



Vol. 31, No. 4

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Winter 1992



Second Air Division Association Eighth Air Force

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President's Message

by John B. Conrad



In 1991, I wrote that all of the reunions I have attended have been memorable events for me, and that the then most recent at Dearborn was especially so. I thanked the Nominating Committee for nominating me and the membership for electing me to serve as Executive Vice President. Now I must say that you have made this year's reunion at Las Vegas even more memorable when you elected me to serve as President for the coming year. I will make every effort to serve with the same dedication to your Association's best interests as that demonstrated year after year by the experienced officers of your Executive Committee.

Our Las Vegas reunion was well attended, including 21 of our surviving 28 past presidents, who, along with thousands of our members, have joined together to develop and make our Second Air Division Association what it is today. We are linked by common interests, memories and friendships by our participation in that great conflict of fifty years ago, World War II. Since then all of us have shared in the common goals of supporting the Second Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich and in creating the American Librarian Fund to maintain an American presence at the library. We are bonded together by the exchange of information in the Second ADA *Journal* and annual reunions. The group vice presidents, all of them, past and present, have been remarkably successful in building and maintaining membership and in cooperating with sister organizations to achieve other common goals.

In spite of all we have done, some things remain either undone or uncompleted. We have not as yet provided the impetus for sustained growth in the Heritage League. This organization with its aims and ideals, including the perpetuation of the memories of the Second Air Division, was implemented by our spouses. It has established and carried out worthwhile projects, but has not experienced the growth in membership that it has a right to expect. I would like to appeal to the members' wives who are not now members of the Heritage League to consider joining, and certainly our sons and daughters and grandchildren may find a continuing interest in the activities of the Heritage League.

It is pleasing to note the increasing interest of our members in local or regional dinner reunions. One of the first is the Midwest Regional Reunion, now a successful, well managed and attended two night affair. Other reunions include annual dinners in Philadelphia, Dallas, Southern California, and a new one which will be held for the first time on February 7, 1993, in central Florida. I would like to hear from members who might be interested in organizing other local reunion dinners.

At long last, it appears that an archival depository is available at Penn State University Library to Eighth Air Force units and individuals. The Archives will be the property of the Eighth Air Force Memorial Museum Foundation, but donors are responsible for maintaining copyrights if desired.

The Penn State University Library is now actively soliciting, from all individuals and all groups, contributions of records, histories, newsletters, books, magazine files, photos, films, and videos for preservation in the Archives. Groups are reminded that, even though they intend to keep their own archives, it is wise to set up a duplicate collection in case of disaster. People having manuscripts of books, articles, memoirs, mission logs and stories can deposit them in this Eighth Air Force manuscript collection.

A historical registry number will be assigned to the contribution and a certificate of donation will be filled out and affixed to the front of the manuscript, which will then be entered into the collection and stored in acid free folders and boxes. A duplicate certificate will be returned to the donor. The Archives will be open to everyone during regular library hours. A large reading room is provided to visitors to view and study the collection, and various types of projection equipment and copy machines are available.

In addition to printed or written works and photographs, provision is also being made to store artifacts, including jackets, uniforms, medals and other memorabilia at another location. We will watch the development of the Archives and keep you advised.

2ADA Future Conventions

1993 November 4-7, Hilton Head Island, S.C. Costs, program, etc. to be announced in the Spring issue, 2ADA *Journal*. \$50.00 per person advance deposit now being accepted, refundable prior to due date of balance.

1994 To be announced.

1995 Return to Norwich, England, May - June? \$50.00 per person advance deposit (*non-refundable*) now being accepted. If we do not go you will receive a full refund. Maximum hotel rooms - 250 - on a first come basis - later reservations - waiting list.

Evelyn Cohen
06-410 Delaire Landing Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Table of Contents

President's Message	2
JOHN B. CONRAD	
Vice President's Message	3
FLOYD H. MABEE	
Report on the Memorial Trust	10
E. BUD KOORNDYK	
Heritage League	11
BILLY SHEELY JOHNSON	
1992 Financial Report	4
DEAN MOYER	
45th Annual Business Meeting	5
DAVID PATTERSON	
Attendees at Las Vegas Convention	19
EVELYN COHEN	
American Librarian Fund Report	30
JORDAN UTTAL	
Folded Wings	13
Letters	34

GROUP REPORTS

Division Headquarters	26
RAY STRONG	
44th News	23
H.C. 'PETE' HENRY	
Open Letter to the 93rd	12
PAUL STEICHEN	
389th Green Dragon Flares	17
GENE HARTLEY	

392nd Bomb Group	29
OAK MACKEY	
The 445th Reporting	15
CHUCK WALKER	
446th Bungay Bull	31
MARVIN SPEIDEL	
The 448th Speaks	13
CATER LEE	
453rd "Flame Leap"	16
WILBUR CLINGAN	
458th Bomb Group	28
RICK ROKICKI	
466th Bomb Group	24
BILL NOTHSTEIN	
467th Poop from Group	17
BOB SHEEHAN	
489th at Las Vegas	25
NEAL SORESENSEN	
491st Ringmaster Reports	22
HAP CHANDLER	
492nd Happy Warrior Happenings	27
W.H. 'BILL' BEASLEY	

ARTICLES & POEMS

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocius!	7
RICHARD M. KENNEDY	
Legacies Need Heirs	7
C.N. "BUD" CHAMBERLAIN	

"Just Call Me Andy"	8
A. EDWARD (ABE) WILEN	
Claims Adjuster, Please	9
GEORGE A. REYNOLDS	
The Caravan	14
JAMES H. GRAHAM	
Lest We Forget	21
MYRON KEILMAN	
Second Air Division Awards Program	21
GEOFF GREGORY	
Not A Shot Was Fired	22
P.G. DANN	
Liberator Man	23
LAURIE BRETtingham	
1233rd Quartermaster Company	24
at Attlebridge	
FRANCIS R. MEDUNA	
Memorial To Those Fallen	26
in World War II	
LT. GEN. WILLIAM SNAVELY (RET.)	
2nd ADA Golf Tournament	30
CHUCK WALKER	
Memories	30
TOM PARRY	
Just In Time For Christmas	32
EARL WASSOM	

As You Read Your Journal

Your Group Report.....

The page to which most of us automatically turn. Our Group VPs do a great job.

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocius!...7

2ADA Past President Dick Kennedy reports on the outstanding 45th Annual Convention held at Las Vegas in October.

The Heritage League.....11

New League President Billy Sheely Johnson outlines the League's goals for the coming year. Be sure to make several copies of the membership application for all of your children and grandchildren!

2ADA Awards Program21

A concise description of the nature of the Association's Awards Program and the selection process.

Memorial To Those Fallen26

A thoughtful and moving tribute at Cambridge to our fallen comrades by Lt. Gen. Bill Snavely (Ret.).

Just In Time For Christmas32

A factual wartime Christmas story with a happy ending in the spirit of the season, by Earl Wassom (466th).

Enjoy your Journal. It's good reading!

Vice President's Message

by Floyd H. Mabey



I want to thank the 2ADA Nominating Committee for nominating me and the membership for electing me to serve as your Executive Vice President for 1992-93. I hope to serve with the same dedication to the 2nd Air Division Association as I have in the past six years as VP with my 93rd Bomb Group; that job was certainly a challenge for me not soon forgotten. I built our Group up from 360 members in 1986 to 697 at last count. The hardest part each year was receiving the drop list from Evelyn

Cohen for members who had failed to pay their dues. This sure puts a burden on the Group Vice Presidents that just shouldn't be. At the end of 1991, the 93rd had built the membership to 701, but then came the drop list of 29, with a lot of extra work by Evelyn and each of the Group Vice Presidents. Please, fellows, send your dues in when due.

I am very proud for my old 93rd Bomb Group to have been elected to this position, as I see that only one other 93rd Bomb Group member, Col. Charles (Chuck) T. Merrill (Ret.) has served as President of this wonderful Association, 1966-67, the same year that I became a 2ADA member.

I would like to notify all Florida 2nd Air Division Association members and all snow birds visiting Florida this winter, of the Regional Reunion in Orlando on February 7, 1993. When I was first notified of this, I sent a notice to 58 of the 93rd BG Florida residents. Any 2nd ADA members who are interested, or non-members with an application, can obtain information from Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert (Ret.), 1482 Granville Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789 or contact me at my winter residence, 11524 Zimmerman Road, Port Richey, FL 34668; Tel. (813) 862-2309.

1992 Second Air Division Association Financial Report

GENERAL FUND 8/11/92

<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>SUB-TOTALS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
June 30, 1991 Balance			\$166,040.76
1992 Receipts			
Membership Dues		\$117,364.43	
Dearborn Convention Receipts		\$27,433.49	
Interest Income		\$4,838.00	
Funds Transfer — Money Market		\$1,021.19	
Fund Audit Correction		\$728.19	
Computer Receipts		\$354.93	
Public Relations Sale		\$440.00	
Total 1992 Receipts			\$152,180.23
Balance and Receipts			\$318,220.99
1992 Disbursements			
Journal		\$54,479.15	
Publishing & Printing	\$41,003.70		
Postage	\$13,475.45		
Memorial Library		\$28,281.45	
Donation	\$25,000.00		
Representative Expenses	\$3,281.45		
VP Membership Office		\$11,518.42	
Rent	\$4,800.00		
Expenses	\$6,718.42		
VP Journal Office		\$8,514.75	
Rent	\$7,200.00		
Expenses	\$1,209.76		
Equipment	\$104.99		
Executive Committee Expenses		\$7,936.75	
Other VPs & Officers Expenses		\$6,350.28	
Director Data Processing Service Office		\$4,918.52	
Rent	\$1,200.00		
Expenses	\$316.13		
Equipment	\$3,158.39		
Award Preparation	\$244.00		
Treasurer Office		\$1,600.81	
Rent	\$1,200.00		
Expenses & Bond	\$400.81		
Audit Committee		\$1,344.56	
Banks Charges		\$75.00	
Total 1992 Disbursements			\$125,019.69
June 30, 1992 Balance			\$193,201.30

Dean E. Moyer, Treasurer
Second Air Division Association

45th Annual Business Meeting

Second Air Division Association, 8th USAAF

Tuesday, October 6, 1992 • Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Richard Kennedy, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. President Kennedy then introduced the Head Table members.

There were over 800 members present, constituting a quorum.

The President stated that Roberts Rules of Order would prevail, and appointed John Conrad parliamentarian.

Willis H. "Bill" Beasley, Group Vice President, 492nd Bomb Group, and Chairman of the Delegate Committee, stated that this was an official business meeting of the 2nd Air Division Association, a not-for-profit veterans organization. Mr. Beasley moved that members in attendance be named official delegates to this 45th Annual Business Meeting. Motion was seconded and carried.

B. Report of the Secretary:

The Secretary read the minutes of the 44th Annual Business Meeting, held July 6, 1991 at Dearborn, Michigan. He indicated that the minutes had been published in the 1991 Fall edition of the Association's *Journal* for member review. Further, that copies had been distributed to all Group Vice Presidents earlier this week for review at their Group business meetings. The Secretary moved to accept the minutes as read. Motion was seconded and carried.

C. Report of the Treasurer:

The Treasurer summarized the financial reports for the fiscal year July 1, 1991 — June 30, 1992. These had been distributed to all Group Vice Presidents earlier this week for review at their Group business meetings. Total moneys as of 6-30-92:

1. General Fund: \$193,201.
2. Other (Funds relating to the Memorial Library): In answer to a question from the floor, the Treasurer pointed out that the funds relating to the 2nd Air Division Memorial were held in the following separate accounts (over and above the \$550,000 American Librarian Fund now under the custodianship of the Fulbright Commission):
 - a. Memorial Trust Fund: \$652
 - b. American Librarian Fund: \$18,278
 - c. Library Shelf Fund: \$930

A detailed report of the finances will appear in a current issue of the *Journal*. The Treasurer was pleased to announce that the Association's books of account are now fully computerized.

Mr. Koorndyk moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Motion seconded, and carried.

Mr. Conrad, representing the Association's Audit Committee, reported that the books of account were thoroughly audited on August 11 & 12, 1992, and found to be accurate and in good order. Included were examinations of accounts at the various banks holding and processing the Association's funds. The Committee made recommendations for some changes in procedures to ease the Treasurer's volume of work. One recommendation, which will be soon implemented, will streamline the processing of the some 8,000+ dues checks that arrive at the end of each year.

D. Report of the Vice President, Membership & Chairperson, Conventions:

1. Our membership stands at 8,170. The growth rate has slowed, representative of the growing attrition of our generation, who are now typically in their 70s. The Group with the most members continues to be the 448th BG.
2. The membership should note that those who have both a summer and a winter address will be mailed a *Journal*, 3rd class mail, to both addresses. It has been found less expensive and less disruptive to handle mailing this way, rather than rely on the Post Office to forward 1st class mail (or for our computer to switch at the correct dates).

3. The 1993 Convention, per vote of the Executive Committee, will be held at the Hyatt Regency (and adjoining hotels), Hilton Head, South Carolina, in the first week of November.

4. The members present were asked for an opinion on returning to England in 1995 (the 50th anniversary of the War's end). The hotels in the Norwich area would be only able to handle 500 of our people. The "yes" vote to return to Norwich, England was overwhelming. An upcoming *Journal* article will ask for a \$50 per person deposit. To stabilize advance planning and accommodations, the Executive Committee has ruled that the deposit will be non-refundable.

A motion was made (Chamberlain, 489th BG), seconded and passed, to accept the Membership & Conventions report.

E. Report of the Newsletter (*Journal*) Vice President:

The Vice President thanked the membership for their continued support. He mentioned the next deadline for *Journal* articles, and asked for continued help in meeting these lead times.

A motion was made (Whittaker, HQ) to accept the Vice President's report. Motion seconded and passed.

F. Report of the Chairman, American Librarian Fund Committee:

1. Fund balance as of the date of this Convention (over and above the \$550,000) = \$19,741 (\$18,278 per audited 6-30-92 financial report, plus receipts since that date), which will be retained as a reserve for future contingencies.
2. The American Librarian Fund Committee has performed its major duties, the funding drive is complete (although further moneys will always be welcome, especially from those who have yet to contribute), and the Committee is now disbanded. Its further duties (which will hereafter be minor in scope) are turned over to the Oversight Committee of the 2nd Air Division Association/Fulbright Memorial Library Award. Mr. Uttal, as a continuing member of the Oversight Committee, will receive and account for donations to the Fund.
3. As of this closing of the formal fund drive, the Bomb Group records of giving are as follows:
 - a. Most members of the Group contributing: 458th BG.
 - b. Most moneys contributed: 445th BG.
 - c. Highest percentage of members contributing, and highest dollars on a per capita basis: HQ.

A motion was made (Cooper, 445th BG) to accept the report of the Chairman. The motion was seconded and passed.

G. Report of the Association's Memorial Trust Governor:

1. The Governor opened by introducing three prominent British attendees at the Convention: Mrs. Anne Barne, one of the Founding Governors of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust; Mr. David Hastings, another active Governor of the Trust and a frequent attendee at our Association activities; and Mr. Hillary Hammond, Director of Arts and Libraries for the County of Norfolk (and an enthusiastic supporter of our 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, which comes under his jurisdiction).
2. The status of Tony North, Memorial Library Aide: Tony, an Englishman who devoted many years to dedicated service to the Memorial Library, is suffering from progressive blindness, and had to retire last year. His blindness appears to be irreversible, and the Governor urged members to write him letters of friendship and encouragement. Tony has no family, and considers the 2nd Air Division Association his "family." He still visits the Library, to help in whatever way he can.
3. The Memorial Library is in excellent condition. The books donated by the closed USAF base in England at Greenham Common (13,000 volumes) are now catalogued, and are on the shelves of the Memorial Room, as well as at other Library locations.

(continued on page 6)

Business Meeting (continued from page 5)

4. Dr. Martin Levitt has completed his term as our archivist, and the records are properly catalogued and located for preservation at the Norfolk Record Office in the Norwich Central Library.
5. Ten new chairs are being procured for the Memorial Library; funding of these by donations from our members is encouraged.
6. Financial Status of the Trust:

The Trust, whose original value was approximately 203,000 pounds sterling, had increased to 400,000 pounds in 1991, and is now down slightly (363,000 pounds in 1992), due to the recession. Annual income has decreased by 1,600 pounds from 1991, again because of the world-wide depression. To help the Trust, the Association donated \$25,000 in May (1992) to help underwrite Dr. Levitt's expenses.

A motion was made (Reeves, HQ), seconded and passed to accept the Governor's report.

7. At this time, the Governor called upon Mr. Hillary Hammond, Director of the Norfolk County (England) Arts and Libraries; and David Hastings, Trust Governor, for comments.

Mr. Hammond thanked all for this opportunity to visit America for the first time, and to meet the 2nd Air Division Association "family" with whom he is proud to be associated. His already great respect for our part in World War II history was heightened even more by his view this summer of the "Diamond Lil" B-24, as it lumbered through the skies of Norfolk — a reminder of the 2nd Division personnel's sacrifices and bravery in manning these ships day after day as they attacked Hitler's bastions.

He then described his position as Norfolk's Arts and Libraries Director. His charge encompasses some 48 libraries, serving 760,000 people, under the Norfolk County Council. Among these libraries, the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library is especially unique, a one-of-a-kind in all of Britain, bringing America, by Americans, to England. Already a great success, he, and the County Council are dedicated to its continued growth and success. While the Memorial Trust Board of Governors provides the moneys to fund, and the general management to operate the Memorial Library, his task is to coordinate the operation with the balance of the library system, and provide advice and counsel to the Governors concerning their management of the Memorial.

He again thanked all for this opportunity to meet the 2nd Division veterans and their families, and pledged his best efforts to continue to keep their Memorial the best in the world. He brought greetings from Tony North, and indicated that Tony would be delighted to hear from any and all 2nd Division members, whom he considers his "family."

Mr. David Hastings brought greetings from the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Board of Governors, from the "Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial" organization, from British friends and members of the "Heritage League," and from the many others in Norfolk and Suffolk who have great admiration and love for all the 2nd Division veterans. He indicated that with the advent of Mr. Hammond as head of the library system in Norfolk, the Memorial Library has a staunch friend and advocate, and the Governors are delighted with his enthusiasm and help.

1992 has been a busy and exceedingly successful year for the 2nd Air Division and its Memorial. The library has been extremely active with visitors on this, the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the U.S. Air Forces in England. The Memorial Library librarian, along with members of the "Friends" and the Memorial Governors, have been busy helping returned veterans and their families rediscover their old air bases as well as their WWII "liberty" haunts in Norwich and environs. One of the great and inspirational events was the visit for seven weeks of the U.S. "Confederate Air Force" B-24 "Diamond Lil." Mr. Hastings was a member of the crew who flew it over from the States, and helped in its tour around England. "Diamond Lil" was destined to be delivered in 1942 to RAF

120 Squadron, an anti-submarine patrol squadron, and the first squadron to fly "Liberators" in WWII. Unfortunately, "Diamond Lil" had an accident enroute to Britain, and the delivery was cancelled. 120 Squadron honored this 1992 "50 years late" delivery by escorting it from Iceland to England. That arrival, and the tour of Britain, set new highs of appreciation and admiration for the 2nd Air Division, and their help in time of great need in WWII.

Mr. Hastings concluded with a renewed warm and heartfelt thank-you from him and all of Britain to the 2nd Division veterans who unselfishly and bravely came to the aid of Britain in those dark years of 1942-45, and a new thank-you for the continued friendships of the Second Air Division that so well underline the truism, "they came as friends, they stayed as friends, and they remain as friends."

Mr. Hastings was awarded a standing ovation by the meeting attendees for his heartfelt speech.

H. Report of the President:

The President spoke of the several problems in 1992 that were well handled by the Association's capable Executive Committee and Officers, whose performance bodes well for the future of the organization. In addition, he commended the entire membership for their cooperation and sensibility, without which the Association would surely falter.

A motion to accept the President's report was made (Mackey, 392nd BG), seconded, and passed.

I. General Business:

1. Old Business: No old business was presented.

2. New Business:

- a. Mr. Uttal, Honorary President, told the audience that the Association, by vote of the Executive Committee, donated \$1,000 to the Confederate Air Force for their sponsorship of "Diamond Lil's" trip to England this summer.
- b. The Association members were urged to support the Dzenowagis family's 2nd Air Division History Project, by financial support, and by offering to be interviewed on video to help complete the file of WWII personal experiences. These tapes will become a permanent record of the 2nd Division, to be retained at the Memorial Library, available for viewing by historians, researchers, and other interested parties.
- c. The members were also urged to support the planned 8th Air Force Heritage Center, to be built in Savannah, Georgia.

J. Report of the Nominating Committee:

The Chairman, Nominating Committee, put in nomination the following slate of officers for the year 1992-93:

President: John Conrad (392nd BG)

Executive Vice President: Floyd Mabey (93rd BG)

Vice President, Membership: Evelyn Cohen (HQ)

Vice President, Journal: W.G. Robertie (44th BG)

Treasurer: Dean Moyer (HQ)

Secretary: David Patterson (445th BG)

The President asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none, and it was moved (Nothstein, 466th BG), seconded, and passed to close the nominations, accept the slate as presented, and direct the Secretary to file a unanimous vote in favor of the slate.

The Chairman, Nominating Committee, stated that in accordance with the Association's By Laws, the Committee had made three one-year appointments of Group Vice Presidents to the Executive Committee. These Vice Presidents represent the 392nd BG, 466th BG, and 458th BG.

Mr. Conrad, newly elected President, thanked the membership for their approval of his nomination, and pledged to do his best for the good of the organization.

- K. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

David Patterson
Secretary

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

by Richard M. Kennedy, Outgoing President, 2ADA

How does she do it? Year after year after year! We leave our annual conventions fully convinced the event we have just enjoyed was the best ever. Not so! Evelyn Cohen pulls another rabbit out of the hat and the next one becomes the best of all. Evelyn please, on behalf of all of us, accept these most sincere congratulations and appreciation for the splendid production we shall all remember as the "Las Vegas Reunion." Personally, may I state, for the record, that serving with you these past two and one half years has been a most rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Sixteen hundred and forty-six (1646) of us gathered at Las Vegas, and the Riviera Hotel immediately fell victim to that pervasive syndrome that has been positively identified as 2nd ADA fever.

Pre-convention activities saw your Executive Committee and the Group Vice Presidents conducting and completing two days of intensive meetings dealing with the conduct of Association matters. From my vantage point, I can report with confidence that your Association's management remains in the firm hands of a most competent panel of devoted members.

In a startling display of pre-convention enthusiasm, the "Early Bird Cocktail Party" produced an unusually high number of attendees, a sure sign that an awful lot of people couldn't wait to get the festivities underway. The genuine exhibitions of hearty greetings and obvious warm feelings firmly set the stage for things to come, all of which prompted me to observe much later in the Convention proceedings that "there are no strangers here, only friends we haven't met," an expression, I believe, that epitomizes the atmosphere that abounds during all 2nd ADA Reunions. The hors d'oeuvres and complimentary accompanying "spreads" were not only sumptuous but added significantly to a most convivial party mood.

The traditional group dinners and group business meetings, according to reports, were again a very definite success. Varied formats were employed with some groups combining dinner/business meeting sessions while others proposed separate dinner and business gatherings. All in all, the set-up appeared to adequately address the concerns of our members relative to group get-togethers and times to visit with crew members and friends, along with an opportunity to savor the various collections of memorabilia. The Chairman of the Annual Golf Tournament, Chuck Walker, 445th BG, will have a report in this issue on what was noted as an outstanding golfing event.

I'd like to commend Chuck and his Committee on the success of their efforts and thank Chuck personally for his dedicated service to the Association as an Executive Committee member during my terms.

In what has become a regular convention episode, the Awards Banquet again proved to be not only well received, but fully appreciated by the membership. Geoff Gregory, 467th BG and Bill Nothstein,

466th BG, came through with another stellar program capped by the presentation of the following awards:

Exceptional Service Award: C.N. (Bud) Chamberlain, Past President. Distinguished Service Awards: Tony North, Library Aide (Ret.) accepted by Rick Rokicki; Francis DiMola, Past President; and Carl Alexander, Past President. Receiving awards for service as Group Vice Presidents were "Hap" Chandler, 491st BG and Robert Salzarulo, 467th BG. Group VP Bob Sheehan accepted for Mr. Salzarulo. Lastly, I was profoundly grateful to receive the Association award for service as your outgoing President.

The convention activities moved along smoothly, with the 45th Annual Business Meeting drawing over 800 members. All required reports were delivered in crisp, business-like presentations, resulting in a relatively "quick" meeting time. Governor Bud Koorndyk introduced fellow Governor David Hastings and Hillary Hammond, Director of Norfolk County Arts and Libraries. Mr. Hastings and Mr. Hammond commented on matters of current interest to the Association, particularly with respect to the Memorial. My personal thanks to Mr. Koorndyk for his dedication and his assistance to me these past two years.

