43

Egypt-Libya

17 Dec. 42 — 12 Feb. 43

Sicily

2 Jul. 43 — 17 Aug. 43

Air Combat Ploesti-Romania

1 Aug. 43

Naples-Foggia

18 Aug. 43 — 1 Oct. 43

Normandy

6 Jun. 44 — 24 Jul. 44

Northern France

25 Jul. 44 — 14 Sept. 44

Rhineland

15 Sept. 44 — 21 Mar. 45

Ardennes

16 Dec. 44 — 25 Jan. 45

Central Europe

22 Mar. 45 — 25 Apr. 45

Thanks from Norwich!

Just where do we begin to thank the 2nd Air Division Association for holding their 40th Annual Convention "back home" in Norwich. To have you back in Norfolk once more was a tremendous experience and has left us with memories which will last forever. To see the many old friends arriving at the super reception at Heathrow Airport, the fun we had on those special trains, the greeting at Norwich Station and dancing on the platform to the great nostalgic sounds of the Forties played by Ken Meazey and his great Anglian show-band...many of us wept quite openly. The moving service in our Great Cathedral with two Lord Bishops and the unique fanfare, the fly-past afterwards by today's young airmen, the day at RAF Coltishall and the world famous Red Arrows, the civic Reception in the Norman Castle, the service at

Cambridge which moved us all, followed by lunch in the Colleges (and our view from the "top table" of the sea of happy faces). The return to the bases and the response from all the villages and finally that great banquet, how can we ever forget sharing all those great moments with you.

As well as renewing old friendships and memories, your convention did so much for your unique Living Memorial Room, the only one of its kind in the world. Your presence and your generosity confirmed yet again the desire of us to ensure that this wonderful and unique Memorial can achieve the financial strength to live on down the ages and so carry the message of friendship and freedom to future generations of both our countries, and so help them to understand why those 6,394 young men of the Division laid down their lives.

I hope that the members of the Division who came back for the first time since the forties saw and felt the warmth and friendship which we all have for the 2nd Air Division, a feeling which has not decreased at all during the past forty-three years, indeed as we have gotten to know you even better, I believe the friendships have strengthened and increased, something which surely the Memorial can list among its many achievements and of which it can be proud, for it truly does live.

Jean and I were proud and privileged to be part of the convention team and the joy of seeing you back and watching your happy smiles made it all so worthwhile. We cannot wait to meet you all once again at Colorado Springs...You are a truly great Association and God bless you all.

Jean and David Hastings.

Freedom Fighter Gets War Medal 42 Years Late

by Mike Comeaux, News Chronicle

This Independence Day holds a special satisfaction for one Thousand Oaks war veteran.

It's the first year that Nathaniel "Bud" Glickman can look at the Silver Star medal he won in 1944 for gallantry in combat on the eve of D-Day.

The ribbon for the nation's third highest military decoration was presented to Glickman when he was a 22-year-old second lieutenant in the U.S. Eighth Air Force stationed in England.

But the medal — the distinctive star of silver that gives the award its name — didn't arrive until 42 years later.

Glickman, a 65-year old Conejo Valley businessman, accepted the Silver Star medal this year in ceremonies at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

He won the decoration for his action as a pilot-navigator or bombardier in a bombing raid against Nazi defenses on the northwest coast of France.

Glickman and 11 crewmates were flying a B-24, the lead aircraft in the mission.

It was a diversion intended to make the Nazis believe that Allied forces were going to invade there. The Allies launched their actual D-Day invasion the next day, June 6, 1944, farther east.

The mission, the 11th combat mission flown by Glickman, left him injured in a British military hospital. He was transferred later to an American air base hospital.

"I was told that the medal would follow me, but it never caught up with me," Glickman said this week in an interview.

Within a month, he was back in combat and eventually flew 30 missions.

He said the Silver Star was just a memory until he began to campaign this year for Ventura County supervisor. He heard rumors that his war record might be challenged, and he decided to seek the Silver Star, he said.

With help from the U.S. Air Force and



Bud Glickman received the Silver Star medal he won in 1944 this year.

U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson, R-California, the medal was pinned to Glickman's business suit in a ceremony on May 27.

Although the World War II bombing mission was flown more than 40 years ago, "it's like yesterday to me. You never forget it," he said.

Nazi anti-aircraft fire tore into the B-24, he recalled. The co-pilot was killed, and the commander pilot was injured seriously.

The firing crippled the B-24 and silenced its four engines. The plane was gliding powerless at an altitude of 23,000 feet.

The navigator's charts and equipment were destroyed, and shrapnel ripped Glickman's arm and head, blinding him with blood. Shrapnel also smashed against Glickman's back, temporarily paralyzing him from the waist down. He limped for years afterward.

The citation accompanying the Silver Star describes Glickman's next acts. "As the bomber made a second run over (the target) with all four engines feathered, Lt. Glickman, despite his wounds gave the command to drop the bombs and gave the co-pilot the correct bearings to return to England."

Glickman's other missions included flying at treetop level to supply paratroopers trapped at Arnheim, Holland, on Sept. 18, 1944. That military situation was the basis for the movie "A Bridge Too Far."

Combat Diary of Lt. Nathaniel Glickman

Tour of Duty Served With Eighth Air Force — England; Flew Thirty Missions From Jan. 1944 — Dec. 1944.

First Seven Missions Were Flown With The Ninety-Third Bombardment Group (H), Three Twenty Eighth Squadron.

Balance of Twenty-Three Missions Were Flown With The Forty-Fourth Bomb. Grp. (H), Sixty-Sixth Squadron As A Pathfinder Crew.

During Tour Of Duty The Following Occurred:

1. Received Probable Credit For Shooting Down Messerschmidt-110 — April 8, 1944.

2. Received Damage Credit For Shooting Up Of Messerschmidt-109 — April 9, 1944.

3. Received Destroyed Credit For Shooting Down Focke-Wolfe-190 — May 19, 1944.

4. Was shot down and bailed out between Dover and Deal, England June 5, 1944.

5. Was Wounded April 13, 1944 over Munich, Germany.

6. Was Wounded June 5, 1944 over Boulogne, France.

7. Received the following campaign ribbons and decorations:

European Theater of Operations with Four Battle Campaign Stars.

