

Volume 33 Number 3

Fall 1994

THE NORWICH DISASTER

BY DAVID HASTINGS, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

It is Monday, August 1st, 1994, and we are shaken to hear a news flash on the local radio at 7:20 AM that there is a very serious fire in the centre of Norwich. We can already see the huge pall of black smoke hanging over the city. A few minutes later the next news bulletin states that it is the Norwich Central Library which is on fire, and we cannot believe what is happening. News now comes thick and fast, with reporters broadcasting from the scene. The Norwich fire officer states that in seriousness, which they rate from 1 (minor fire) to 10 (major), this is now rated at 8, and fire engines are being called in from all over the county. At 8:00 AM it now appears that the whole building is ablaze, and we pray for our memorial. Reports confirm that all the cleaners and staff who were in the building when the fire started have escaped but are badly shocked. At the height of the blaze, over thirty fire engines are in attendance with 150 firemen working in terrible conditions.

I check with Tom Eaton, our Trust Chairman, on the telephone, and we agree that we can serve no useful purpose by driving up now to the Memorial, especially as the police have just announced that they are sealing off that part of the city and the traffic is in chaos. We also agree that we will not telephone the USA until we have visited the Memorial and found out the full extent of the damage; otherwise this could cause you unnecessary worry. Radio interviews are now almost constant with Hillary Hammond, the director of the Norfolk Library Service and such a great friend to the Memorial, confirming that this is a very serious fire and a terrible disaster for Norwich and Norfolk.

Mid morning now and I drive up to Norwich to meet with Tom and the library staff, park my car on the outskirts of the city and walk towards that awful looking plume of thick black smoke and flames. From St. Peter Mancroft Church the view that greeted me was heartbreaking, with crowds of people behind the barriers, many in tears, at the sight of our Central Library and the 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial covered in smoke and flames. We wonder just how this could happen



A new 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial will arise from the ashes of the old.

to such a modern building, and we begin to fear the worst. The fire officers kindly allow me through the barriers and I manage to talk to a senior fire officer who has just left the building. He confirms our worst fears that the entire ground floor has already gone, with temperatures inside reaching over 1,000 degrees. Hillary Hammond and Colin Sleath, the principal librarian, are there with the library staff, and so is Phyllis DuBois, our trust librarian, and Lesley Fleetwood, one of our library assistants, and everyone is shocked at what is happening. By lunchtime the fire is almost out, and Hillary Hammond goes in while we just wait and pray. When Hillary appears his ashen face tells the tale, and we know the very worst, that the unique and beautiful 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial has been completely destroyed. All of us standing outside the fire station quietly shed a tear, for how can so many

years of hard work, love and devotion have gone. But already there is another feeling of grim determination that WE WILL REBUILD the Memorial. Tom Eaton broadcasts on TV and local radio and confirms that the work of the Memorial Trust will go on, books will still be bought with the bookplates; keeping the Memorial alive in the other branch and county libraries until THE NEW MEMORIAL is built.

Tuesday is spent talking to the library team and helping them to get over this terrible shock, and under the leadership of Tom and Hillary we plan our course of action for when we enter the building. I can only say thank goodness we have Hillary Hammond as the director of libraries and Colin Sleath as the principal librarian, for despite the huge task that they have faced, the Memorial has always remained a high priority. The loss for Norfolk

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHARLES "CHUCK" WALKER

The members of the 2ADA made me very proud by electing me to the presidency of our association at the 47th annual convention, celebrated in Kansas City, May 28-31, 1994.

John Conrad, our retiring president, deserves every member's unreserved appreciation for the outstanding job he did in keeping the association's ship "at altitude and on course" during his two terms in office. He has been the epitome of the excellence of leadership the 2ADA has enjoyed from its inception. I pledge to you that I will do my very best to emulate John's excellence of leadership and to carry to a successful conclusion those projects his term did not provide time to complete.

Fortunately, I will be serving with an outstanding executive committee of experienced and dedicated members, supported by equally resolute group VPs and committee members.

Those who preceded us have elevated the 2ADA to its present position as the finest and most respected veterans organization in the world. It is now our task to assure that that position and respect is ever increased.

Highest priority will be given to bringing to fruition our association's goal of an American presence, in perpetuity, at our Memorial Room in the Norwich Central Library. Second, we must develop a publicity campaign which will assure that every living 2nd Air Division veteran is made aware of the existence and purposes of the 2ADA and is encouraged to become a member. There are literally thousands of "lost souls" we must make every attempt to contact. Next, with your help and guidance, we will keep John Conrad's project on course that is directed to assuring the 2nd Air Division's appropriate recognition in the 8th Air Force Heritage Center, Savannah, Georgia. This effort will in no way be permitted to diminish the 2ADA's devotion and support for our Memorial Room in Norwich, England, but rather will provide an additional opportunity to immortalize our fallen comrades at a location in the United States. Many of our members and their families have not had an opportunity to visit Norwich: the Heritage Center will provide a stateside memorial to keep alive the history of the 2nd Air Division as well as a place where families and friends can gather to pay their respects to "those brave young men of the 2nd Air Division." It is expected that the center will spawn a whole new wave of interest in preserving 2nd Air Division history and will provide our Heritage League a point to focus their efforts. Every one of us must actively support the organizations working diligently to carry on the story of the 2nd Air Division, the 2AD Heritage League, and the Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial, their British counterpart.

The entire membership of 2ADA mourns the passing of Bill Robertie. As editor of our *Journal* since 1972, Bill had consistently produced a superior publication. The most appropriate memorial to Bill and what he gave to the association will be to continue the quality of the *Journal* equal to the standard Bill has provided us. This we will do.

We will appoint a knowledgeable and experienced backup for every officer, director and committee chairman. At our age, we must be diligent in preparing for the future. Other important goals will be to encourage more participation by the bomb groups in association affairs and to operate in a manner that will demonstrate to all that our association is indeed "member friendly."

Kansas City was another fine reunion of old comrades. Thank you, Evelyn! Those of you who were unable to attend missed one of our association's better gatherings. Now is the time to make your plans to attend the 48th annual convention, scheduled for Lexington, Kentucky, July 3-6, 1995. We will be expecting you! ■



AS YOU READ YOUR JOURNAL...

THE 8th AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTER: A REPORT.....9

A new and exciting project is underway here in the United States that will forever preserve and portray the glorious accomplishments of the Mighty Eighth.

THE RHINE CROSSING SUPPLY DROP

by Joseph D. (Dan) Roure17
Our sixth mission was to be something entirely different from the bombing missions we were just beginning to get used to.

THE 47th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE 2ADA.....20

The Hyatt Regency lobby and public rooms were filled with the pleasant and exciting buzz of warm greetings between old friends meeting again.

Enjoy your Journal. It's good reading!

2AD HISTORY BOOK

So you, too, are wondering where our long awaited history is?? Well, as of early July, Turner Publishers advised that as soon as the "blue line" copy is approved it will be about four weeks to delivery. The final blue line was delivered to Turner on August 30, 1994.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY!

13 SEPTEMBER 1994



GENERAL LEON W. JOHNSON

44th Bomb Group
Commander

14th Combat Wing
Commander

Oldest Living
2ADA Recipient of the
Medal of Honor

44th Bomb Group Leader
Ploesti Raid
1 August 1943

JOURNAL EDITOR

Some of you have asked who the new JOURNAL editor is. Fair question. The answer is that there is no one person to replace Bill Robertie. For now, we have an editorial team in the form of an editorial review board backed up by a first class printer/publisher who sometimes understands us better than we do. That team produced our Summer JOURNAL and will continue to do the job until it appears we must do something else. Given the age of our membership, we feel an experienced team is the best approach to maintaining a quality publication. Meanwhile, please continue to send your material to the address on page two.

Bud Chamberlain
VP Communications

NORWICH DISASTER

(continued from front cover)

is immense, with the whole of the lending library gone, and the priceless Norfolk history studies area, together with the irreplaceable Colman and Rye collections destroyed in addition to our unique and wonderful 2nd Air Division Memorial Room. Fortunately, the Norfolk Records Office, which was situated below the library, was saved — although some documents have been waterlogged, this does mean that our 2nd Air Division archives which we placed there two years ago are safe. The entire stock is now being transported to Harlow to be freeze dried in a special process which will hopefully preserve these unique items.

On Wednesday, complete with hard hats, gloves and masks, we are now allowed into the building to start searching for what is left, and Phyllis and Lesley are so brave when surrounded by this scene of total destruction. Perhaps it is easier for those of us who have lived through the Blitz, for we have known the shock of blackened walls and the stench of burnt fabric and paper, but even so the sight of the Memorial Room stuns us all; it has just vanished. Only a few weeks ago we stood there so pleased to see the results of all the hard work on the alterations which had enhanced the room so much. Phyllis, Lesley and Christine Snowden (our other library assistant) loved the new surroundings, the many visitors and veterans praised the "new look" of the Memorial, and we had great plans for 1994 and 1995. We just held hands quietly and wept. Then we climbed up the darkened stack tower to what was left of the Memorial Trust office on the first floor. On Phyllis' desk the VDU and word processor was just a mass of melted plastic, but amazingly, on forcing open a file drawer there was vital correspondence still readable. On the next floor among that charred rubble in our storeroom we found other items, but sadly, on prying open the steel cabinet of the priceless video collection, we found that this has almost certainly been lost. The last two days have been spent helping Phyllis and Lesley salvage as much as we can find, and we cannot praise these brave ladies enough. They have been helped by governors of the trust and we have all been deeply touched by the regular helpers of the Memorial who have turned up to help. Thank you also for the hundreds of phone calls with offers of help, funds and archives that we have received from all over the United Kingdom and the USA. We have kept in regular contact with the 2nd Air Division Association through Bud Koorndyk, our American trust governor who is the link between the Memorial Trust and the USA, and your support has been tremendous. We have also had a very touching phone call from Lt. General Buck Shuler of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Center in Savannah, Georgia.

Our first priority is to get a base established near the Central Library, and thanks to the kindness of Paul King, Phyllis DuBois and her team have already moved into their new office in Noverre House, just opposite the library. We have a reception area and office on the first floor and a storeroom for the salvaged documents on the third floor. We now have the telephone and fax lines installed, together with new stationery, and are ready to help and assist the returning veterans as well as start planning for the future. Details of the new address and phone numbers



are given below. The Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust will work closely with the Norfolk County Council, and as soon as a decision has been made as to whether the building will be pulled down or restored, the long haul and hard work of restoration will begin in liaison with the 2nd Air Division Association.

Once the plans for the new library are known, the Memorial Trust will then launch an appeal here in the United Kingdom for donations to the trust capital fund to enable the Memorial to be rebuilt with its future safeguarded in perpetuity. We will also need to appeal for archives, photographs, group histories, formation lists, mission records, medals, paintings, oral tapes, videotapes, etc., to replace all that tremendous wealth of information that was lost. Full details of this joint appeal will be given to the 2nd Air Division Association as soon as the clear picture has emerged. However, one thing is certain: The Governors of the Memorial Trust will not rest until a new 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial has arisen

from the ashes of the old.

Finally, our thanks to Hillary Hammond, Colin Sleath, and all the library staff, to our chairman, Tom Eaton for his leadership; to Phyllis DuBois and Lesley Fleetwood for their tireless devotion, hard work and courage (sadly, Christine Snowden was away, having just lost her father-in-law); to the Governors and regular helpers at the Memorial who just came and helped in our time of need; to the fire and police services; to the Norfolk Records Office; and to everyone both here and in the USA who telephoned. Already the offers of funds and archives are pouring in, and we know that the NEW 2ND AIR DIVISION USAAF MEMORIAL when it is opened will be even better than the first.