Honorary President, Jordan R. Uttal, presided over the annual banquet. Jordan, as usual, put aside his Honorary President's cap and assumed his familiar role as M.C. Jordan, another great performance!!!

The invocation eloquently delivered by our most distinguished former President, Major General Andrew Low (Ret.) touched us all, thereby setting the mood and tone for yet another moving candle lighting ceremony.

David Hastings and Hillary Hammond, our British guests, addressed the membership and their remarks were enthusiastically received. Our President, John Conrad, spoke with great optimism about the future of the Association, and I am certain he will receive our collective support and best wishes for the coming year.

May I, as your outgoing President, make a few observations. Your attentiveness and participation during the extended Awards Program and at the Annual Banquet was sincerely appreciated by those on the Awards Platform and the Banquet Dais. You were wonderful. I have just completed 47 years in the business world, with 35 of those years in executive positions. I can truly say that these past two years have been a joy and an experience one could never realize in the fields of commerce and industry. The dedication exhibited by your Association Officers together with the support, tolerance and understanding of the membership is as unique and outstanding as our remarkable Memorial.

Bobbie and I thank you all for your graciousness and kindness during these past two and one half years, and we eagerly take our place within a membership where there "are no strangers, only friends we haven't met." My service has been a much appreciated and cherished privilege.

Legacies Need Heirs

by C. N. "Bud" Chamberlain
Liaison Officer

Friends of the 2AD Memorial

Since my earliest involvement with the 2ADA, I have held a deep conviction that our "Last Person" organization has an important legacy to pass on to its heirs. Manifest in the popular 2AD Memorial in Norwich, to the 6400 of our comrades who never returned, the legacy continues to grow in popularity and usefulness. Indeed, it shows every sign of enduring indefinitely provided proper care is sustained. Our record of contributing to that care has been exemplary — but, one of these days, long before our last person is gone, it will stop. That is when the legacy must pass to someone else or start to diminish. Thankfully, there is a "someone else." Actually there are two heirs. One is our auxiliary, The Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division, USAAF. The other is the Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial in East Anglia.

This year, nearly simultaneous major leadership changes occur in both organizations. In each case we start the new business year with essentially a clean slate. The Friends' fourth birthday was on October 24th and the League is well into its sixth year. Both have endured tough formative phases. Both have many good ideas aborning. Both have broader visibility in their respective communities. Both have developed an inspired corps of believers and doers and both have developed a solid foundation to build on. I have come to see the Friends and the League as opposite sides of the same coin. On one side, the Friends must consolidate, perpetuate and stimulate interest in the East Anglian community where it all happened fifty years ago. On the other side, the League must awaken, enliven and expand awareness among 2ADA veteran families and Americans in general. Both sides must be tied together with the living Memorial as a core or common bond. By so doing, these two dedicated organizations become proper heirs for carrying forth our legacy and handing it to succeeding generations as a beacon for the price of freedom in our world.

It has been my privilege to be involved with both of these fine organizations since their beginning (most recently as 2ADA Liaison Officer, Friends of the 2AD Memorial, USAAF). That experience convinces me that they will support the Memorial to the best of their ability, assuring it a long and healthy life long after we are gone. So, it behooves us to get behind both organizations and, with the 2AD Memorial Trust, give them our wholehearted backing. Such promotion is one part of the Liaison Officer's job. Though my tenure in this capacity has expired, my personal encouragement will continue. Now, Honorary President Jordan R. Uttal has been assigned the pleasurable Liaison Officer duties. To Jordan go my best wishes for a successful and rewarding relationship with this important body. May it, with the Heritage League, continue to merit the legacy of our 2ADA.

"Just Call Me Andy"

(Major General Andrew S. Low, Jr., USAF - Retired)

by A. Edward (Abe) Wilen (453rd)

How Our Paths Have Crossed And Our Lives Have Touched From May 8, 1944 Through The Present.

I recently received my copies of the book "In Search of Peace" by Mike Benarcik and edited by Andy Low. According to Andy, many hundreds of copies are out.

Originally when Mike approached us and asked for photos and stories, it was to be a book on the 453rd Bomb Group. Through Mike's efforts and with Andy's help it grew. The subtitle is "A Review of Events and Emotional Experiences Endured By The 8th Air Force Bombardment Groups in World War II."

I was so impressed by the caliber, quality and contents that I phoned Andy to congratulate him. He was very appreciative, saying that the only calls he had received to date were complaints on misspelling of names.

Andy took this book over when Mike passed away. He put so much of himself into it, in time, in effort, in utilizing his knowhow, his contacts and personal memories. He helped give the book specific direction. He worked with Mike's family to put the finishing touches and followed through on the printing.

Those of us who have been involved in any way or have just been readers, owe Andy Low a vote of thanks and appreciation for his dedicated and self-sacrificing effort on this book as well as his efforts over the years on behalf of the 453rd Bomb Group and the 2nd Air Division.

I began to think of how often our lives have touched, how many experiences we shared during and since the war, how much it has meant sharing these experiences and sharing friendship with Andy Low these many years.

When we renewed our acquaintance in the early 1980s and I had occasion to write, I addressed the letter to Major General and started with "Dear General." His immediate reply was, "Don't call me General — just call me Andy."

Andy Low led the 453rd Bomb Group and in turn led the 8th Air Force on May 8, 1944, on a mission to Brunswick, Germany. The 453rd was badly hit by German fighters. Among the planes that went down was Crew #8, Pilot Richard Witton, Co-Pilot Wallace Croxford, Bombardier Walter Conneely and Navigator Abe Wilen. Thirty-nine years later, May 1983, in Indiana, Pennsylvania at Jimmy Stewart's 75th birthday celebration, Andy Low on reuniting with me said, "Wilen, you were badly hit on May 8, 1944, I saw you rammed by a German fighter and then your plane went down."

In mid-May, Witton, Croxford, Conneely and I wound up at the West Compound in Stalag Luft III, Sagan, Poland. This is the camp that the movie "The Great Escape" was about. Two months prior, seventy-six

men escaped through a tunnel. Only three made it to England. Of those captured, 50 were shot on Hitler's orders.

On July 29, 1944, on a mission to Bremen, Germany, Andy Low was shot down. He was badly hurt and wound up in a hospital for 16 days. He almost lost an arm but was fortunate to have a South African doctor save it for him.

In mid-August, Andy wound up at Stalag Luft III also, but in the North Compound. From that date until the 27th of January, 1945, POW life went on for Andy, myself and the rest of our crew. On January 27th, with the Russians advancing in our direction, we got orders to march.

About six inches of snow had accumulated and the temperatures went down as low as 10 degrees below zero. We were all handed Red Cross parcels and started our march. We in the West Compound left about 11:30 p.m. to midnight. Andy, in the North Compound, left about 3:00 a.m. on the 28th. Snow fell and created blizzard conditions. Men froze, men fell out, some were shot. Andy Low and we marched together, not knowing the other was there.

There are some good books on Stalag Luft III and the march. The important thing was that Low, Witton, Croxford, Conneely and Wilen survived it together.

At this point, Croxford and Conneely went on to Stalag VIIA in Moosburg, Germany. Andy Low, Dick Witton and Abe Wilen wound up at Stalag XIIID in Nurnberg, Germany, a mile away from the marshalling yard.

This target was bombed repeatedly by the 8th A.F. in daylight and the British at night. Late in February our own 453rd bombed us. Many bombs fell near our camp. There was little food, and rats, mice and bugs were everywhere. There were not enough beds, so some slept on the floor. At night during the bombing, we were told that anyone trying to get out of the barracks would be shot. We saw the flashes, counted the seconds and could determine how close the bombs came.

Eventually, on April 4th, as Patton's Third Army was moving toward us, we marched south to wind up at Stalag VIIA in Moosburg. On the way, we were strafed by our own fighters as we marched on the road. We had to tear up anything white and work out the letters POW in the field to warn our fighter planes away.

When we got to Moosburg, Dick Witton and I were in a large tent with many others. Andy Low was in a smaller tent next to ours.

On April 29th, we were liberated together and we in the tents were flown out first on May 3rd. Many years passed until our paths crossed again.



(l-r): Andy Low, Jimmy Stewart and Abe Wilen, Pittsburgh, PA, April 16, 1987.

In July 1983, Andy was going to Cleveland, Ohio to visit his daughter and son-in-law, Dr. Joseph Hahn, who was Chief of Neurological Surgery at Cleveland Clinic.

We arranged to meet at the American Ex-POW Convention. Andy, Dick Witton, Buck Croxford, Walt Conneely and myself were together. The five of us spent the time fighting the war again. Of the many POWs, we didn't know anyone nor identify with them. We decided to stay with 2nd A.D. We discovered that Andy had a singing voice. At dinner one evening there was a band and a stage. Andy requested "Lili Marlene," then went up to the mike and pounded out an excellent rendition.

May 7th and 8th, 1984 at Dayton, Ohio, Wright-Patterson Field and Air Force Museum, Andy was in charge of the Memorial Program of the 40th anniversary of the May 8, 1944 raid on Brunswick which he led and on which the 453rd had lost the most planes.

He suggested that they honor an MIA crew. He then asked Witton, Croxford, Conneely and myself to speak. The three former crewmen begged off and asked me to speak for the crew. I expressed our gratitude for having survived and felt this was a reunion of thanksgiving.

In the fall of 1987, I was still living in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area. Jimmy Stewart was being honored by the Radio Broadcasters of Pennsylvania. I phoned Andy to see if he was interested in attending. He immediately said fine. He flew from Rhode Island, I picked him up at the airport and we went into the Vista Hotel where the Stewarts were staying and where the event was. I had gotten an invitation to an afternoon reception in the Stewart Suite and tickets to the evening banquet. Jim's face lit up when he saw Andy. After the reception, Jimmy went for a TV interview and Gloria Stewart, Andy and myself had a session talking about her husband. Then Jim joined us and the four of us just talked until it was time to go to the banquet.

In 1988 at the Colorado Springs 2nd ADA Convention, despite the fact that Andy himself had been a POW, he stepped aside and honored the four surviving
(continued on page 9)

"Just Call Me Andy"

(continued from page 8)



Dick Witton looks on as Abe Wilen receives POW medal from Major General Andy Low during 2nd ADA Reunion at Colorado Springs, June 1988.

members of Crew #8 of the 453rd, Dick Witton, Wallace Croxford, Walt Conneely and Abe Wilen, in a morning speech at the Air Force Academy Chapel and then at the evening banquet. Here he personally pinned the newly issued POW medal on all four of us.

At the 1989 Hilton Head, S.C. 2nd ADA Convention in November, a group of us were out examining the "All American"

B-24. Andy was on the side talking to Retired Major General Ted Timberlake. I asked Andy if he and "Gen" Timberlake would pose with our crew members in front of the "All American." As accommodating as always, Andy ushered Ted Timberlake over and the five of us were photographed together: Low, Timberlake, Witton, Conneely and Wilen.

"Gen" Timberlake was not well, and passed away not long afterward.

In the summer of 1991, Dearborn, Michigan, 2nd ADA Convention in the hotel lunchroom, Pat Ramm and his wife Agnes, our top turret gunner Joe LeBoeuf and his wife Lillian, who were attending their first convention, and my wife Janet and myself were eating.

I glanced at the next table and there Andy Low had joined two other retired generals, Major Gen. Ramsey Potts, who had been the C.O. of the 453rd, and Brig. Gen. Milton Arnold. I approached them and asked Andy if the four of us would be photographed together, as I had never been with more than two generals at one time.

Andy said, "Of course," for all of them, and as we were posing he turned to Ramsey Potts and said, "You always have been interested in knowing what happened to your crews." He said that I was Witton's navigator, that we had been shot down on the Brunswick mission, that we had been in

the same POW camps and were in the same tent when we were liberated. "That's what happened to Witton's crew," he told Potts.

The next contact was a phone conversation in February, 1992. Andy had attended the 50th anniversary of the founding of the 8th Air Force in Savannah, Georgia. He had run into Bob Bevis, a pilot of the 453rd. Bob had an old photo of a group of 453rd men taken in April, 1944.

Andy asked for a copy for the book he was finishing that Mike Benarcik had started. Bevis had sent me the original since I was standing next to him in the photo (See Spring, 1992 2nd ADA Journal, page 18).

I had had a negative and additional prints made. Bevis asked me to contact Andy. I phoned him and said I would be pleased to send it to him if there was still time. He said yes and I did. Meanwhile, he related that he just completed an 8th AF Reunion with 26 generals in Savannah, Georgia, probably a record.

When I think of Andy Low and his relationship to our crew and myself, I feel that the thread that ties us together is best expressed in a quotation from a veteran's magazine:

"I know why men who have been to war yearn to be together. They long to be with men who once acted their best. Men who suffered and sacrificed. Who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity."

Claims Adjuster, Please

by George A. Reynolds (458th)



"Briney Marlin," another 755th B-24 involved in a less severe jolt in July, 1944.

Six combat boxes of Libs were cruising at 21,000 feet on course for Woippy, France, across the Moselle at Metz, 18 August 1944. It was VFR and just a nice day for malice by the 458th on their objective — an enemy aircraft factory. Each of the 24 ships carried three blockbusters.

A few rounds of flak burst far below the formation, approaching the target area, and a moment later others popped above it. Then black puffs thumped amid the planes. The element leader, 755th Sq., ordered a

spread-out, preparing to take evasive action. His deputy leader, 754th Sq., started to comply just as a heavy barrage arrived. All of the B-24s were wallowing and pitching in turbulence with their heavy loads. Somehow, the wings of the two leaders overlapped and WHAM! The lead ship immediately yawed out of formation, then dropped like a brick. Deputy lead continued at altitude, and the flak ended as abruptly as it began.

All eyes followed the lead as it plummeted

earthward. A ten-foot section of its right wing hung down grotesquely, and the pilots were battling a spin with every skill at their command. Its bombs were salvoed, and the ship leveled off several thousand feet below the departing formation, then turned homeward. Deputy lead assumed command and continued toward Metz.

Once its bombs were out, the lead plane became controllable with increased air-speed. The crew was "shook" and wanted to bail out but hesitated because of the speed. Headquarters was radioed and they ordered the pilot to land in France rather than try for home. The most suitable place available was a long, wide emergency fighter strip recently built. Such a field, near their position, was recommended, and the stricken Lib sailed for it full speed.

In the traffic pattern, the pilots learned their B-24 was totally uncontrollable under 165 mph, so a landing had to be attempted at twice its normal speed. No one would venture a guess for a favorable outcome, but other choices were almost as risky. The downwind leg was extended, a flat, rudder-only turn was made to base leg and they gingerly rolled out on a very long final approach maintaining 170 per to touch down. The wing section dragged from the moment of contact, but miraculously none of the tires blew and the crew walked away safely from their "fender bender" a few minutes later. Thus, another of the few mid-air collisions to end on a happy note.

Report on the Memorial Trust

by E. Bud Koorndyk

I could think of no more appropriate way to share with you the completion of a most successful year by our Fulbright Archivist, Dr. Martin Levitt, than to include the accompanying photograph with caption as it appeared in the Evening News on July 28, 1992.

At this writing Dr. Levitt has completed his term of one year as our Fulbright Archivist and has returned to his residence in the States. On behalf of our 8,170 members, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for a job well done on our behalf with our archival material.

Upon arriving home after the convention in Las Vegas, I received a letter from Tom Eaton, Chairman of the Board of Governors, in which he informed me that David Hastings, a fellow Governor, ran a film program on the visit of "Diamond Lil." He had three sessions at the Sports Village in Norwich on successive Sundays, and as a result, 1,000 pounds were raised from donations. This donation was given to the Memorial Trust and invested in a Special Endowment Fund under an account designated "Diamond Lil." The visit of that plane to England in the summer of '92 will be commemorated in perpetuity by the annual purchase of books for the Memorial Library.

The great impact that our library now enjoys throughout Norfolk and the surrounding counties has surpassed our wildest dreams or expectations. Tom Eaton informed me in his latest progress report that over 580 signatures were recorded by visitors this summer to our library. And in addition it was estimated that over 1,000 people visited who did not sign the register. Much of this interest was generated through the 50th Anniversary celebration of our arrival in England in 1942, which has also proved to be a smashing success, as they say in England.

Our staff at the library, from Phyllis DuBois, our American Trust Librarian, to Tony North, who in spite of his failing eyesight and with the assistance of other library aides, worked so diligently at welcoming all visitors and sharing the story of our library. We extend to them deep gratitude and appreciation from their friends of the 2nd ADA.

Phyllis reported to me that on more than one occasion, returning veterans of other divisions wanted to know how they could be part of this wonderful memorial and how did the 2nd ADA have the vision to foresee the impact this living memorial would have for future generations.

And to Tom Eaton, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and to all the Governors themselves, I would on behalf of the 2nd ADA, extend these words of thanks for your past and continued labor of love that makes our library the beautiful link that unites us as friends. As our President of the



Tom Eaton, Chairman of the Board of Governors, 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, signs over the completed archives to Jean Kennedy, right, county archivist. Looking on are Betty Barton, Chairman of Norfolk Records Committee, and Dr. Martin Levitt.

2nd ADA stated in our last *Journal*, and I quote, "Our *Journal* is the glue that holds us together as members of the 2nd ADA," so is the library the glue that holds us together as friends.

During my visit in May to attend the Governors' meeting, I also had occasion to discuss with Hillary Hammond, Director of Arts and Libraries for the Norfolk County Council, a project in which 10,600 children took part as a summer reading game in 1991. This project was very successful in enabling these children to maintain their reading skills during the summer months.

This year the project was to be continued under the theme "The American Trailblazer," which was chosen as a theme because of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyage to the Americas and the 50th anniversary of the United States' involvement in World War II in Europe.

The children were to read 10 books during the summer months, receive a badge of acknowledgement, and compose a postcard to our President depicting life in Norwich on one side with a message to the President on the other side.

Prizes were to be given to various age groups of children who won the competition, and I as your Governor, on behalf of the 2nd ADA, offered to underwrite the cost of these prizes.

Our reunion in Las Vegas in October was attended by many of our English friends, but significant with respect to the Memorial Trust were David Hastings and Ann Barne, who serve with me on the Board of Governors. Also attending as Director of Arts and Libraries of the Norfolk County Council, was Hillary Hammond.

David and Hillary both spent very valuable time with the Oversight Committee of the 2nd ADA/FMLA, and also shared their visions of the future at our business meeting and at our banquet. The continual theme that permeated their remarks was the

continued important role that our library plays in the scheme of the Norwich Central Library and at the branch libraries which are located at Long Stratton, Attlebridge, East Dereham and Sprowston.

They often referred to the new plateau that our library has reached; stating that, at one time, the Library Room simply served people coming to it. Now it has a broader impact. This is the direct result of the involvement of former Fulbright Chairman, Dr. Ronald Clifton, and Fulbright Scholars Bertha Chandler and Dr. Martin Levitt. Each made unique contributions to the Memorial's prominence. Through outreach into the branch libraries, University of East Anglia and indeed also into the lives of the children attending various schools in Norfolk, the library and its impact has attained a reach-out plateau.

The national curriculum of the schools now being established in Britain includes courses in the studies of other nations. Our library with its wealth of knowledge on American life in its broadest context, can become as Hillary Hammond describes it, "the only public library in England, staffed by an American librarian and which stocks only American books, that can play an important role in this curriculum."

So, fellow members, the dream that we have all shared since we dedicated this wonderful 2nd ADA Memorial Room 29 years ago has no limits to the future impact it can have on the educational process of generations to follow. And these generations will always remember us, not only as the 2nd ADA who so willingly gave their lives in defense of our freedom in World War II, but also as a generation who had a vision of how we could continue to share our lives together in a time of peace.

May we continue to support it financially, but also with your continued prayers for those who labor so unselfishly for its continued success.

The Heritage League

by Billy Sheely Johnson
Heritage League President

On behalf of the newly elected Executive Committee of the Second Air Division Heritage League, I bring you greetings! Each of us enjoyed the 45th Annual Convention very much.

The Heritage League Executive Committee now consists of the following persons: President - Billy Sheely Johnson (492nd). Executive Vice President - Irene Hurner (453rd). Secretary - Janice Bates (467th). Treasurer - Edward Zobac (445th). Vice President, Membership - C.N. (Rusty) Chamberlain III (489th). Vice President, Communications - Mary Beth Barnard (445th). Directors - Vicki Brooks Warning, Past President (1 year), 445th. Ruth Hunter Berkley, Past President (2 years), 489th. Jeane M. Stites, Past President (3 years), 453rd. Rep. 2nd ADA - Willis H. Beasley (492nd). President, 2nd ADA - John B. Conrad (392nd).

Each of the afore listed persons brings to the committee and the League a tremendous degree of respect for 2nd ADA veterans and their fallen comrades. It is our primary goal to bring honor to the contributions for freedom of each of you. While the 1992-93 Executive Committee is the first to be made up primarily of children of 2nd ADA veterans, it consists of a group of dedicated, talented and enthusiastic professionals representing several Bomb Groups and coming from different geographic areas of our vast country, so that we can more easily increase the visibility of both the League and the 2nd ADA with positive public relations, etc.

The League has arrived at a time when visibility and actively involved participation in positive programs is vital to ensuring that 2nd ADA veterans' lives are honored and memorialized within the boundaries of the United States of America; therefore, the League's goals for 1992-93 include:

(1) Continued investigation into the possibility of the Heritage League acquiring space within the proposed 8th Air Force Heritage Center to pay tribute to 2nd ADA veterans... progress has been made in this regard. It looks promising, and Dick Kennedy, Heritage Center Board Member and your Past President, will assist us in gathering more detailed information. Establishing a physical tribute which can be visited by your families in the United States is of paramount importance to this committee! We'll keep you posted as plans progress.

(2) Establishing criteria for a Second Air Division History Essay Contest is vitally important to gaining interest in the Heritage League and in acknowledging the talent of your grandchildren and great nieces and nephews in recording your contributions of World War II. The guidelines for entering the contest will be published in the January 1993 issue of the *Heritage Herald*. We already have some fine young authors among the membership... Amy Stokes, Erin Kinealy and Shauna Patrick keep on writing.

(3) A promotional brochure which introduces the League to prospective members will be ready for publication in the very near future. It will facilitate our becoming more visible and will be placed in various Air Force museums so that visitors who don't know about the League can learn of our existence and purposes.

The Heritage League was very pleased to be able to present \$1,000 toward the HQ project for shelving in the Norwich Central Library Memorial Room. We share 2nd ADA commitment to the support of this "living memorial," as well as continuing to foster bonds of friendship with our English friends.

The following poem by the English poet, Jasper Miles, best expresses the "reason for being" of the 2nd ADA Heritage League; please read attentively and know that *your* 2nd ADA Heritage League is dedicated to your spirits "living on" in our hearts and minds FOREVER... Yes, Mr. Kennedy, we'll keep you fellas flyin'!

They Came To Madingley

by Jasper Miles

It chanced I wandered Hardwick way
From Cambridge on a sunny day,
By pleasant lanes in early May
And here I parked, an hour to stay,
Then o'er the trees against the sky
I saw Old Glory flying high
And remembered nearby lay
War Dead of the U.S.A.

'T was Madingley I'd chose to stay
Where often aged couples stray
From several thousand miles away
And at a grave to stand and pray;
Maybe o'er their only son
And clasp the medal that he won
As he was on his fateful way
To come to Madingley to stay.

He may have come from Santa Fe,
He may have known the Great White
Way,
Some came who knew Pacific spray
Blowing in from 'Frisco Bay
They came from North, East, South
and West
Certain their own state was best;
Reckless too with love or pay
Then came to Madingley to stay.

By various paths they made their way
To come to Madingley to stay,
Some bombed Schweinfurt in the day
And, in air combat's lethal fray
A bullet does not ask what race,
Not even colour of a face
And some could fall to 'friendly' stray
Then come to Madingley to stay.

And these at Madingley do stay
Are very much the same as they
Our Brits: in France or in Malay,
And "senseless slaughter" some may say
But such are easy words to speak
For Belsen's chimney ceased to reek
Due to young men such as they
Who came to Madingley to stay.

Oh do not let the Dead March play
O'er these at Madingley do stay
For they were young and old-style gay,
Play their music of the day;
Tunes of Dorsey, songs of Bing,
Let them hear Glenn Miller's swing
Then too the crosses well may sway
With those at Madingley do stay.

Although, in truth, those boys don't stay
I've 'Knowledge' and I hereby say
The empty bodies are not 'They'
Below in that cold Cambridge clay;
Such happy souls don't stick around
In that well-tailored burial ground
But you be sure they see you pray
And pray for you, as you for they.

Below you will find an application for Heritage League membership. It may be reproduced if additional copies are needed. Enroll your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews today! We echo Mr. Conrad's message in the fall issue of the *Journal*; even if they show no interest at present, someday soon they will become very interested in learning all they can about every aspect of your life.