American Theater of Operations for Sub-Patrol

The Purple Heart

The Air Medal with Four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters

The Distinguished Flying Cross with One OLC

The Silver Star

Returned to the United States January 1, 1945.

The 448th Speaks

by Leroy Engdahl

The Second Air Division reunion and the 448th reunion and Tower dedication ceremonies exceeded all expectations.

I had gone over a few days early to meet with members of the Tower restoration team and Pat Everson whose husband, Ron, was on the Tower team.

I was one of several other Second Air Division members at the train station to witness the band and reception at the station. This had to be a heart-stopper and will certainly be remembered by those fortunate enough to have been a part of this momentous occasion.

David Hastings, Paul King and many, many others are to be commended for such a splendid welcome that would rival a Hollywood production. We can never repay all of these wonderful people for their gracious hospitality.

The weather was typical of British weather at that time of year - great one day and the unpleasant kind the next but that was something Tom Eaton said "we had no control over."

As it was in June, 1984, however, the weather was nice to the 448th for our Seething Control Tower dedication ceremony and I believe most everyone was simply delighted with the entire proceedings plus all the collections that Ralph Whitehead and Pat Everson had accumulated over the past two years.

We had visitors from Australia - David and Pauline Sergeant who were raised about three miles from the air field but have lived in Australia for several years and planned their visit home to coincide with this occasion.

We had a young man from Holland - Joap van der Kuylen who has in his possession dog tags, wrist watch and other items from two B-24 crews of the 448th who were shot down on the mission of January 11, 1944.

If any of you have any information on the loss of Jim Urban's plane on that day, please send it to me and I will forward it to Mr. van der Kuylen.

There was another crew lost over Holland on that same mission but I can't seem to locate the names. If any have any facts on these two crew losses, please let me have them to pass on to our Dutch friend.



The 448th had 125 at our group reunion and Tower dedication ceremony.

Charles Cupp had his wife and two grown daughters, Julia and Anita; Richard and Bobbie Kennedy brought their eleven year old

granddaughter, Cherokee Beaver. They came over on the Queen Elizabeth and flew back on the Concorde. What an experience for an eleven year old! She will have a lot to tell her schoolmates. Charles Yants' wife Betty, was ill and Charles brought one of his grown daughters. Frel Youngblood brought his son Roy who had just graduated from Appalachian State University. This was Roy's third reunion. Glad to have you, Roy, and please keep on coming. Hazel Dickinson, who recently lost her husband, George, was there and we were so happy to see her. George and Hazel had been just as regular as a clock and we will miss George. Clyde Hatley and wife Annie had two of their children, Clyde Jr. and Cheryl with them.

Again, Doug Skaggs had the most members of former crewmen - four. He also had the most at Dayton last year with five present.

Several of our attendees were making their first trip back to Seething since the war and several were making their first reunion.

We had forty-four British guests at our final banquet and had three featured speakers all well known to most of us. They were Tom Eaton, James Hoseason and Roger Freeman; each covering a different subject but all very interesting and entertaining and we sincerely appreciate their participation in our program.

The majority voted to hold our separate group reunion at Harlingen, Texas in October, 1988 during the "Confederate Air Show." This is the world's largest collection of flyable WW II aircraft and these guys really put on an air show you won't forget.

There was a substantial number desiring to hold a separate two-day reunion at Colorado Springs next May just prior to the Second Air Division reunion. If we have enough wishing to do this, I will make arrangements for a hotel with our necessary requirements such as a separate meeting room with microphone, head tables, separate room for showing personal photo albums and other memorabilia, as well as a VCR for showing WW II VCR and possibly one of our Tower Dedication. Please let me know right away if you would like to do this so I can get started in selection of a hotel that will accommodate our numbers.

Also, if you wish to attend our reunion (3 day) at Harlingen, Texas in October 1988 during the "Confederate Air Show," please let me know as soon as possible. I plan to drive to Harlingen in February to look over and select our hotel. Hotels in Harlingen start taking reservations in June for this very popular air show held each year and their audience for the four days is in the hundred thousands so we need to get our reservations in as early as possible.

Ben Johnson of 3990 15th, Ft. Arthur, Texas 77642, still has a supply of attractive 448th Group caps for \$6.00 each which includes packaging and postage.

I am out of 448th Group Ensignia patches and tail patches and have no present plans to re-stock as the quantity for ordering is too large to justify the investment. I still have a good supply of small silver plated B-24 lapel pins at \$7.00 each; the same silver plated B-24 but as a ladies charm for \$7.00; also silver plated ladies B-24 earrings at \$12.00 a pair - specify type - pierced or screw type, and I have a good stock of 8th Air Force lapel pins at \$4.00 each. All items include handling and postage.

We have no project this year so let's make our project to go out and grow our membership. Each of you can contribute to this by furnishing me with names and addresses of your former crewmen or buddies from Seething who are not members. We are approaching 600 so please let's all help reach this plateau. Thanks for reading and good health and happiness.

Missives from the 492nd



Good News From Pinkenham, England.

At long last, the 492nd Bomb Group has, in conjunction with the 491st, a monument at North Pickenham to honor those men who flew and fought from this base, and also died.

After four years of effort, a Mr. S.A. Trattle, Esq. of 12 Latimer Way, North Pickenham, Norfolk, PE37 8JY, was instrumental in collecting enough funds in

order to install this completely paid-for memorial. I told the townspeople and Mr. Trattle how much the 492nd people appreciated what they did. The picture of the monument was taken before the landscaping was completed. It was all completed by the time we had the ceremony there.

At this time, I wish to thank Pat Perry and the 491st Bomb Group for their effort in having the 492nd people join them at the ceremony. I was totally unaware that there would be any program when we visited the base.

I have other pictures of the monument in case anyone would want a copy.

It was a beautiful day at the Cambridge Cemetery where many of our fellow airmen are buried. Eloquent speeches were made by our former Commanding Officers and laymen in commemorating our return to England. It was a most impressive ceremony.

At this time, I wish to thank the 467th Bomb Group and David Hastings for the invitation to join them at dinner on mini-reunion night. In short, we had a ball.