New temporary address (through the kindness of Property Partnerships Ltd): The Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF, Noverre House (First Floor), Theatre Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 1RH. Telephone (2 lines): Norwich (01603) 219650; Fax: Norwich (01603) 219876. ■

Memorial to US fliers to be rebuilt

(Excerpt from the Eastern Daily Press, Norwich, England)

American war veterans were heartbroken last night after hearing that the special library dedicated to them had been ruined in the blaze. The 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial Room was severely damaged and the majority of its 3500 books are believed to have been destroyed.

Norwich solicitor Tom Eaton, Chairman of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust, which has overseen the development of the library, said: "My first reaction is one of shock. It is sad, traumatic, and very, very tragic."

He said the value of the books and periodicals wrecked could top £1 million but the final figure was incalculable at this stage.

"It is extremely upsetting for those who have worked to build up the library, but the physical damage can and will be repaired," he said.

Jordan Uttal, Honorary President of the 2nd Air Division Association, said news of the fire had made him "sick to the stomach."

Speaking to the EDP from his home in Dallas, Texas, D-Day veteran Mr. Uttal said: "This fills me with utter despair. We have put so much into the creation and refurbishment [of the Memorial Room]." ■



**Chairman
of the
Board
of
Governors,
TOM
EATON:
"Traumatic."**

GREETINGS FROM TEXAS!

BY GEOFF GREGORY (467th)
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



At our convention this past May in Kansas City, I was honored to accept your nomination and subsequent election to the office of executive vice president of your Second Air Division Association. An association, incidentally, that I believe is the finest of its kind in the world. That doesn't mean, however, that we can't make it better, even after all these years.

I pledge to you that I will never stop striving to make your association an organization which elicits pride from each and every member. Over the years we have been blessed with outstanding leadership. The last two years under President John Conrad provide a good example of that. I know that I can speak for our new president, Charles "Chuck" Walker, when I say that we enter the new year of service with a commitment to continue this tradition.

There are many objectives we must address which will become the subject of future articles in the *Journal*.

It is no secret that I hold the Memorial Room in Norwich close to my heart. It is our legacy. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is the focus of all our activities and rightly so. It *must* continue to serve in the decades ahead.

New members and latecomers to the 2ADA rolls must be brought up to speed on the operation and value of our Memorial Room, so that they understand the importance of their donations and contributions.

There are many facets to our support. A few are: the *special contributions for books program*, the *special personal endowment program*, and the *American presence program*, not to mention the *capital fund*. All are different, and all are of vital importance.

The book endowment program certainly needs our attention. Under the direction of Bud Koorndyk, our representative on the Board of Governors, this program needs the immediate attention and support of the group vice presidents. Contributions from each group in the amount of at least \$1,000 are imperative. My own group the 467th, for example, has contributed several thousands of dollars to this program. Sadly, some groups have contributed little or nothing. I know we can depend on the group VPs to help lead in this effort.

This article just scratches the surface, and you can see that much remains to be done. We *will* — we *must* do the job. With your help and if the "creek don't rise," we'll check back with you at the end of our term to see how we have done.

A personal note: The 2ADA lost a great friend this summer. Charles "Moose" Allen (453rd) departed our midst in June. Moose was steadfast in his support of the 2ADA, and of the bridge of friendship we have built with our friends in England. I never met a man who didn't like Moose. He was an American, a Texan to the core, and he embodied the best qualities of each. This special man passed away doing what he loved — working the land. He will be missed. ■

THE 448TH SPEAKS

BY CATER LEE

We of the 448th were saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend, Bill Robertie.

The executive committee and I knew Bill was very ill when we learned he was hospitalized. We wanted to show in some small way how the 448th felt about his sincere devotion to duty and his fairness in handling his very important job of trying to please everyone.

A certificate of appreciation was sent to Bill signed by our executive committee, Leroy Engdahl, past 448th VP, George Dupont, Bob Harper and myself on behalf of the entire 448th Bomb Group Association. This was to express our thanks and appreciation for all Bill had done for the 2nd Air Division Association and our association. Leroy and I were most close to Bill because of our position as group VPs, and we are so glad Bill got to read our certificate of appreciation before his passing.

Bob Harper, our faithful and devoted group artist and executive committee member, has had some serious health problems, and I'm sure he would love to hear from his many close friends. You may write Bob at 148 Pebble Beach Drive, Crescent City, CA 95531. Bob and Zella will not be able to join us at Boston.

William "Bill" Lantz of Wichita, Kansas has asked me to notify our constituents that he is sold out of the painted leather squadron

insignias and will not be making any more, so please, do not send any more orders.

The last notice sent out to group VPs from the 2ADA showed the 448th had the most new members and two "folded wings." They were William A. Hammes and Vincent K. Torfin. We send our condolences to their families and close friends.

The Boston reunion will be history by the time this article comes out in the *Journal*. Leroy wishes to thank all those who sent him pictures taken at our Seattle/Bellevue reunion last July 1-4, 1993. The reunion album was displayed in the memorabilia room at Boston. Be sure to save a good snap of yourself and your spouse to send him of our Boston/Danvers reunion. People like to look back and see who was there.

Our 448th group pledge of \$25,000 toward the 8th Air Force Heritage Center needs your help. We are much farther behind than expected at this date. Remember, the dedication is planned for 1996 at Savannah where the Eighth had its beginning in 1942, so please, if you haven't yet sent in your donation or wish to send more, send your check to me, Cater Lee, and mark it "8th A.F. Heritage Center." Let's not be the last group to meet our pledge. Many thanks!

Leroy Engdahl, who was struck down at the Bellevue reunion by a 1987 Chevy van and

knocked to the sidewalk where he and Bob Angle were walking around the block, is recovering slowly. He will never again have full motion of his right arm, and still experiences pain in his right shoulder which required surgery to repair torn muscles and ligaments in his rotary cuff. He is so thankful Bob was with him on the street and jumped out of the way, hitting his fist on the hood of the van. When the van stopped, Leroy was under the bumper, his face looking at the right front wheel a foot away. The driver of the van never looked to his right or even straight ahead before entering the street. Leroy is very grateful to the Lord above for sparing his life. He and Barbara plan on being in Boston, joined by their eldest daughter and her family who live about 50 miles away, near Nashua, New Hampshire, but in Massachusetts.

Like all good Americans we express our sympathy to those with poor health, those facing floods and fires and other earthly tragedies.

If you know any 448th veterans who are not members of the 2ADA, please tell them about it and give their names and addresses to our recruiting chairman, Leroy Engdahl, at 1785 Wexford Drive, Vidor, TX 77662.

Thanks for reading, and good health to all! ■



BY H.C. "PETE" HENRY

Attendance at the 2ADA convention in Kansas City this past May was less than usual. The attendance at the 44th BG dinner was equally small and those among the missing were your correspondent and wife, Mary. I had been suffering with a bout of anxiety and depression for several months and the doctor finally advised against making the trip a week before we were to leave. Also planning to attend were Bobbie and Griff Griffin, who had to call off their trip at the last minute for health reasons. We hope they will soon be able to join us at another convention. Art Hand (66th SQ) is suffering from cancer (stage 2 of 4) and has finished his radiation treatments. The doctors have given him an 85% recovery rate. We hope to see Lois and Art at the 1995 convention in Lexington, Kentucky next May.

Now for a bit on the bright side. Forrest Clark (67th SQ) sent the following article to be placed in the 8-Ball column:

"The Flying Eightball logo of the 44th Bomb Group was displayed on the official flag of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, Georgia Chapter, and taken to Normandy for the 50th anniversary of D-Day. The flag was displayed at the American military cemetery for the casualties of D-Day in Normandy during the memorial there on 6 June 94. In this manner the 44th Bomb Group had its symbol made part of the official tribute to the D-Day veterans. The flag was carried to Normandy by Tom Parsons of Atlanta, GA, a veteran of the 44th Bomb Group and president of the Georgia chapter. Parsons flew missions in June 1944 in support of the D-Day invasion of France. The 44th had 36 planes on the first mission 6 June 44, according to Will Lundy, 44th Bomb Group historian."

Jeffrey L. Ethell is an aviation writer living at Rte. 1, Box 3154, Front Royal, VA 22630, and is currently writing *Keep 'Em Flying*, consisting of anecdotes and wartime color Kodachrome slides taken solely by veterans. He also wrote *Fighter Command*, which is made up of first-person recollections and is illustrated solely by 200 vintage Kodachrome shots taken during the war. He would like to find out if any 44th Bomb Group veterans took color slides from pre-WWII through the Korean War. He will duplicate them in his home (not in a lab) and return same. If any are published, proper credit will be given. In addition, if any 44th Bomb Group members have recollections about their wartime tour, whether

This 8-Ball column is dedicated to the memory of William G. "Bill" Robertie, who folded his wings on Sunday, 8 May 1994. I still have copies of letters from Bill back in 1973-74 in which he encouraged me to initiate a program of searching for lost souls in the 44th BG and other groups. Bill, along with several other 44th members, was also partially responsible for having me elected executive vice president in 1979 and president in 1980. May God rest his soul.

they be funny, tragic or hair-raising, in the air or on the ground, combat or not, he would like to consider them for inclusion as well. Send applicable material to Jeffrey at the address noted above.

The following letter was received from Russell Ives in England, dated 2 April 94, looking for information about a 492nd B-24 that crashed near Shipdham airfield. Anyone with information should write to him at his address following the letter.

"I am an associate member of the 492nd BG (H) and I am in the middle of doing a group history which will go into book form in the near future.

"I am writing to you to see if I can get any information about the loss of one of the 492nd's crews which crashed at Garvestone, just outside the boundary of Shipdham airfield to the east. Perhaps one or two of your members will remember this event or attended the crash.

"Date: 4 June 1944. Mission 16, Target: Avord airfield, France. Ship: B-24, #42-95160. Crew List: 2nd Lt. Raymond J. Sachtleben (P); Copilot not known. Gerald E. Hirschman (N), Wallace Krueger (B), Clarence W. Grimm (E), William Elasio (R), Howard J. Schwegel (G), Harry L. Wensel (G), Oliver W. Brown (G).

"The crash happened during assembly for the mission, and according to witnesses, the plane stalled and on the way down the wings came off. She then spun into the ground near Garveston, just east of Shipdham airfield.

"Any help would be most welcome. I'm sure that someone must have seen this event or attended the crash site. Thank you for all your help — Russell Ives, 38 Millmore Rd., Meltham, Huddersfield HD7 3JY, West Yorkshire, England."

Bob Lawson (68th SQ) sent a small notice from *Air Force Magazine*: "Seeking contact with relatives of a B-24 Liberator crew that crashed in Willingdon, England, on 2 Feb 44. The ten crew members belonged to the 506th Bomb Squadron, 44th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force. Contact Kevin Watson, 29 Downs Valley Road, Lower Willingdon, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN20 9QG, England."

General Leon W. Johnson is 90 years old on 13 Sept. 94 (see page two), and if you receive this issue a few days later than the 13th, at least we have the right month. He is the oldest living recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, orders being cut 17

Aug 43. *Stars and Stripes* reported that the medal was actually awarded 23 Nov. 43, but Col. Johnson was not hurt that the medal was not awarded until November. On the same order, the Silver Star was awarded to a man for heroism performed in the Spanish-American war in 1898. We would all like to wish the general "Happy Birthday" and many more.



General Leon W. Johnson (Ret.)
44th BG Commander

Here is a recent photograph of the general to show you all how well he looks today. It was taken at a 50th anniversary commemoration of the raid on Ploesti, Romania, 1 August 43.