Heritage League

Second Air Division USAAF
Eighth Air Force

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to become a member of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) and to support its purposes. I certify that I am eligible for membership under one of the membership categories indicated.

Name _____

Spouse _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Home Tel. _____

Work Tel. _____

2ADA Member
(Sponsor) _____

Unit Number _____

Relationship _____

Membership Category (please check)

☐ Regular ☐ Associate
☐ New ☐ Renewal

Signature _____

Annual Dues: Regular \$6.00, Associate \$4.00

Send Remittance To:

Heritage League of the 2AD
C.N. "Rusty" Chamberlain, III
9635 West 73rd Avenue, Arvada, CO 80005

Regular Members: Spouses, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren of former personnel, military and civilian, American and British, who, at any time served with the Headquarters organization of the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Bomb Division or 2nd Air Division during WWII and any person who served with any bomb group or any other unit of the 2nd Air Division, USAAF, either assigned or attached. These shall be voting members.

Associate Members: Friends or associates of regular members who by their demonstrated interest in the League and who make literary, artistic, historical or other valuable contributions to the 2nd Air Division Association, The Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF) and/or The Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division. These shall be non-voting members.



Open Letter To the 93rd

by Paul Steichen

TWO SINGULAR EVENTS in the life and times of the 93rd Bomb Group highlight my debut as your Group Vice President. A main assignment is to be writer of this column, published four times each year in the 2nd ADA *Journal*.

FIRST OF THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS was the election at Las Vegas, by the members of the 2nd ADA, of our venerable chief **Floyd Mabee** to be Executive Vice President of the Second Air Division Association. Floyd was much loved and respected during his six years as head of our Group, and we hate to lose him! Our loss will be compensated by knowing that he will still be with us, and will continue the loyalty and devotion he gave to us so generously in the past. It has been a long time since the 93rd has had a "field grade" officer at the top rung of the 2nd ADA (in fact, only once in the 45 years the 2nd ADA has been in existence.) Congratulations are in order for Floyd and his lovely and helpful wife Dot, and sincere thanks for a job well done. He is indeed Mr. 93rd.

THE SECOND OF THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS: **Ted's Travelling Circus** will travel again. Thanks to word from our own **Carroll "Cal" Stewart**, we know that his new documentary history of the 93rd, which he has been working on for the past few years, will go to press at the end of this year. Cal went overseas with the 328th BS, and later was public relations officer at the 93rd and an aide to General "Ted" at Wing and Division. With James Dugan he co-authored *Ploesti*, the 1962 Random House publication. Cal's wife Peggy is the former Peggy O'Mara, who came from Milburn, NJ to staff the ARC Club at Hardwick during 1944.

The history will be a close-up, anecdotal account of the 93rd, the first B-24 unit in the ETO and the first B-24 outfit into battle as a test tube component of the Eighth Air Force, and one of the most traveled, colorful and versatile USAAF outfits of WWII. The Circus is the only heavy bomber outfit to have fought in three theaters, attacking Axis targets in eleven countries. Typical unit histories are mainly of college yearbook quality — mostly pictures. Not this book: highlights of each mission, individual and crew accounts, and quotes from diaries fit into an overall chronicle of Ted's Travelling Circus at war, 1942-45. The log includes three short term specialty campaigns waged from sand-sea bases in the Libyan desert.

This has been an ambitious, difficult and frustrating task for Cal — pressing into print the story of how this top-of-the-line heavy bomber unit really operated: heroic deeds, casualties, improvisations, skills, POW hardships, life on the bases, relations with civilians, rare esprit de corps. This is one of the last unit histories to appear, but the quality and content will give the 93rd the

premiere jewel, recording the story for our members in a true record for posterity of how it was! Footnotes are devoted exclusively to those KIA and MIA, and to POWs and Evaders. Hundreds of wartime and post-war interviews, endless letters and phone calls, and borrowings from diaries made this book possible. The men of the Circus, both living and dead, represent a monument to the endurance and valor of the human spirit.

93RD B.G. HISTORICAL ADVISORY BOARD: To assure the financial viability of "Ted's Travelling Circus" we will need the help of all of our members, and hopefully others in the 2nd ADA. For this reason and for other potential activities down the line, I have named five 93rd veterans as charter members of this blue ribbon committee: Cal Davidson, Al Asch, Fred Strombom, Luther Bird, and Bill Doerner. Although all members were unable to get together at one time while at the Las Vegas reunion, we all met with Cal Stewart during the meeting at one time or another to discuss ways and means of promoting the 93rd through the medium of this outstanding record of the past.

In the meantime it is important that there be no additional delay, and I want to list some details of sale. The price of one copy is \$50.50, including postage. For additional copies the price is \$45.50 including postage. Funds will be held in escrow until the printer/publisher enters into production. Your money will be fully refunded if the book is not mailed to you before December 31, 1993. Make checks payable to **Carroll Stewart** and mail to P.O. Box 631, O'Neill, NE 68763-0631. Cal's telephone number is 402-336-1370. If you wish a printed reservation coupon, please call or write Cal at the above address.

LAS VEGAS REUNION: We had a record breaking attendance of 138 pre-registered, plus a few who arrived without reservations but were "squeezed in" by convention chairman Evelyn Cohen. A complete list of 93rd people as well as others who attended will be found elsewhere in the *Journal*. The 1993 meeting will be held at Hilton Head, South Carolina during the first week of November.

FORMER GERMAN ACK ACK GUNNER VISITED HARDWICK IN AUGUST: **John Archer**, a long time friend of the 93rd, returned to his home at Earsham, Bungay one morning to join his wife Lorna for lunch. He found a car parked in front of his home, which is not unusual as he guides visitors to the old bases on a regular basis. What was unusual was that it had German license plates.

He found waiting for him a German gentleman who he found had been stationed near that "friendly" city of Hannover that so many of our comrades "loved" to visit, and that he was in charge of an 88 crew during WWII. He had heard about the famous 93rd BG and at one time corresponded with one of our members who gave him John Archer's name and address.

John drove his newly found friend over to Hardwick, and on hand to greet them was **David Woodrow**, the gracious and debonaire friend of the 93rd, who with his wife **Jean**

and son **Stuart**, own the land and buildings of what was our wartime home.

Our former enemy was given the grand tour of the old base, including a glimpse of the restored three hut museum, about which I will report in detail in a future issue of the *Journal*. Climax of the visit was when the visitor from Hannover was asked to raise the American flag to the lofty position it occupies 365 days a year, overlooking that hallowed patch of British soil that all of us from the 93rd look back to with reverence from days gone by.

To the 93rd Bomb Group From Your Past V.P.

by Floyd H. Mabee

I reported in the Fall *Journal* that it would be my last report, but I believe that I should make one more to inform our 93rd members what action was taken and the main reason for my retiring as Vice President of the 93rd after six years.

I am very proud to announce that my name was placed in nomination for Executive Vice President of the Second Air Division Association and that I was elected by the membership at the 2nd ADA general meeting in Las Vegas.

M/Sgt. Joseph Beach (Ret.), head of our 93rd nominating committee, came up with an excellent nomination for Group VP which was accepted by Paul R. Steichen, and Paul was elected unanimously at our 93rd general meeting on October 5, 1992. I am confident that he will carry on with the utmost dedication that I have tried to maintain over the past six years.

I have packed up all of my paperwork for our move to Florida for the winter. For those who don't know my address, it is 11524 Zimmerman Road, Port Richey, FL. Tel. 813-862-2309.

I am not sure of the exact number of 93rd people in attendance at Las Vegas, but I believe it was 145. Our hospitality room had a good attendance every hour that it was open. I had several items displayed as some others did, and of course I had my Sergeant. Your donations for refreshments paid for everything, including donation for the cleanup lady. My right hand men, M/Sgt. Joe Beach and Henry Beach were in attendance at all times that I couldn't be there. Thanks a lot for the wonderful cooperation by everyone.

We had a surplus of funds that will go into our checking account as soon as I arrive in Florida, and this fund will be withdrawn and turned over to your new Vice President. Our balance was \$2271.34, and I have checks to be deposited for the sale of the last three Squadron emblems, and a nice check of \$1,000 from the Hadley Companies of Bloomington, MN, for the help of Col. Chuck Merrill (Ret.) who volunteered to fly out to Minnesota to sign copies of "Tidal Wave Over Ploesti," a 50th anniversary print. He signed 1754 of these, the same number of crew on mission to Ploesti on Aug. 1, 1943; plus 178 artists proofs, the same number of planes that flew the "Tidal Wave" mission. The artist is Bryan Moon,

(continued on page 13)

The 448th Speaks

by Cater Lee

1992 has been a very busy year for the 448th. We had our regular annual group reunion May 28th, 29th and 30th in Omaha, Nebraska. Then September 2nd through the 7th we had a full week of celebration and entertainment back in England at Norwich and Seething.

We visited the Duxford Air Museum on our way to Cambridge and had lunch at Cambridge in the vast university center. We had a memorial service at the U.S. Air Force Cemetery at Cambridge where Leroy Engdahl and I laid the beautiful memorial wreath.

Lt. General William "Bill" Snavelly (Ret.) gave a touching and lengthy memorial, too lengthy to include in our newsletter because of space limitations, but it has been submitted for publication in the 2nd ADA Journal. (See page 26.)

A church service and memorial was held at the Seething church and the 448th memorial on the church grounds.

I remarked in memoriam as Leroy and I laid the wreath at the granite memorial. The speech went thusly:

"Today we place this wreath on this monument to remember and pay tribute to our 448th Bomb Group comrades who did not return. Over the years since 1943/45 most words have been spoken in tribute to you and we endorse all that has been said. Today, however, we remember you as you were, the good looking young man sitting across the breakfast table with sleepy eyes; or the one enjoying the dance on the base in Norwich; or enjoying the marvels of centuries old London; or of bicycling in the village of Seething; or of writing a letter to loved ones at home or receiving one. Yes, we remember you in these ways and many more.

"Our God has been good to those of us who survived that we may come to be with you today. Your names will live with us forever and your faces will always be with us in our memory. We ask God to continue his care and protection of you forever more. We remember you. AMEN."

A couple of days in the Norwich area we experienced weather reminiscent of the days when we were stationed there during the war. But the coldness, the wetness and the discomfort was more than offset by the warmth and friendship from Seething, and all the small villages around who opened their hearts and their doors to us. We can never say in words how much we appreciate that great relationship that prevails between our two countries. You were all so wonderful!

The 2nd Air Division Association reunion was held at Las Vegas, where a little over thirty of our 448th members were in attendance.

I will be in the Seattle area, following a trip to Hawaii, to look over hotel sites for our 448th group reunion in 1993, presented me by Leroy Engdahl who had been working for months with the Greater Seattle -

King County Visitors and Convention Bureau. At this writing we feel that it will be July 2, 3 and 4, with possibly even an extra day because there are so many lovely places to visit. These dates, including July 4, will give us more than \$20.00 per day better hotel rates, somewhere around \$62.00 - \$65.00 per day. We can rent buses for about \$10.00 per person per day; individually we could not possibly do this, plus we would be with our 448th buddies. So please plan right now. Mark your calendar for **July 2nd, 3rd and 4th** and possibly an extra day for our 448th group reunion in the beautiful Northwest.

Theresa Jones, whose husband is stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, was at Norwich to join us in all our reunion events. Theresa has spent numerous hours contacting me, Leroy Engdahl and many others trying to find out as much as she can about her uncle who flew with the 448th. Most of the crew is on the 448th Honor Roll as KIA. Her uncle was lost on a mission to Furth on February 25, 1944. It was reported that his plane crashed in the Channel, but there was never any firm information on her uncle.

Theresa's husband has been in the service 20 years and Theresa served 3 years. We were especially pleased to have her in our presence during these several days. By the way, her uncle's name was S/Sgt. Harold L. DeLay. If anyone can add anything to this mission or his account, please send the information to me and I will pass it on to Theresa. My mailing address is P.O. Box 850, Foley, AL 36536.

Now to continue our recognition of our 448th veterans who followed the field of education after their military service. If anyone has not yet been recognized as doing so, please send in a short resume of your teaching record.

Dr. Harry "Pat" Wolfe, Ph.D., of Kittoning, Pennsylvania, attended Bethany College, West Virginia and received his B.A. in 1949. He received his Masters at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1952 and his doctorate in Education at Penn State University in 1969. He taught at the secondary level in Latrobe, Pennsylvania schools for four years and then moved into administration for the remainder of his 36 years in the public schools of Pennsylvania. He served as assistant high school principal, assistant county superintendent, assistant district superintendent, and finally district superintendent. He retired in 1986 from the Latrobe schools, the same district in which he began his teaching. Dr. Wolfe remarked, "It was a great time to have worked with some excellent people."

Dr. John W. Snider, Ph.D. of Oxford, Ohio, spent 50 years as a student and teacher at the Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. His student time there was interrupted by military service, as it was for many of us, and after the war he returned to Miami to finish his B.A. degree. He

eventually earned his Ph.D. at Ohio State where he was acquainted with another of our 448th veterans, Dr. Hershell J. Hausman, Ph.D. whom we have recognized in an earlier newsletter. Dr. Snider started teaching Physics at Miami in 1949 and has been on the faculty since then. He is retiring this year. The Sniders have a son, Lt. Col. Snider, stationed at the RAF base at Lakenheath.

Don't forget, if anyone wants B-24 mementos as mentioned in our last 448th newsletter, please write to Leroy Engdahl. Also, 448th caps are available from Ben Johnson and Charles Bonner. Thanks for reading and "Good Health."

To the 93rd (cont. from page 12)

who also did the Doolittle Raiders commemorative painting. Those were sold out in three months, and are now collectors items.

All members of the five groups that were involved in the "Tidal Wave" are offered the opportunity to purchase a limited edition print for \$100. Regular price after December 31, 1992 will be \$200. If you want a form, drop me a card or call me at my Florida number. Don't wait too long after you read this, as I said before, the price goes up after December 31. We saw a copy of this print at Las Vegas and it looks very good. You may call the Hadley Company at 1-800-927-0880 and pay by credit card; it is \$100 plus \$10 shipping and handling.

Thank you all for your cooperation for the past six years. I know that I will miss this position, but I will still be around.

Folded Wings

93rd

Bruno L. Dalmes

389th

Harold O. Beatty

392nd

Ellwood W. Adams, Jr.
Patrick J. Burns

446th

John J. Bradley

453rd

Charles B. Burton
John D. Nettleton

491st

Robert O. King

492nd

Alden D. Mohny

HDQ

Elizabeth Cutts Warren

The Caravan

by James H. Graham (458th)

Caravan: Webster's defines it as (1) A company of travelers journeying together, (2) A single file of vehicles or animals, or (3) A large covered vehicle (chiefly British)!

Leave it to the British to name one of the most significant life-saving devices of World War II after the third preference definition of a word most often associated with camels and camel drivers!

Actually it was much better described over a pint or two by Lt. Bob Quinlivan, who told me it was more like the lifeguard tower at a crowded beach — a place where alert and caring people could help to rescue the tired, the torn and the terrified. And Bob was one to know — having been all three at one time or another. Another flier may have said it better when he told me, "I don't know who decided to paint those things in black and white checkerboard pattern — but they knew what they were doing because, just like the race cars, you knew when you passed that baby that you were a WINNER!!"

The RAF really invented the caravan because of the typically lousy British weather. It was impossible to maintain any kind of visual contact with their aircraft from the control towers, so it became necessary to establish a frontline outpost to handle traffic control no matter what the conditions and when, as it often happened, radio contact simply was not doing the job.

Every RAF base had a caravan. And as the USAAC began activating Eighth Air Force bases (usually a simple matter of the U.S. Army Engineers laying in runways on existing British aerodromes to accommodate American heavy bombers), so did every U.S. base. Ours was the 458th Bomb Group of the 2nd Air Division of the Eighth Air Force at Horsham St. Faith. We were just outside Norwich, East Anglia and 18 miles from the English Channel.

Caravan crews were made up of two teams of two non-commissioned officers. The teams alternated 24 hour shifts and the non-coms were Louis Freiberg, Jim

Graham, Wesley Huntress and James Smith.

The caravan at Horsham St. Faith was a truly unwieldy beast constructed of heavy gauge steel with a tubular trailer hitch which we hooked up to a truck or jeep to be towed to wherever the active runway was on that day. Sometimes it was moved during combat landings when a damaged B-24 made the primary runway unusable. This gave the caravan team a heart-stopping, high-speed trip to an alternate runway while fuel-starved bombers circled the field and two non-coms held on to the radios and the signal lamps for dear life.

The caravan communication equipment consisted of a telephone line to the tower, a very basic radio (to be used only when the tower radio was inoperative or in trouble), a big supply of Aldis (signal) Lamps and a bigger supply of Very Pistols (flare guns) and magnesium flares in red, yellow and green.

Why all this stuff at the working end of the active runway? Very simple!! The control tower, for all intents and purposes, was blind!!! When the weather didn't close out visual contact for the tower, then a very distinct hill in the very center of our field made two out of the three runways very nearly invisible.

Whenever the heat was on, or the weather was horrible (which was most of the time), the big brass joined the non-coms at the caravan. It was often the only way to see the B-24s off, or to be the first to see them come home.

So, what did the caravan crew do? Perhaps most importantly, they had the power of override!! If the tower had radioed an okay to land and the caravan could see a problem, then a red Aldes lamp in the pilot's eyes or a red flare told the B-24, "DON'T LAND!!! GO AROUND AGAIN, WE'LL TRY TO CLEAR YOU ON THE NEXT APPROACH!!!"

The caravan was also a place of innovation. Anything to get them safely on the



"Checkerboard" caravan

ground was thought of and tried. Flight Control Officer, Capt. Bob Sellers invented the gutters along the runway filled with burning gasoline to make a flare path. He topped that with the truly innovative signal flare relay system. He stationed three airmen beyond the approach end of the runway and had them fire sequential arcs of yellow flares, leading the fuel-starved Liberators to the beginning of the runway where two criss-crossing green flares said, "Cut your gun — you're home!"

The caravan crew enjoyed moments of sheer exultation, as when the tower told the leader of a squadron of Polish RAF fighters to be guided by the visual signals from the caravan in landing his battle-scarred planes. He was the only one who spoke English, and his squadron was on fumes and couldn't make it back to their base. Every one got in safely, including the squadron leader whose Hurricane coughed its last gasp of petrol as his wheels touched down.

And there were moments of sheer terror, as in the dark of night trying to land a flight of British Mosquito Bombers and knowing that the flashing lights on final approach were the muzzle blasts of the Luftwaffe fighter's machine guns chasing the British planes in.

Was there heroism? I guess the brass didn't think so — no medals were awarded!

But, was there courage? Oh, yes! The same kind of courage that compelled a bomber crew to fly straight and steady through withering fire to get the job done. So it was with the caravan crews — the kind of courage that kept you in place directing a disoriented B-24 to the runway until seconds before its landing gear tore the 18 foot radio mast from the roof of the caravan. The kind of courage that kept you directing B-24s out of danger on the taxi strip after the pathfinder plane was going up in flames from an accidentally discharged flare gun — when every instinct said to get the hell out of there before the tanks blew. And the kind of courage to stay in place and do your job when Hitler's V1s and V2s were rumbling over the horizon just prior to a major landing.

Do caravans deserve a place in U.S. Army Air Corps history? Just ask any pilot, or any member of a WWII bomber crew who signaled thumbs up as they touched down safely — thanks to the caravan.



Standing (l-r): Jim Smith, Wes Huntress. Kneeling: Lou Freiberg, Jim Graham.

The 445th Reporting

by Chuck Walker

I'm sorry friends, but because of time constraints, this report will have to be somewhat of a hit and miss article.

So, to begin with, the Las Vegas reunion was a huge success with some 1,600 attendees of whom about 165 were 445thers, including many new members and first-time attendees. Our accommodations could not have been better: the 445th Group Dinner on Sunday evening was held in a beautiful penthouse room overlooking the area and provided plenty of space and an excellent P.A. system. We were particularly honored by the presence of Evan Harris of the Norfolk Gliding Club. Evan and the Gliding Club have repeatedly hosted returning members of our Bomb Group and their families. As one member said, "A few weeks ago I visited Norwich. Evan Harris and his wife Nell took it upon themselves, as 'Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial' to take us to visit our old air base and show us around which included arranging for a flight over the old base. This meant giving a whole day of their time. We were thinking later on how many other times they must have done this for other American veterans. How fortunate we are to have them and other members of the 'Friends' who so willingly give of their time." Every one of us who has gone back to Tibenham feels the same gratitude, Evan. Please relay our deep appreciation to all members of the Club.

Back to the reunion. Horace (Shank) Shankwiler gave an excellent report on the abortive 445th tour last May. Shank's wife, Jane, Melba and Roger Ward and Mary Beth Barnard also made the trip. Jane and Mary Beth showed pictures of the needlepoint kneeling pad covers they presented to the Tibenham church. Shank also placed a wreath for the 445th at the Madingley cemetery.

Not only the 445th but the entire 2nd ADA was honored by the attendance of Miriam Ross and Meg Lynes, who attended in respectful memory of their departed husbands. Thank you, ladies.

Bernard Fishman's crew had the most members present; the Elmer Fischer's, Jack Magee's, Ben Schlosser's, Marv Sawyer's and Meg Lynes representing her late husband John. Incidentally, nine of this crew are members of the 2nd ADA — the only one missing is Lelli Randolph, who has folded his wings. We were disappointed that Fran Torr and Jim Myers and their wives were forced to cancel out at the last minute because of personal problems.

Sam Dowling, 703rd, came all the way from Kailua, Hawaii to attend. A special thanks to the Suckrows for their relaxing interlude. Reg Miner gave us lots of good information on the plans to return to Kassel on 25 Sept. 1994.

The Group Hospitality Room worked out very well, although Bill Boyanowski says he and Ron Quackenbush came up four times only to find the door locked. We are sorry, Bill, but believe me, most everyone thought it was an excellent arrangement. Mary Beth and others staffed it most days from 10 AM to about 10 PM. Mary Beth brought all of her albums and I had my seven volumes of

records there, plus many items and articles of interest to the Group. (I hope the person who ran off with my only copy of the Winter 1982 *Journal* will return it soon.) Because this room was a large suite, we could leave all our memorabilia on display from start to finish — an excellent arrangement! You can look forward to an even better Hospitality Room at Hilton Head next year. We all owe Mary Beth and her helpers our appreciation for their dedication to the room and the many hours they spent manning it. I am sure you know that Mary Beth does all this on her own and at her personal expense, so if Santa Claus is good to you, think about sending a donation to Mary Beth to show her your appreciation for all she does for the 445th.

One member raised the question of a separate 445th reunion held other than in conjunction with the annual reunion of the 2nd ADA. All others present indicated their preference for continuing to schedule 445th reunions on the first day of each 2nd ADA reunion. During the 2nd ADA Executive Committee meeting, it was decided that one additional day will be added to future reunions so that Groups will have even more time together.

The Executive Committee voted to contribute \$200 for books to be placed in the Memorial Library in honor of M/Gen. James P. Hodges and Lt/Gen. Robert H. Terrill, two of our former leaders who have folded their wings. In addition, the 445th members elected to contribute an additional \$100 to honor the 445th's first Commanding Officer, Gen. Terrill.

A big disappointment was the inability of the 445th's former C.O., Col. W.W. Jones (Terrill's replacement), to attend. He lives in Las Vegas and through the expert assistance of Nathan Speilvogel, we were able to contact Col. Jones only to learn that his mother-in-law was very ill in Walla Walla, WA and that he and his wife were leaving just before the reunion to attend to her care. Upon our arrival in Las Vegas on 10/1/92, we talked by phone to Col. Jones and he again expressed his regret for not being able to attend at least the 445th dinner. You sure missed a good one, Colonel.

Frank DiMola reminded us that all too often we fail to give proper recognition and credit to ground personnel for their contribution to keeping the 445th airborne. He is totally correct and we must do better, but as I reminded Frank, (for better or worse) my records do not indicate whether a person was rated an officer, enlisted man or ground support. I do note their job if they tell me, and I also indicate their pilot's name if they were on a crew if I have this information. Otherwise I would have far less success in putting old buddies in touch with one another. I welcome suggestions for improving this approach. I must add that some members include their rank, especially Air Force retirees, as part of their preferred address; we honor this preference. Let me assure you that this organization has little concern for a member's rank or position while serving with the 2nd ADA during WWII. We were all in it together, and each did his job to the best of his ability.

Evan Harris found the name of Stuart F. MacCallum-Mohr in the original Group roster and asks if anyone can provide him with information about this fellow. If you knew him or know his whereabouts, please let me know immediately so I can inform Evan.

If you are the one who left a note in the Hospitality Room with these two names: Harry Patterson — 38269280, Camite, OK and John Gorgas — 13038877, Pittsburgh, PA, please drop me a line and tell me about these fellows. Their names are on the original Group roster, but I have no other record of them.

In this regard, you who made corrections or additions in our record books, please drop me a line and tell me what you changed — it may be months before I find it on my own.