I wish to thank the members of the 492nd BG for electing me as their vice president for another term.

Evelyn Cohen, and her entourage, is to be highly commended in the amount of work she and they put into making this time a very fine reunion. The English people were most gracious in their welcoming us. We're looking forward to our next visit already, especially to Lady Barne and her "museum" estate. She is 84 now and hasn't slowed down a bit. In fact, she baked all the goodies for our reception that day - superb, to say the least. I could go on for another page but I'm just a little bit under the weather from "jet-lag" after visiting Holland and Switzerland while on the way home. Reto Renfer, of Pheasant Run fame, says to tell everyone "hello" from him and his family. More anon.

by Bill Clarey

Too Scared To Quit

by Jane Flatt
Eastern Daily Press

"The weather is going to be very hard to get used to. It's very damp, and you seldom see the sun."

Those words, written by an American air force sergeant to his wife in California in October, 1944, echo down the decades to us — the understatement of a homesick man marooned in rainy Norfolk during the Second World War.

His letter is among scores of authentic documents from those days which form the bulk of an exhibition at Norwich Assembly House this week. The exhibition, called "The Yanks are Coming," has been set up to mark the 40th annual reunion of the USAAF 2nd Air Division in and around the city.



Bomb-Totin' Mama, shot down by fighters on a mission to Tutow, and Belle of Boston, which crashed at Frettenham after take-off.

Some are tragic, some are bitter, some are wryly funny, but all are intensely touching, the true stories of men whose "occupation" of the eastern counties of England has been recorded mainly by the official histories of tactics, battles and losses.

Much of it is the memorabilia common to fighting men posted far from home throughout the whole of human history. Roman soldiers on Hadrian's Wall would not find it hard to understand.

For instance, there is the reaction of an airman who had completed 21 operational bombing missions to the news that the standard tour of duty had been raised from 25 flights to 30. Instead of going home after another four, it would mean nine more, if he survived that long.

There is an acid little definition of such "veterans" — some of them still in their teens — in the exhibition. "Too scared to protest, too proud to admit it, too dumb to quit."

But one habit peculiar to American airmen at the time was "nose-art." Most of the Liberator bombers used by the 2nd division were given characters of their own, and painted with figures and slogans which were copied onto the backs of the crews' flight jackets, and the walls of their huts.

Even this gesture of defiance had its sad side. Among many others, "Bomb Totin' Mama" was shot down by enemy fighters in April, 1944; the "Belle of Boston" crashed at Frettenham the following month, and "Rhapsody in Junk" was lost in June, on a mission to Bremerhaven.

There is a set of Western Union telegrams tracing the fate of a second lieutenant who was posted missing, turned up in a prisoner-of-war camp, and then returned to active duty; cartoons of the "Liberty Run" to Norwich, where the airmen from 14 bomber bases throughout Norfolk and Suffolk would converge in their off-duty time; photographs, diaries and charts; official instructions "in the event of capture or landing."

Most of the exhibits are photocopies or transcripts, drawn from the precious material stored in the archives of the American Memorial Library in Norwich. The library was set up in 1963 in memory of



the 6,300 men from the 2nd who did not survive.

Its compilers include Fran Davies, of Eaton, one of the library's governors, Tony North, the library aide, and Bertha Chandler, director of the public library in Sharon, near Boston, Massachusetts, who is on a year's secondment as Fulbright Librarian at the memorial library.

The exhibition is designed to appeal both to local people, and to the 500 former airmen and their wives who are staying in the area for the reunion, said Miss Chandler. But the library has an ulterior motive for it, too.

"Going through the archive for this exhibition, we have noticed big gaps in it," said Mrs. Davies. "What material we have had has been super, but we could have done with a lot more."

They are hoping that it will spur all the visitors to unearth their own mementos of that time. Already, an appeal in our sister paper, the Evening News, has come up with some highly unusual trophies — perspex trinkets and ornaments made from the turbines and windscreens of Liberators.

"There is an exhibition case in the library, and we could have a rotating exhibition there, but mainly it would be for scholars doing research," said Mrs. Davies. "The point is it will be lost if it isn't collected now, this is virtually getting towards the last opportunity."

Miss Chandler, who is also collecting recorded reminiscences for a complete oral history of the time, describes the aim of such a collection as establishing the

memorial library as a "center of excellence" for research.

Her own project has an equal urgency. While many people are only too willing to call back their memories of that time, others had such terrible experiences that they did not want to remember them.

"There are people who are just starting to come to the reunions now, they're retired, and coming back to Norfolk for the first time for 40-45 years, and talking a little bit about it, although not much, because some of their memories are very, very painful," she said.

Togetherness of Man

There are moments in this life when we are reminded of the togetherness of man, and the worthwhileness of life. I had such a moment in Norwich, England, this last May 21st, when we of the 2nd Air Division were arriving for our Norwich Convention. As I was standing at the train station, watching our members debark, a gentleman of our vintage walked up to me and said, "Welcome back, Yank." He handed me a set of RAF wings, and a picture of himself when he was a RAF Flight Lt., dated 1943. His name was Nick Carter, and he flew Wellingtons in the War. He said he wanted to give these to the first returning 2nd AD veteran he met, as a token of remembrance of our two countries' unity in World War II and our continuing mutual friendships.



Nick Carter, Age 21

I was deeply touched, and am writing you in hope you will print this in the Journal, along with Nick's picture, that all our 2nd AD people might share this experience with me.

Dave Patterson
445th BG

The Memorial Trust Films We Need Your Help!

There is a great need to produce a THIRD Trust film not only to provide a historical record for future generations, but to also continue to bring the news of the Memorial Room to the Norfolk villages today.

If you have any cine film in 8mm, Super 8mm or 16mm, Black and White of colour that you would be willing to give to the Memorial Trust then we would dearly like to hear from you as we hope to start the production of the film later this year.

Will you help us to provide "THE RECORD" for the future? If you can help, please write to D.J. Hastings, "Westering," Salhouse, Nr. Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 6RQ, England. (Tel. Norwich 0603-720334).

Letters



Dear Rick:

Your altimeter clock graces my office wall. The remarks from my clients have been fantastic. What a beautiful job. Everyone in the 2nd Air Division should have one.