If anyone wishes to send a card to the general, even though a little belated, his address is: General Leon Johnson, The Fairfax, Apt. 234, 9060 Belvoir Woods Parkway, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

Wally Balla (68th SQ) sent a letter about D-Day ceremonies in Greenwich, CT. "Here's a short follow-up on D-Day ceremonies here in Greenwich, one of the Commemorative Towns. The Pichiney Corp., with president Michael Simonnard, gave four of us "locals" a thank you party, with (what else) French champagne and wine, canapes, a reception by their entire staff, and a "thank you, America, thank you, veterans" speech of appreciation for having liberated his country from the Nazis. Wonderful experience. On June 5th our Greenwich Historical Society started a three-month exhibit of WWII memorabilia, pictures, uniforms and the like of those who were there on D-Day, and who also are Greenwich residents. My uniform is there (doesn't fit any more, anyway), so I had my WWII OTHER uniform let out and wore it, at their request,

(continued on page 7)

Tales of the 44th: Return to Kjeller

BY FORREST S. CLARK

It is imperative that future generations understand the fullest possible perspective on World War II and the kind of forces that opposed each other in the war. The following is meant to give that perspective to show compassion to the victims and survivors of that terrible war. This is based on an eyewitness account of one of the 8th Air Force bombing raids and contains only the truth as it happened fifty years ago.

The air raid sirens had sounded that cold snowy November day shortly after 11 AM.

A 14-year-old Norwegian schoolgirl remembered that day fifty years ago.

"I've got to get home. What's happened to my mother?" she said out loud as she rode her bike up the hill toward her home. The year was 1943, the time of the German occupation of Norway, a time of terror and fear. She had huddled in the bomb shelter while the bombs shook the earth.

Smoke was still rising all about her, and huge holes in the ground showed where the bombs had fallen, making the familiar countryside look like "a landscape of the moon." A short time before she had huddled with others of her classmates in a basement air raid shelter as the bombs fell, shaking the ground, sending dust and debris down on the children. They sang as loud as they could to overcome their fear, but they were still shivering with fright.

After school she was so anxious to find her home and her mother amid the confusion that she rode furiously in the direction of her homestead above the airfield. Fires were all about her, but she rode on and on.

She was stopped by German guards on the road to her home. They said she could not pass. They did not want anyone to pass the airfield and see the damage.

"But that's my home up there," she told the guards.

One German guard looked at her very carefully with a stern expression and asked for her identification card. He blocked her

way with his gun.

She handed him her card and he looked at it for a long time. Then he turned to another officer standing nearby and said, "Wait."

It was at that time she noted that there was a huge car with flags on it and several officers standing about it. This car was obviously a command car for a German high ranking officer. Little did she know that Gen. Von Falkenhorst, commander of German forces in Norway, was there that day observing a military exercise of the troops.

In a little while the guard came back and said, "Pass." Out of a corner of one eye the girl saw the officers train their field glasses down on the airfield where huge fires were burning.

Later she was to discover that 29 big bombs had landed around her home and seven unexploded bombs were still buried. But the house was not hit.

"It was as if somebody had held an umbrella above our house," she said. That somebody must have been God, she admitted years later.

Gen. Von Falkenhorst had recently received orders from no less than the German High Command and Hitler to increase security and defense readiness around the Norwegian bases. This was the result of the very recent commando raids and bombing missions against Nazi-occupied Norway. Two days before the Kjeller bomb raid, Allied bombers had struck a blow at the highly important secret operations on Rjukan where heavy water was being processed for experimentation for the atomic bomb. This raid had incensed the German commanders, and word had gone forth to prevent such a surprise attack again.

Here two days later at Kjeller when the first U.S. bombers appeared, the German officers assured Gen. Von Falkenhorst that they were friendly aircraft taking part in the military exercise. However, a tremendous salvo of bombs set off from a few hundred yards downhill from the general's position sent all officers running for cover. The general observed all this and did not have much time to pay attention to the small teenage girl asking permis-

sion to proceed up the road to her farmhouse.

The impact of the bombs was particularly frightening because most of Kjeller and the nearby village of Lillestrom were underlaid with peat, a substance of jelly-like properties that accentuated the vibrations and prolonged them.

The Norwegians thought they had been forgotten by the Allies and the U.S. Air Force because they had not seen any bombers over their town, only Germans since April of 1940, the date of the German invasion of Norway. Some Norwegians on that November day in 1943 ran outside in the snow and waved at the American bombers. One Norwegian mother shouted, "Those are my boys up there."

The bombing destroyed 85% of the airfield facilities, crippling a major repair depot and German base.

Fifty years later the Americans who bombed the base returned, this time for a friendly reception by the people. Among them was that once teenage girl who had been so frightened and terrorized by the bombing and the German officers.

She is now a mature woman, Sidsel Brun, whose father was commander-in-chief of the Kjeller base before the German occupation. He was a prisoner of war in Germany for nearly the entire war, and returned by some miracle to survive and join his family. Her mother was a prominent woman in Norway, a singer of note and well liked by the people.

This is merely one of the many stories of the survivors of that fearful time, a time when courage was a daily part of living. Courage was also the price of survival.

There is a new American memorial at Kjeller to airmen and Norwegians who lost their lives in World War II. It was dedicated on the 50th anniversary of the Kjeller mission by survivors of that mission. The memorial is a small part of America in the middle of Norway and the Norwegians have promised to honor it and protect it forever. ■

44th NEWS (continued from page 6)

while serving as a host during the opening reception. Compared with some of the others, I feel that I didn't do much." Wally also sent some clippings from the Greenwich paper in May and June, plus an article, "Off the Wall," depicting murals from the Second World War; worth preserving as a national treasure of wartime graffiti best forgotten? The "Off the Wall" article was sent to Wally from Attleborough by his former wing commander. It shows paintings on the wall at Wendling and Seething, the "Poddington Big Picture" saved for posterity by BWAC and now housed at Duxford Air Museum, the pin-up girl at Shipdham, and a couple of photos of Wall at a recreated USO party. It was all just too much to include in this column.

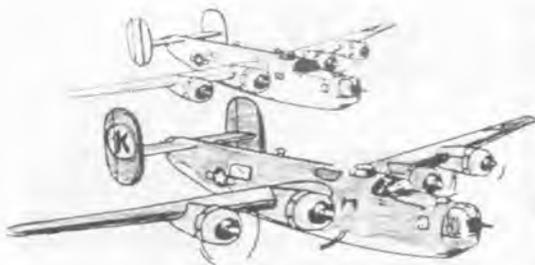
L.A. (Arlo) Jones (392nd BG) sent two pho-

tographs and articles describing the closing of Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City, S.D. on 4 July 94. Unfortunately, he did not send photographs that can be reproduced in the *Journal*, so we'll just have to settle for this short note. Arlo remembers when the 14th Combat Wing was deactivated in 1945-46; the 44th took over Ellsworth and our bomb squadron numbers were used to name the missile wings at Ellsworth.

Will Lundy was in England for about a month in June and visited with John Page, 44th Bomb Group subscribing member and all around good friend. John laid a wreath for the 44th Bomb Group at Maddingley on 30 May 94 and Will was fortunate enough to get a picture of John and the wreath (see photo at right). ■



John Page and 44th Bomb Group wreath



458th BOMB GROUP

BY RICK ROKICKI

458TH GROUP REUNION

We will be holding our third 458th reunion in Dayton, Ohio at the Marriott Hotel, September 23-24. So far, we have a large number of early arrivals on the 22nd, which means that someone "leaked" the free "early bird" party. Reservations have been coming in at a good rate, and I hesitate to give any number at this time, but I have a "gut feeling" that we will have about 200. Since this is mid-July as I write, and it will probably be late September when you get your copy of the Fall *Journal*, I can only speculate on how close I can be. As with the past reunions, we will visit Wright-Patterson Air Museum and certainly our memorial location where we dedicated our tribute to the 275 of our fellow airmen who failed to return to Horsham St. Faith. We're looking forward to seeing many of the new members we have added to our group roster since our last reunion in 1990.



NEW B-24 LIBERATOR BOOK

I received my copy of *Liberator, America's Global Bomber* about a week after I sent in my column for the Summer *Journal*. If anything, I understated just about everything regarding its contents. It has 560 pages, over 1,100 photos, 16 pages of full color, and includes LB-30, B-24, C-87, C-109, F-7, AT-22, and PB4Y 1/2 — that's every model since its

conception. Design, development, manufacture and operational use is included, as well as data tables and drawings. This has to be the most complete book ever done on the B-24 concept. It should be in your WWII library without question. The book retails for \$39.95 and is a bargain at that price, but you can order it from **Aviation USK, 602 Front Street, Box 97, USK Washington 99180** at a discount price of \$31.95 plus \$3.50 postage. Just mention to either Tom or Donna that you saw it in the 2ADA *Journal*.

INFO CARD

Over the last several years, I've tried to get more information on our group members. Many of you have helped by sending me a 3 x 5 card with info I requested. To repeat: a card (or letter) stating your name and current address, bomb squadron or attached unit, home telephone number (don't forget your area code), wife's name, time in the ETO, and if aircrew, your position, along with the names of others in your crew, airplane number or name, crew chief and ground crew if you remember, number of missions flown, whether shot down, POW, etc. I would like to have this info to answer many questions I receive from family, friends and others who write and ask for help. (In the case of foreign researchers who ask for particular info regarding an action by us on a mission, I would first advise you and get your permission.) Basically, I would like to give you some idea of why this is important by mentioning only the last two letters I received about two weeks ago. In many cases I can only give partial information, and I do so when it does not involve a 458th member by name.

I received a letter from Alan S. Sheren of New York, who asked: "On April 9, 1944 my brother Sgt. Sidney Sheren was shot down and killed over Germany. That is all the information I have on his death. I would like to know names and addresses of all crew members, location of the crash site, any survivors, initial burial site and information on this mission." I advised him that my records show that this mission target was Tutow, squadron was 755th, that we lost two 755th aircraft that day, #42-52423 and #42-52432. But I did not know which aircraft his brother was on; I had the names of four enlisted men and one officer, but again didn't know for sure if these men were in his aircraft. If anyone can help with further info, please write to me (my address is on page two). If you wish to personally correspond, I will give you Alan Sheren's address.

Another letter, from June Mercer Humphries: "My father was William June Mercer and was in the 753rd Squadron. He passed away in 1969, and I would like to locate some or all, if possible, crew members who served with him in the 458th." Again, if you can help in any way, please let me know.

There have been several instances where I was able to be of some help in locating a 458th buddy. Depending on the circumstances, and if I have a telephone number on file, I will pass it on to the one seeking info. Fact is, this almost always occurs when we get a new member who mentions names of crew that he hasn't heard from for the last fifty years. Again, all information given to me in a personal letter or 3 x 5 card remains confidential. If you wish me to respond to such inquiries, make a note on your letter or card advising me to give out your name.

B-24 DIE CAST METAL MODEL

The Eastwood Co. is still working with us on the possibility of producing a metal B-24 model. So far, they've received over a hundred letters or faxes requesting information on the models they already produce and their desire to supply a well made model of the Liberator. Those of you who haven't written to them yet, but wish to add your name to the hundred plus who expressed a desire to get such a model, can write to: The Eastwood Co., 580 Lancaster Avenue, Box 296, Malvern, PA 19355; Attn: Rich Venza. Full details are in the Winter 1993 *Journal*. I appreciate your help — with enough interest, this can be done.

PLAQUES

I still have both the 16 plane B-24 formation and the D-Day plaques available. Either or both would make great Christmas presents to your grandchildren. In either format, these will last very much longer than we will, and they will be historically invaluable to your family. Details are in the Spring 1994 *Journal*. If you're interested and would like to see a full color photo of either or both plaques, drop me a note. This offer is open to all 2ADA members. As in the past, all profits go to the American Librarian Fund, c/o Jordan Uttal. ■

The 8th Air Force Heritage Center – A Report

BY RICHARD M. KENNEDY (448th)

Over the past 50 odd years, certain ordinary words, when heard by people like us, conjure up memories of those days within the time frame we all know as World War II. Words like "8th," like "Air Force," or collectively — the Mighty Eighth Air Force! This latter combination of ordinary words becomes quite significant for us when, as members of the 2nd Air Division Association, we recall the role our 2nd Air Division played as a prominent participant in the bomber stream of the greatest air armada ever assembled — the Mighty Eighth Air Force!!