New members we are pleased to welcome aboard: Keith H. Jones, San Diego, CA; Bruno Paussa, Syracuse, NY; Jack J. Schmidt, Milwaukee, WI; Seymour F. Eisenberg, Delray Beach, FL; Amador B. Espinosa, Redondo Beach, CA; and Justus J. Wingard, Denver, NC. If you knew these fellows, write me for their addresses.

Elden Zink wrote in September that he had talked with Charles Russell, who was a crewmate on H.M. Planka's crew. Elden expressed concern about Charles' health, and suggested it would be thoughtful if those who knew Charles would send a note of encouragement to him: Charles Russell, 9820 Winchester Kent Apt. #3, Reedsport, OR 97467. Elden has succeeded in accounting for all of his former crew members. Yazijian, Downs and Stracelsky have folded their wings; McMullen, a former 2ADA member has dropped his membership; Russell, Grimm, Planka and Zink are members, but as yet Roberts, Hansen, Harmes and Simon have not been persuaded to join the Association. Get to work on these guys, they don't realize what they are missing out on!

Paul Dickerson informed us that his wife Lissie passed away on 20 Sept. We extend our condolences to you and the family, Paul.

John Steininger of the 492nd informed us that Willard Gusler, Sr., a former 445ther, had folded his wings on March 11, 1991.

Ben Hite writes that he "was just overjoyed" to find one of his original crew members listed as a new member in a recent *Journal*. "Harold Libby was our first copilot and I mean a good one — I picked up the phone and within seconds had him on the line. I didn't tell him who I was right away, just that I was an old friend who hadn't spoken to him in 48 years — I finally told him I was Ben Hite. He was stunned and we both had a nice long conversation and will be getting together soon. What a thrill knowing someone who gave his all for his country on 35 missions is still around!" To paraphrase Ben, he says he enjoys the *Journal* and looks forward to each edition.

My *Journal* entry deadline is today, and I have run out of steam so I'll end by saying that the Las Vegas reunion was great, I played lousy golf, but four 445thers were winners. I hope you are looking forward to the 1993 reunion at Hilton Head as much as I am. See ya there.

"Flame Leap"

by Wilbur Clingan



This picture of the 453rd photo lab people at Old Buckenham was sent by Sgt. Clearfield's widow. She thinks that all squadrons are represented. Standing (l-r): Rodriquez, Fluharty, Parker, Kyle, Wise, Shane. Kneeling (l-r): Leven, Clearfield, Bertone, Potter, Goldberger.

We convened — we greeted — we enjoyed. The reunion at Las Vegas was one of the best, and the 453rd was there in force. A list of those present can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*. Those of you who were unable to attend were missed but not forgotten. We fielded many queries: "Have you heard from _____?" "Is _____ here?" You were missed, and we hope that our attendance at Hilton Head next November will find our Group present in even greater numbers. Evelyn Cohen provided us with an excellent room for our Group dinner, and our seating at the banquet could not have been better. Our business meeting was well attended and, fortunately or not depending upon your perspective, the same people were elected to the same offices. Wilbur Stites had hoped to be relieved of the responsibilities he has had for the past several years, but such was not the case. That is the penalty for doing an outstanding job.

Do plan to attend and participate in the 2nd ADA reunion at Hilton Head in November 1993. It has been only a couple of years since we were there, but those who were there found it to be such a delightful place that it was decided to return.

Another item for your planning agenda! At our business meeting it was voted to have a 453rd Bomb Group reunion in May 1993 at Spokane, Washington. Fairchild Field there is the home of the 453rd Operational Group. They have asked us to come and promise to welcome us. Dan Reading is the "honcho" for this and will need the help of all of us. Tentative dates were selected — May 31, June 1 and 2, 1993. Plan to help Dan and plan to attend!

Mailings and information will be forthcoming.

At Las Vegas we discussed the distribution of our Newsletter. Our minutes from the previous meeting clearly reflect that it should be mailed only to those who are members of the 453rd Bomb Group Association. This means that those who are not members will no longer receive a copy. It seems fair that those members who pay their dues and support the Group should not be asked to provide the Newsletter to non-members. All those who are not now members of the 453rd BG Association are welcome! Frank Thomas will be happy to receive your check for \$10.00 for annual membership and to add your name to our roster.



James E. Straub sent this picture of the ground crew of "Star Eyes" with Jim on the right and Sgt. Gill on the left. He is seeking to identify and locate the others.

Lots of NEW MEMBERS: We are very pleased to report that the following have joined the 2nd Air Division Association. If you want an address for any or all of them, drop me a line and/or give me a call. If you write, it would help to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope. New members are: **James P. Brewton;** **James J. Long** (732nd Squadron, I think); **Floyd Williamson;** **William Voight;** **Clinton Sweeney** (733rd); **Owen K. Ball** (733rd); **Clifford Rhodes** (732nd); **Stewart Bragdon** (734th); **Jack Sanders;** **Robert Burnes.** We are delighted to have you with us.

Unfortunately, we also have to make known to you that a couple of our comrades are no longer with us: **William (Bill) Clearfield** who was in charge of our photo lab at Old Buck, and **Henry DeSautel** who flew not only with the 453rd but the 389th as well. Our sympathies are with those they have left behind.

Our mail has been heavy. Space here does not permit me to list all of those from whom we have heard, but I will try to make them known to you in our Newsletter. It is always a pleasure to hear from each of you. I try to respond to each, but sometimes it takes longer than it should. We did hear from Mr. John Fleming, 40 Munro Avenue, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA1 2NT. He writes on behalf of the 8th Air Force Museum in Ayrshire, Scotland, and states that if anyone has any patches, pins, or memorabilia that they would like to share, the museum would be pleased to receive them. Mr. Fleming was at Prestwick when many of us arrived. He also invites any of us to visit when and if we are able to do so.

I have some pictures that have been sent to me. Some you will see here in the *Journal* and others will be printed in our Newsletter when there is space. We enjoy what you send and try to share it with others.

Hope to see you in El Toro in February, Spokane in May, and Hilton Head in November. Be there!



389th Green Dragon Flares

by Gene Hartley

I searched my mind for a meaningful title for our 389th column, which it will be my privilege to write during the time I serve as your Group Vice President.

Of course the Green Dragon came to mind. The Green Dragon was the name given to the airplane on which the 389th formed over Buncher 6 prior to joining the bomber stream enroute to targets on the continent. Some say the name came from a "Green Dragon" pub situated near Hethel. Others remember there was a huge dragon mural on the wall of a local pub. According to many, this particular dragon was blue with a yellow front. Several years ago, Earl Zimmerman recognized that dragon by developing an embroidered patch, still worn by many of our members. Chris Christensen indicates that the formation plane was dubbed the "Green Dragon" because of a string of green lights attached to the fuselage for easy identification in pre-dawn conditions. We do know that there were at least three different planes that became "Green Dragons." Take your pick among the reasons for the name.

Many of you remember the flares that were fired from the Green Dragon to assist in forming the formation. Thinking of flares reminds me of the many different uses they had. Flares for squadron and/or group identification, to clear for takeoff, to stop a plane from landing, to indicate wounded aboard, to celebrate a day or an event, for any number of purposes, on the ground or in the air.

Far fetched, you may think, but for this column, the Green Dragon is the 389th Bomb Group. The flares fired from the Dragon will be for your enjoyment and information. They will come from any source or direction. For example:

FLARES FROM THE CONVENTION

Our Group has determined to move in a new and exciting direction. We are going to have a 389th reunion this June, somewhere in the northeastern United States. A volunteer committee met in Las Vegas to start planning. Among the planning volunteers: Hank Godek from MA, Allan Hallett from MA, Gene Hartley from CA, Gerry Opitz from NY, Skip Pease from CA, Dick Peterson from CA, Clark Robinson from CT, Earl Zimmerman from IN. If you have suggestions and/or are willing to help, please write. Hopefully, registration plans will be in the January issue of the 389th Newsletter.

Our Group enjoyed a huge 7 x 14 foot 389th Bomb Group banner which graced the wall at our Las Vegas meeting. The banner was a gift from Lance Hartley and the people of Hollywood-based Metromedia Technology. It will be shipped for use at all future reunions beginning with New England.

Bud Doyle, Allan Hallett, Skip Pease, Dick Peterson and Lloyd West served as hosts in our Las Vegas hospitality suite.

FLARES FROM HETHEL

Through the courtesy of Lotus Cars, the 389th continues to have a memorabilia room in what was the Control Tower but is currently the recreation building for the Lotus plant. The passage of time combined with the many donations of material by our members, has made our collection increasingly valuable. With no guarantee that Lotus Cars or the Hethel Tower will always be there, concern has been expressed regarding the future of our 389th material. Those in attendance at Las Vegas reaffirmed a previous decision that contacts should be made with the Duxford Air Museum seeking a permanent home for the material. I will be in contact with Edward Inman of the Imperial War Museum for any suggestions he might have. You will be kept informed.

We must acknowledge the work of several friends in the Hethel area who have not only been looking out for the interests of the 389th, but have spent hours of their time serving as guides/hosts to our members in their visits to the old base. Included are Roy Edney of Lotus, Jonathan Smith of Mulbarton Norwich, Cliff Robinson of Taverham Norwich, Phyllis DuBois of the Memorial Room staff, and of course our long time friend Tony North. We thank them for their many courtesies.

FLARES FROM THE PAST

I was caught up as a listener with the conversation (at Las Vegas) of a group of our men who had been with the Group at Benghazi, North Africa. Ground and air men of the 389th were based at Benghazi for a period of time in 1943. We all know that Ploesti and several other missions were flown from that location. What interested me were the stories being told of the conditions under which the men lived. Sand, wind, locusts, scorpions, sanitary conditions, shower and latrine locations, etc. Fascinating. I wish I had made notes.

Not having done so, I am asking any of you who were stationed at Benghazi, either air or ground crew, to jot down a couple of your "camping" experiences and mail them to me at 3950 Via Real #233, Carpinteria, CA 93013. I will bring them together as an interesting and somewhat humorous story.

FLARES FROM THE PRESENT

It is the Holiday Season. It is that time when the spirit of Peace on Earth, Good Will to all men, seems most prevalent. General Andy Low said it well as part of his invocation at the Second Air Division Association banquet in Las Vegas, something to the effect that "We soon learned that there were no atheists in the bomber stream over Europe. Whatever your faith, you looked to some greater source to sustain you." In that vein, I trust you will have a fine December and may your New Year be most blessed.

PERSONALLY, I am pleased to have been elected as your Group Vice President. If I can be of help or can answer a question, do not hesitate to write or call.



by Bob Sheehan

The 467th Bomb Group joined with the 2nd Air Division Association in Las Vegas for the very successful reunion of October 4-7, 1992. A good time was had by all in the land of glitter and litter.

We were present at all of the 2nd ADA functions as well as the Executive Committee's meetings and functions. We were pleased to renew many old acquaintances as well as make many new ones. We look forward to the reunion next year at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

During this reunion the 467th held its own business meeting and elected Ralph Elliott to serve as the 2nd ADA 467th Group Vice President for the next year.

Also elected was Mel Culross as Assistant Group Vice President. The 467th Directors are Floyd Pugh, Jack Stratton, Lloyd Haug and Charlie Caldwell.

We were extremely proud that our own Colonel Albert J. Shower was present and active in all the events that took place.

There was not enough time to tell all of the good stories, and it's probably all right because the stories keep getting better and better and they always get longer each time they are told. If anyone were going to write a book today, it would take 10 volumes to tell the whole story.

45th Annual Convention • Las Vegas 1992



Carl and Louise Alexanderson (491st)



Evelyn Cohen (Hdq)



Jordan Uttal (Hdq), Geoff Gregory (467th)



Dave Patterson (445th), Dean & Deanie Moyer (Hdq)



Joan Patterson (445th)



Ceil Rokicki (458th)



Rick Rokicki (458th), Bill Robertie (44th)



Lillian Cohen (Hdq), Lu Nothstein (466th)



Chuck Walker (445th) and Golf Committee



Mike Fusano (44th)



Mary Henry (44th)



Ray Strong (Hdq)



Joe Whittaker (Hdq)

Attendees at Las Vegas Convention, October 4-7, 1992

44th Bomb Group

Ed and Rita Barton
John and Margaret Borah
Al and Doris Browning
Howard and Helen Brunner
Willie and Louise Burrell
Dick and Ardith Butler
Merritt Derr
Bob and Catherine Eddings
Julian and Paula Ertz
Mike and Kay Fusano
Paul and Rosemary Gregg
G.G. and Bobbie Griffin
Bill Hawkins
Pete and Mary Henry
Charles and Marilyn Hughes
Dave and Marge Jacobs
Ralph and Betty Jorgensen
Dick and Elcy Larson
Bob and Ruth Lawson
Will and Irene Lundy
Dave McCash
Ray and Mary McNamara
Bill and Jean Paul
Howard and Norma Robb
Bill and Hazel Robertie
Frank Schaeffer & Grace Fitzgerald
Archie Solatka
Les and Esther Wilkerson
J.B. and Arlene Williams

93rd Bomb Group

John and Mary Lou Abajian
Jim and Dot Adams
Ches and Lois Agee
Harry and Mary Albright
Ed and Thelma Allen
Al and Naomi Asch
George and Barbara Bailey
Sam and Leona Bain
Joe Beach
Stan and Judy Berriman
Henry Betz
Luke Bird
George Black
Lew and Ann Brown
Bill and Lillie Carpenter
Guy and Doris Cheney
Jim and Alice Cooley
Luke and Jeanene Cox
Cal and Marge Davidson
Bill and Lola Dawley
Sam and Gloria Delcambre
Bill and Joe Doerner
Frank Eiben
Ellis and Hildred Fullwiler
Mo and Eileen Gozonsky
Bob and Emma Harms
Vern Harriman
Kurt Harris
Paul and Nora Harwood
Earl and Gine Heffner
Tommy and Cathy Hernandez
Chuck and Yonnie Hoffman
Mark and Barbara Hontz
Paul and Martha Hood
Kent Jaquith
Jeff and Tootie Jeffries
C.D. and Simone Johnson
Jim and Sue Kennon
Ted and Doreen Kromer
Bob Loring
Jim McCloskey
Charles, Thelma & Neil McKee
Jim McMahon
George McNulty
Floyd and Dot Mabey
Morton Macks
G.E. Meske
Paul and Janet Meyers
Mike and Donna Michels
Mike and Dot Mikolajczyk
Homer and Dotty Moran
Hank and Bea Nykamp
John O'Grady
Bill Orient
Mickey and Lucile Pearson
Paul and Katie Peloquin
Russ, Lorraine & Dennis Philpott
Chester and Tamara Preston
Jack Preziose
Bob and Esther Quinlivan
Rollin and Esther Reineck
Bill and Elaine Reynolds
Joe Schwarzgruber
Tom and Letha Scott
Harold and Erma Secor
Roland Shanks
John Sherman
Walt and Joe Smelt

Ed and Millie Smith
Don and Marylou Spencer
Paul Steichen and Marie Pace
Lee and Blanche Stepp
Cal and Peggy O'Mara Stewart
Fred and Inez Strombom
John and Bee Sullivan
Tom Sullivan
Dick and Patsy Trousdale
Ed and Helen Weir
Don and Jean Winn
Bob and Marguerite Wright
Bud Wurm
Sam and Sylvia Zink

389th Bomb Group

Bruce and Susie Adams
Lou Ades
Paul and Phyllis Anderson
Marshall Benjamin
Lloyd and Polly Berger
Sylvester and Virginia Bergman
Bill and Betty Berry
Walt and Phyllis Bielanski
John and Leva Blackis
Paul and Joan Bordewich
Oscar and Edith Boudreaux
Charles and JoAnne Campbell
Frank and Eleanor Carney
Gaynell Clark
Jack and Helen Cox
Bill and Marian Crum/Gary
and Alta King
Charles and Cheryl D'Arcy
Charles and Gennie Dearing
Bill and Jane Dowden
Bud and Peggie Doyle
Reuben and Mary Duke
Al and Joe Falke
Geb Gebhard
Hank and Margaret Godek
Joe Grosso
Allan and Jean Hallett
Gene and Nancy Hartley,
Lance Hartley, Dennis &
Cathy Hartley Culver
Nick and Lucille Hattle
June Hayes/Sarah Dierks
Bruce Helmer
Don Hickey
Walt and Marge Jambeck
John and Lorraine Kane
Jim and Joanne Kissling
Ken and Cathy Kleinschrot
Bud and June Koordyk
Jim and Mary Kratoska
Hank and Babe Langbauer
Felix and Marjorie Leeton
Bob and Helen Little
Vince and Carroll Lozowicki
Bill and Val McCracken
Connie and Althea McKinnish
Hugh McLaren
Frank and Hildegard McLaughlin
Stuart and Lupe Main
George, Robert, Be, Jim and
Barbara Makin
Bill and Florence Medeiros
Bill and Elsie Meyers
Fred and Gladys Miller
John Morgan/Mary Detweiler
Dan and Helen Muat
Shirley Nicely
Margaret and Kathleen O'Leary/
Suzanne Rice
Jerry Opitz
Skip and Zona Pease
Dick and Flo Peterson
Don Pierce
Lee Rackley
Dan Raymond
Pete and Kathleen Rice
Clark and Beatrice Robinson
Ernesto Rodriguez/Lois Ferguson
Walt and Eleanor Rossen
Harry and Eleanor Rowan
Ben and Helen Schaefer
Aaron and Sally Schultz
Bob Schwelling
John Seigh
Bob Seigh/Debbie Martin
Ray and Deanna Shannon
Hal and Dorothy Sheahan
Alexander and Lois Sidie
Ira, Bette and Patrick Simpson
Lee Slessor
Ken Smith
Jack and Ruth Spooner
Tom and Melba Stephens
Bob and Jeannie Stout

Joe and Helen Sullivan
John and Ruth Toljanic
Herb and Jamie Trulove
John and Margery Tucholski
Grace and Susan Vadas
Jim and Mary Valla
Ben and Barbara Walsh
Walt and Marilyn Welch
Lloyd and Clara West
Pete and Mary Wester
Bill and Fran Whitney
John and Lois Worhach
Ed and Pete Young
Earl Zimmerman

392nd Bomb Group

Vern Baumgart
Joe and Anne Bonanno
Bill and Sarah Bowen
Floyd and Roberta Bull
John and Wanda Conrad/
Laura Stephen
Adolph and Lois Dans
Virgil and Phyllis Dopson
Arnold and Lovey Dovey
Allen and Elizabeth Duff
Walt and Carmeline Fialkewicz
Fred and Lorraine Hollien
Ed and Lee Holmes
Bill and Renella Jurczyn
John and Kitty Kamacho
Myron and Blanche Keilman
Ralph and LaRue Kieffer
Ray and Norma Jean Kopecky
Harry Kruse
Larry and Claire Lassins
J.D. and Emily Long
Bill and Vi Long
Lynn and Eda McKim
Oak and Maxine Mackey
John and Priscilla Matt
Bob and Jo Mitchell
Larry and Kathy Nielson
Ed and Erma Popek
Emil and Peggy Riha
Dick Riha
Roland Sabourin
John and Dolores Samsell
Otto and Marguerite Sanders
Bill and Thelma Singleton
Fred and Elva Thomas
Chris and Kristi Trautman
Harry and Edythe Vasconcellos
Joe and Mary Westbrook
Norb and Marian Wick
Bob and Mary Ann Wickens

445th Bomb Group

Mary Beth Barnard
Dick and Val Boucher
Rowe Bowen
Larry and Mary Bowers
Hoby and Jean Bowlby
Bill and Dorothy Boyanowski
Fred and Ginny Bromm
John and Thelma Burke
Gene and Marge Buszta
Charlie and Evelyn Cooper
Buddy and Wanda Cross
Fritz and Marge Dale
Hal Davis
Erl Dawes/Stephanie Stout
Frank and Elizabeth DiMola
Henry and Mary Dobek
Jim and Dorothy Dowling
Sam Dowling/Grace and
Robert Buchan
Harold and Janet Eckelberry
Henry and Lila Eirich
Al and Irene Ellwein
Elmer and Jeanne Fischer
Lew and Audrey Flagstad
Andrew and Virginia Haley
George Harlow/Sandy Karstens
Lowell and Louise Harris
Howell and Hal, Jr. Henson
Howard and Mary Hinrichs
Harry Hodges
Albert and Kathryn Horton
Norman and Bernice Jensen
Walt and Lillian Johnson
Dick and Charlene Kelso
Alvis, Evelyn and Reggie Kitchens
Carl Kleeman
Phyllis Lang/Lannie Haslouer
Roy and Jean Leavitt
Ray and Jean Lemons
Henry and Nina Lively
Eldon and Eileen Long
Art Lundberg

Meg Lynes
Bob McCormack
Fabian and Lola Mack
Jack and Peggy Magee
John Mainhood
Carl and Betty Marino
Sam and Joan Mastrogriaco
Horace and Chloie May
Bob and Patricia Mead
Sam and Pate Miller
Reg and Martha Miner
Manny and Clara Moreno
Dick and Catherine Murray
Arnold Nass
C.R. and Marjorie Nelson
John and Dorothy Nortavage
Floyd and Gwen Oglesby
Alvin and Jeanne Owen
Dave and Joan Patterson
Jack Pelton
Don Pryor/Janet Westhaver
Ray Pytel/Twyla Kieffer
Ron and Gwen Quackenbush
Al and Dot Querbach
Carl Rambo
Ed, Sue and Randy Roloff
Miriam Ross
Marv and Mary Sawyer
Ben and Hildred Schlosser
Horace and Jane Shankwiler
Cliff and Shirley Simonson
Nathan Spielvogel
Gerald and Christine St. Leger-Barter
Jerry and Pat Steinhauer
Billy and Elaine Stephan
Walt and Dottie Strawinski
Bob and Shirley Ann Suckow
Bill and Anne Tierney
DeWitt and Ruth Tucker
John and Esther Van Bogelen
John and Marie Vessels
Bill and Florence Vinton
Chuck Walker
Roger and Melba Ward
Joe and Ann Weckesser
James and Doris Weddle
Ed and Rosalie Zobac
Elden Zink

446th Bomb Group

Fred Breuninger
Bill and Jean Davenport
Charles and Irene Depperschmidt
Bert and June Engstrom
Marv and Mary Finger
Don and Penny Geary
Charles Hay
Clem Kowalczyk
Bill Kyle
George Mattes
Jim and Clare Riedel
Joe and Cass Soder
Marv and Margaret Speidel

448th Bomb Group

Sidney and Mary Allen
Andy and Bonnalyn Andersen
Ken and Oleta Barnett
Ron and Gloria Berryhill
Al and Irene Bishop
Dale and Net Bottoms
Morris and Audrey Cooper
Bill and John Demetropoulos
George and Marguerite Elkins
Ben and Charlotte Everett
Pat and Dorothy Farris
Lew and Kathy Hyde
Ben and Alice Johnson
Joe and Kathleen Kasacjak
Tom and Elizabeth Keene
Dick and Bobbie Kennedy
Cater Lee
Charles and Agnes McBride
Marvin McCormick
Al and Gerri McKinnan
Jerry and Mary Mejeur
George and Mildred Miller
Joe and Nan Miller
Moe and Maureen Moran
Tom Murphy
Bill Quigley
Dean and Glynda Peterson
Bob Rentschler
Dale and Joyce Rummens
Harold and Betty Smith
J.B. and Cookie Starek
Gene Stetz
Stan and Dot Winter
John and Dorothy Zima

(continued on page 20)

Attendees at Las Vegas (cont. from page 19)