Keep up the good work for the Memorial.

Bill Shaffer
93rd BG

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦



A quiet moment for Winona Cobb (left) as she places flowers on the grave of her husband, S. Sgt. Joe Ousley, who was stationed at Bungay. With Mrs. Cobb are her daughter, Jo Emedanich (right) and her granddaughter, 19-year-old Lori Emedanich. The family were all visiting the grave at the Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingley for the first time.

Dear Bill:

The picture of the crew (844th) with "Danny's 489th Diary" in the summer edition of the Journal caught my eye. In the front row, kneeling, the fellow far left in the flight seat sure looks like Charlie Gabins, a waist gunner, and next to him, the fellow in the flight jacket, sure looks like Phil Alexander, co-pilot. Both Charlie and Phil became part of Crew 14, Blaine Hansell's crew when we went to England with the 489th.

I never hear from Gabins who was originally from Long Island, N.Y. I was corresponding with Phil, who, after the war was an actor, changing his name to Phil Abbott, and has appeared in movies and television shows ("The F.B.I.") among others.

I may be wrong but they sure look the same as I remember them. I would guess that the picture was taken in the States before going overseas and before they were assigned to Crew 14 of the 844th.

Could not go to Norwich and am looking forward to the next edition of the Journal which I'm sure will cover the reunion.

Carl Rosendahl
P.O. Box 225
Georgetown, CT 06829

Editor:

Ref: Second Air Division Journal, Vol. 26, No. 2. On page 3, column 1, 9th line from the bottom states: "Lorenzo R. Burciaga, 579th BS, co-pilot on the Jack Bilz crew, September 1944, completing a tour of 35 missions in April 1945."

There are two mistakes in this:

1. Dale W. Slayter was the co-pilot on the Jack Bilz crew on all 35 missions.

2. The Jack Bilz crew was in the 578th BS.

Dale W. Slayter
5464 W. Bar X
Tucson, AZ 85713

Ed. Note: When I make a mistake I like to make them big. Problem is, I didn't write this one. My apologies anyway.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Evelyn:

I believe I've already passed you the information that I was not a candidate for reelection as Group VP, and that George Nokes of Austin, TX is now our head man. I've agreed to be the Ass't Group VP, to replace Bud Chamberlain, and will continue to produce our Group newsletter, provide articles for the Journal, and handle membership work. George will be working on some new stuff.

Our unanimous opinion is that the Norwich 1987 shindig was superbly done, and we make a collective tip of the hat to you and your helpers. The people at the Norwich Hotel, incidentally, couldn't have been any nicer. Have enclosed a copy of the report on our day-after program at Halesworth, which was also a roaring success.

Charlie Freudenthal

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Evelyn:

Just wanted to add my thanks for the wonderful job you did in organizing the Norwich Reunion/Convention. It couldn't have been better. My wife and I enjoyed ourselves greatly and will always have fond memories of this outstanding event. We are already looking forward to Colorado Springs.

Marvin Speidel
708 Dianne Court
Raliway, NJ 07065



1st Row: ???, Wierz, Wirebaugh, Ashmeade, Austin, ???, Stanley; 2nd Row: ???, Bix Donnelly - Line Chief, Raby White, Kubillis, Rollo, Vetter, Castellate

Dear Bill:

This is a letter I have been meaning to write for the past six years - finally it is done.

I was a member of the 858th BS of the 492nd Bomb Group, 2nd Air Division stationed in England during WWII. I became a part of the 858th Squadron at Alamogordo in January 1944.

I am enclosing a picture of the Crew Chiefs of the 858th BS taken stateside in April of 1944 just prior to our departure to England. I have identified the major portion of the members (see picture and caption).

The serial number of the B-24 on which I was a Crew Chief was 44-40066 and had the letters "S.O.L." on the nose in conjunction with artwork of a girl in a canoe without a paddle. The pilot of SOL was Captain Handwright. The names of some of the other planes in the 858th were: That's All Brother, Bottle Baby, Betty Boop, Mojalahab, Boulder Bluff and Sierra Blanco. We flew the southern route to England via South America and Africa to England. We were stationed at North Pickenham.



This summer I am touring the southern, middle west and western states with a van tire cover embellished with a B-24 and the words "492nd Bomb Group" in the hopes of locating some former members of our organization. I am sending you a picture of that cover - perhaps you would care to insert it in a forthcoming issue.

I am sorry that I have not attended any of the reunions held during the past years, but will try to make one soon.

Clyde F. Vetter, 16027763
MSGT - Retired - USAF
P.O. Box 221944
Carmel, CA 93922

**TO MEMBERS OF THE
93rd BOMB GROUP
2ND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Dear Bill:

I'm an instructor navigator assigned to the 329th Combat Crew Training Squadron, 93rd Bomb Wing, Castle AFB, CA. The 329th conducts all B-52/KC-135 academic training for SAC.

We're gathering information and photographs for a B-24 aircraft display. Our "Halls of History" program will be a record of the 329th's and 93rd's WWII history. We train over 2,000 students annually preparing them for flight training by the 328th Bomb Squadron and 93rd AREFS. We recently completed a mural of a B-24 over Ploesti and are in the process of completing a photo display of Ploesti. Our program is viewed by countless DVs each year. Gen. Chain, CINCSAC, viewed our display and commented that ours is an important program.

We would like photos, information and memorabilia if possible of the 329th Bomb Squadron and the 93rd BG flying B-24s during the Ploesti raid for a display to cover an entire floor wing.

Also the information will be used to paint and restore a B-24 aircraft for our air museum. The air museum presently houses two dozen aircraft including a B-17, B-18, B-25, B-29, B-47, B-52, KC-97 and a RAF Vulcan. Once we complete the B-24, the air museum will have on display every aircraft ever flown by the 93rd.

Photos and information on the paint scheme will aid in our restoration of this historically important aircraft. We want to paint it in the colors flown during the Ploesti raid. Of particular interest is nose art. Our first choice would be "Hell's Wench" as flown by Lt. Col. Baker. The next choice would be a B-24 flown by the 329th during the raid. We need your support to complete this project. We know of only one 329th B-24 flown during Ploesti; 41-23682/"Blasted Event," flown by Maj. Brown. Our B-24 presently has wings attached to the fuselage, with the landing gear locked down. The aft part of the fuselage, wing tips, and engines need to be mounted.