How fitting, then, that a new and exciting project is now underway here in the United States that will forever preserve and portray the glorious accomplishments of that never-to-be-duplicated, awesome striking force!

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center was poised at the "end of the runway" on July 1, 1994 when symbolic construction commenced. Contractors have been selected and work will have started on the center's 13 acre tract of land at the intersection of interstate Highway 95 and U.S. Highway 80, west of Savannah, the 1942 birthplace of the Mighty Eighth.

The Pickle Barrel Corporation of Savannah, consisting of J.T. Turner Construction Company and L. Scott Barnard Associates, architects, was named general contractor. Maltbie Associates of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey was selected to build the interior displays and exhibits.

The 95,000 square foot Heritage Center is being built to honor and preserve the heritage of all who served in the Mighty Eighth with emphasis on the originals, the World War II "Eighth." To this day the Eighth is still an active and vital part of the United States Air Force.

Included in the overall facility will be a high tech museum, a library, a hangar with static displays, an archives section, a research center, a snack bar and a book store/gift shop. A memorial garden and walk within the landscaped grounds, along with a reproduction of a World War II control tower, will provide the visitor with an opportunity for restful reflection and appreciation of the memorable history represented there.

As a member of the board of directors of the Heritage Center, I'd like to take a brief moment to convey to the 2nd Air Division Association membership the best wishes of General "Buck" Shuler, chairman of the board and CEO of the Heritage Center, along with fond greetings from General Lew Lyle, president of the Heritage Center. Both of these gentlemen; Lew Lyle, the father of the Heritage Center concept, and Buck Shuler, the

dynamic, young former commander of the Mighty Eighth, are determined to give to the citizens of the United States and visitors alike, a world class facility.

Local support, both financial and political, has been brought aboard, and is operating successfully in conjunction with the center's board of directors. In short, a Heritage Center Foundation consisting of Savannah area prominent business, political, professional and religious interests is in place carrying out its responsibilities.

So then, your support, both moral and financial, is eagerly sought and needed! Let us all make a sincere effort to place the 2nd Air Division Association high on the list of those contributing to the success of this "one of a

kind" memorial to the Mighty Eighth Air Force.

May I, as your 2nd Air Division Association liaison officer to the Heritage Center, invite you to stop and visit the Heritage Center's temporary office near the construction site at the intersection of I-95 and US-80 when traveling in the Savannah area. You may also contact Gary Miller, the center director, at 1-800-421-9428.

May we look forward together to the grand opening of this magnificent stateside memorial on April 1, 1996!!!

Keep 'em flying...

For those of you who wish to enroll as a member of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center, an application is included below for your convenience.

THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTER

P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402

1-800-421-9428 • (912) 748-8888

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Spouse: _____

BAF Units & Dates: _____

Special Interests (i.e. POW, gunner, shot down, mechanic): _____

Post-Service Activity: _____

Annual Memberships: (check one) Individual \$20 Family \$30 Allies/Out of USA \$35

Life Memberships: Commander's Club \$200-\$999 Sustaining Member \$1000-\$4999

Anniversary Patron \$5000-\$9999 Mighty 8th Patron \$10,000 & up

Please make checks payable to: **The Eighth Air Force Heritage Center**. You may also use your MasterCard, Visa, or American Express to contribute and join.

Card Type: _____ Exp: _____

Card #: _____

Signature: _____

IRS APPROVED 501 (c) (3) CORPORATION

Greetings from your Heritage League! Even though you've read our articles in the *Journal* and briefly had contact with some of the league's members during conventions, many of the 2ADA general membership aren't too familiar with the Heritage League, sometimes mistaking us for the proposed Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center.

We want to acquaint you with your 2AD Heritage League; we are, after all, descended from you. As many of you are aware, the Heritage League, incorporated in 1987, is an organization composed of descendants, relatives and friends of former Second Air Division personnel. The league subscribes to the belief that only as we perpetuate the respect for and memory of those who served in World War II by instilling such respect in subsequent generations, will contributions be valued into perpetuity.

In 1987 a group of spouses of 2ADA members formed the league for the above referenced purpose. During 1988-1991 the executive committee of the league was formed from children of former Second Air Division personnel serving in various positions. In 1992 "the torch passed" from these dedicated spouses to an executive committee made up primarily of first generation descendants, with two spouses continuing to serve as members of the board of directors. We are greatly indebted to our predecessors who envisioned the league and its purposes, and who have been custodians of it for this worthy purpose.

We immediately moved forward with goals and strategies which we felt would enable us to fulfill the league's purposes, and much progress has been made:

(1) We began publicizing the league's existence in numerous military and aviation related periodicals.

(2) A brochure was designed and distributed to various military and aviation related museums.

(3) An annual essay contest was established for your young descendants to pursue academic accomplishment while learning of your contributions during World War II and the impact your participation in Second Air Division had on your life.

(4) Continued support was pledged to the Memorial Room, not only monetarily, but by fostering the bonds of friendship between 2AD Heritage League and the English Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial by exchanging newsletters, pen pal addresses, and reciprocity of associate membership status between the two organizations. Monetary contributions for the biennium are as follows: 1992 - \$1,000.00 and 1993 - \$750.00.

(5) We've diligently pursued the establishment of a facility where tribute could be paid to you within the United States, similar to the "living memorial" you have created in the Norwich Central Library. We are convinced that only as American youth have access to facilities such as the Memorial Room where they are able to readily visit and search for what your tenure in Second Air Division really represented will they have the kind of respect for your contributions we see reflected in English youth. A recent article in an educational publication entitled "Too Young To Remember, But Not Too Young To Learn" reflects current society's knowledge level of World War II. The article further states that

Your Heritage League

BY BILLY SHEELY JOHNSON

"only two Americans in five have personal knowledge of the World War II era."

(6) We have received confirmation from Lt. Gen. E.G. Shuler, Jr., chairman and CEO of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center, that the league can specify that funds be used in the establishment of the library/archives portion of the center, thus we have voted to support the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center in conjunction with your monetary contribution.

A member of the Heritage League executive committee, Mary Beth Barnard, has become employed as Director of History and Archives of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center. She will surely serve as a valuable link between the Second Air Division Association, the 2AD Heritage League and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center.

(7) Additional future plans of the league include more visible publicity of the existence of the 2AD Heritage League in more widely read publications. With 1995 representing the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, we feel the league has a fine opportunity to be published, thus gaining recognition for both organizations.

Long term future planning includes our hope to plan and organize a mini-convention with the target date being no later than 1999.

Thank you for responding to John Conrad's November 1993 appeal to enroll your descendants. In May 1994, the league's membership of currently paid up members was 532, which was up from 417 in November, 1993. We are growing, our membership records are becoming more accurately maintained, and follow through of all inquiries has become prompt, with personal response by the membership vice president's office. Please be aware that the league's records are by nature of the organization somewhat different than those of 2ADA, due to the need to associate lineage to your membership. They thus have a dual purpose and serve as valuable historical records.

Well, you might say the above referenced progress report and future plan sound well and good, but "Who is going to fly this mission?" "Who is going to get the job done?" Now that you've become more aware of your Heritage League's purposes, goals, strategies and future plans, let's get acquainted with the kinds of people who make up the league's membership. There are essentially six different kinds of people who become members of 2AD Heritage League, and their reasons for membership are also varied. The composition of the league's executive committee repre-

sents well the kinds of people who become members of the league. As mentioned previously, the executive committee continues to have two spouses of former Second Air Division personnel who represent that segment of the league's membership. These kinds of people serve because they have first hand knowledge of how your tenure with Second Air Division has had an impact upon the whole of your life, and they want you never to be forgotten!

The executive committee consists of three members who are fortunate in having the privilege of their Second Air Division relative still physically present and able to share in their lives. They serve because they, too, know how your serving with Second Air Division during World War II greatly affected your lives during the past fifty years. These people represent another segment of the league's membership — they want you to never be forgotten!

Three other members of the executive committee had an opportunity to know and share a portion of their Second Air Division relative's life, but they no longer have the relative physically present with them. In some cases Second Air Division experiences and the relative's thoughts and feelings were shared prior to their death. In other cases, as relatives were going through personal effects, discoveries were made which led them to search for more information about their deceased Second Air Division relative, thus they searched out the Second Air Division Association for answers, learned of the 2AD Heritage League's existence, and joined the league. These members have reflected that while they knew their fathers, they realized posthumously that there was so much they didn't know and/or took for granted. The void created by their loss has caused them to pursue finding out all they can about every aspect of their relative's life; no matter how insignificant it may appear on the surface, everything becomes extremely important. How did he react in certain situations, etc. These members still need to "reach out and touch." How do they do that? Certainly by sharing with you during conventions, exchanging letters, phone calls, etc. They miss their Second Air Division relative's presence very keenly; they want you and your deceased comrades never to be forgotten!

There are also the "Gold Star Sons and Daughters" who are represented by one member of the executive committee. "War orphans," we are called, never having been able to share life with our Second Air Division relative. Why do such people get involved with the league? The reasons are varied and feelings certainly are complex, but I can share some thoughts and feelings which are common among us. Throughout our lives we have wondered and searched for glimpses of Second Air Division relatives in many aspects of life. As youngsters while viewing a beautiful sunset, we've wondered, as the old familiar hymn relates, if our dads were "beyond the sunset," or while gazing up into white billowy clouds, we've searched for images which resemble the image in the picture hanging on the wall in our grandparents' home; we've heard voices and wondered if our dad's voice might have had that quality... strong, yet gently soothing. We all agree that there have been days when we thought, "Today is the day! Someone made a mistake, he'll come

(continued on page 11)



Open Letter To the 93rd

BY FLOYD H. MABEE

REUNION AT KANSAS CITY:

I would like to thank all who helped with our hospitality room at Kansas City last May, especially Dutch Borchering for the case of delicious wine he brought for our members, as well the magnetic Memorial Room cards. I trust you all donated for this fine cause. I thought that the donations from members would cover our expenses, until Paul Steichen sent me a breakdown. The hotel charged us two extra days for the hospitality suite that we didn't use. The same thing happened to us at Las Vegas, but the hotel rate was much cheaper there, and I paid it. So it is up to you, the members who attend these reunions, whether we continue having a hospitality room or not, or possibly Paul will decide, but we can't stand expenses like that again.

MORE ON CAPT. KEN L. GILBERT:

I have received more information about the article that appeared in the Spring 1994 *Journal* (page 17), submitted by Jim Reeves (HQ). I wrote to the *Newport Daily News* as suggested by Donald E. Wimbiscus (445th BG), asking that they check their archives and relay to me anything they had published several years ago about Capt. Kenneth L. Gilbert. My letter was dated April 11, 1994, and as of mid July I have received no response from them. I have received a letter from Orville D. Curtis (489th, 44th):

"Unless there are two men with the same name from the same city, I will say that Capt. Gilbert went into 'the wild blue yonder,' folded wings, sometime in late 1944 or early 1945.

"In the fall of 1945, the Capt. Kenneth L. Gilbert VFW Post #4487 was formed in Middletown, RI, in his honor. Middletown is Newport's neighbor. I was from Newport, but I had never met or known Capt. Gilbert. At the installation on the new post, Mr. Gilbert, Ken's father, talked about his son. I only remember him saying it was 90 missions and in that other air-

plane, B one seven. Of course, that was almost 49 years ago and my memory could be wrong. I do believe if he had said B-24 I would have asked him more questions."