453rd Bomb Group

Amos and Dorothy Adkins
Dick and Jo Aldrich
Bob and Nancy Allen
Bob and Evelyn Anderson
Junior and Jackie Austin
Homer and Ruth Badgett
John and Joan Baillie
Hank Barker
Lew and Trudy Barley
Ed Bebenroth
Ed Becker
LeRoy and Gloria Berg
Bob Bieck
Bert and Claire Biel, Craig and
Rosemary Biel Lighty, Irene
and Keith Hurner
Dwight and Doris Bishop
Lew and Harriett Blais
Stew and Margie Bragdon
Dick and Dora Brown
John and Bonnie Burnside
Wib and Diana Clingan, Phil and
Pamela Clingan Bowers
Dick and Mary Cluph
Archie and Kay Coran
Paul and Mary Corbisiero
Dave and Jane Cowen
John and Frances Cowger
Hubert and Louise Jean Cripe
Lyman and Geneva Crumrin
Homer and Marie Dallacqua
Frank Davidson
Dick and June Marie Dean
Wayne and Evelyn DeCou
John and Sandra DeLury
George and Catherine Desmarais
Tommy and Verner Dickson
Jim and Dorothy Dyke
Joe Edwards
Gene and Laverne Farais
Charles Fink
Ralph and Phyllis Ford
Bill and Carol Garrett
Don and Jean Gillies
Harry Godges
Bob and Lill Golen
Jim and Ann Halligan
Dave and Harriett Hamlin
Russ Harriman
John and Aida Hildebran
Bob and Lois Hoar
Marvis and Florence Hogen
Lew and Lois Huisman
Jay and Anna Jane Jeffries
Wendell and Gretta Jeske
Clint and Dee Johnson
Odell and Virginia Johnson
John and Nita Kassab
John and Fran Keane
Alan and Hazel Kingston
Grace Lane
Doug and Jane Leavenworth
Orville and Lovey Long
Andy Low
Carl and Janet Lutz
Harry and Lucille MacDermaid
John and Teresa McGough
Max, Jeff and Mike Marcus
Guy and Norma Martin
Joe and Gloria Meintel
Dorothy Middleton
Mo and Ludie Morris
Roy and Ramona Myers
Lloyd and Nathalie Nelson
Bob and Betty Nelson
Dallas and Amy Noffsinger
Win and Bee Pace
Dave and Jane Parke
Don and Peggy Parcels
Charlie Parker
Phil and Barbara Parsons
Frank and Bonnie Pickett
Nick and Frankie Plasmati
Lloyd and Irene Prang
Dan and Muriel Reading
Al and Rickey Ricci
John and Marie Roth
Leo Ryan/Geraldine Suskin
Bob Sage
Ken and Jay Samuelson
Jack and Helen Sanders
Maxie and Betty Seale
Glenn and Jean Smith
Lloyd and Martha Smith
Ron Smith
Phil and Joan Snyder
Caleb and Virginia Stout
Paul and Dona Stovey
Jake and Lil Sweeney
Sy and Betty Syverson
Jeane Stites

Cliff and Marcine Thomas
Frank and Jackie Thomas
John and Edna Thompson
Glen and Edith Tisher
Jim and Dorothy Turner
John and Josephine Vercler
Alex and Tottie Wallace
Joe and Sibyl Warren
John and Dorothy White
Bill and Doris Whiteley
Allen and Dorothy Williamson
Floyd and Donna Williamson
Don and Ina Wills
Julian and Mary Jean Wilson
Bob and Helen Wolfe

458th Bomb Group

Art Albert
Herman and Joyce Anderson
Bob and Mary Armbruster
Harold and Virginia Armstrong
John and Maria Barillaro
Dick Bateman
Wesley Belleson
Bob and Marie Birmingham
Roy and Lil Boutte
Birtio and Jean Brumby
Jim Busby
Charles and Joffrette Carter
Phil and Dottie Cloud
Clifton and Corel Coatney
Gerry and Barbara Covey
Porter Danford/Deborah
Danford Owen
Bob Deegan
Dale and Virginia Dyer
Fred Erdmann
Duane and Mary Fair
Larry and Marjorie Fick
LeRoy and Patricia Fischer
Bob Fletcher
Larry and Clemia Forrest
E.A. and Delores Gagel
Elden and Gerta Gebaroff
Elmo and Betty Geppelt
John Glagola
Lionel and Tom Goudreaux/
Bill and Irma Goudreaux/
Patricia Molloy/June Hamel
Jane Grahmann/Metta Bailey/
Rayleen Bowersox
Kim Greene
Gerard Guerrette
Lloyd and Blanche Habeck
Stan and Dorothy Hammell
R.D. and Fern Harland
B.P. and Georgia Hebert
Carl and Sarah Hein
Herman Hetzel
Bernie and Ev Hinz
Joe and Lucille Hood
O.D. and Penny Johnson
Warren and June Johnston
Joe and Dorothy Kania
Mel Kenyon
Al and Helen Lankus
Gerry and Eileen Matze
Ray and Martha Metz
Bill Moran
Bob Nixon/Fran Holt
Jim Olney
Santos and Maxine Ortega
Herman and Bertie Peacher
Bob and Marty Renn
Jim and Ruth Rigley
Rick and Ceil Rokicki
Dan and Shirley Roberts
Gordon and Evelyn Shupp
U.B. and Opal Simoneaux
Joe and Monica Sirotnak
Maurice Speer
Fred and Lorraine Spitzer
Maurie and Maxine Spitzer
Dale Steiner
Austin and Betty Stirratt
Van and Mildred Taylor
Joe and Marian Tomich
Bob and Coral Trautman
Duke and Doris Trivette/
Larry Trivette and Paula Murray
Art and Gerry Vanderbeek
Lawrence Van Kuran/Terry
Callahan
Frank and Mildred Vermeiren
Dana Winters
Gene and Polly Young
Frank, Olga and Donna Zoubek

466th Bomb Group

Andy and Jay Anderson
Joe and Irene Arbaugh

Margaret Calderalo
Malcolm Dike
Mike and Pauline Hoover
John and Martha Kraeger
Jim and Mary Lorenz
Claude Meconis
Gerry and Sammy Merket
Stan and JoAnn Mohr
Bill and Lu Nothstein
Harlan and Mary Jane Oakes
Jim and Elinor Russell
Gene and Jean Saltarelli
Bob and Dottie Smith
George and Doreene Snowdon
Bill and Dulcie Tracy
Kurt and Vicki Brooks Warning/
Bill and Alla Brooks
Mel and Barbara Westbrook

467th Bomb Group

Bob and June Baker
Tony and Connie Bell
Jim and Jeanne Benham
Ray Betcher and Janice Bates
Charles and Eloyce Caldwell
Bob Charmo
Ken and Dotty Close
John and Evon Collins
Myles Coolidge
Charlie and Ann Cox
Mel Culross
Lloyd and Rae Davies
Ralph and Doris Davis
Robert and Myra DeKerf
Roy and Ruthie Dettinger
George Dong
Ken and Chris Driscoll
Paul and June Ehrlich
Ralph and Yvonne Elliott
Henry and Mary Ellison
Hank and Catherine Fagan
Leo, Margaret and Dick Feeney/
Veronica McViti
Roy and Florence Flay
Roger Giblin
Geoff and Terry Gregory
Charles Guppton/Bette Bell
Charles and Mary Lou Hampp
Jamiel and Mary Hassen
Paul and Ev Hatten/Jack and
Bonnie Hatten Harrington
Lloyd and Carmen Haug
Joe and Jean Hodge
Jim and Barb Hogarth
Capers Holmes
Bud and Betty Horik
Joe and Vera Imburgia
Carl and Verla Johnson
Dean and Frances Johnson
B.L. Johnston
Jim and Audrey Johnston
Charles and Norma Kagy
Andy and Anna Kapi
Ed and Theresa King
Vince and Gloria LaRussa
John Logan
Frank and June McCarthy
Maurice and Virgie Malone
Joe and Mary Mulheran
Walt and Ruth Mundy
Will and Cecily Noden
Oliver Odmundson
Fay and Merlina Perkins
Harv and Pearl Pettit
Jim Pippenger
Floyd and Anne Pugh
Vince and Carolyn Re/Jos
and Rose Marie Rott
John and Dolores Rice
Walt and Pat Robinson
A.E. and Ida Rothchild
Harold and Jacque Rubendall
Elbert and Mary Ellen Sablotny
Bill and Ursula Scharnschmidt
Russ and Bonnie Scott/Stan
and Suzanne Scott Barron
Bob and Rosemary Sheehan
Bill and Eileen Sheldrick
Jim and Pearl Sherrard/
Jean Vance
Al and Jay Shower
Tony and Mary Smoler
Hollis and Dorothy Stephenson
Jack and Lucile Stevens
Jack and Anne Stratton
Harry and Rith Tanzer
Charles and Billie Taylor
J.J. and Elsie Taylor
Alex and Louella Traicoff
Arthur Wicks
Andrew Wilkinson

Horace and Rita Baskin
Otey and Ruth Berkeley
John Bignoli
Don and Ruth Bishop
Ray and Lyn Blanchard
Frank and Gin Bodine
Archie and Jan Callahan
Gordon and Melba Cave
Bud and Mike Chamberlain
and Rusty Chamberlain
Bill Ballentine and J.S. Lanier
Don and Betty Champagne
Les Dahn
John and Kathleen Dalglish
Jim and Jean Davis
John DeCani
Dave and Lisa Dellano
Henry and Alva Dellano
Dick and Josie Dietrick
Don and Shirley Engler
Charlie and Helen Freudenthal
Charlie and Olga Gabrus
Ken and Mary Gullekson
Bill and Marion Gulley
Homer and Geneva Haile
Chuck and Flo Harkins
Otto and Dorothy Heldobler
Morgan and Ella Higham
Ted and Carol Hills
Rudy and Annie Hoerr
John and Irene Homan
John and Marian Jacobs
Ed and Eleanor Johnson
Leroy and Marguerite Johnson
Bob Jurgens/Gayle McMurtrey,
Karen Knight, Lisa Jurgens
Bob and Patricia Kelly
C.W. and Helen Kidd
Jim and Sharon Vance Kiernan
Bob and Jean Kirby
John and Pat Lamar
Joe and Germaine Lapierre/
Paul and Lenore Lapierre
Tom and Betsy McQuoid
Ted and Pete Maruschak
Boyd Morse
John Nemeth
George and Virginia Nokes
Frances Scott Norris
Jim and Mary Pace
John Perrone
Newell and Mable Peterson
Emilio and Marcie Pontillo
Tony Provenzano
John, Mildred and Susan Rainey
Francis Ramie
Charles Reeves
Carl and Helen Rosendahl
Gaylon and Barbara Royer
Harry and Lois Rupelt
Mel and Dolly Sharpe
Ed Shroyer and Nan Hansen
Joe Siron
Frank Skeldon
Neil and Patricia Sorensen
John and Kay Strauss
Bill Susa/Mark Webb
Charles Taylor
Bob and Miriam Thomas
R.B. and Lucille Tolson
Julius and Jerry Vanerwegen
John and Helen VanWinkle
Garreth and Helen Verplanck
Harry and Virginia Wagon
Dorothy Walker
Ed and Betty Wall
Charles and Elaine Weaver
Baylor Wise

491st Bomb Group

Carl and Louise Alexanderson
Clarence and Doris Anderson
Bob and Faith Bacher
Frank and Lee Bachman
Waymon Baker
A.J. and Jean Barnebee
Hugh and Thelma Bennett
Fred and Jean Berry
Burt and Marjorie Blackwell
Lester Bridges
Lou and Thais Brunnemer
Bill and Ruth Buckley
Darrell and Carol Burchfield
Vin and Wilma Cahill
Byron Calomiris
Jim and Thelma Campbell
Robert Campbell
Hap Chandler
Royce and Jeanette Colby
Roy Counts
Ray and Lee Covert
Wendall and Carole Craydon
Roy and Faye Darby

(continued on page 21)

Attendees at Las Vegas (cont. from page 20)

A.F. and Fern Dougan
Mike Fagen
Tanner and Pat Freeman
Dudley and Doris Friday
Harold and Florence Fritzler
Leonard and Harriett Garber
Oscar and Edie Gerstung
Don and Velet Gowans
Larry and Joan Hassell
Russ and Mary Hellwig
John and Jolynn Hennessey
Lou and Vivian Higgins
Ross and Vel Houston
Bob Hull
Nick Jabbour
Norman Johns
Malcolm and Corinne Johnson
Elwood and Doris Jones/
Charles and Glenda Jones
George Kaylb
John Keene
Chris and Neal Knight
Bill and Mary Koon
Julius and Martha Korta
Lee and Marge Kruszewski
Harold and Ada Lanning
Nelson and Irene Leggette
Frank and Barbara Lewis
Henry Liljedahl/Billie Gregory
Shelley Lundh
Howard and Emily McCracken
Guy and Millie McElhany
Cornelius and Lucille McPhillips
Burt and Sara Meglitsch
Harry and Alice Mellinger
Frank and Mildred Mercado/
David and Betty Mercado

Fred Miller
Chuck Mussett/Cathy Mayberry
Ken and Janet Neitzke
Bill and Virginia Nolen
Dom Notte
Jim Oberembt/Roxana Wedgwood
Harry and Jane Orange
C.A. and Margaret Ann Overstreet
John Paller/June Vogler
Ted and Fanny Parker
Pat and Jeanne Patterson
Joe and Mary Pegram
Harry and Martha Picariello
Gene and Carolyn Porter
Arnold and Geraldine Rabel
Bill and Jacqueline Rigg
Francis and Ruth Rondinone
Jack Samuelson
E.D. Scamahorn
Howard, Kay and Deborah Schroeder
Cal Shahbaz
Frank Sharpe
Fred and Jacque Smith
Dean Sorell
Dick and Phyllis Sternberg
Jack and Lee Taylor
John Taylor
Roy and Rosa Teters
John and Sarah Torode
Tom and Mary Turner
Carl and Elva Van Vonderen/
John Van Vonderen/Susan Breese
Martin and Harriette Voyvodich
Jerry and Fran Werdell
Bob and Marge Yelland

492nd Bomb Group

Edwin and Mary Alexander
Charles and Lorraine Bastien
Charles Beard/Charles Gay
F.A. and Margaret Beasley
Bill and Norma Beasley
Paul Boos
Jim and Toni Bowman
Norm and Vera Burns
Bob and Dorothy Cash
Tom Chaffee
Bill and Maxine Clarey
Gerald and Hazel Edwards
Ed and Betty Erickson
Peter Frizzell
Gene and Renie Gossett
Ernie and Emile Haar
Joe and Frances Harris
Billy Sheely Johnson
Jim McCrory
Jim and Polly Mahoney
Bob and Pat Mattson
Steve Miller
Jake Mink
M.S. and Margaret Moorhead
Tom and Mary Ann Nelson
Harry Orthman
Tony and Vi Osojnicki
Vernon and Betty Rood
Willie and Molly Sparks
Lee and Billie Woods

Headquarters

Hazel Bliss
Norma Burman/Tom and Cindy
Burman Todd
Lyle and Gertie Carbaugh
Evelyn and Lillian Cohen

Virginia Tomlin Davis/Laura
Couch & Paula Thomas
Mary Williams Elder
Don and Babe Elgas
Earline Embrey
Chris and Charlie Henderson/
Jean Strickland
Bill and Mary Jenkins
Livingston and Tina Jones
Dottie Krogmann/Caroline
Marshall and Ida Botsch
Dean and Deanie Moyer/
Bob and Pam Moyer
Jim and Edna Reeves/Charles
and Patsy Bevis
John and Janice Sanders
Jim and Frankie Shannon
Helen Hanson Sheppard
Wally and Marvis Snyder
Eleanor Storms/Margaret Moore
Ray and Ruth Strong/Laura Payne
Jordan Uttal
Milton, Hathy and Caron Veynar
Joe Whittaker

Board of Governors — 2ADA Memorial Library

Anne Barne
David and Jean Hastings

British Guests

Paddy and Jan Cox
Jim and Pat Doyle
Hilary and Jill Hammond
Evan Harris
Tony and Marlene Kerrison
Pat and Agnes Ramm
Geoff and Josie Walton
Sid and Pam Wilby
Andrew J. Wilkinson

Lest We Forget

by Myron Keilman

On 28 January 1942, the Eighth Air Force was established at Savannah, Georgia. Three years later it became the greatest single air power in the world. General "Hap" Arnold, the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Force remembered. Here is his message to the members of the Eighth Air Force:

"Since its birth at Savannah, Georgia three years ago the Eighth Air Force has grown to the stature of the largest single power in the Air Force. The efforts put forth and the results obtained are an inspiration and a source of great pride to us all. Please extend to all echelons and ranks my sincerest congratulations on this anniversary and milestone of achievement."

General Tooe Spaatz, Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, stated in his message:

"To all officers and enlisted of the Eighth Air Force: Today is the third birthday of the Eighth Air Force. The past three years have been epic and history making times. During this period you have fought well to accomplish the destruction of the German people's will to make war. The courage and determination of your bomber crews have carried them to their objectives. They have not turned back when the opposition was intense from the ground and from the air. The ground crews and members of the services have worked well and hard to "keep them flying." Your fighters have been courageous, aggressive, and undaunted by often times superior numbers. When the final chapter of these three years is written your contribution will be boldly emblazoned across its pages in words of praise worthy of the highest tradition of the Air Force. My heartiest congratulations."

Second Air Division Awards Program

by Geoff Gregory, Chairman of the Awards Committee

Since 1989, when then President "Bud" Chamberlain initiated a long overdue Second Air Division Awards Program, it has become a fixture at our yearly conventions.

It has occurred to me, as Chairman of the Awards Committee, that the Second Air Division Association membership has never been made fully aware of the available awards and the criteria used in selecting the awardees. The object of this article is to correct this, so that each of you will be more familiar with the selection process.

In addition to the important Vice President Service Awards which are self-explanatory, we have three principal and very special citations.

The first and most prestigious is the **President's Award**, for especially noteworthy contributions to the Second Air Division and/or Second Air Division Association and their objectives. The applicable criteria are bravery, leadership, remarkable contributions to the Second Air Division Association and/or the Second Air Division or other significant achievements. To date, only three of these awards have been given; one to **General Milt Arnold**, distinguished Combat Wing Commander and co-founder of our Memorial Trust; one to **Col. Albert J. Shower**, formerly CO of the 467th BG; and one to **Mrs. Anne Brusselmanns**, a Belgian citizen who aided the escape of many downed American airmen.

Next we move to the **Exceptional Service Award**. This citation is awarded on the basis of exceptional accomplishments or for accumulated achievements while serving in an elected or appointive office in the Second Air

Division Association or its companion organizations.

Our third coveted award is for **Distinguished Service**. This award recognizes important services to the Second Air Division Association which reflect the highest standards of this organization on the part of Association officers, the Executive Committee, Group Vice Presidents, or other similar levels of service.

It is important to note that the last two awards may be given to **units** which meet the criteria.

There are many fine men and women who have labored long and hard for their individual groups. Their work is deeply appreciated, and there are available many ways of honoring these individuals within the framework of their groups.

It should be noted that many of these activities which take place at the Group level are important and ancillary to the welfare of the Second Air Division Association, but lack that thread which runs through each award implying service and dedication to the Association as a whole.

The recipients of the awards are selected by a committee of three members who try very hard to play on a level field. We welcome your suggestions and nominations. We do ask, that as a matter of good order, you forward them to us through your Group VP.

We hope this article explains the awards procedure. We must remember that *no one* in our organization receives a pay check. We can and should say thank you to some very deserving people who have labored long and hard in the service of our Association.



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

by Hap Chandler

GROUP HISTORY PROJECT

THE RINGMASTERS, History of the 491st Bombardment Group (H) is receiving plaudits from World War II historians. "One of the best histories of an 8th Air Force Group... the first person accounts of aerial combat are vivid. I could not put the book down," reported Sam Sox, noted World War II historian and photographic authority. "The pictures have been reproduced with outstanding clarity."

Jack Leppert, 5479 Salem Square Drive South, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-1138, reports that he is able to ship books within 24 hours of receipt of order. Jack can be reached by phone at (813) 784-1984. You may use the order form on this page — please include your check or money order payable to "Ringmasters History" with your order. Sorry, we are not set up to accept credit cards.

COLORADO SPRINGS 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION SEPTEMBER 8-10, 1993

The Le Baron Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado has been chosen for the 491st 50th Anniversary Reunion. Plans currently include a nostalgic return to Pueblo, where the group was activated October 1, 1943.

On September 10th the group will be the guests of the Air Force Academy. A memorial plaque will be dedicated in the morning, followed by a luncheon and tour of the Academy. Details and registration information will be forwarded after the arrangements are complete.

REPORT FROM METFIELD

The church bulletin I recently received reports:

"It has been many years since Metfield Church has seen such a colorful and emotionally moving event as that of 19 May. In a packed church there were former members of the 491st Bombardment Group... their wives and a large company of local people... (sharing) memories of the days in 1943-44 when American servicemen were a common sight in Metfield.

"The colours (both British and American) were dipped in salute as the Last Post was sounded, then dramatically raised to the notes of Reveille, and posted beside the memorial plaque on the south wall of the Church of St. John the Baptist."

Thus were 55 members of the 491st who gave their lives while stationed at Metfield memorialized. Their names are permanent-

ly inscribed in the commemoration book of the church.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the contributions to this occasion of Victor Peskett, Parochial Church Council Chairman; and George Puddy who chaired the arrangements committee. Most of all we thank again the people of Metfield who made this day so memorable to those of us privileged to attend.

LAS VEGAS REUNION

One hundred seventy-two Ringmasters and spouses attended the Group reunion dinner on October 4th at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas during the Second Air Division Association Convention. Carl Van Vonderen, with six members of his 854th Squadron crew, captured attendance honors. He was accompanied by his wife and a son and daughter.

SERIAL NUMBERS

In order to complete our data base files, we need serial numbers of 491st members. Please assist by forwarding copies of orders, citations, etc. containing serial numbers to: 491st Serial No. Project, c/o Lloyd D. Hubbard, 8625 Hubbard Road, Auburn, CA 95602-9221.

We receive excellent cooperation from the Veterans Administration if we can furnish the serial number of the member we are trying to locate. Without this identifying number it is impossible to enter the Federal system. Your help and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

ORDER FORM

491st BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) THE RINGMASTERS

Please enter my order for _____ copies of **THE RINGMASTERS** at \$65.00 each including shipping in the USA.

TOTAL \$ _____

Book(s) will be shipped within 24 hours of receipt of order.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Date _____

Mail this order along with your check or money order made payable to:

RINGMASTERS' HISTORY
c/o John Leppert
5479 Salem Square Drive South
Palm Harbor, Florida 34685-1139
813-784-1984

Not A Shot Was Fired

by P.G. Dann (a British civilian)

V.E. Day for us meant that we had to alter our plans, which were to go to Wembley to watch an A.T.C. football match with a friend of mine who was an officer in the Air Training Corps. I can't remember why plans were altered.

On Friday evening my phone rang. It was my friend with a fresh idea for Saturday instead of the Wembley trip. The idea was that we might have a chance to take part in a Trolley Operation No. 2 from Shipdham American Air Base which was being run for the benefit of ground crews to see bomb damage they had inflicted on various German towns and cities.

We arrived at the base quite early, but mist over the coast delayed take-off until nearly midday. The plane we were to go with was named "Myrtle the Fertile Turtle" with a number of little bombs painted on its nose. It must have made many trips over the water. One of the ground crew took one look and exclaimed, "Just my luck, this has been over so many times it is due for a non-return flight!" The sun was shining; it was almost as warm as a midsummer day. The North Sea was as calm as a mill pond, but looking from the other side of the plane we saw another Liberator whose pilot seemed to be trying to get as close as possible to us without touching — about 15 feet apart, which was rather hair-raising to us land-lubbers.

Arnhem showed very little evidence of what had taken place, but it was a very different story when we saw the other targets of the 44th. Hamm railway yards were totally destroyed, and Essen had hardly any buildings left, just a mass of rubble which had to be seen to be believed. Other towns were badly damaged but the two places mentioned were the worst.

We flew back very low over Holland; it was milking time in the fields. There was much frantic waving from the Dutch folk as we flew over them. We arrived back around tea time after a very interesting trip. I must have been one of the very few civilians to get the chance to do this. It would be very interesting to know if any other civilians went on trips like this.

12th Annual So. California Dinner

The 12th Annual Southern California 2ADA Dinner will be held at the El Toro Marine Corps Officers Club on February 27, 1993. Please contact:

R.C. Boucher
c/o Regents Point
19191 Harvard Avenue
Villa #138F
Irvine, CA 92715
Tel. (714) 854-6973



by H.C. 'Pete' Henry

SHIPDHAM TOWER NEWS: Irene and Will Lundy visited the Tower in mid-July and met with owner Doug Genge, Steve Adams and Tony Gowan. Considerable progress has been made in the restoration as shown in the accompanying photograph, but Will says there is still a long way to go. He reports that the exterior of the back of the Tower is finished and looks like a new building. The owner's purchase contract states that the building cannot be used for anything except historical purposes, and he is committed to completing the building for our use. During their visit, the Lundys presented another check to Doug, bringing the total donated by the 44th BG members to \$13,000. While we were in Las Vegas for the 45th Annual Convention of the 2ADA, we discussed the possibility of using part of the Tower as a museum for all three 14th Combat Wing Groups and Headquarters with the respective Group Vice Presidents, and they expressed considerable interest in the idea. Perhaps we will receive some financial support from other than 44th BG members. If you have not contributed and wish to do so, send your check made out to "44th Bomb Group Tower" to Will Lundy, 3295 No. "H" Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405-2809. Before leaving this subject, 100 plus members of the 44th Heritage Memorial Group visited Norwich/Shipdham at the same time we were attending the 2ADA Convention in Las Vegas, and I will be anxious to hear from any of that group about the Tower project.



Restoration of the rear exterior of the Shipdham Control Tower is completed.

Ploesti veterans should be aware that the 44th HMG Reunion in 1993 will be held in Dayton, Ohio, July 29 — August 1 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our mission to Ploesti, 8-1-43. It was anticipated that the other four groups participating in this mission with the 44th might join us there, but it now looks like we may have only the 93rd BG in attendance. Word has been received that the 389th BG will join one of the other groups in another 50th anniversary celebration in Kansas in September '93. We have also heard of a third reunion in Pueblo, CO later in the year. All 44th HMG members will receive information about the Dayton reunion from Joe Warth in early February '93. Those looking for information about the other Ploesti reunions can contact me — address on page 2 of this *Journal*.