We also would like to invite any members of the association to visit Castle AFB. Any technical expertise would be greatly appreciated. We would like to have a dedication ceremony for the B-24 to be attended by the 93rd veterans if there is enough interest.

Could you put us in touch with your group and let them know our requests? Any help would be appreciated. We would be especially interested in a guest speaker at the ceremony, such as Ramsey Potts. We are excited about this project and look forward to hearing from you.

David R. Kenerley
Captain, USAF
329 CCTS/CTOAN
93 BMW
Castle AFB, CA
95342-5000

Dear Evelyn:

It's getting to be a ritual thanking you for all you have done to make our reunions what they are, so I'm not even going to try. I'm just glad you were able to keep your health and sanity and return home to Philly safe and sound. It was a great one and perhaps a little sad because it seems it will be our last in Norwich, at least as a 2nd AD.

I wish everyone could have been there to feel the warmth and affection of the people of Norfolk and in our care — Rackheath.

If it has to be our last one, at least it's a last one which we can always carry with us.

I have never seen so much cream in my life. It will take me 6 months to get it out of my system.

I was also pleased that everything worked out as far as the 467th was concerned. I appreciate your interest. It was a worry but all's well that ends well.

Looking forward to Colorado. Our best to you and a belated Happy Birthday.

El Rancho-Not-Yetto
3110 Sheridan Drive
Garland, TX 75041

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Dear Bill:

OK by me on your mailing Journal without an envelope. I just threw the envelope away anyways. I am sending along a pic taken of me and four RAF girls at Coltishall which perhaps you can use in the Journal and headed up "Yanks Have Returned and Situation Well in Hand." Hah!



I wonder why of all the places referred to in WWII and Norwich, no mention is ever made of the Royal Hotel on Prince of Wales Road across from what used to be GPO and Telephone Exchange. The Prince of Wales Room was always full of 8th Air Force personnel.

Keep up the good work! Do hope you can enjoy using this pic.

I don't know how I missed seeing you at Norwich Reunion.

S/Sgt. Irving L. Shuffler

+ + + +

Dear Evelyn:

The Reunion at Norwich was wonderful - so well organized.

We realize a lot of time, work and effort on your part, as well as assistance from others, made it so.

We would like to thank the people from Norwich who participated — especially Mr. Hastings. In your contacts with him, please express for us our gratitude for their friendship and labors which made the Reunion so nice.

The Reunion of '87 will always be remembered by us.

Thank you so very much.

B.P. and Georgia Hebert

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Dear Bill:

Thanks for your letter of May 8th regarding the new roster. Since that time we have located some of the men on our crew. The missing are: J.P.W. (Jim) Fluhr, Navigator, 330 Sylvan Ave., Leonia, NJ (last known address), S.C. Cabral, Gunner (no address), J.D. Shinski, Gunner (no address).

I realize this is scant information, but any help would be appreciated.

Just so you will have the information at your fingertips, we flew as a lead ship in the 492nd, 44th, 389th, and 445th groups. Also, we participated in the Sept. 27, 1944 raid over Kassel which is considered one of the worst raids as far as the loss of ships is concerned. Our pilot was Capt. Wilbur L. Uebelhoer.

Thanks for your assistance.

Don Whitefield
1434 Martin
Houston, TX 77018

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Dear Evelyn:

Jean and I want to say thank you for a great reunion in Norwich. Because of the number of people compared to the last time, we thought it went off very well. The train ride into the station and the welcome we received with the orchestra playing will be something that we'll remember for a long time.

The 389th visited Carlton Rode Church for a wreath laying ceremony and while there I struck up a conversation with a woman who said she corresponded with an airman she met during the war. It seems he lived in Auburn, Mass. We went down and visited with him and found that he was with the 445th BG. Of course I told him that he should belong to the 2nd ADA so I am sending a check for his membership. His name is Fred Roughan, 17 Riverside Drive, Auburn, MA 01501.

I am enclosing a check for sixty dollars. Ten dollars for his membership and fifty dollars as a deposit for next year's reunion at Colorado Springs.

Thanks again, Evelyn.

Allan Hallett

+ + + +

Hi Bill:

Great being with you and Hazel in Norwich. I received the booklet you sent.

I am enclosing a picture from a friend of mine — Hal Yates of the 389th B.G.. Please run it in the next Journal.

Thanks.

Jim
P. O. Box 2918
Jacksonville, FL 32203



Top: Yates, Boberg and Whittenberg, 1944 after completing 31 missions over Germany with 389th B.G. England 8th Air Force.

Bottom: 1987, 43 years. later at reunion, Whittenberg (Olympia, WA), Yates (Tallahassee, FL), and Boberg (Santa Rosa, CA)



Dear Bill:

Noted in the Summer '87 issue of Second Air Division news, page 21, in the article regarding the "Lucky Penny II" crew and photo of their crew back in England with "Hoo Jive" in the background. As "Hoo Jive" catches my attention, wonder how it happened to be the background of this picture?

By the way is there a collection of such crew pictures somewhere? Remember one was taken of our crew, but having gone to Sweden all such was lost. Is our crew photo available from somewhere?

Things are progressing with the reunion of internees at Sweden. Jim McMahon, a B-17 internee is doing a real job trying to contact as many as possible. However, there is still a lot we cannot seem to locate. As you have done so much along that line while trying to increase Second Air Division Association membership, wonder if you have any suggestions? It's to be Sept. 7 through 13th at Vasteras, Sweden. The Swedish are paying all expenses while in Sweden and including those of wives. We pay our transportation to and from Sweden. All Swedish internees are welcome.