Thanks so much, Mr. Curtis; I appreciate your taking the time to write and answer my question. I'm sure Jim Reeves will see this in the *Journal*, and I will relate this information to Roger Freeman in England.

INFORMATION REQUESTED:

Can any member give me an address for any or all of the following 93rd men?

The following were some of the crew of "Victory Belle" #42-100924, 328th BS, downed Feb. 24, 1944 on a mission over Gotha. All were POWs. Their names and last known addresses: Thomas O'Brien, bombardier, Boca Raton, Florida; Matthew S. Moore, engineer, NC; Robert Long, radio, Georgia; Isadore Lazarus, gunner, Brooklyn, NY; Estle Perkins, ball turret, Arkansas; Edward Dyliz, tail, South Dakota.

These were some of the crew of "Cleatie Hoopla," 330th BS, 3/11/44 - 14/5/45: Robert Ranker, copilot; Andy Lavender, navigator; Luther Paulson, bombardier; Wingfield Pelletier, radio; Ed Parker, engineer.

These crew members flew 9/44 to 4/45 with the 409th Squadron: Bob Parmer, tail gun, Ranier, OR; and Virgil Briggs, copilot, Vader, WA. I don't have a name for the plane.

BASKETBALL TEAM:

Robert L. Schiegg, Marvin Jonas, Ray Pricer, Marvin Faith, these members of the basketball team that was runner-up in the basketball finals, March 4, 1945 at Bury St Edmunds Corn Exchange, Cpl. Roy Bullymont, Sgt. Donald Adderton, Lt. Carol Schneider, Sgt. Harry Kelleher, Cpl. Joseph Noonan, T/Sgt. Joseph Liposky, T/Sgt. Herman Cook, T/Sgt. Harry Fries and S/Sgt. Orville Myers. Any address for these 93rd men?

93RD BG NOSE ART:

I request nose art of the 36 original 93rd B-24s that flew over to England September 4-9, 1942. As we were the first B-24 group to go over to England, I would like very much to have a representative of each of these planes. I had entered a full list of these planes in the Winter 1991 *Journal*, but I have since made some changes to that list and believe I have

them right now. I have nose art for all but the following originals: "Ball of Fire" #41-23667, 328th BS (not "Ball of Fire Jr"). "U.S. Express" #41-23674, 329th BS. "El Lobo" #41-23692, 330th BS. "Hare's To Ya" #41-23710, 329th BS. "Fridays Cat" #41-23713, 328th BS (this plane and crew were lost in the Atlantic on the flight over, and all were lost). "Ready Teddy" #41-23721, 330th BS. "Red Ass" #41-23740, 409th BS. "Katy Bug" #41-23745, 328th BS. I will have negatives made and return your print; you have my word on that. Anyone who wants copies of the nose art that I have, drop me a line.

1994 DROP LIST:

I just can't understand why this happens every year. I know that Evelyn Cohen sends out a dues notice to all members before the end of each year, and there are notices in the *Journal*. Evelyn also sends out a notice to those who haven't paid before the first of the year, and I had a notice in the Spring *Journal*. Please, fellows, give us a break. I could answer a lot more letters that I receive if I didn't have to send out letters to all who haven't paid their dues by the end of April. I am ashamed to say that the 93rd has one of the worst records for non-payment of dues. This is an example of what I do each year: This year it happened to be 39 on my 93rd list to be dropped. As soon as I received this list I made up a letter, and fifteen responded and paid up. I learned that six had "folded wings," seven asked to be dropped, and eleven didn't have the decency to return my letter with the stamped self addressed envelope.

LOST CREW OF "CALAIS CLIPPER"

Joe Covone is looking for members of his old crew that flew ten missions with the 44th BG and then transferred to the 93rd to finish up. Does anyone have the number of "Calais Clipper?" Joe has been in contact with pilot Richard A. Parker, and I have sent two applications to him but he hasn't joined as yet. Does anyone know the whereabouts of the following: David R. Simm, co-pilot; Edward Rutherford, navigator; John Coffey, bombardier; Ivan Nyhof, engineer; David L. Lizck, radio; H.D. Willey, gunner, Claude Sornow, tail gun; and Doy V. Whitlock, ball turret. Please pass any information on to me. ■

HERITAGE LEAGUE (cont. from page 10)

up the driveway today," but, of course, that day never came. As adults we now see our Second Air Division relative's image, hear his voice and feel his touch in every contact we have with each of you veterans! I serve because I want you and your deceased comrades never to be forgotten!

Grandchildren, nieces and nephews seek out the league weekly because though they are not first generation descendants, they respect their Second Air Division relative and want you never to be forgotten!

Finally, there are many of your friends who have joined the 2AD Heritage League because of what sharing life with you has meant to them. They want you never to be forgotten!

Others like those cited herein will serve this

organization, thereby serving you, in subsequent years. The league's membership will continue to be drawn from these same categories of people. The bonding evidenced in the Second Air Division Association is a result of your having served in the Second Air Division and having been forced together by the common danger of war, 50+ years ago. Nelson Leggette says, "I left on my first mission as a 19 year old boy; I returned a 19 year old man." Many of you readily identify with that sentiment, I'm sure. Dick Kennedy always says, "Keep us flyin'." The current 2AD Heritage League committee is committed to doing just that. We feel we are equal to the task as you were equal to the task fifty years ago. After all, we are descended from "hardy stock" — you and your fallen comrades were and are the BEST!

Having become more acquainted with the

2AD Heritage League's purposes, goals, strategies, future plans, and WHO WE ARE, what do you think about the kinds of people to whom your legacy is being entrusted? Do you think we can "keep you flyin'?"

Support the 2AD Heritage League by giving us access to your descendants while you are still physically present with them by enrolling them in the league and beginning to share your Second Air Division experiences with them; thus you will never be forgotten!

Thank you for having "been there" for us fifty years ago. We pledge to "be there" for your relatives when they most assuredly will need to search for and keep in touch with the spirit of your life after you are no longer with them.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is "your 2AD Heritage League," SO PROUDLY WE SALUTE YOU! ■

It was very gratifying for me to have the opportunity to go to England on 1 June, right after my return from the Kansas City convention. After promptly taking care of family matters there, I was able to travel to Norwich on the morning of June 6th, and as I walked into the Norwich Central Library just before 2:00 PM, all kinds of pleasant memories of my seventeen years of service on the Board of Governors (1972-1989) flooded through my mind.

The first pleasant surprise was the remarkable improvement to the newly renovated courtyard of the library, now completely covered with a glass roof. I was delighted — but I will leave it to our current Governor, Bud Koorndyk, to describe this in his report of his attendance at the annual meeting of the Governors on 23 June (please see page 15).

A cordial greeting from Phyllis DuBois was echoed shortly thereafter by Trust Chairman Tom Eaton, with whom I had made an advance appointment. My primary mission to Norwich was to make a presentation to our 2nd Air Division Memorial Room of a complete set (33 issues) of *Target: Victory*.

Target: Victory was published every week as a four or six page bulletin from 16 July 1944 to 16 May 1945. Each issue was identified as "a report of, by and for combat flying personnel." It was issued from Headquarters, 2nd Air Division.

In the first issue, our commanding general,

My D-Day Visit to our Memorial Room

by Jordan R. Uttal (HQ)
Honorary President, 2ADA

M/Gen. James P. Hodges wrote, "This publication is dedicated to getting bombs on the target, and is for officers and men of the combat crews who are directly responsible for accomplishing this objective. I have always felt that the more combat crews know about the results they accomplish, the better they will be able to perform the dangerous tasks that are set for them."

This rare collection was assembled by the late Mattie Kirkpatrick Reinhart, a member of the great WAC detachment of headquarters. She worked directly with W. Gifford Newlon, the officer responsible for publication. Mattie first advised me of her collection at the Palm Springs convention in 1984. At the time I suggested to her that the obvious home for this treasure was our Memorial Room. Sure enough, when she died a few months ago, the set was found, along with my brief correspondence with her on the subject. It was her wish that *Target: Victory* be sent home to Norwich.

In publishing this material, Giff Newlon worked closely with the Operations Research Section, with the Division Photo Section, the Division Statistical Control Section, with Division A-3 (Operations) in general, and with the division bombardier, Joe Whitaker, in particular. In all the years since the war, I have not heard of any other complete collection in existence.

The chairman and the trust librarian accepted this gift graciously, and assured me that these 33 reports would be bound into a volume in the near future. I, in turn, could not have felt more honored than to have been able to present this combat crew saga on the 50th anniversary of D-Day, remembering all of our personnel who fought so valiantly and successfully to achieve our objective. This, plus a few quiet moments with our Roll of Honor, produced a warm emotional high within me.

This strong personal experience was enhanced over the next two and a half days by pleasant visits with old friends who kept me busy for breakfast, lunch, tea (!) and dinner. I was delighted to see them all. At the same time, I sincerely regret missing others due to the pressure of time. BLESS THEM ALL!!!

Ed. Note: Obviously, much in this report has been overtaken by events, but it provides a valuable perspective of the way things were just before the fire. ■

BEQUESTS TO SUPPORT THE MEMORIAL ROOM

There have been inquiries about how to provide, in a will, for a bequest for the support of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Room at the Norwich Central Library. There are three entities to which bequests can be made.

(1) A bequest to the corpus of the Memorial Trust. This would help to increase funds available to the Board of Governors to be used towards the general operating costs of the Memorial Room.

(2) A bequest to establish, or add to an already existing, special endowment fund. Special endowment fund bequests under the supervision of the Board of Governors, are invested separately from the Memorial Trust funds and the earnings from these funds will be used, in perpetuity, to purchase books and materials for the Memorial Room. Endowments may be established by individuals in honor of or in memory of someone. Several individual and bomb group endowments have already been established, and any amount may be added to the funds. A new endowment fund requires an initial £500 or about \$800.00, depending on the exchange rate. The 2nd Air Division Association has a special endowment fund on record and bequests may be made to this fund.

(3) A bequest may be made to the American librarian fund. This fund is kept in the U.S. under control of the 2nd Air Division Association. The proceeds from this fund will be used to support an American librarian to work in the 2AD Memorial Room in the Norwich Central Library.

Additional information about a bequest to the Memorial Trust or to the special endowment fund can be obtained from our representative on the Board of Governors, Mr. E. Bud Koorndyk, 5184 N. Quail Crest Drive, Grand Rapids, MI 49456, telephone 616-949-5784.

Additional information about a bequest to the American librarian fund can be obtained from Mr. Jordan Uttal, 7824 Meadow Park Drive #101, Dallas, TX 75230, telephone 214-369-5043. ■

MEMORIAL DAY 1994 AT MADINGLEY

by Jordan R. Uttal

Among the friends I was privileged to see during my all too brief visit to Norwich was Colin Sleath, Principal Librarian at the Norwich Central Library. For over 15 years Colin has worked with our 2nd Air Division Memorial Room, providing invaluable assistance to its management and upkeep.

As most of you know, each year at the Cambridge American Military Cemetery (Madingley) there is a Memorial Day service at which the 2nd Air Division Association presents a wreath in memory of our personnel who are buried there. This year Colin Sleath made the presentation in our name. The event was unusually heavily attended due to the presence of President Clinton and Prime Minister Majors.

When Colin came down from his office to greet me, he proudly handed over the accompanying picture taken on 4 June 1994. He was enthusiastic about his participation, and he extends his warm greetings to the members of the 2nd Air Division Association.

We are deeply indebted to Colin for his many years of caring attention to our Memorial Room. ■





492nd BOMB GROUP HAPPY WARRIOR HAPPENINGS

BY W.H. "BILL" BEASLEY

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 2ADA REUNION

A complete list of attendees from the 492nd Bomb Group at this convention can be found on page 25. We were pleased to see everyone again, and were sorry that Bill & Maxine Clarey and Joe & Fran Harris had to cancel due to illness.