Also of possible interest to Ploesti veterans, a young artist by the name of Bryan Moon completed a 50th Anniversary print of "Tidal Wave Over Ploesti." All five groups involved in the mission sent representatives to Minneapolis, Minn. on September 21, 1992 for the purpose of signing approximately 2000 copies of the artwork produced by The Hadley Companies in Bloomington, Minn. Our own Col. Charles E. Hughes, Ret. (66th Squadron Commander) spent about a day and a half accomplishing this task and received a complimentary print as well as a check for \$1,000, payable to the Second Air Division Association/44th Bomb Group. He suggested that this money be used to purchase a copy of the print for our Memorial Library in Norwich, England and the balance should go to the Shipdham Tower Restoration project, and this will be done. All members of the five bomb groups may purchase a limited edition of this print for \$100.00 plus \$10.00 shipping and handling charges. Contact the writer of this column if interested.

You will read elsewhere in this *Journal* in greater detail the results of our convention in Las Vegas, October 4-7, 1992. Just a few words here about the 44th Group Dinner on Sunday night, October 8. There were 50 people in attendance and a short business meeting was held following the dinner, at which your reporter was re-elected Group Vice President. Once again, I offer my thanks to those who were present; your confidence in me is appreciated. We also maintained a Shipdham Pub with the able assistance of Will Lundy, Howard Brunner and others. A nominal donation was requested for all drinks, and approximately \$25.00 net profit was realized. This money will be turned over to Will Lundy for the Shipdham Tower project.

Art Hand (66th Squadron) has approximately 3200 names of 44th people. About 300 are deceased and 150 are "lost," i.e., address is no good. If you are looking for one of your friends, drop Art a line indicating city or state where you last had an

address for him or her and he will send you a list of names for that area. Also, if you would like to organize a lunch or dinner within a 100 mile radius of your home, send Art a list of the zip codes for this area and he'll send you 44th names and addresses. Please enclose a few stamps for postage. His address is: A.A. Hand, 517 Elm Street, Paris, IL 61944.

I have just about reached the end of my allotted space in the *Journal*. In as much as this should reach you about the middle of December, my wife, Mary, joins me in wishing all of you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Will Lundy presents another check to Doug Genge for the Tower restoration.

Liberator Man

by Laurie Brettingham

Do you mind, dead airman
If I pry into your life?
Leaf idly thro' your log book
That catalogue of strife.
Glance at a loved one's photo
Read a letter written home,
That reached its destination
As its author ceased to roam.

You gave the kids a party
Tried to drink the village dry,
And pondered on mortality
Before you went to die.
Indulge us please, dead airman
As we toll your passing bell,
Your exit taught us selflessness
To take, but give as well.

Laurie Brettingham is an Englishman who attended Open Day at Seething in September, part of the 448th Bomb Group's Return to England. He found it both enjoyable and moving, and wrote this poem as a result of the experience.

466th Bomb Group

by Bill Nothstein

Another great 2nd Air Division Association Reunion is history. The 466th was represented by thirty-six members, and a good time was had by all. There were some old familiar faces along with a few first timers, but all were friendly and smiling.

I was re-elected Vice President for the Group and will also serve on the 2ADA Executive Committee for the coming year. It was decided by the Group to purchase an English flag to be flown over the 466th Memorial at Attlebridge. The Union Jack presently used is borrowed by Ted Clarke from his former employer and is flown on special occasions. The American flag was given by the 466th Bomb Group Association. Funds were raised and sent to Ted Clarke for its procurement. On Veterans Day, a wreath was placed at the Memorial for us by the British Legion. A "hat" was passed at the reunion to cover both of these expenses. The flag will be a "one time" purchase; however, the cost of the wreath will be an annual expense. Anyone wishing to contribute to this project may send their donation to me (address on page 2) and it will be put into the 466th BG — 2ADA treasury for future wreath purchases.

466 BOMB GROUP REUNION

Word has just been received that the 466th will hold a reunion in Colorado Springs, June 23 through June 26, 1993. This will mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the activation of the unit in 1943 and allow us to dedicate a memorial plaque at the Air Force Academy. The committee is putting together a fantastic package. Keep the dates open and let's reactivate the 466th! Watch for further

details in the *Attlebridge Notes*.

The following article comes from the Summer 1992 newsletter of "The Parson Woodforde Society":

NEWS FROM NORFOLK

Preparation of this Newsletter has been delayed to allow the inclusion of a report on the unveiling of a memorial to American airmen who lost their lives in the last war, members of the 466 Bombardment Group, who flew from Attlebridge Airfield. The memorial stands on a triangle of land on Weston Green Road, just by the parish boundary with Hockering and facing the end of the runway which obliterated Hungate Lodge and other dwellings mentioned in the Diary as standing on Hungate Common. So why not call it the Weston Longville Airfield? In war time, with sign-posts and village names removed, Attlebridge (on the other side of the Fakenham/Norwich Road) had a railway station on the M. & G.N. line from the Midlands to Norwich.

Friday, 12th June was a hot, sunny day when at least 300 people gathered for the ceremony, under a high, blue East Anglian sky. One American lady visitor was heard to say, "I didn't know you had weather like this in England!" American and British flags fluttered, and RAF and USAAF guard of honor marched in, together with standard bearers of the British Legion. Revd. Paul Illingworth dedicated the memorial, led prayers and gave a most appropriate address, his voice travelling clearly across the open space until two Stearman biplane USAAF trainers, on cue, circled and saluted

the memorial.

All of this was recorded by TV and cine-cameras for the benefit of the 60 USAAF veterans who were paying their last organised visit to Norfolk. It must be said that some of the fitter veterans visit Norfolk almost every year to renew friendships made during war time and to conjure up nostalgic memories of the days when life was exciting but uncertain.

A reception had been arranged at nearby Pond Farm (the airfield headquarters) for the American visitors, the people of Weston and many more who had lived in Weston during the war. Later in the day there was expected to be quite a congregation at "The Parson Woodforde" (then "The Ringers") and "The Old Hart" (then "The Eagle"). A small exhibition was staged in the church, mainly of maps of Weston before the airfield was built and diary extracts which told something of the life in the village in Woodforde's day. Some of the Society's aerial photographs of the village were displayed and were of particular interest to the airmen. It was interesting to speculate what the scene would have been two hundred years earlier. Squire Custance would have donated the land and welcomed the visitors instead of a representative of Norfolk County Council and the Chairman of Broadland District Council: the Diarist would have been much troubled in his efforts to express the correct sentiments on the occasion and Press Custance might have enjoyed all the noise and commotion going on outside his door. But it could not be, the effects of their recent war were still felt and what newly independent American would want to visit Weston!

The diary of Charlie Herbst will be continued in the next issue of the *Journal*.

1233rd Quartermaster Company at Attlebridge

Submitted by Francis R. Meduna, Station Quartermaster, 1233rd Q.M. Co.

The 1233rd Quartermaster Company, Service Group Aviation (RS) was attached to the 466th Bomb Group at Attlebridge, Station 120. Francis R. Meduna was the Station Quartermaster with 1st Lt. Jerome M. Swope, 1st Lt. Clair L. White and 52 enlisted men. They were at Attlebridge to welcome the 466th when it arrived.

The following is a copy of a memorandum dated March 15, 1945 which reviewed the Quartermaster Company's activities and accomplishments during the months of January and February 1945.

Superior performance and outstanding devotion to duty was shown in the taking of a Station Inventory of all Quartermaster equipment.

Given a period of 10 days to complete the huge task of counting thousands of items, the Quartermaster men worked from sun up until sundown and then far into the night, compiling their figures, adjusting stock records and typing memorandum receipts.

Extensive plans were made preparing for the inventory. Detailed maps were made of all sites and wherever barracks, store rooms, offices and other type buildings were located. Not an item was to be missed

in the overall count.

After a period of eight days it was found that the inventory had been completed. A general view of the status of the equipment on hand and what had been expended showed the Station to be in good standing. Part of this can be attributed to the fact that the warehousemen are continually repairing and overhauling furniture and other items of Quartermaster equipment that have been turned in as salvage. Hundreds and hundreds of dollars have been saved during the months of January and February by returning these repaired items back into use instead of requisitioning additional equipment on a replacement basis.

During the inventory the Quartermaster Company carried out its normal functions. Breaking down and delivering rations to the Mess Halls, delivering coal and coke, requisitioning, picking up and delivering of Quartermaster clothing and equipment, the Laundry, Dry Cleaning, Shoe Repair and Clothing Repair. These services to all Officers and Enlisted Men on the Station were carried on.

During the two months there were 5,694 bundles of laundry processed, 2,388 articles dry cleaned, 651 shoes repaired, 317 articles of clothing repaired, and 393,496 pounds of

all types of salvage turned in to RAF and American depots.

Aside from the above activities a 24 hour service is maintained at the petrol pump for the issuance of petrol to all vehicles. The men assigned to this installation, on their own initiative, constructed, close to the pump, a small building wherein they remain while on duty. This was done beyond the call of their performance of duty.

There has been achieved and maintained a high standard of discipline. This has been shown through the absence of V.D., no convictions or trials under any type of Court Martial, no punishment under A.W. 104 or men going A.W.O.L.

The inspections of the barracks have rated superior and their warehouse and other installations excellent. At a recent personnel and barracks inspection of all the units on the Station the 1233rd Q.M. Co. was rated the most outstanding. The enthusiastic execution of orders and superior military courtesy has been displayed in all sections of this Quartermaster Company.

It is through having offered the best of service with efficient operation that the above qualities have been proven a definite fact of the 1233rd Quartermaster Company, Service Group Aviation (RS).

489th at Las Vegas

by Neal Sorensen

One hundred and fifty 489th veterans and/or wives and special friends enjoyed the perfect autumn weather during the 2nd Air Division Association's 45th Annual Convention in the city of slots. If you were one of the fortunate attendees, this is old news; but for the approximately 600 who were unable to attend...please read on.

Registration at the 489th table was ably handled. It was only later that I learned that Evelyn Cohen had received 1441 reservations and was besieged by nearly 200 walk-ins (for the entire 2nd Air Division). What a marvelous job Evelyn does for all of us each year!!!

The 489th Group dinner was held in Ballroom G on Sunday, October 4th at 7:00 PM. If you remember our mission briefings you would have marveled at the absence of smokers at our dinner! An outstanding number of Friends of the 489th were present and brought greetings from England. Among the number were Jan and Paddy Cox, Marlene and Tony Kerrison, Pat and Jim Doyle, Pam and Sid Welby as well as Josie and Geoffrey Walton of Holton. All were given a warm 489th welcome.

Other distinguished guests were Mrs. Anne Barne who has been on the Memorial Trust Board of Governors for 47 years, and Hillary and Jill Hammond. Hillary is the Norfolk County Director of Arts and Libraries.

Following the introductions, Newell Peterson recalled the blessings and protection afforded to us during our flying years as he asked the Lord's blessing.

Following an excellent dinner, the business meeting of the Group was called to order by V.P. Neal Sorensen. Secretary Otey Berkeley read the minutes of the 1991 business meeting. Moved and approved unanimously. Due to the absence of our Treasurer, Otey was also asked to read the Treasurer's report.

Funds available for Newsletters	\$4,477.81
Cost of Newsletters and other	2,928.74
Balance June 30, 1992	\$1,549.07

Otey asked that we all send in our \$5.00 annual dues to help cover the cost of our six issues of the Newsletter. Dues should be sent to Treasurer Ralph Belward.

Bomb Group History Fund 1-1-92	\$7,300.70
Book Sales through 6-30-92	2,279.00
Interest on Fund	427.16

Total Available	\$10,154.65
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May transfer to Friends of the 489th BG, UK	\$5,000.00
Postage and money orders	147.79
Book fund balance 6-30-92	\$5,006.86

Both reports were moved for approval and approved.

Neal thanked Otey for doing double duty and commented on the excellence of the reports given by both Otey and (in absentia), Ralph.

Following the reports, Neal read a letter from the Honorable Bob Niblett, Chairman of the Halesworth Town Council. The letter was accepted with thanks, and Paddy Cox, who had brought the letter to us, spoke graciously of the friendship and esteem in which the citizens of Halesworth hold members of the 489th. We are indeed fortunate to be so well received by these marvelous emissaries of the British Empire. The letter appears in its entirety in the letter section of this *Journal*.

Neal reported from the two days of meetings of the Executive Committee of the 2nd ADA that the Association is well and thriving. Membership is at an all time high of 8,170 (up from 6,458 in 1987) and the treasury balance has increased from \$75,206 to \$193,201, as of the last audit. Any 489th member who would like a copy can have one by sending me a self addressed envelope.

Our esteemed Historian, 17 time V.P. and tireless Editor of the 489th Newsletter, Charlie Freudenthal, was next at the podium. Including about 50 widows, the 489th membership is now 725. Charlie said he was cleaned out of the Histories he had brought to Las Vegas, and by the slot machines of Las Vegas. Charlie has on hand 11 of the 200 489th pins. If you would like to have one or more, please contact Charlie. Charlie also asked that our modest dues of \$5.00 be forwarded to Ralph. Numerous donations were received during the course of the year, which helped, but at \$350-\$480 per issue, your dues are needed.

Ruth Berkeley reported on the Heritage League. After years of organizing, Ruth reported that all of the officers of the League are now second generation 489th progeny. Ruth and the previous officers will be available to help the transition. If you have children or grandchildren, please get them started in the Heritage League. There will be more information as time goes on.

Reporting on the February 1993 mini-reunion in Orlando, Florida, Harry Wagon said we are sold out for the banquet. The room only holds 130 people...BUT, there are additional rooms available at the hotel, so you can still come to the hospitality suite and meet your buddies. Next year, 1994, Harry said he will look for an even larger turnout!!! We will have 16 of our British friends at Harry and Ginny's February shindig, so be sure to turn out to greet them.

Charlie Freudenthal helped Neal in the recognition of George Nokes, our Group VP in 1987, and Jim Davis, who served us so well in the same capacity for the years of 1988-89-90. Both men received handsome plaques engraved with their terms of office. We thank you both, George and Jim!

Don Champagne, chairman of the nominating committee, on behalf of committee members Ivan Brown and James Pace, nominated the following to be officers in 1993 (until the next annual meeting).

Group Vice President	Neal E. Sorensen
Assistant Vice President	Charles H. Freudenthal
Secretary	Otey Berkeley
Treasurer	Ralph L. Belward

Don then asked if there were any nominations from the floor for Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Vice President, and President (in that order). There being none, a motion was received to close nominations and have the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot. This was done and Don returned the meeting to Neal. Neal thanked the committee and asked for a motion to discharge the committee with thanks for their service. Moved, seconded and passed.

A show of hands was asked for first time attendees — there were about 35. Neal was very proud to welcome six members of his splendid crew with which 23 bombing raids and 5 flour sack missions were flown: Ed Shroyer, pilot; Tom McQuoid, co-pilot; John Straus, bombardier; Ed Johnson, engineer; John Bignoli, radio and John Rainey, waist gunner. Neal was the navigator. During the flight from Goose Bay to Nutts Corner he was too busy navigating to eat. Lo and behold, when the radio finally locked on to Derneyacross so he could relax, his LAST SANDWICH was gone!!! Everyone denied taking the sandwich, but doubts have lingered for 48 years. Tommy McQuoid finally solved the mystery and presented Neal with a petrified sandwich which he said had turned up in his duffle bag. Nice try, Tom! Another crew member had asked you about it earlier, to which you replied, "I didn't take it, and besides, it didn't taste very good!"

Neal closed the meeting with thanks to the members for honoring him with a second term and a renewed invitation to attend the Orlando reunion in February as well as the 2nd ADA reunion in November of 1993 at Hilton Head Island.

Memorial To Those Fallen in World War II

by Lt. Gen. William Snively (Ret.)

The following was given as a speech at the 448th Bomb Group's Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony at Cambridge Cemetery during their September return to England. We feel it is most appropriate to share Lt. Gen. Snively's remarks with the entire Second Air Division Association.

As we lay this wreath, and look across this last resting place of our fallen comrades, who made the ultimate sacrifice so early in their young lives, we each have our own memories and thoughts about this occasion.

My thoughts, probably like yours, are many and mixed:

On the one hand, I speculate on what might have been for those buried and remembered here, and am saddened by thoughts of:

- The pain and grief that loved ones experienced when their son, husband, brother, sweetheart, or other special person in their lives failed to return along with his buddies.

- The hurt and disappointment they experienced as they came to realize that the aspirations, hopes and dreams they had so recently shared with their lost loved ones, would never be fulfilled.

- Saddened by thoughts of the loss and

loneliness felt by a wife, perhaps with child, struggling to cope with the realization that she would never see her husband again, and their child would never know his or her father.

- And I wonder, what differences his return would have meant in the lives of his wife and the child he never saw, other family members and indeed, on the many other lives he would have touched had he lived? The differences might have been profound, and may have produced quite a different world.

On the other hand, I feel great pride, in the conviction that:

- We were all part of a great, unselfish, and successful effort to free millions of human beings from the personal degradation, fear, and miseries imposed by Hitler and his Axis partners.

- I have a deep conviction that those who rest here made a difference: That they did not die in vain.

- That their sacrifice meant life for millions of other human beings and the opportunity for hundreds of millions of others to live their lives with hope, in dignity, and in relative freedom.

- Their sacrifice, along with that of thousands of men and women from Great Britain, and dozens of other countries who fought to preserve, or restore their

freedoms set a course, which has, and is, changing the world we live in.

Not to a perfect world, but to one in which the majority of the nations of the world have joined together and committed themselves to the principles of the United Nations. Principles which, incidentally, are largely similar to those included in the Preambles of our own Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Those principles commit these nations:

- To work for the peace and security of all nations;

- To reaffirm faith: in fundamental human rights; in the dignity and worth, of the human person; in the equal rights of men and women, and of nations large and small.

Commitments:

- To establish conditions: to maintain justice and respect for international obligations; to promote social progress and better standards of life, and larger freedoms;

- And for these ends: to practice tolerance and live together in peace; to unite our strength to maintain peace and security.

No, these men have not died in vain, they made a beginning and entrusted it, to us, the living; by keeping that trust, we show our respect for them, and ensure their sacrifice was not in vain.

Division Headquarters

by Ray Strong

Just returned from the Las Vegas convention. It was the largest ever with over 1600 attending and 51 from HQ. The list should be elsewhere in this *Journal*, but note that Clem Kowalczyk and Marilyn Fritz Hughes are probably listed with a Bomb Group.

We had a very successful raffle for the quilt made by Dorothy Krogmann. The exact figures are not in yet as I am writing to meet the *Journal* deadline, but we know that about \$2,200 was realized from ticket sales, \$1,130 was collected prior to the convention, and a very generous gift of \$1,000 from the Heritage League makes a total of about \$4,300. This will pay for the bookshelves, enable us to purchase some badly needed chairs for the Memorial Room, and have some money left over for other physical needs of the room or possibly some money for books or materials for the library. I want to personally thank all of you who contributed or bought raffle tickets for your generosity. This is a great way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the 2nd Air Division in Norwich. Phyllis DuBois sent me the accompanying photo of the bookshelves, which are already in use.

As you know from my August Newsletter, Diamond Lil, while visiting Norwich, made two very low level passes over Ketteringham Hall as a salute to the 2nd Air Division.

For the second one, Andrew Ferguson of Team Lotus who now occupies the Hall, arranged for a display of WWII military vehicles in front of the Hall. These were courtesy of the Norfolk Military Group who provided them in honor of the Lil crew. As you know from my Newsletter #10, the crew was entertained for lunch at Ketteringham Hall.

Anyone who didn't get a copy of HQ

Newsletter #10, please let me know and I will send you one. One got chewed up in the post office machinery and they sent it back to me but without the address label. I plan another HQ Newsletter shortly after the first of the year, and need for you to send me some items for inclusion. Meantime, why not plan to go to Orlando for the Southeastern Regional 2ADA meeting on February 7? (See Newsletter #10.)



The new bookshelves are already in use at the Memorial Room.

492nd Happy Warrior Happenings

by Willis H. "Bill" Beasley



2ND ADA 45TH REUNION

The 492nd Bomb Group recorded a super colossal attendance of 55 at Las Vegas, all of whom had a great time! They are listed elsewhere in this issue. Next year's reunion (1993) will be held at Hilton Head, SC, during the first week of November... plan to attend. Let's try to double our numbers in 1993.

The business meeting followed the Group Dinner, at which time I was given a resounding vote of confidence to continue as the 492nd Bomb Group Vice President. Thanks very much, gentlemen; I will be pleased to continue as the 492nd Bomb Group VP and will continue to work toward increasing membership, documenting the history of the 492nd Bomb Group, and the continuation of the Happy Warrior newsletter.

The December issue of the Happy Warrior carried a story written by Bob Mattson regarding the "Fortunes and Misfortunes of Lt. Prewitte's Crew." In his story Bob referred to John Taylor as "Captain" and James Mahoney as "Major." During the business meeting he took the opportunity, with the help of Bill Clarey, to promote both John Taylor and James Mahoney to their proper ranks of "Major" and "Lt. Col." respectively. Bob presented each man with a shirt with the appropriate insignia.

Jim Mahoney and I were privileged to participate in the candle-lighting ceremony during the banquet on Tuesday night.

Billy Sheely Johnson, Associate Member, daughter of the late William Sheely of the 859th Squadron, was elected President of the Heritage League. William Sheely was killed on the 7 July 1944 Bernberg mission. Congratulations, Billy!

Keith and Iris Thomas phoned to wish the 492nd Bomb Group a great reunion. I was in a meeting and was sorry I couldn't talk with Keith personally.

Barney Edwards gave Bill Clarey a "Past President" 492nd Bomb Group cap and gave a cap to Norma Beasley embroidered "aide-de-camp" for her help to the 492nd Bomb Group.

Bill Clarey and Bob Mattson presented Norma and me with certificates of appreciation for our service to the 492nd Bomb Group.

WINNER'S CIRCLE

Harry Orthman won "Beary Plane Bear" in the prize drawing. The drawing netted \$139, which will go toward the purchase of a copy of "Into the Hornet's Nest" for placement in one of two museums. Other prize winners were Peter Frizzell, Bob Mattson, and Barney Edwards.

Polly Mahoney not only received the prize for the low scoring woman golfer in the 2ADA, but she also scored lower than all of the 2ADA men golfers with an "83". Congratulations, Polly!

Bob Cash was the winner of the beautiful quilt made by the WACs. How lucky can you get!

GOOD NEWS

Armand Rescigno, of Homestead, Florida, called to say he was OK following Hurricane Andrew. He said he still did not have a phone nor had he heard from the insurance company, but he was doing OK. I had put a trace on him through the Red Cross like 25,000 others and finally sent him a letter. Fortunately, he received my letter and gave me a call.

MEMORABILIA

Everyone enjoyed having a suite in which to share their pictures, orders and docu-



Betty Erickson, Margarette & Bud Beasley, Carl Johnson, Tom Chaffee, Ed Erickson, J.J. Taylor, Tom Nelson, Bill Beasley, Bob Mattson, Jim Mahoney, Jake Mink, Bill & Maxine Clarey, Norm Burns, Toni & Vi Osojnicki, Barney Edwards, Jim McCrory, Willie Sparks, Charles Bastien.

ments, as well as videos, stories and an opportunity to once again visit old friends.

Peter Frizzell, who is very interested in WWII history, brought along his camera equipment and took pictures of the documents and pictures and was able to interview many of the members.

Steven Miller (Glenn Miller's son) was an invaluable resource for historical data, including a video. His help in copying old documents, e.g., orders, etc. saved me lots of necessary leg work. It was a real pleasure to have Steve and Peter join our group for the reunion.

Bob Mattson gave me a copy of his Gold Fish Club Certificate which he earned for having ditched in the North Sea twice and saved his life by using a Mae West. Look for it in the Happy Warrior.

Carl Johnson brought a wealth of pictures and orders to be copied and placed with our growing file of information.

Pictures loaned by Ernie Haar and Harry Orthman will be featured in the next Happy Warrior.

B-24'S

Charles Beard presented Norma and me with T-shirts featuring a B-24 complete with tail markings and insignia of the 856th Bomb Squadron of the 492nd. All of the ladies and men who attended the reunion were given B-24 pins as a memento of the reunion and a token of appreciation from Norma and me.

Archie MacIntyre was not able to attend the reunion, but along with his best wishes, he sent instructions for making a paper B-24, which were given to everyone. Thanks, Archie!

STILL AVAILABLE

Happy Warrior Patches (\$6.50), Happy Warrior Pins (\$4.00), Tail Fin Badges (\$2.00). Order from Bill Beasley, 1525 South Garfield Street, Denver, CO 80210-3022.