Charles Huntoon
370 Danforth Street
Portland, Maine 04102

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Dear Evelyn:

IT WAS FABULOUS!!! What a tremendous job you, your help from here in the States, and the wonderful people in England did to make the 40th Reunion/Convention such an outstanding event — should say, series of events!!! Nothing could have been done to improve — from the great reception at Heathrow; the trains to Norwich; the unbelievable welcome in Norwich Station; the Cathedral program; the Castle reception; the day and ceremony at Cambridge; Sotterley Hall; return to the bases; and the final night banquet; ALL make for so many good memories as we are once again back home! Surely we cannot say THANK YOU enough to you, our officers, and especially Paul King, David Hastings, Tom Eaton, and ALL who took part in our "RETURN TO NORFOLK!"

We of the 448th had an especially good 'follow-up' with the re-dedication of our Control Tower at Seething Airfield and the most wonderful visit, and such great interaction with so many village residents. The Seething school children just did a beautiful job of performing for the Yanks and when they sang "Let There Be Peace On Earth" not many dry eyes were visible in the Village Hall!

I, personally, was most pleased to see the very visible backing of the Second Air Division Association and the Board of Governors, for Tony North and the excellent role he performs for all of us. As I have stated to the Board of Governors before, it seems to me that as important as it might be that we have a Bertha Chandler; any American librarian, present at the Memorial Room and Library, it is just as important that a Tony North be available to talk with returning veterans; their families who might visit; and to guide Americans to the people at, or near, their old bases — people who have such a sincere interest in preserving, and extending, the beautiful relationship that exists with Norfolk/Suffolk friends and we Americans! I, for one, feel that everything that can be done to be assured that Tony North will be present at the library until his decision for retirement, must be accomplished. This surely includes being sure that he has, at the very least, an adequate 'living wage.' If funds are not adequate within the trust, then we of the 2nd Air Division Association need to make sure they are there! I must say that I was most impressed with Bertha Chandler, and am surely glad she can be in Norwich for another year — do believe this will be of great help to ALL English and Americans!

Again, THANK YOU for a job 'really well done' and I surely hope all we "youngsters" of the 2nd ADA can make another reunion to Norwich and that 1987 was not the last one!!!

Paul E. Homan
431 Dwight Avenue
Wauseon, OH 43567

+ + + +

Hi Bill!

OUCH!

Your letter had a well-deserved bite! I do appreciate your answering so quickly and believe me, I was in no way faulting the editor!

I had no idea how articles got into the Journal. I assumed the VPs supplied the input.

I have not met face to face with Rick Rokicki. I have corresponded with him, sharing all my photos, etc. Undoubtedly a "good guy" but with other interests. He had a copy of my "blurb" but must have not considered it worthy of other eyes. (Ed. Note: Blame me and chaos!)

I have contacted my three "cohorts" and asked them to try to contact other ground personnel. I asked them to "funnel" anything they might come across through me and/or Rick Rokicki.

Bill, it was nice (and enlightening) to make contact with you. May your skies always be blue and full of sunshine!

Bill Griffiths
Route 8, Box 255
Marietta, Ohio 45750

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Dear Evelyn:

My wife and I were not able to attend the 40th Reunion at Norwich because of a limited number of applicants, therefore we arranged a London based tour for ourselves.

Prior to leaving for England, I corresponded with Mr. Tony North, library aide at the Memorial Library in Norwich, and he in turn sent me train schedules, a city map of Norwich and arranged a meeting on Friday, May 15 with Mr. Stuart Main of the Lotus Car Co. to give my wife and I a conducted tour of the airfield at Hethel, home of the 389th BG.

On that date we visited the Memorial Room of the Central Library where we were greeted by Tony North, whom we found to be a very dedicated person. After having a most informative meeting at the library, my wife and I, accompanied by Mr. North, had lunch at a restaurant and then returned to the library for our meeting with Stuart Main who picked us up for our tour of Hethel. He showed us the existing buildings which included the old control tower, that is used by the Lotus Car Co. as a social club. One room is to be used as a reception area and a small museum to commemorate the 389th BG. Mr. Main expresses a deep interest in the history of the airfield, and although I could not help him much as to locating the exact areas where buildings used to be, I enjoyed his hospitality extended to us. It was a very pleasant experience.

Harold R. Brown
218 Longfellow Street
Westbrook, Maine 04092

P.S. If space is available I would like to have this printed in the Journal. We were very appreciative of the way we were received.

+ + + +

Dear Evelyn:

The enclosed copy of letter to Channel 11 Alive TV Manager Harvey Mars will explain why I have not been keenly interested in becoming a member of our Second Air Division, Eighth Air Force group before now.

After the wonderful presentation on "The Last Mission" the past is finally past. Please accept my request for membership. Am enclosing check for \$10.00, per "Hap" Chandler's instructions.

Looking forward to knowing you down the line, Evelyn.

Dana L. Jones
1986 Lyle Avenue
College Park, GA 30337

Dear Mr. Mars:

Thanks to Paul Crawley's outstanding News Extra: The Last Mission, the mental wounds that troubled me for 43 years have been erased.

I was a B-24 pilot with the 446th Bomb Group based at Flixton Castle near Bungay, flying as part of the world's largest armada on D-Day. Shortly after, we lost our ship, and my co-pilot was killed. During R&R at Blackpool, England, while visiting my brother at his base, we and several thousand other GIs kept Glenn Miller and his fabulous band playing for hours. The next day his plane was reported missing over the North Sea.

The roughest missions of the tour followed those tragedies, while knocking out Hitler's means of waging war, but at heavy losses.

After visiting my co-pilot's grave at Cambridge National Military Cemetery, and living with mass destruction day after day, I became immune to grief and emotion temporarily. Those torturous memories were kept submerged for many years.

Paul Crawley's sensitive handling of tragic memories experienced by myself and others was spellbinding. The scene at Cambridge where my co-pilot was buried, then the scene of the 40-year old daughter visiting her father's memorial, inspired an idea. Next Sunday we will gather to celebrate our oldest daughter's 40th birthday. I plan to play back Paul Crawley's masterpiece, to give my children and grandchildren a tangible link to the past they will never forget. My sincere thanks to all who helped bring me inner peace by this memorable means.

Kindest regards also to my friends Johnny Beckman and Bruce Erion.

Dana L. Jones
Captain (Retired)
Delta Air Lines

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Dear Evelyn:

Just a short note to let you know how much Erma and I enjoyed the 2nd Air Division Convention at Norwich. Thanks again for all of your hard work that you and your staff put into this project; everything was just perfect.