Those of us who took the tour to the Truman Library and had lunch at Stevenson's Farm restaurant had a great time.

Alan Cass, Director of the Coors Conference and Events Center at the University of Colorado, presented the Glenn Miller story to the 2ADA membership following the buffet on Saturday night. As a special treat for the 492nd Bomb Group, he gave a slide presentation on Robert Munson, pilot in the 858th BS who was an alumnus of the University of Colorado.

Sam Miceli and Jim McCrory represented the 492nd Bomb Group in the candle lighting ceremony, which was an honor to them and to the group.

I received the Distinguished Service Award from the Second Air Division Association, and was proud and humbled to be so honored.

My request for information about the 48 replacement crews of the 492nd Bomb Group has had great response. Thanks to everyone who has sent information. As a result, I have been given names of former members of the 492nd who had been sent to other groups when the 492nd BG was disbanded, and I hadn't had a clue as to their whereabouts. I would like to share three very interesting letters:

SEEKING RASMUSSEN

From Harry E. Rowan (389th BG):

In the summer issue of the 2ADA *Journal*, I took notice of an item in the 492nd's section where mention was made of the replacement crews and the name "Rasmussen" was listed. The name is asterisked, indicating contact with that person or a crew member.

Many, many moons ago, I flew with a pilot by that name. We were based in Pierre, South Dakota and pulling tow targets with war-weary B-17s. The assignment didn't last long, and we all went our separate ways (this was prior to our 8th AAF tour).

This fellow was Arthur H. Rasmussen, serial number 0-742898. If you know or can put me in touch with a crew member who does know if the 492nd Rasmussen is/was also the tow target Rasmussen, I would be most appreciative. SASE enclosed."

I wrote to Harry giving him Rasmussen's address, and received the following letter:

"Thank you for your prompt response. I believe that 'your' Arthur Rasmussen is, indeed, also 'my' Arthur Rasmussen. The one I knew was also from the LA area.

"I researched my 201 file and found our names together on the same order twice. I will

get a copy made of same and dispatch it to Rasmussen on the next westbound stage. If contact is established, you shall be advised.

"My name, by the way, was 'Rowbottom' in my 389th days. I had it changed after the war — not that anybody in the 492nd would know me anyway."

I haven't heard from Rasmussen, but I have heard from two crew members, Boos and Murtaugh, and I'm waiting to hear from Rowan again.

BROAD AND HIGH — D.D. McGowan's Crew

From Raymond E. Forbes:

"I have very ambivalent feelings about my regard for and/or remembrances of my service with the 492nd and the 467th bomb groups, having flown 17 missions with the first and 18 with the latter. I am proud to have served with both. As a result, I am a member of the 'alumni' of both. I receive their very informative and welcome newsletters, and try to support them financially as well.

"Recently, I received the March 1, 1994 edition of "Poop from the Group," the publication of the 467th BG. In it, under the column "Bits and Pieces" by Phillip Day, there is reference to the crash of the 788th Squadron's "Broad and High" B-24H 42-50439, with the loss of four crew members. No details about the crash. The article piqued my memory, since I flew some missions in "Broad and High" as a member (bombardier) of D.D. McGowan's crew in the 492nd.

"According to Allan Blue's history of the 492nd, 42-50439 was a replacement aircraft with the 492nd, flew its first mission on 13 July 1944 and seven more with that group, then was salvaged (class 26) on 18 August 1944 by the 467th Group.

"My crew probably flew five or six of the missions with the 492nd, but since we joined the 467th on 13 or 14 August 1944, we really weren't aware of the loss of the aircraft or the crew members.

"We (my crew) were never really into naming our aircraft, since having one in the 492nd almost guaranteed it would soon be gone. However, when we heard how 42-50439 was named, we thought it apropos. The ground crew chief was from Columbus, Ohio, where the two main streets were 'Broad' and 'High,' not only descriptive of a B-24, but sort of a tribute to the dedication of the ground crew which made it flyable."

BROTHERS / SMOTHERS

From Bill Eastland:

"After seeing your note in the last 492nd Happy Warrior and again the 2ADA *Journal* about contacting the replacement crews of the 492nd, I wanted to write what I know about the Brothers crew.

"We arrived in the ETO in early June after spending D-Day grounded in Greenland because of weather, and were assigned to the 492nd BG in late June. We flew our first combat mission on July 12 to Munich. We completed 11 missions with the 492nd before our assignment to the 467th, where we completed our 35 missions in January 1945.

"I am enclosing a copy of the orders releasing us from operational duty after completion of our tour. All were original crew except Grinnell, who replaced Melvin Culross, who was doing radar jamming on special planes. He completed later and I am still in contact with him. (Mel is the assistant group VP of the 467th BG).

"The pilot, Brothers, didn't stay in contact with the crew. He was originally from Richmond, and one crew member visited him years ago. I had been in contact with Smothers, the copilot; Goldman, the radio man; and gunners Whitcomb and Prazuch. Prazuch passed away about ten years ago.

"I also received word recently that Lowell D. Smothers passed away on 4 June 1994. I am enclosing the address of his wife in case the group would like to write to the family (Pat Smothers, 411 7th Avenue, Clarence, Iowa 52216). It is a sad loss for me, as we had continued our relationship over the years by visits and correspondence. He was a very fine person, as well as a great flyer and motivator."

A WORD OF CAUTION

I have had at least five requests for war stories from people who do not seem to have any connection with the Second Air Division Association, Second Air Division, or the 8th Air Force. With the 50th anniversary of D-Day and the upcoming anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, it appears there are many so-called writers who have set about collecting stories for publication.

Unless you know with whom you are sharing the material, I would exercise some caution until you "check them out." The requests I refer to do not indicate that they will share the finished work with me or give proper credit to the donor. ■

Bill Authorizes Air Force Memorial

A bill signed by President Clinton on December 2 authorized the Air Force to establish a memorial in Washington, D.C. The legislation enables the Air Force Memorial Foundation to begin discussions with the National Park Service to select an appropriate location for the memorial, according to a statement released by the foundation.

"The memorial's purpose is to reflect past accomplishments while also motivating young men and women to ensure that the U.S. Air Force is a valuable national resource well into the 21st century and beyond," retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Springer, the foundation's executive director, said in the statement.

The foundation was established in 1992 with the goal of raising \$25 million for the memorial. The organization plans a nationwide fundraising campaign in 1994.

BUNGAY BULL

446th BOMB GROUP
by
Marvin H. Speidel



The veterans of the 446th Bomb Group, along with their wives, children and friends, totaling more than 350, gathered at the Viscount Suite Hotel in Tucson, Arizona from May 12-16, 1994 for what was to prove to be one grand party. This return to the location where the group had formed in 1943 included side trips to Nogales, Mexico, Old Tucson and the San Xavier Mission, but the highlight of the weekend was, by far, the luncheon and dedication of the B-24J "Bungay Buckaroo" at the Pima Air Museum on Saturday, May 14th. Prominently displayed in the place of honor in the new World War II hangar, with the story of the 446th displayed on the wall behind her, the grand old Lib evoked many a poignant memory. The 446th, having played the major role in the fundraising that provided for the construction of the new hangar, has its yellow and black tail colors and D-Day leading "Bungay Buckaroo" nose art of the red donkey riding a bomb on the nose.

A most impressive and uplifting dedication ceremony opened the events of the day with the presentation of the colors by the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base color guard and the pledge of allegiance by the assembled 446ers. Following a welcome by the Pima Air Museum board of directors chairman, our 446th BG Association president, Bill Davenport, spoke on the purpose of the memorial and paid tribute to our fallen comrades of our Roll of Honor in a dignified and most moving manner. The Davis-Monthan Air Force Base chaplain then gave a dedication prayer closing with Chaplain Gannon's premission benediction that so many of us became familiar with some fifty years ago. Bill Booth followed with the reading of the poem "Letter to Saint Peter," by Elma Dean, *The American Mercury Magazine*:

*Let them in, Peter. They are very tired.
Give them the couches where the angels sleep,
Let them wake whole again to new dawns fired
With sun, not war, and may their peace be deep.
Remember where the broken bodies lie...
And give them things they like. Let them make noise,
God knows how young they were to have to die;
Give them swing bands, not harps, to these, our boys.
Let them love, Peter — they have had no time —
Girls sweet as meadow wind with flowing hair...
They should have trees and bird songs, hills to climb:
The taste of summer in a ripening pear. Tell them
How they are missed. Say not to fear, it's going
To be all right with us down here.*

The program closed the the playing of taps by the Davis-Monthan bugler and the withdrawal of the colors by the color guard, leaving few dry eyes among the crowd.

The sincere thanks of all 446ers, especially those who enjoyed the four glorious days in Tucson, are due to Marv Anderson for the outstanding job he did during both the fundraising and the reunion. Marv, along with the officials, staff and volunteers of the Pima Air Museum, was responsible for all the details of the "Bungay Buckaroo" dedication program. Great job, Marv.

At Sunday's business meeting, Bill Davenport relinquished the presidency after ten years of outstanding and dedicated service to the group. As an indication of the excellence of his efforts, it required a slate of six to replace Bill, so he will be followed by Ted Tate, President; Marv Speidel, 1st Vice President; Bill Booth, 2nd Vice President; Frank Bigos, 3rd Vice President; Jim O'Connor, Secretary; and John White, Parliamentarian. Bill will be remaining in an advisory capacity as President Ex-Officio. This new executive board will take office as of the beginning of the new year in January. Outgoing vice president Bill McMahon announced that the 1995 reunion will be held in Boca Raton, Florida, May 4-7, with details to be provided in a future issue of the "Beachbell." A site in central New York state is to be investigated for 1996.

With Bill Davenport stepping down, it is only fitting that we take a moment to review the accomplishments of his administration. Of course, there were many other 446ers involved in seeing these deeds through to fruition, but it was largely Bill's foresight and leadership that paved the way.

1. Provided funding for perpetual care and maintenance of the 446th BG memorial gate at St. Mary's Church of Flixton.
2. Provided for the safekeeping of the group Roll of Honor at St. Mary's, Flixton.
3. Placed a plaque and provided a tree in the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Museum Memorial Park.
4. Placed a wreath at Madingley Cemetery in Cambridge, England in honor of group dead annually on Memorial Day and provided for this in perpetuity through the Imperial Museum at Duxford.
5. Placed a wreath at the Wright-Patterson group plaque annually on Memorial and Independence Days. Provided for placement on Memorial Day in perpetuity through the Miami Council of Boy Scouts.
6. Honored John and Lorna Archer and Jack and Maria Van der Woude for their efforts on behalf of the 446th.
7. Published and distributed the group history compiled by Harold Jansen.
8. Published and distributed reprints of the original Casten history through the individual efforts of Helen and Ray Tate.
9. Participated in the Collings "All-American" B-24 program.
10. Assisted the McChord Air Force Museum by member donations of cash and memorabilia.
11. Continued contributions by our membership directly to the Second Air Division and Eighth Air Force Historical Society programs.
12. Completed fundraising effort for the Pima Air Museum World War II hangar with major participation by the 446th Bomb Group Association.

And, of course, we must not forget Bill's wife, Jean, and her many valuable contributions to the good and welfare of the 446th over the years. Remember, behind every successful man there is a woman to tell him when he's wrong. Thanks, Jean.

Speaking of Bill Davenport, it's nice to know that others appreciate him as much as we 446ers do. Recent word from the 2nd Air Division Association relates that Bill was honored at the recent 2nd ADA convention in Kansas City with the association's Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations, Bill — it's an honor well deserved.