NEW ITEM — 492ND BLAZER BADGE

\$20.00 each. Gold wire on blue felt background. Order from Col. H. Harding Isaacson, 7 East 85th Street, Apt. 5C, New York, NY 10028.

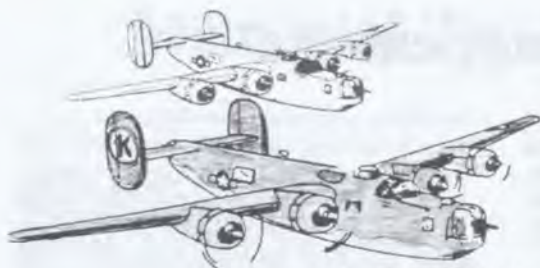
CAPS

\$8.50 from Barney Edwards, P.O. Box 576, Loris, SC 29569.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season and a very Happy, Healthy New Year 1993 from Norma and me.



458th Bomb Group

by Rick Rokicki

LAS VEGAS

Since the Las Vegas convention is covered elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*, I will say only that the 458th was well represented and that we had a total of about 130. Again, as it generally happens, about one fourth of our members attended a 2ADA convention for the first time. I was very happy to meet some whom I knew only by mail. We held our business meeting after the Group dinner, and the members re-elected me as Group Vice President for 1993. Sincere thanks for your confidence, and I will do my best to see that the Group is well served.

Many thanks to **Duane Fair**, **Duke Trivette** and **Art Vanderbeek** for helping me with the "adult beverages" and spelling me in the hospitality suite.

INSIGNIA

Before leaving for Las Vegas, I received the second reorder of the 458th Group blazer insignia. I left about half at home in anticipation of the mail orders I was sure would be waiting when I got back, plus the remaining Squadron "patches," most of which were sold. With only 2 or 3 each of the 752nd and 754th squadrons left, there are no plans at present to reorder unless there are sufficient requests for all four. So, if you don't have your squadron patch and still want one, be sure to let me know, because this will be the final effort. Cost will remain at \$9.50 for the squadron and \$10.00 for the Group insignia. As it turned out, there was more demand for the 458th Group insignia than I had left, so an additional 50 were ordered upon our return home and they should be available now.

TAILWINDS

New members since the last *Journal* include: **John L. Wynn CA**, **Lawrence P. Riesen WI**, **James R. Holman NC**, **Arthur A. Albert IL**, **Edward E. Klein CO**, and **Leo Penn CA**. If you wish to communicate with any of these new members, please drop me a note.

Mike Bailey of Norwich has a new full color poster, 27 x 40 inch size, featuring 14 of the Second Air Division's East Anglia based Liberators. Cost is \$15.50 each, and I have offered to send interested members an order form. Please do not send me any money; I will simply send you an order form for you to handle.

Bernie Newmark has advised me that he finally received the order of 754th insignia he ordered about a year ago from either Taiwan or China, and now offers it to 754th squadron members who are interested. Size is about a 2½ inch tightly woven replica of the regular sized squadron insignia. Size is ideal for your golf or baseball cap. Since Bernie neglected to tell me how it was to be handled in time for my *Journal* deadline, I will make a mention in my next column regarding the cost and disposition of it.



Dana Winters did a quick caricature of me, and I thought I would show you this example of his work. Many of you remember he was the piano player who kept many entertained for hours in Tonapah and at Horsham, but not many are aware that he was a teaching professor at Stanford. Anyway, a man of many talents!

Herman Hetzel, 458th Base Photo Lab, sent me a book I had heard of but did not find at the local bookstore, titled **TALISMAN**. Done by John and Donna Campbell, it contains over 250 pages of WWII nose art. About 25 photos of Herm appear in the B-24 section. Published by Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1469 Morstein Rd., West Chester, PA 19380, (#ISBN-0-88740-414-6). Cost is \$49.95 plus \$2.95 if ordered from publisher. Check your local bookstores first. This hardcover 9 x 12 book should be in your WWII library.

Frank McCrory sent me the second in a series of WWII 50th anniversary stamp sheets. This is one series of stamps I will not be using in any mail I send out, and will now be on the lookout for series #3. Many thanks, Frank.

A new 458th Group roster is now available from me for those who wish to update their old one, or those who have not previously requested one. Cost remains at \$4.40 and covers mailing costs.

Would appreciate it if you would write the following in any correspondence you might have to me. For the 458th file and reference info, please send me your name, rank, squadron or attached unit, dates in the ETO, crew or crew # if you can recall, missions, airplane, pilot, etc. Also I would like your wife's name and your telephone number. None of this information is readily available to me, and there are occasions when I can really use it in correspondence. The only thing in the Association computer is your name, address and Group. You don't have to make a special mailing, but it sure would be a big help to me to get this info on a 3 x 5 card for future use.

The **Turner Publishing Company**, Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002-3101 is proceeding with publishing the Second Air Division & Association History book. I have a flyer to send you if you are interested. The book will sell for \$49.95, is hard cover and 9 x 12 size. The order sheet has space on the back for any biography you may wish to write. Publisher will include the bio in this book whether or not you choose to buy. They plan to use photos (you can supply a "then-and-now" if you choose). This book is for us and our Association and will be a first class presentation, so my advice is, don't wait too long and be left out. I will send you an order form on request. Again, here is your chance to be included in the History as it is planned. It is my understanding that the compiling process is now underway. My address is still on page 2 under the masthead of the *Journal*. Telephone is 410-766-1034.

Both **Duke Trivette** and I have received inquiries as to whether we ever plan to have another reunion at Wright-Patterson Air Museum in Dayton. The first one we had was in 1987 when we dedicated the Memorial. Another Group reunion followed in 1990 when enough requests were made from many who had not attended the first one. Since then, we have added at least 100 new members, and if the demand is there, we may do it again. Those who would like to meet again in late 1993 or 1994, please let us know. We're just trying to get some idea of how many are interested because of the hotel availability and costs of a weekend or three day get-together. If there is enough interest, Duke Trivette has agreed to work out the details once again. We appreciate any ideas you might have for this third and quite possibly the last Memorial visit. Please let Duke know your thoughts and what you think we should plan for. Write to: **Duke Trivette, 1791 Utica Drive, Dayton, OH 45439**.

Elsewhere in this *Journal*, you will find an article written by **Jim Graham** and photos from **Lou Freiberg**, titled "The Caravan." **Jim Smith**, **Harold Knox**, **Herbert Perry**, **Bob Sellers** and others are also a part of this story. Some time ago, Lou Freiberg wrote and asked about getting this effort of air and ground controllers and their operation published. I asked for some text and photos and was prepared to venture into this project. When I received the text from Jim Graham, you can be sure I didn't change a word, and Lou provided me with excellent photos. This Flight Control story is another well written bit of history that many previously knew very little of, and it will certainly bring to mind the many times these chaps managed to get aircraft safely down when the actual field Control Tower was unable to see the runway operation because of the weather. I hope that this will encourage others who have stories to tell; get busy and get it on paper. I know that **Chuck Carter** and **Dana Winters** plan to do so. Appreciate hearing from you and glad to help in any way. Certainly looking forward to seeing many of you at the next convention at Hilton Head Island, SC, next November.



392nd B.G.

by Oak Mackey

Keith and Patty Roberts' report on the 392nd BG reunion in Kings Lynn and Wendling reached me too late for inclusion in the Fall issue of the 2nd ADA *Journal* (not their fault). You have read the report in the 392nd BGMA News and already know the trip back to England in June 1992 was a journey enjoyed by all. Seventy-six of our people were once again graciously greeted by the Mayor of Kings Lynn upon arrival. Phyllis DuBois and Tom Eaton welcomed them at the 2nd AD Memorial Room in Norwich. Wreaths were laid by the villagers of Beeston, the RAF Crew Association, the Lincolnshire Aircraft Recovery Group, and the 392nd BGMA at our Memorial Obelisk during impressive and appropriate ceremonies at our old air base at Wendling. The Confederate Air Force B-24, Diamond Lil, flew over Kings Lynn while the 392nd people were assembled on the market square in front of the Duke's Head Hotel on their way to Norwich. At the Norwich Airport over 6000 English folk had gathered to greet Diamond Lil. David Hastings, member of the Memorial Trust Board of Governors was on board. He wrote a very good article for the Fall *Journal* about Diamond Lil's flight to England. You have already read it; it is worth reading again. At the business meeting and the banquet in Las Vegas, at the 45th Convention of the 2nd ADA, Mr. Hastings told the story of the flight of Diamond Lil in more detail.

The Collings Foundation was unable to take the B-24 All American to England. The Confederate Air Force stepped into the breach and flew Diamond Lil on a voyage that was an outstanding success in every way. A great big "Thank You" to the Confederate Air Force. The "Rebs" sure beat the "Yanks" this time.

The 45th Convention of the Second Air Division Association convened October 4, 1992 at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. There will be extensive reports on the convention elsewhere in this *Journal*. My remarks will be mainly on the activities of 392nd BG members.

First, congratulations to John B. Conrad. He was elected President of the Second Air Division Association by a unanimous vote at the 2nd ADA business meeting on Tuesday, October 6. John has served us superbly in the past as our Group VP, and in the past year, as the 2nd ADA Executive VP. The 392nd BG provides the superior presidents. You all know Joe Whittaker, J.D. Long and Fred Thomas; they were outstanding as

presidents of the 2nd ADA. John Conrad will continue the traditions of the 392nd BG in providing excellent leadership to all the 2nd ADA, and you can take that to the bank.

The first convention event directly involving 392nd people was the Group Dinner, Sunday, October 4. This is the occasion where new friendships are made which usually last many, many years. The dinner was delicious, served up in a gracious manner by excellent waiters from the Riviera. After dinner, two couples were given a special introduction, for they were attending their first convention. They were Bill and Sarah Bowen, of Lemoyne, PA, and Walt and Carmeline Fialkewicz, of Silver Springs, MD. Bill's 70th birthday was approaching on October 6, so we greeted him with a thunderous "Happy Birthday" song. Walt and Carmeline were going to celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary soon, and we shook the rafters with the "Happy Anniversary" song. There were 72 people in attendance. All introduced themselves, named their home town or city, and added other appropriate remarks. It was all great fun; 392nd folk tend to be joyful.

Our Group Business Meeting was on Monday, October 5. Of interest was the membership report. We have signed 18 new members since the Dearborn convention in July 1991. 15 members have dropped out, either by their request or for non-payment of dues. Sadly, 8 members have flown west for their final check. We have 495 members now, five less than a year ago. The total membership of the 2nd ADA is 8170, which is 214 less than a year ago. We must find new members to counter this trend.

The 44th BG is restoring the old control tower as a memorial to those Flying 8 Balls who paid the ultimate price. Headquarters of the 14th Combat Wing was at the 44th BG air base near East Dereham. Groups in the 14th Wing were the 44th, the 392nd and the 492nd, later the 491st. In the control tower there will be a room or rooms provided for the 14th Wing. In a letter to me dated 8-10-92, 44th BG VP Pete Henry suggested a room there for the 392nd BG might be available, if we were interested. It could be used for a display of 392nd BG memorabilia; there is no such facility at Wendling. There was considerable support for the idea by many; some were more or less neutral, as I am. There was no spoken opposition. The restoration is mainly being financed by the owner of the land the Tower sits on. He is in the construction crane business both in England and on the Continent and has a desire and interest in preserving such structures as the Control Tower. The work on the Tower is being done by two men who are donating their labor. As of now, no mention has been made as to whether we would be asked to help financially in the project,

though that remains a possibility. Your comments and suggestions in this matter should be addressed to me, and I do want your views, either pro or con.

John Conrad took over as the meeting's Chairman and I left the room for the election of a Group VP for the coming year. The election was swift and merciless; you are stuck with me for another term. I will do the best I can, and all kidding aside, I do enjoy being the Group VP. Thank you all for your support.

You will find a full report on the 2nd ADA Business Meeting elsewhere in this *Journal*. The following is for those from the 392nd BG who attended. The 2nd ADA is an I.R.S. Code 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans organization. 2nd ADA members, who attended the business meeting, were declared convention delegates. Delegates should consult their tax advisors concerning expense deductibility. The 2nd ADA Tax Identification No. is 251327743.

It has been reported before, and here it is again. There will be a 2nd ADA Regional Dinner at the Clarion Hotel near Orlando, Florida on February 7, 1993. Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert of 1482 Granville Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789, phone (407) 647-2623, will provide you with information and registration forms. Do not delay, time flies.

Do not forget the 2nd ADA Regional Dinner at the El Toro Marine Base near Irvine, CA. The exact date eludes me, but it will be in February 1993. Check elsewhere in this *Journal*, there should be a more definitive announcement.

Stand alone, YES, a stand alone reunion of the 392nd BG Memorial Association in Albuquerque, NM, May 20-24, 1993. You already have full information on this one in the August 1992 issue of the 392nd BGMA News. The registration forms are in there, as are forms for reservations at the Albuquerque Marriott. This will be the BIG event of the year for 392nd people, do not miss it. You will have fun and a good, good time.

One member of the 2nd ADA drove all the way from Florida to Las Vegas for the 2nd ADA convention. He had not sent the registration form to Evelyn Cohen which was due on August 1, 1992. He had not sent any money, also due August 1. He simply presented himself to Evelyn at the registration desk at the Riviera and said, "Here I am, check me in." Conventions require a ton of advance planning. You may wonder why the deadline date was August 1, a full two months before the convention. There is an obvious answer. It is so that Evelyn and the hotel can make an accurate estimate of the number of rooms needed, including meeting rooms. There must be advance time for meal planning, most of the detail planning is involved here. Evelyn does a fantastic job in the logistics and planning of our

(continued on page 30)

American Librarian Fund Report

by Jordan R. Uttal

Well, chums, we have good news and we have bad news!

The Good News: Since we went over the top and exceeded our target of \$500,000 at the 1991 Dearborn Convention, we have continued to receive checks — 201 of them to be specific as of 15 October 1992.

101 of these checks were from new donors — the balance from kindly repeaters. Thanks to each and every one of you.

The Bad News: All of us retirees are suffering from the same unfavorable economics. When we started our American Librarian Fund Drive in June 1988 at the Colorado Springs Convention, interest rates were in excess of 8%. It looked at that time as if we could finance an American presence with over \$40,000 per annum. However... the best laid plans, etc., etc. Three years after we started, in August 1991 when we invested our \$550,000 with Fulbright, interest rates were down to roughly 6.25%, and when the funds were reinvested in August 1992, the best we could do was roughly 3.75%!!! We are short, good buddies.

So, I toss another slow pitch to those of you who have not contributed, asking that you send *what you can afford* (made out to 2nd Air Division Association) to me at the address listed on page 2 of the *Journal*. We need it!!

Oh, by the way, if any of you new members do not know what I am talking about, please drop me a line and I will send you a copy of the original appeal for funds. Meanwhile I send best wishes to all of you. It was especially gratifying to see so many of you at Las Vegas. Cheers!!!

392nd (continued from page 29)

conventions. Make her work a little easier and more enjoyable by complying with all the deadlines. The vast majority of you already do this; it is to the tiny minority who don't that I address these remarks. Of course, if you have some valid reason why you cannot meet a deadline, please let Evelyn know as soon as possible. She will make the necessary adjustments to fit your circumstances. Do not show up at a convention without having sent in your registration form and money before the prescribed deadlines, or having made other arrangements with Evelyn. Any 392nd member who shows up at a convention without prior notice to Evelyn will receive 50 demerits and will walk a five hour tour wearing a seat pack parachute!

John Matt was the navigator on the John Beder crew in the 579th Squadron. He has written a book entitled CREWDOG. It is about growing up during the depression, military training, combat flying from Wendling, and post-war experiences. It sells for \$28.95, including shipping. For more information, write him at: Route 1, Box 885, Waterford, VA 22190.

Maxine and I join in wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

February Florida Fiesta

On February 7, 1993 there will be a regional 2ADA mini-reunion at the new 900-room Clarion Hotel, Orlando, Florida, located within easy reach of the major area tourist attractions. Invited are all Florida members, including the Heritage League, snowbirds and other members planning to visit Florida this winter. Those who served in 2AD during World War II and are not presently members of the Association are encouraged to attend, if they will include an application for membership in the Association when submitting a registration form.

THIS JUST IN — Confirmation has been received that the B-24 All American and sister ship B-17 "909" will be on display for 2AD veterans at Orlando Executive Airport February 6 & 7. Also, Mr. Tom Reilly, the owner of the War Birds Museum at Kissimmee, Florida will be the speaker at the evening banquet. Mr. Reilly personally supervised the rebuilding and reconditioning

of the All American based at Kissimmee.

While the reunion will officially convene for only one day, the hotel has agreed to extend to us a \$55 per night rate for three nights preceding the reunion and also three nights after the reunion. This amounts to a full week, for those who so desire, to leisurely visit the Orlando area attractions such as Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios and the Space Coast. Frequent round-trip transportation at reasonable rates will be available from the hotel to these attractions.

Florida members of the Association will receive full details by mail. Members living outside Florida and all non-member WWII 2AD veterans can receive additional information by writing to:

Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert USAF (Ret.)
1482 Granville Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

2nd ADA Golf Tournament, Las Vegas 1992

The 107 golfers who participated will attest to the outstanding tournament that was held in conjunction with the annual 2nd ADA reunion. The Nellis AFB personnel were most cooperative and accommodating, the course was in surprisingly good condition and sufficiently challenging, the weather was totally cooperative, the box lunches prepared by the course snack bar were excellent, and we believe everyone had a good time. Everyone didn't shoot par, but then even Arnold Palmer has trouble doing that from time to time.

The first and second place winners were as follows:

Ladies Low Gross	Polly Mahoney and Marvis Snyder
Low Net	Bee Nykamp and Jane Shankwiler
Longest Drive	Dot Dowling
Closest to Hole	Mary Lorenz
Men's Handicap	
Low Gross	Cater Lee and Tom Hernandez
Low Net	Max Stout and Bill Sparks
Men's Peoria	
Low Gross	Robert Makin and Hap Chandler
Low Net	Ray Lemons and Henry Nykamp
Men's Longest Drive	John Keane
Closest to Hole	Bill Buckley
Sportsmanship Award	Red Horton
Committee's Executive Award	Evelyn Cohen

The Committee especially wishes to thank Dick Butler for his work in computing the peoria scores, Carl Rambo for devoting his time and skill taking excellent pictures of each foursome, Rick Rokicki for his good work on the trophies, and Chuck Walker, Jr. for donating the tea and packaging the tees and ball markers. Without the cooperation and support of Evelyn Cohen, this event could not have succeeded.

We challenge Pete Henry to top this at Hilton Head in 1993!

Memories

by Tom Parry (93rd)

The old pilot looks up in the sky
As the rebuilt B-24 flies by
What does he recall after fifty years?
The flak and fighters and many tears.

The old tunes come drifting in
Axis Sally and Vera Lynn
"Bless Them All" and "Roll Me Over"
"Lily Marlene" and "White Cliffs of Dover."

Up at 3:00 with watery eggs
Down to the line on shaky legs
At briefing, the curtain pulled aside
Berlin again — his last ride?

German flak batteries eagerly await
A chance to help determine his fate
Then yellow-nosed fighters from Abbeville
Closing in for another kill.

A Liberator spins slowly down

Then explodes before hitting the ground.
Back in the hut a sense of gloom
At the empty beds around the room.
Blankets stripped and lockers removed
As new pilots arrive, as yet unproved.

Where is the glory of so long ago?
Wartime medals he'd like to show
Ribbons on his chest that made him tall
Now in a case on the basement wall.

Full of stories few want to hear
Getting better each passing year
Now not really worth the bother
What war was that, grandfather?

The old pilot considers the extra years
Of living with all the joys and fears.
The love of a family, his name carried
on

And grandchildren remembering after
he's gone.
While the unlucky ones have nothing
at all
But a name on the Cambridge Memorial
Wall.

BUNGAY BULL

446th BOMB GROUP
by
Marvin H. Speidel



REUNIONS — What is it that keeps us returning to the friends, the times and the places of that critical period of our lives when we were young, oh so very young. Is it that we have become aware that our years are numbered and should be spent among the people and deeds we remember? The 446th Bomb Group Association had 410 at its Valley Forge reunion, the 2nd Air Division Association had over 1600 at Lost Wages, Nevada and, those who were at either or both, are looking forward to more. Perhaps the rest of you who haven't gotten to one yet should give serious thought to doing so — at least when one is scheduled near you. There will be a 2nd ADA regional gathering in Orlando, Florida on February 7, 1993; the 446th will meet in Denver, Colorado in October 1993; and the 2nd ADA will hold its annual convention at Hilton Head, South Carolina next November. Start planning now and get involved!

Unfortunately, after the large turnout at Valley Forge, the 446th BG had only 21 at the 2nd ADA Convention. The attendees were: Fred Breuninger, Bill & Jean Davenport, Chuck & Irene Depperschmidt, Bert & June Engstrom, Marv & Mary Finger, Don & Penny Geary, Andy Hay, Clem Kowalczyk, Bill Kyle, George Mattes, Jim & Clare Riedel, Joe & Cass Soder, and Marv & Marge Speidel. Hope I didn't miss anyone; apologies if I did.

Thinking back to 1943-45, the most important attachments were formed with our own crews or specific units; but beyond that, we were part of a Squadron, the Group, the 20th Bomb Wing, the 2nd Bomb Division/Air Division (depending on when you were there), and the 8th Air Force. My crew is still made up of the most important guys in the world although, unfortunately, not all are still with us, and we're all part of the 446th, the 2nd Air Division and the 8th Air Force. It is of great concern to me as your Group Vice President that while we went over 400 for the first time at our Group reunion, we had only 21 at the 2nd ADA convention. Many other groups also have independent reunions and still get numbers approaching 200 at 2nd ADA. There is no reason why we cannot do the same and challenge for leadership in both attendance and support. Let's start by increasing our turnout at Hilton Head. It's not too early to start planning — my deposit has already been sent to Evelyn. How about yours?

I recognize that constraints such as individual finances prevent some of us from joining all the many organizations connected with our experiences of the '40s, and that health problems for others prevent travelling to reunions, conventions and other events, although many in that position maintain memberships in order to



Members of Leland Johnson's "White Lit'nin" crew in front of a 705th Squadron quonset hut at Flixton. (l-r): Joe O'Brien, Carl Weber, Walt Sewitsky, and the crew's hero, Sandy Sanderson, the only crew member to have been wounded in action.



"White Lit'nin" crew, 705th Squadron, at Topeka, Kansas in March 1944 prior to departure to the ETO. Back row (l-r): Leland C. Johnson, pilot; Leslie Hayes Marsh Sanderson III, co-pilot; Guy Murrie, bombardier; Leen Rogers, navigator. Front row (l-r): Carl Weber, left waist; Walter Sewitsky, radio operator; Aubrey Strain, engineer; Richard Jones, tail gunner; Joseph O'Brien, ball turret; Amado Gallardo, right waist. The dog's name is unknown but it is remembered that he thought Sewitsky was a fire hydrant.

enjoy the memories stimulated by the newsletters and *Journals*. In so far as funds and health allow, we should be as active as we can in these golden years. In the immortal words of that famous poet, A. Noney Mouse:

*The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
Or on what day or hour.
Now is the only time we have,
So live it with a will.
Don't wait until tomorrow,
The hands may then be still.*

Have you sent your contribution to the 446th BG Museum Fund yet? Marv Anderson, 8411 East Albion Place, Tucson, Arizona 85715 is waiting for it, and reports that we are over 1/3 of the way there. On checking the total number of names on our mailing list and deducting an estimated number to allow for hardship, illness, etc., I still come up with 900 to 1000 active members who could contribute. If only at \$10.00 each, we could realize an additional \$9,000 or so, which would be a big step in our endeavor. Better yet, if those who were present at Valley Forge would contribute half of what it cost to attend that reunion, our goal would be reached. How about it?

In the summer issue of the *Journal* I reported the claim by Norm Marshank of Los Angeles that he might have been the youngest 446er shot down, at 19 years and 7 months. A note from Paul Kelly of Twin Falls, Idaho disputes that claim, as he tells of being 19 years, 1½ months when shot down on August 4, 1944; and Rudy Huddleston of Dallas, Texas was 19 years, 4 months when he went down on July 31, 1944. Are there any others who were even younger when suffering such a catastrophe?

Al Pishioneri of Freehold, New Jersey and his wife Lillian were among the many who went to England this year, and he reports that his April trip was his first return to Bungay, Flixton and Station 125 after a 46 year absence. They were met at the station in Diss by John & Lorna Archer and driven to Bungay and then Flixton. He tells of his feelings at seeing what is left of the 446th Base — the hardstands, taxi ways, some runway remains, the oak trees at the end of the short runway which "The Big Drip" failed to clear, the gym, the morgue, the bomb dump, the Aero Club with its wall art, the water tanks, etc., etc. Something of the present is there, too, which Al saw in the Memorial Gates at St. Mary's Church and the bench, both with 446th plaques and the Roll of Honor in its English Oak Lectern within the Church. Al closes with the suggestion that 446ers should try to go back, and having had much the same feelings on my own return, I agree. To stand on the apron watching the tall grasses, waving and remembering, is to realize that there is a small part of each of us still there.