Harold and Erma Secor
Savannah, NY 13146

Dear Bill:

Here's \$28. I will try for the Mighty Eighth War Diary again. Ship it if you still have a copy.

Bill, I am getting confused...being from the 445th BG I thought I saw Jimmy Stewart flying a B-24 with the 703rd Squadron, later he was promoted to the 453rd, another B-24 outfit...but here comes CBS in their Video Club Magazine No. 60 on page 4 in their ad for the movie "Strategic Air Command" and claims "Hollywood legend Jimmy Stewart...a real-life B-17 Bomber Pilot during World War II" now we know that CBS (former home of Walter B-17 Cronkite) can't be wrong...so when Andy Low buzzed around with 'Stew' it must have been in a '17' so why did they keep it a secret?

Another question: the 1987 EAA Video Catalog on page 16 offers a video depicting "The B-24 Story" Schweinfurt and Regensburg: a film record of the famous bombing mission...on August 17, 1943. How come Pete Henry does not offer us some films or videos on this? Another well-kept secret, Pete?

Still another question: The Memphis Belle, a B-17 of some notoriety during WWII has been designated by the Milwaukee Journal as a 'Famous WWII Fighter Plane.'!!! Since the article does not say whether it was used as an escort, I'd like to know why the Generals at the Second Air Division did not avail themselves of this service?

Copies of the publication are enclosed. Perhaps you can convey my questions through the proper channels for clarification. Thanks!

Ray Pytel
P.O. Box 484
Elkhorn, WI 53121

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Dear Evelyn:

Thank you for your letter together with my membership card making me an Honorary Member of the Second Air Division. These arrived whilst we were on a holiday hence the delay in replying to your welcome letter.

Pleased to hear you arrived safely although somewhat tired!

It was my pleasure to be part of the Norwich team and I was delighted to hear that so many who made the pilgrimage thoroughly enjoyed the event. We got a kick seeing so many of you really happy. You never know, perhaps one day we shall do the same again.

Yes - Shelagh and myself hope to be joining you in Colorado next June and we are both looking forward to this event.

I am looking forward also to receiving the Second Air Division magazines. I have no idea when they are published but no doubt someone will let me know.

It was great meeting you all and we look forward to next June.

Bill Holmes
7 Parkland Crescent
Old Catton, Norwich
NR6 7RQ

Dear Bill:

I'm a volunteer at the International Aerospace Hall of Fame in Balboa Park in San Diego and it came to my attention that a very important investee had no sponsor. That individual is General Carl A. Spaatz who was our 8th AF & HS Strategic Air Forces in Europe Commanding Officer during WWII. Also, he was the HSAF's first Chief of Staff and was commander of H.S. aviation training in France during 1917-1918.

Each year the Hall of Fame honors (3) persons who were prominent in aviation or aerospace and someone sponsors an oil painting of this person and the portrait is hung in the Hall of Fame. Unfortunately, no one sponsored General Spaatz's portrait. Sponsorship is \$1500. Do you suppose we could get the members of the 2nd ADA to sponsor him by sending donations to the Hall of Fame? Let's show the General we can do it!

W.V. Trask, Major
HSAFR
8055 Haven Drive
Lemon Grove, CA 92045



General Carl A. Spaatz

Dear Bill:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of "The Mighty Eighth" (new edition) for which a check is enclosed.

I don't know how you do it but every edition of the Journal is better than the last.

The week at Norwich last month had to be one of the best I ever had. Got to spend some time with some of my crew (#55-448th BG), met old buddies and made new friends. The two days at Seething were extra special, with the control tower dedication and meeting the wonderful people of Seething again after 43 years.

We all owe so much to the wonderful people who put all this together, on both sides of the ocean. It was extra special.

Harold W. Smith
201 Covert Avenue
Elmont, NY 11003

+ + + +

Dear Bill:

I caught your "last call" on the Mighty Eighth series of books. I enclose my check for \$28 for a copy of the Mighty Eighth War Diary, the only one I don't have. I hope I'm in time.

Your Summer 1987 issue totals 32 pages, all well written (and edited). Congratulations! I don't see how you do it.

Jim Coffey
39 Hardscrabble Hill
Chappaqua, NY 10514

P.S. I enjoyed Mac Meconis's article on the Eighth's role in D-Day, a first on that subject, I believe, in my eleven years receiving the Journal. I think my "Bedspring" piece may also be a first - about the flight back to the U.S.A.

+ + + +

Dear Bill:

Our great reunion in Norwich was a series of exciting and enjoyable events, thanks to Evelyn Cohen's superb direction.

From a personal point of view, my most rewarding time was on Monday, May 25th, during the 467th Bomb Group's visit to Rackheath.



I was privileged to participate in a service with the Rev. Martin Benians dedicating the new gates presented to the Community Centre by my crew, whom I represented.

The concept behind the gift - originated and developed by our Engineer, Andy DeBiasse and his wife JoAnn - was to provide a tangible expression of gratitude for the support and hospitality we received from the people of Rackheath and the surrounding area while we were guests in their country.

We raised the money by selling matted photographs of an oil painting of a 467th Bomb Group B-24 "Witchcraft" at our 467th reunions. Al Muller, Navigator, was our photographer.

David Hastings, our Honorary Member and resident of the area, deserves great credit for working with all concerned in Rackheath to find a suitable gift and oversee its execution.

I believe our crew's gift was a "first" in the history of the Second Air Division Association.

I hope you will publish some part (or all) of this letter. Some related material attached as well as two photos (please return the photos in due course). Thank you.

Jim Coffey

+ + + +

Dear Bill:

I was a tail gunner on Bob Ottman's crew. We were in the 445th Bomb Group 703rd Squadron. I have been in contact with Bob Ottman, pilot; Ben Bodziak, copilot; Ralph Ray, engineer gunner; and Robert Clouser, radio operator.

I am seeking information as to the whereabouts of Robert E. Barker, bombardier with last known address of 621 V Street, Bakersfield, CA; Bill Young, ball turret gunner at Box 465, Burbank, CA; and Avery Collins, waist gunner at 315 East Second, Ellinwood, Kansas. Joe King, waist gunner is deceased and John Hennesy, navigator, died in a crash overseas.