Finally, Charles N. Neumann of the 94th Bomb Group has written a book entitled *Memories of Love and War* which will sell for \$24.95. Members can buy it from him at a discounted price of \$19.95 from which he will donate \$5.00 to the New Jersey State Chapter of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society of which he and I are both active members. His address is 172 Tanglewood Drive, Somerville, NJ 08876-3544. ■

FOLLOW-UP: BATTLE OF NORMANDY FOUNDATION

More to our Editor's Note on the back page of the Summer 1994 *Journal* are excerpts from the June 9, 1994 *Washington Times* as follows:

"Amid D-Day observances in France this week, the board chairman of the troubled Battle of Normandy Foundation has fired six staffers who had criticized the presence of Washington lawyer Anthony C. Stout on the board.

"Mr. Stout, who founded the organization in 1985, resigned as its president in February after *The Washington Times* reported that much of the \$8.2 million the group had collected to erect a memorial wall in Caen, France, had been spent on his personal and business activities.

"In a memo to the board that was leaked to the media in Paris, the foundation staffers chastised Mr. Stout's retention of control over the group as one of two members of the board's new executive committee.

"The General Accounting Office and the Internal Revenue Service are investigating the foundation for financial mismanagement and tax irregularities, a source close to the organization said yesterday." ■

REPORT ON THE MEMORIAL TRUST

BY E. BUD KOORNDYK

The photo at right shows the new entrance to the Memorial Room in the Norwich Central Library after the completion of the construction project. The two entrances to our Memorial off of the old courtyard, which is now fully enclosed and has become an integral part of the main library, incorporates a new scheme of sky blue panels with white letters and reads "2nd Air Division (USAAF) Memorial Room." The color for these panels and inscriptions were recommended to the project engineer by Mr. Tom Eaton, Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Our Memorial Room itself seems much more spacious and bright with the light coming from the glass ceiling panels of the adjacent room. Phyllis DuBois, Trust Librarian, and her aides, Christine Snowden and Lesley Fleetwood, are very impressed with the entire treatment accorded the room, especially the feature that our room no longer serves as a passageway between the two sections of the Central Library.

On the 23rd of June, I attended the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust at the Assembly Hall in Norwich. All governors were in attendance with the exception of Edward McBride, cultural attache; and Frank Gadbois, American librarian at Mildenhall Air Base. Items of interest are as follows:

(1) Market value assets of the Memorial Trust grew from £399,498 on 5-4-93 to £436,922 on 5-4-94.

(2) Funds donated to the Special Endowment Fund by members, groups and individuals of the 2ADA amounted to \$26,600 and has a market value of £45,403. The income from the total pound investments is used to purchase books for the library.

(3) The old memorial fountain was preserved in the process of remodeling and is stored at the Gressenhall Rural Life Museum until any further action is taken as to its future usage in Norwich.

(4) Phyllis DuBois, Trust Librarian, in her report on the future of the Memorial Room, stressed the fact that the future focus will be largely educational. Veterans visiting will dramatically decrease in numbers and it will be children, grandchildren and tourists who in some cases know little about the presence of Americans in East Anglia in World War II. Future generations of Americans as well as English will be seeking educational data on the World War II era. A strong program on the use of videos on the club level, strong branch library contacts, communication at the university level through the extensive computerized programing now available in both England and the USA.

For continuity the trust librarians of the future should commit themselves to serving for a period of three years, and preferably for up to five years.

(5) Tom Eaton, chairman of the Board of Governors, made a progress report on the work done to bring the original Declaration of Trust and the Charities Scheme, under which the Memorial Trust is administered, up to date.

(a) The number of Governors in the future could range from 8 to 13, depending on the availability of willing and qualified people.

(b) The number of appointments by the American ambassador would remain at two, the cultural attache and the person nominated by the 2ADA as long as it exists as a viable organization. At the time of its demise it could be someone from the Heritage League if that exists or someone recommended by the American Librarian Association.

(c) Mr. Eaton reported that he has hopes of completing the changes in the scheme by the end of 1995 and at that time he would retire as Chairman of the Board of Governors.

(6) Hilary Hammond, Director of Arts and Libraries, presented the proposed budget for the operation of the Memorial Room, which showed an accumulated total of £37,000.

He also made us aware of the impending changes being considered in the entire governmental structure throughout the United Kingdom. How it will affect the operation of the Norwich Central Library and our Memorial Room is now in limbo. A final answer will be forthcoming by December of 1994.

(7) The report of your governor on the Memorial Trust, Bud Koorndyk, was prefaced with the following statement approved by the executive committee meeting in Kansas City: "The oversight committee of the 2ADA will continue to pursue a successful completion to the ongoing problems with the Fulbright in regard to the 2ADA/FMLA of 1991."

I was privileged to present to all the governors a beautifully framed



certificate from the 2ADA showing the tail feathers of the various groups, with each governor's name, date of service, and our expression of gratitude for their services to the Memorial Trust.

Gifts approved by the 2ADA executive committee in Kansas City of a monetary nature were presented:

(1) A check for \$9,037, which was the second year pledge for £6,000 towards the trust's expenses connected with entertaining returning veterans, was presented.

(2) A check for \$10,000 was given to the Special Endowment Fund, which were monies donated by our membership along with their yearly dues for the library.

The bookplate for books purchased with the income from this fund will read as follows: "By members of the 2nd ADA, in memory of all who served in the 2nd AD (USAAF) 8th Air Force during World War II."

(3) A check for \$1,000 was given to the Special Endowment Fund in memory of William G. Robertie, dedicated editor of the 2nd Air Division Association *Journal*.

(4) A check for \$750.00 was given to the Special Endowment Fund by the 389th Bomb Group.

After enjoying a lovely lunch with all the governors and guests, we rejoined to close the meeting with other minor reports.

I then requested time to share with the governors my personal reflections on being the 2ADA representative on the Board of Governors (please see page 27).

Ed. Note: Obviously, much in this report has been overtaken by events, but it provides a valuable perspective of the way things were just before the fire. ■

2ADA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!

THROUGH 69 YEARS of AGE.....\$150.00

70-79 YEARS of AGE.....\$120.00

80 YEARS of AGE & Up.....\$90.00

SEND YOUR CHECK, MADE OUT TO 2ADA,
TO EVELYN COHEN WITH YOUR APPLICATION.



389th Green Dragon Flares

BY GENE HARTLEY

I remind you of the concept of using the 389th Green Dragon as the basis for our quarterly *Journal* column. The yellow and green B-24 used to assist the 389th in forming prior to leaving England for the continent was called the Green Dragon. Flares flew from the Green Dragon, and they flew from many other sources at our base, conveying any number of meanings. From this Green Dragon (column) will come flares of interest, information and nostalgia. For instance:

A FLARE FROM BUD KOORNDYK...

As many of you are aware, Bud Koorndyk, a past VP of the 389th as well as a past president of the 2ADA, is currently the 2ADA representative on the Board of Governors of our Memorial Trust. You can read his full report from his recent attendance at a meeting of the Governors elsewhere in this *Journal* (please see page 15).

While at that meeting in Norwich, Bud also had the opportunity to spend some time with Roy Edney, the curator of our Hethel Tower Room, and Jonathan Smith, who is attempting to compile a history of the 389th Bomb Group. Bud writes as follows:

"Spent the day with Roy Edney at the field. Tower is in good hands with the change of command at Lotus. Also had dinner on Saturday evening with the Edneys and about fifty other friends from the villages. Evelyn outlined plans for our visit next year and welcomes suggestions from those attending the dinner.

A FLARE FROM JONATHAN SMITH...

Jonathan has sent for comment a draft of his work concentrated on the 565th Squadron. He is currently working on the 566th. He will have to bring together his work on all four of the squadrons before determining the direction his compilation of all these historical data should take. It is a monstrous undertaking.

44A FLARE FROM MARFA, TEXAS...

A graduation book for the pilot class of 44A has come into my possession. If it is of interest to anyone, a postcard to me (Gene Hartley) will get it for you.

A FLARE FROM SAN ANTONIO...

Jack Spooner reports that a good attendance at our October 25-27 group reunion continues to grow. There is still room, and we'd sure like to see you there. If there is any chance at all that you might be able to join us, why don't you give Jack a call and get the details? His phone number is 210-492-1491. We'll be at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk in San Antonio. Come on down, y'hear?

A FLARE FROM KNIGHTSHAYS COURT...

Chuck Roberts' memory was nudged through a recent *Journal* article mentioning Knightshays Court, Tiverton, Devon. Knightshay's Court was one of many "flak shacks" where men of the Eighth went for R&R somewhere near the midpoint of their combat tour.

Chuck remembers that during his stay, "the Red Cross girls complained of their inability to obtain soap flakes for laundering some of their lingerie and hosiery. This obviously was a matter of utmost military necessity and presented the opportunity of a high priority target. Upon returning to Hethel we obtained the critical supplies from the PX and carefully packaged the Ivory.

"We then proceeded on our mission of mercy, flying over Knightshays Court and dropping the precious package on the front lawn. I am sure there was an explosion of gratitude on the part of the Red Cross personnel, but I don't recall any commendation being recommended for this daring mission above and beyond the call of duty.

"We had to be content with the realization that we had performed a noble deed, and that our reward was the gratitude of those receiving some of the comforts of home while away from home."

A FLARE FROM SOME OF YOUR KIDS...

I know you've heard this before, but it bears repeating.

Letters continue to come from middle aged men and women, children of men who were with the 2ADA, 8th AF in 1942-46, and frequently, questions come from grandchildren. They want to know something about the wartime experiences of their deceased family member. The letters usually start with the statement, "He didn't talk much about the war..."

It bothers those of us who receive such letters that we are usually unable to be of much help. We might be able to verify that they were with a part of our group, but we can add nothing of a personal nature. We can put their request in the *Journal* or the group newsletter, but they will receive replies only through a chance contact.

This is just to remind you once again that you should write or record on tape some of your memories and recollections for your family while you are still able. So many really want to know, before it is too late.

A FLARE FROM AN ENGLISH PUB...

An American was in London on a foggy night, and he went to a club where he had a guest membership. Hoping to strike up a conversation with a distinguished looking Englishman sitting nearby, he said, "May I buy you a drink?"

"No," the British gentleman replied coolly, "Don't drink. Tried it once and I didn't like it."

After the American ordered a drink, he tried to make conversation again.

"Would you like a cigar?"

"No. Don't smoke. Tried tobacco once and I didn't like it."

The American thought for a minute and then said, "Would you like to join me in a game of gin rummy?"

"No. Don't like card games. Tried it once and I didn't like it. However, my son will be dropping in after a bit. Perhaps he will join you."

The American settled back in his chair and said, "Your only child, I presume?"

A BEAUTIFUL FLARE...

The poem below came to me from Jill Chandler of Spokane, Washington. It is so apropos that I felt it should be shared with the entire 2nd Air Division rather than just the 389th newsletter.

Forever In My Mind

by Jill V. Chandler

Do you hear it?
Do you hear it in the air?
The faint drone of engines
Planes taking off from an airdrome somewhere

Can you smell it?
Can you smell it in the air?
The stench of gunpowder and gas and sweat
The smell of a battle out there

Can you see it?
Can you see it in the air?
The ghostly image of a bomber
limping home from a mission over there

These recollections are forever imprinted
in my mind
Time will not let them rest
Tho I try to leave them behind

I was there and lived those days
I will always hear it
and smell it
and see it
In my mind.

During the short tour our crew spent at Hardwick (January through May of 1945), I kept a sort of "box score" of our sorties as we completed them. In addition to the date, target, and personal observations for each, I extracted other data from the official post-mission report that would be thumbtacked on the day room bulletin board. This included the estimates of cloud cover, intensity and accuracy of enemy opposition, and the group's effectiveness. This story is principally concerned with our sixth mission. It was to be something entirely different from the bombing missions we were just beginning to get used to.