At this time of year, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to wish all of you the Greetings of the Season. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to one and all — may you enjoy life to its fullest.

Just In Time For Christmas

by Earl Wassom (466th)

He was not part of the vanguard organizational group which began planning for what was to become the Mighty Eighth Air Force based in England, but he was there. He did not wear the traditional uniform of the military forces, but he was in uniform. He was not a member of the operations staff which greeted incoming crew members, but he was present. He was not a member of the military intelligence staff, but he was always keenly aware of what was happening on base. He was not a chaplain, but he knew how to encourage, uplift, and inspire those in need. He was not the official 8th AF optimist, but he was optimistic. He was not a diplomat, but he was a good will ambassador. His name was Eddie.

The C-47 landed in the afternoon of August 15, 1944 at Station 120, Attlebridge. Two replacement crews deplaned, twenty men with their B-4 bags, footlockers, attending flight equipment, and orders for assignment to the 466th Bomb Group. We were in East Anglia near Norwich. Beautiful scenery — right in the center of heavy bombardment country. Airbases were everywhere — we saw them as we flew in.

The base was clean but drab. There were not many B-24s around. Personnel were standing around everywhere, the control tower, perimeter track, trucks, ambulances, but this group was not a welcoming committee for us. A strike mission was coming home. These men were waiting. Before we could be taken to Group Operations, the warbirds began returning. A scattered, ragged-looking formation approached from the east. Some were stragglers, struggling to stay in the air. They began landing — flares were shot up from this bedraggled-looking array of surviving planes indicating need — mechanical problems or wounded and dead aboard. Ambulances and firefighting equipment went into action. It had been a nasty mission. One of the worst. Four planes and crews lost; they were seen going down. Others had landed somewhere else, not being able to get home. Damage to the surviving aircraft was severe. (Later, we learned that the 466th lost eighty-seven airmen and thirteen aircraft during this particular month of operations.)

As we sat in the truck which was delivering us to our quarters, our thoughts were, "This is it... months of training and now, here we are, ready or not!" All of us were in our late teens and early twenties.

Our truck stopped in front of a prefab "shot-gun" structure. It was two cot lengths wide and eight cot widths long with a little space between. A pitifully small "pot-bellied" sheet metal stove was halfway down the center aisle with an open metal pipe running up from the "central heating unit" through the ceiling. There were doors in both ends and a window for each cot. These openings were "artfully draped" with a heavy black material to keep the light in and out. The driver opened the door and pointed to the far end of the structure to four cots,



mattresses rolled, and closet rods and open shelves empty. This was the new home for the officers (2nd Lts.) of Crew 554, 785th Bomb Squadron.

We met our barracks mates, other officers who had missions, experience, and were combat wise. Their emotions that afternoon were mixed — glad to have us as replacements to replenish crews who were no longer with them, yet concerned over the mauling that the Group had taken from the Germans that day.

At the far end, the door opened, and a shy grin spread across the fair-skinned English lad standing there. If we had not seen him, the heavy soles on his war-time black brogan shoes would have alerted us. He greeted briefly the other men as he passed them and walked directly to the "new crew." He was in uniform — dark wool pants, coat, sweater, cap, tie, and a white shirt. His blue eyes were gleaming as he reached up to us with a firm handshake and said, "Hello, I'm Eddie."

The Brighty family lived down near the entrance to Station 120. The markers near our quarters pointed two directions, one towards Honingham and the other towards Attlebridge. Eddie passed these markers as he made his daily rounds to see us. The Brighty family were typically English — affected by a prolonged war which had deprived them of even the necessities of life, but they were survivors, hearty British stock, and their suffering had given to Eddie a spirit of sharing and caring.

Knowing of the losses of the 466th that day (and Eddie always knew), he returned a second time. His experiences had taught him early that empty shelves, missing foot lockers, mattress rolls and folded blankets meant one of two things: (1) a crew had finished their tour, had become "happy warriors," were headed home, and the mattresses were rolled, waiting for the replacement crew, or (2) a crew was missing in action (MIA) or killed in action (KIA); they would not be back. Their belongings were gathered up and the mattresses were rolled up — waiting for a replacement crew to occupy them. Between his two visits, the truck had come and the

base personnel who had the unhappy task of gathering belongings and rolled the mattresses had gone. No "happy warriors" this time. Crew 554 was learning what war was all about, and Eddie, when he saw the empty bunks, expressed the sadness one would feel toward a brother missing. He had been through this experience before.

Eddie's mother did our laundry for us; he was the delivery boy. Money was inadequate pay — our rationed soap, candy and gum was shared with them. It wasn't much. Money, though helpful, couldn't buy anything for this worthy family — goods just were not available in a war-torn country.

Christmas was approaching. By the end of November, Crew 554 had completed 12 missions, one-third of its assignment. Thoughts turned toward home. Christmas in the ETO! What could we do in Attlebridge? With the season of giving approaching, Eddie was asked, "If you could have anything in the world, what would you like to have?" "Anything?" he asked in surprise. "Yes, anything." His eyes danced as he responded immediately, "A bicycle, one of my very own!" "What kind of bicycle... tell me about it."

"Well," he answered enthusiastically, "a black bicycle, one black all over with silvery wheel rims, and a leather seat... and front and rear wheel brakes... with the controls on the handle bars... and tools to fix it... in a little leather kit that fits on the frame. And reflectors on the fender."

A very specific request. Did a new bicycle meeting these specifications exist in Norwich or anywhere else in the British Isles? The shuttle from the base took the shoppers to town and a systematic search began. Several shops were visited without success. Then, a small, unsightly, broken-down shop located in the shadow of the Castle on Market Avenue was approached. Parked outside were two war-weary looking bicycles along with many other serviceable used articles. When the owner was asked, "Would you happen to have a new bicycle for sale?" he responded by asking what we planned to do with it. When he learned it was for an eleven year old English lad, he smiled knowingly, led the way to a room hidden behind lots of "used things" and showed it to us! New, black all over, silvery wheels, hand brakes, tool kit, reflectors — surely Eddie's guardian angel had led the shoppers to this place! It was paid for in full. With a receipt in our pocket, a "sold" ticket on the bike, a promise to take delivery as soon as possible, and a sense of satisfaction for a successful shopping mission, the shuttle was boarded.

We had our plans for Christmas and so did the Germans. Von Rundstedt under the orders of A. Hitler alerted his Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Panzer Armies for an attack in the Ardennes region. It was Hitler's last desperate bid for victory. He was counting on the weather to be his greatest ally as he developed his strategy. He was correct.

(continued on page 33)

Just In Time For Christmas (continued from page 32)



Young Eddie Brighty poses with Crew 554. Second from left: Wassom, pilot. Third from left: Edeleman, navigator. Fifth from left: Ross, co-pilot. Sixth from left: Bohan, bombardier.

Weather kept the planes on the ground. Fog and clouds grounded all air activity. Aerial reconnaissance was impossible. There were no air assaults of any kind. Missions were flown December 11 and 12. Then nothing, inactivity was due to the English weather.

Crews of the 466th were on stand-by, continually hoping for clear weather. A mission on December 13 was set up then scrubbed; December 15 scrubbed; December 16, mission on, then recalled — weather on take-off and over the target. The Germans launched their counter-offensive (Battle of the Bulge) on this day. December 18 planes were in the air and recalled due to bad weather. December 19 heavy fog prevented the Group from

taking off. December 20 — mission scrubbed — bad weather again, all day.

Eddie was always supportive. He felt our stress. Crews were alerted every day, ate breakfast, attended briefing, went to their combat-ready planes, and sat and sat, ready to go, but just waiting. Getting to fly, getting in the air, and formation assembly was a release. It seemed as if we were doing something although we returned without dropping bombs on the enemy. Then late in the day, anticipating the alert over the base squawk box announcing which crews would fly the next day, the group was stood down.

December 21, no alert. Weather was terrible. Our ground forces were suffering in

Ardennes. Bastogne was surrounded. Air assistance was impossible. Nothing for the 466th that day.

"Eddie, remember your wish? A bicycle? You are going to get one! Today, it will be picked up and when the truck returns this evening from Norwich, you can have your Christmas early."

That morning, as the GI truck drove down the lane, Eddie was standing there — watching — waiting in the English fog. In the evening, before dark, the truck returned to Attlebridge. Standing in the lane where we left him was Eddie. His eyes danced as a new, black all over bicycle, silvery wheels, hand brakes, leather seat, tool kit, reflectors, was unloaded.

The glow on Eddie's face may have had something to do with the fog and scud disappearing from over Attlebridge, East Anglia, and the continent. At any rate, December 23 was a day a ground support mission was flown and the enemy was slowed down. On December 24, Christmas Eve day, the largest air assault ever assembled (2,034 bombers and 936 fighters) delivered their Christmas loads of "gifts" for the American, Canadian, French and British troops who were slugging it out with the Nazis. That day, about 100 children from the area around Attlebridge were invited to a Christmas party at the Aero Club on base. The airmen could not attend this party, as every "flyable" plane was in the air. But Eddie was there, celebrating with the other children with a special shine on his face.

In 1991, forty-seven years later, the author was reunited with Eddie in his home near Attlebridge, England. It was an emotional and rewarding experience!

Cambridge American Military Cemetery, England



2ADA Memorial Wreath, presented by Evan Harris, Friends of the 2AD Memorial.



Memorial Wall at Cambridge, Memorial Day 1992

Letters



Dear Bill:

You receive a lot of mail for the "Letters" section of the *Journal*, and I wish that you had the time to answer them, and particularly that you had the space to print some of your answers.

For instance, I sure would like to see a reply from you to that chronic complainer, Fred Breuninger, who once again saw fit to shoot from the hip with some thoughtless comments. I can just picture your telling him, in reply to his latest carping in the Fall *Journal*, that everyone and his brother knows that Diamond Lil started out for England during the war as a B-24A, that it sustained damage on the East Coast and had to be reconfigured as an LB 30.

Those of us who saw her off at Fort Worth in late May knew her history, but we had lumps in our throats as she took off looking every bit as good as if she still had her original bomb bays.

You might also have mentioned that if Fred had stayed in Las Vegas for the banquet, he would have heard David Hastings follow up on his splendid article in the *Journal* with an inspiring account of how thousands of East Anglians responded to her flyovers with great excitement, affection and admiration at the sight and sounds of what they remembered as a Liberator: Fred would have seen the standing ovation David received after his banquet address from the 1600 in attendance. So much for Diamond Lil!

And what might have been your comments at the further venting of his spleen relative to the pictures on the cover of the Summer *Journal*, particularly the one showing part of the Headquarters staff, and his incorrect jump at the conclusion that the *Journal* and the Association "are but merely Headquarters tools"? I think I can correctly guess that you would tell him that you can only print pictures that you receive from members, that you reviewed the last ten issues of the *Journal* and counted 426 pictures that were printed, only 26 of which had any connection with Headquarters. You might also have pointed out to him that just as he is proud of his Group and Wing, so are those who served at Headquarters (ground as well as combat personnel) proud of their considerable contributions to the accomplishments of the 2nd Air Division. And, how correct you would be if you reminded him that former Headquarters personnel (ground and combat) started the 2nd Air Division Association, labored hard to get it off the ground, strove tirelessly and succeeded in getting the Groups involved, worked diligently for our unique 2nd Air Division Memorial, and that you don't remember any effort on his part along any of these lines, except perhaps the payment of his annual dues.

I am glad to see many letters of appreciation in the *Journal*, but from Breuninger, only negative criticism. If indeed you do write him, perhaps you might give him my greetings, and a message from me, "Get with the program, Fred, and think about the accomplishments and stature of the *Journal* and the Association before you nitpick again."

Along with many thanks to you, Bill, for the great job you have done, I send sincere personal good wishes.

Jordan R. Uttal
Honorary President
2ADA

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦



Lieut. William Garrett, Jr., Awards Officer of the 453rd Bomb Group Hdqrs.

Dear Bill:

I have been searching for years for Lieut. William Garrett, Jr. of Houston, Texas, who was the Awards Officer of the 453rd Bomb Group Hdqrs. I am enclosing a snapshot of him that I received from his girlfriend in Chatham, England. Perhaps if you could publish it someone will recognize him, especially Col. Ramsey Potts or Gen. James Stewart as they both rec'd Recommendations for Awards from him. I know if he knew of the 2nd Air Division Association he would belong.

Irving L. Shuffler
571 South Main, Box 331
Chambersburg, PA 17201

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Bill:

I was recently involved in doing research for an article on the Willow Run bomber plant, which appeared in the August/September issue of "Air & Space Smithsonian." I expect that some members of the 2nd ADA may have seen it.

I am now engaged in researching a possible future article on the Norden and Sperry bombsights. I'm interested in photographs of the bombsights, books and articles, and personal remembrances from persons who are familiar with this equipment. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Charles Ordowski
1940 W. Liberty #7
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(313) 994-0298

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Ed. Note: The following letter was received by 489th Group VP, Neal Sorensen, and read aloud to members present at the 489th Business Meeting in Las Vegas. Letters like this from our British friends are received all the time by our 2ADA Officers and Group Vice Presidents.

Dear Neal:

It seems but only a brief time ago that Mary and I were welcoming members of the 489th Bomb Group on their return to the airfield at Holton. Indeed the time has flown by so quickly that we frequently reminisce about happenings during that week as if we were only yesterday. If the return to Holton gave pleasure to the members of the 489th, it is as if nothing to the joy that acting as hosts gave to us.

Gratitude is not an emotion that is freely shown in this day and age, and how great a shame it is that it is so devalued. Rest assured, however, that in our prayers and in our hearts we give thanks to you, to those who never returned to their native land and to those who are no longer with us, for the way that the call to come to our aid was answered. Words from Lincoln's address at Gettysburg are not out of place at the moment...

"It is for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from the honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain."

Pat Cox, that indefatigable worker for the Friends of the 489th in Halesworth, has kindly offered to bring this message of greetings to your 45th Annual Convention from myself and the people of Halesworth and Holton, England.

May God bless you all...

Bob Niblett
Chairman of
Halesworth Town Council

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Bill:

I am trying to research my father's service with the 392nd Bomb Group. He was T/Sgt. Cecil C. McGrew, a turret gunner. He flew 35 missions and according to family tradition was shot down on his 35th mission, Thanksgiving Day, 1944, flying with a new crew. His crew had finished their tour and gone home while he was quarantined with some illness (flu?)

He was captured and served out the duration of the war in Stalag Luft I. He received the D.F.C. and I would like to know why it was awarded along with any other information that I might be able to track down.

I would be thankful for any information you might have. Although I know that the Army Air Corps conducted debriefings after missions and other records were kept, the government red tape is incredibly difficult to sift through and it is almost impossible to get even the addresses of men who may have flown with my father.

Chad McGrew
P.O. Box 993
Bethel, ME 04217

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

PLOESTI

Dear Friends:

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to every one of the members of the Second Air Division for their enthusiastic support of our Ploesti documentary project, *Wing and a Prayer: The Saga of Utah Man*.

It was a distinct honor to meet those members we spoke with and hear their stories of service to our wonderful country. As I stated, we came to your reunion hoping to learn a little about one mission, and ended up learning a great deal about faith, friendship and courage.

The project continues to move ahead, at times in fits and starts, but always ahead. At this time we are engaged in reviewing the interviews and some of the archival material we received at the reunion. All of it is informative and will ultimately contribute to the final shape of the project.

Many members approached us and asked how they might assist the project. We still need information; both motion and still archival material (photos, films, newspapers, etc.) relating to the August 1, 1943 Ploesti mission.

A more detailed list of information needed for the documentary can be received by writing *Wing and a Prayer Productions* at 155 South 100 East, Bountiful, UT 84010 or by calling (801) 298-5669 seven days a week.

Programs like *Wing and a Prayer* are only possible with the participation of people like the members of the Second Air Division, and we hope that *Wing and a Prayer* does the members of the Second Air Division the honor you so richly deserve. Stay tuned...

Mike Sanches & Susie Barker
Director and Producer
Wing and a Prayer

Ed. Note: Sanches and Barker are producing this Ploesti video documentary which is funded by KBYU, Provo, Utah as a fiftieth anniversary commemoration of the raid.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦



Joseph Demay (standing, second from left) and crew, 453rd BG.

Dear Evelyn:

I am writing for my brother, Joseph Demay who served with the 453rd Bomb Group and is presently in the N.Y. Veterans Hospital, 1st Ave. & 23rd St., N.Y. City. He had to have his leg amputated and keeps talking about his friends in the service. I thought that if he could hear from some it might boost his morale. I am enclosing a photo of the crew he flew with.

Mrs. F.L. Obremski
51 Christmas Street
No. Babylon, NY 11703

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦



Standing: Lt. Henricks, navigator; Lt. Lloyd T. Smith, pilot; Lt. Myron G. Smith, co-pilot. Kneeling: Sgt. Pearce, T/Sgt. King, Sgt. Keffler, T/Sgt. Willingham, S/Sgt. Holt.

Dear Bill:

What a delightful surprise to read Stanley "Mike" Mikolajczyk's letter in the Summer 1992 *Journal*, along with the photo of their "unknown second crew."

I know them, and their names, because they were my "second crew" as well, and I am enclosing an old photo. I flew my final six missions with this crew from January 1945 through February 1945, having been promoted to first pilot after 24 missions with a lead crew.

My recollection is that all of these men, including Myron Smith, co-pilot, were released from the hospital about the same time, having all been wounded in one way or another.

If my memory is correct, John G. Severson took over this crew as first pilot when I finished my 30th mission, but I may be mistaken.

I would be very much interested to know when "Mike" and E.E. Johnson flew with this crew, what happened to their first crew, and what happened to them.

I am not in touch with any of the crew, but hope this photo and the names will give "Mike" a lead for getting in touch. Would sure enjoy a reunion with this bunch.

Lloyd T. Smith
715 West Broadway
Newton, Kansas 67114

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Bill:

I have enjoyed the *Journal* for many years and thought about all the unique claims that have appeared in various articles. I remember an article in the *Stars & Stripes* about laundry marks on military clothing. It claimed that the odds of the same laundry mark being duplicated in a Division was about 10,000 to one.

However, on Sabourin's crew in the 392nd BG, 578th Squadron which I flew on, two enlisted men, Sgt. Walter Mateski (waist gunner) and Edward J. Moran (tail gunner) both had the same laundry mark, M 7128. It presented quite a problem at times, as there was a difference in height and weight, and sometimes dressing in the early mornings for a combat mission was cause for headaches for the heavier Mateski.

I have searched for Edward J. Moran from Chicago for years, but with no success. Anybody know of his whereabouts?

Fred Hollien
13 Bunton Street
Milton, MA 02186

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

ARE YOU MISSING A CAMERA?

Someone lost a Yashica camera at the Business Meeting in Las Vegas on Tuesday, October 6, 1992. It was found at one of the tables in front of the podium. The owner is asked to call Jordan Uttal at (214) 369-5043 so it can be returned to him.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Bill:

I am writing this in the hope that someone may be able to assist me in helping a young woman find out about her father.

He passed away when she was two years old. All she knows about him is that he was an Air Force pilot, and served in World War II and Korea. His name was Clarence Eike Barrett.

She remembers a picture that her mother had of him in uniform when she was placed in a foster home where she was raised. She was never told who he was, where he came from, or who his family was. She knows that she was born in Florence, Oregon and that her records there were destroyed in a fire.

It is not much to go on, but someone out there served with this man, so if you remember him, please get in touch with me at the address below. Kathy and her two kids will be glad to write back.

Henry A. DeKeyser
21742 Walnut Street
Elsinore, CA 92530

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Evelyn:

I copied down your name from a copy of my father's issue of the 2nd ADA *Journal* and would ask you to send me an application for associate membership. I am pleased to see that the 2nd ADA is trying to keep alive the memories of those who fought, in the hopes that we never again have to go through this kind of effort.

My father was a lead navigator in the 445th Bomb Group out of Tibenham. Although he's never said much about his experiences in the war, I have no doubt that he and all the thousands of others like him had to have been the most courageous people that our country has ever seen.

I have seen both the All American and the Diamond Lil, and these fellows were out of their minds to fly those things! I can only try to imagine their thoughts and feelings as they climbed into their B-24s. Their very existence seems to me to have been so tenuous in those aircraft. To have to watch your comrades fall to the earth and continue to do the job is more valor that I think I could ever muster.

I can't tell you how proud I am of my father and those like him, and I want to also help keep their memories alive for my children and for their children to come. Soon there will be no more of those who were there. If we are to avoid a repeat of what happened, we must keep the truth alive.

Paul M. Alberghini
710 Forest Avenue
Portland, ME 04104

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Dear Bill:

My father, John Yatsko, flew with the 448th BG, 715 BS as Flight Engineer. I would like to obtain a 448th BG insignia for a Robert Taylor print that I am framing. I have found the insignia for the 715 BS in the book by Roger Freeman called "The Mighty Eighth in Color." I would like to find both insignias in original cloth but would take reproductions, cloth or paper. Can anyone out there help me?

David Yatsko
9019 E-Ave. T-2
Littlerock, CA 93543
(805) 944-1146

+ + + +

Dear Bill:

On page 33 of the Fall 1992 *Journal*, there are two letters asking about photographs of 2nd Air Division bases in East Anglia. Recently, I came across a book called "Airfields of the Eighth," and while it covers only the 8th Air Force, it is a big head start for Messrs Mitchell and Dawe. Both then and now pictures and a short narrative are included for each base. It is fascinating. Hopefully, the book is still available in England.

My wife and I revisited there last May and, as others have said, were so gratified at the warm welcome from everybody in Britain, including London cab drivers, who all knew why we were there. Pat Everson, who was nine during my tour at Seething in '43-44, personally escorted us around the base. She also introduced us to many of the volunteers who have restored the tower as a museum and filled it with an enormous amount of mementos. Among other things, a painting of my crew's plane, "Fascinatin' Lady" is hung there. Pat has what seems like hundreds of scrapbooks filled with 448th memorabilia which she is most willing to share. A rare and wonderful lady.

Bruce B. Winter
4660 Ocean Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34242

+ + + +

HELP WANTED

Looking for ground crew of the 458th BG, 755th Squadron who were together in Horsham St. Faith. The group had sleeping quarters next to Sgt. George Hoffman.

A mini reunion is being planned. Please contact Bill Kelly, 125 E. Madison Avenue, Collingswood, NJ 08108 (609-858-1896), or Dan Roberts, 9100 Atlantic Avenue, Apt. 1004, Margate, New Jersey 08402 (609-823-0333), Crew Chief of B-24 "OH MONA."

+ + + +

Ed. Note: The following letter was written November 18, 1942 by Pete Henry (44th Group VP) to Mary, who later became his wife. It was the first letter he ever sent to her... and almost the last!

My dearest,

You will probably be shocked at my forwardness but I have tried time and time again to lead up to the matter but somehow I never could.

Since it has been several weeks I have at last decided to tell you about it.

As you know, when I first met you, my feelings toward you were friendly and nothing more, but as weeks and months went by, that feeling grew into something more sincere and beautiful.

I never dreamed such a problem could enter my life, but here it is:

I do not know whether it is proper or not, or even fair to ask you this question. However, I do know that whatever your answer may be, you are fine enough never to mention it to anyone. You are the only person I would dare ask this — so please don't think it a habit. In reply, please be positive, sincere and above all be truthful.

Here goes! Now lay aside all thoughts and modesty and tell me — Oh Darling!

Do you think the Lone Ranger should get a new horse or join some service?

Yours with greatest adoration,
Pete

+ + + +

Dear Bill:

Thank you so much for the copies of the *Journal* I requested. My family is very appreciative. I think it is important that families and friends are informed about the times in which you and I and our comrades-in-arms were proud to participate in. I will never forget a high school senior a few years ago saying to me, "Now just let me get this straight. Was Hitler on our side or theirs?" Believe me when I assure you that he was straightened out!!

I really look forward to the *Journal* showing up in my mailbox and have established several long time relationships with old pals through information contained within the pages. You do nice work!!

Roger L. Garrison
279 Wildbriar Road
Rochester, NY 14623

+ + + +



New Jersey license plate B24 8AF belonging to E.G. "Larry" Lassins, 392nd.

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a picture of my recently acquired license plates, namely, B24 8AF. Apparently there are others around like this, but I'm a first in New Jersey.

I was a bombardier on Russ Kwash's crew. We flew 35 missions from August 1944 to January 1945 with the 392nd BG, 578 & 579 SQ, including the low-level re-supply mission to Nijmegen, Holland, 9/19/44.

My wife and I have been back to England twice, including a 392nd reunion this past June, and were at Las Vegas in October.

E.G. Lassins
47 Stonegate Drive
Roseland, NJ 07068

+ + + +

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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