Enclosed is a picture of our disabled B-24, the Silver Streak. Our crew would like to know if our plane was shot down on the ill-fated Kassel mission or if it survived until the end of the war.

If anyone has any information about my former crew members or about the Silver Streak, please contact me.

Floyd Oglesby
411 Garrison Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49017

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Hello,

My name is John Butler. I used to live in Wayland, Mass. but now I live in Oxford. Enclosed is a list of missions I was on with the 93rd.

They used a B-17 instead of a B-24 which I flew on.

I am in the process of doing my diary over and will send a copy.

I am looking for a fellow crew member with the name of Robert Carey, Dorchester, Mass. Any help would be appreciated.

John Butler
23 Allen Avenue
Oxford, MA 01540
(617) 989-1986

+ + + +

Dear Bill:

\$2,000 is quite a savings and I think the Executive Committee is wise making the decision not to use an envelope. My copy arrived in excellent condition and with your offer to replace a damaged copy I don't feel anyone could object.

Thanks and keep up the good work.
W. Gordon Douglas
2112 Hillside Drive
Bluefield, WV 24701

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, PROVIDENCE

April 29, 1987

Major General Andrew S. Low
737 Boston Neck Road
Narragansett, RI 02882

Dear Major General Low:

It is a pleasure for me to officially notify and congratulate you on being inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame.

This is an honor of which you are most deserving as your contributions to our state have added to the rich heritage of Rhode Island.

The induction ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 1987 at the Johnson & Wales Hospitality Center, 1150 Narragansett Boulevard, Carston. The social hour will begin at 4:00 pm. and dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m.

Once again, my sincerest congratulations.

Edward D. DiPrete
Governor
State of Rhode Island

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Dear Mr. Robertie:

We cannot thank you enough for your response to my letter. You owe us no apologies. In a way we had presumed something had happened along the way.

You have a task in the Association we could not handle as efficiently, so we wish you the best and hope you have few - if only me - to misjudge.

Thank you again and I shall forward the article with this.

Joe & Peg Bradley
175 Courtshire Drive
Brick, NJ 08723

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THANK YOU AMERICANS

Living as I do in Norfolk only one mile away from Ketteringham Hall, but myself too young to remember the last war, I would like to say how impressed I was to see so many of your members over here again.

It was a powerful reminder of how much we all owe to those courageous men and their families. My thoughts, and I'm sure many others living locally, inevitably turned to those who lost their lives, and I would like everyone over there to know that they will not be forgotten. Indeed, I hope that many of your members will have the opportunity for further visits when they will be assured the warmest of welcomes.

There are two places I can go to make me aware of those times. One is the Memorial Room and the other is the many deserted airfields scattered around this pleasant country. There, amid the quiet of a spring day, the air vibrates with memories even though I was not there.

Paul Stevenson
44 Queens Road
Hethersett, Norfolk

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Dear Paul (King):

I would be grateful if you would pass the sincere thanks of Zara and myself to the President, Officers and Members of the Second Air Division Association for their outstanding hospitality at the banquet yesterday evening.

We both feel very privileged to have been present at such an auspicious and impressive occasion and I am pleased that we at Coltishall were able to contribute in some way to your most successful weekend. I wish all the members of the Association every good fortune for the future.

David Andersen
Royal Air Force
Coltishall, Norwich
Norfolk, England
NR10 5AJ

+ + + +

Dear Art:

After many years I have found the final resting place of a KIA member of the 44th BG, S/Sgt. Abe Sofferman, who was in the 67th Squadron. He was killed after parachuting from Lt. Pinder's plane on a mission in Jan. 1944. He was shot by the Germans trying to escape.

He is buried in Union Field Cemetery in Queens, NY. Abe was radio operator on the crew of Lt. Rockford C. Griffith.

Little is known of the final days and weeks of Sgt. Sofferman except what we know from the pilot Lt. Pinder. Perhaps the 2ADA Journal readers will know.

Forrest S. Clark
220 Fairmount Avenue
S. Plainfield, NJ 07080

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Dear Bill,

Just received the summer edition of the 2ADA and at long last found my old commander of the 466th Group - Major Laubrich, mentioned in the "Mission 18 'D' Day" article by Mac Meconis. I can't find his name in the roster so I'm assuming he is not a member, but I think a letter from me could add his name to our list.

I don't have his address and was wondering whether you can chase it down for me and I'll get him signed up. It has been a long while - I was his operations sergeant at the 466th opns. office.

Sure hope you can help.

Lt. Col. Albert L. Hanson
167 North Street
Woodbridge, NY 07095

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Retired Air Force Gen. Ira Eaker, 91, architect of U.S. bombing raids in WW II

WASHINGTON — Retired Air Force Gen. Ira C. Eaker, the architect of U.S. strategic daylight bombing raids over German cities during World War II, died yesterday after a long illness, the Air Force announced. He was 91.

Mr. Eaker died at the Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., outside Washington, the service said.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at Fort Myer, Va., and he will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

"Few men can equal General Eaker's great stature as an air pioneer," the Air Force chief of staff, Gen. Larry Welch, said. "We owe him our gratitude for his outstanding contributions to the Air Force

and the nation."

Eaker was assigned as commander of the first American air headquarters in Europe in February 1942, three months after the U.S. entry into World War II. He became commander of the Eighth Air Force in England in December of that year and later was commanding general of all U.S. Army Air Forces in Britain.

It was during this period that Eaker conceived the strategy of daylight bombing raids over Nazi Germany.

Born April 13, 1896 in Field Creek, Texas, and raised in southeastern Oklahoma near Durant, Eaker received a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Infantry Reserve in 1917 and became a pilot two years later.

During the 1920s and 1930s, Eaker developed and tested procedures for aerial refueling and in 1936 made history by piloting the first "blind" transcontinental flight, flying on instruments only from New York to Los Angeles.

Near war's end in April 1945, Eaker was named deputy commander of the Army Air Forces and chief of the air staff. He was instrumental in planning and drafting legislation creating a separate Air Force.

Eaker was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and the Air Medal.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth.

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

BILL ROBERTIE

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