At the general briefing on the morning of March 24th, we were told that this was the day that had been anticipated for some weeks: the mass crossing of the Rhine River by Allied forces. We had been selected to drop supplies to the British and American airborne troops who'd landed near Wesel (in northwest Germany) in the predawn darkness. They must, by now, be ready for more ammunition and other necessities.

The drop zone for the 93rd was described as northwest of Wesel, at a place called either Hamminkeln or Hamminken (it's not listed in my atlas, nor can I find it on the map in the vicinity of Wesel). (*Hamminkeln is correct - Ed.*)

Of course a supply drop of this nature would have to be made from treetop level, and there was some discussion about the use of our machine guns. The final concession, as I recall, was that only the three power turrets (Emerson nose, Martin upper, and Consolidated tail) were to carry ammunition. There would be no waist guns installed at all. The turrets might be used only for defense if enemy fighters were encountered. There would be, it was stressed, absolutely no attempts at strafing, lest the ground targets be misidentified and friendly forces suffer thereby.

The supplies were to be dropped from three locations in each plane: the bomb bay, the camera hatch, and the Sperry ball opening. The bomb bay was loaded with cylindrical containers — a dozen or so, according to Roger A. Freeman's *The Mighty Eighth* — at the bomb stations. Each had a static line attached to its bomb shackle, and a parachute that would be deployed when the cylinder was released.

On the deck in the waist, between the windows, were two large blanket wrapped bundles, which would free fall after Corporals (acting sergeants, as were most of us gunners) Edward A. Balga, our other waist gunner, and Ray A. "Shortie" Durdella, tail gunner, pushed them through the camera hatch. At the ball turret position, a rather more complicated "Rube Goldberg" arrangement had been devised, which was not described at the general briefing. We who would be delivering that material were to report to the armament section immediately after general dismissal, for specialized instructions. As original ball turret gunner for our crew, I was the logical choice for this function. I now flew as waist gunner (usually at the right window), since the Sperry ball turrets had been removed from our Liberators at that late stage of the war. Enemy fighter attacks had become more infrequent, and without the ball, both weight and drag factors were considerably reduced.

At armament, a mockup had been con-

THE RHINE CROSSING SUPPLY DROP

by Joseph D. (Dan) Roure (93rd)

structed to illustrate our duties during the drop. A chalked circle was drawn on the concrete floor, above which hung two wicker baskets — one atop the other — each with a small sack on top of it. The upper one was suspended from a regulation bomb shackle (such as we'd learned about during the armament upgrading course in our first days at Hardwick). The shackle was, in turn, fastened to a beam of the low ceiling.

The armament officer, who was briefing us on this aspect, explained that this was the lash-up we would find at the ball turret position of each ship on this mission. The decking that had been covering the Sperry ball openings had been removed, as had the outer covering in the aircraft skin. The chalk circle on the floor, of course, represented the hole that would be left through the Lib's belly.

Each "pannier" (the term he used — first time I'd heard it since high school French classes) was attached to a small cargo parachute (the "sacks" we'd noticed), which would be deployed by a static-line; the lower cord was tied to the upper pannier. In turn, the upper pannier's static line would be retained by a bomb shackle — in the same manner as the arming wire of a bomb is held during a normal bomb drop.

When the "ears" of the shackle were "pinched" together (as happens in the bomb bay), both panniers would of course be released. When the upper one reached the length of its static line its chute would be pulled open, arresting its fall. This would let the lower one continue dropping until its cord, too (held by the slower basket), deployed the parachute holding it. They would then both float to the ground and (one hoped!) the waiting troops.

The armament officer proceeded to reach up, and manually pinch the ears of the mockup shackle, to demonstrate the idea. Although the panniers dropped only the few inches to the floor, we nodded our understanding.

When all of this quite unorthodox procedure had been digested, we drifted out to continue with slightly modified premission rituals: drawing parachutes, Mae Wests, pistols and escape kits; changing into flight coveralls (no need for heated suits today); communion for the Catholic lads; the customary quick stop at the "honey bucket" (rudimentary urinal), and so forth.

At the airplane we'd been assigned we found things pretty much as they had been described. First Lieutenant Guenther H. ("Chris") Christiansen, our pilot, made a point

of coming back, to stand at the rear of the open bomb bay and check the supply cylinders in the bomb racks. He then turned around to lean over the step forward of the waist section, and peered back at the rolled bundles that would be pushed out the camera hatch; but he took particular interest in the two baskets hanging just aft of the bomb bay, where he was standing. He was most curious about them, and listened attentively to my explanation about how they would be released, because the details of that part of the operation had not been disclosed at the general briefing. He seemed suitably impressed with our understanding of the delivery methods and what our exact roles would be at the drop zone, and returned to his duties up front in the cockpit.

For Ed and myself, preflight was practically nonexistent this time. There were no guns or ammunition to take care of, chaff cartons to rearrange, or any of the usual routine details to attend to. We offered to give Shortie a hand with his guns; but there was little we could do in the confines of the tail section without getting in his way. Then, since there would be no test firing for us (no waist guns), I believe we snoozed most of the way across the Channel or North Sea. I don't even recall getting up when (if) the turrets fired their test bursts.

But there had been some things to think about peculiar to this low level flight. One problem was for me, and another complication was shared by all three of us in the waist. First, from the time I'd had my first look at the panniers hanging over the Sperry ball hatch, I'd thought about myself leaning over to pinch the ears of the shackle holding them — in an aircraft bouncing along at scant yards above the ground, amid probable enemy gunfire — and wondered how to improve my chances of staying in the plane, rather than following the panniers out — particularly should I be wounded and lose my balance.

The solution I arrived at was to strap my right forearm into a bracket I found along the right wall of the airplane. Originally, I believe it was stowage for an extra oxygen bottle when the ball turret had still been in use. This arrangement allowed me to reach the shackle's ears with my left hand, without too much worry about tumbling out in the anticipated turbulence.

There also had been some concern among the three of us about managing interphone during the actual drop. We'd all decided to use throat microphones and headsets instead of oxygen masks and helmets at these low altitudes, but soon discovered certain limitations in our equipment, which I'll explain later. However, we devised a means of keeping all of us — and the "front-enders" — advised about what was going on in our respective sections.

Needless to say, all in the aft compartment had strapped on and tightened their parachutes well before enemy coast in, and Ed and I were now fully wide awake.

As we approached the drop zone, our navigator (Second Lieutenant Climpson B. Clapp — who for some reason preferred to be known as "Pete") kept all hands informed as to our progress across the terrain. I strapped into my

(continued on page 18)

SUPPLY DROP (continued from page 17)

arm hold, but first I peeked through the small window opposite the Sperry hatch and got a quick glimpse at the bridgehead operation. Parachutes were hanging from trees or spread on the ground, gliders — many wrecked — were all over the area, and at least one German gun position seemed to be pointing directly at us!

Corporal Ferdinand G. (Fred) Panik, our radioman, moved down from his cubby hole to the front entrance of the bomb bay, where he was to ensure that the load went out as it should (I think he did this on all bombing sorties, as well, but this time it was even more critical). As soon as we turned onto the final leg for the drop, he reported "...holes appearing in all the cylinders..." At just about that time, there was an explosion and considerable smoke in the waist section. We looked at each other, and around as much of the area as we could see, but couldn't determine where it had come from. In sign language, Shortie and Ed asked if I'd seen or done anything that might explain it. I signaled back that I, too, was completely mystified.

There was no time to investigate further. However, a few seconds later Pete was counting us down to the drop zone. As he reached "zero" we all did our jobs exactly as we had been instructed:

The bomb bay cylinders were toggled out by Sergeant John F. Powell, our armorer gunner in the nose turret. I pinched the ears of my bomb shackle and watched the two panniers drop clear — the static line of the uppermost one jerking its chute open. Shortie and Ed pushed their bundles out the camera hatch.

The next thing I heard over interphone was Chris telling our copilot, Second Lieutenant Robert R. Randolph, to "put down that goddam camera, give me [whatever climb-out RPM would have been], and get us the hell out of here!" I've often wished I could have seen the color sixteen millimeter film Bob shot through his right window that day! But he must have done what we required, as we immediately broke right, into a climbing turn — just as our number three engine was hit by ground fire. It threw oil for a few seconds before it quit. On the remaining three engines, we levelled off long enough for the number three propeller to be feathered. But we seemed now to be out of the fire area, and the pilots were able to establish a steady, albeit more shallow, climb on our home-bound heading.

Shortly after that, Chris called on interphone to ask if we were "...OK back there?" I must have given them all a few anxious moments before we were able to report back — a result of the peculiar interphone setup mentioned earlier. Because of the relative lengths of interphone cords and a couple of extension lines we'd scrounged, and the available intercom jack boxes near where we were to perform our functions for the drop, I had been able to plug in my headset, but could not attach the throat mike after I'd moved to the Sperry ball hatch. Ed and Shortie were connected the other way around. They had their throat mikes hooked up, but their headset wires would not reach any phone jack and still give them

enough mobility to dump their bundles at the rear hatch. We'd arranged that I would give them a hand signal when I heard Pete count us down for the drop. So, when Chris inquired about conditions in the back, I heard his question, but was unable to give him the answer right away; and of course Ed and Shortie hadn't heard, so they couldn't answer, either. By this time I had disengaged myself from the arm sling. So I unplugged the headset cord, edged around the open Sperry ball hatch, and shouted in Ed's ear to tell the pilots we were "...a sieve back here, but not a scratch on anyone."

Now that we were able to move around, we got a look at what had caused the noise and smoke just before the drop. On the left side of the ball turret hatch, barely below the decking and about a foot and a half from where my left foot had been — but on the far side of the baskets that had still been there until the drop — was a rather large, jagged hole.

The lower pannier had apparently caught the full force of the explosion (probably a 20 or 37 millimeter shell). But, had it hit a foot or so to the right, or a few seconds later — after the panniers had been released — I guess I'd have caught the blast in the legs, or higher up — something I'd rather not think about too much! But there was no sense worrying about it; it had not wounded me, and that was that. From that time on, though, I think I've had a better appreciation of life, and a feeling that if I live all the rest of my days as if each might be the final one, things will work out okay.

Homeward bound, we continued to stagger along, still at relatively low altitude and singly, as we'd been briefed. We were not too much bothered by the dead and feathered number three engine under the circumstances; and, now that we three in the back had returned to our normal interphone hookups, we kept very alert and watchful for enemy fighters. Shortie had immediately moved back to his tail turret. Neither Powell in the nose, nor Corporal William Moulds, the engineer gunner in the upper, had left theirs. The flight back to Hardwick was uneventful and we landed after an even six hours for the day's work.

At debriefing we heard that Second Air Division losses had been almost ten percent for the operation. *The Mighty Eighth* lists the official report as fourteen out of 240, and the *Stars and Stripes* clipping I have for a few days later put our losses at twenty. Either was quite heavy for that late period in the air war. But the results of the 93rd's overall mission were evaluated as "excellent," so we felt as if we'd done some direct good for the people on the ground — and without the destruction and injury inevitably associated with our more routine bombing efforts.

This had been the sixth sortie for our crew (except for Chris — always one ahead of us because of his indoctrination flight), and it put us in line for our first Air Medal. Also, we corporal gunners were now advanced to *paid* (no longer acting, or "jawbone") sergeants, at the princely sum of eighty-one dollars and ninety cents per month plus half that again for flying pay or \$122.75.

That day we felt we'd all really earned it. ■

Folded Wings

HQ

Vara Christian Kubly

44th

Harold P. Harmon
Stanley Langcaskey
Richard A. Larson
Ernest Puglisi

93rd

Joseph T. Beach
Philip M. Fairchild (44th)

389th

Charles R. Campbell
Reuben D. Duke
Silas H. Kiser
Russell R. Leslie
William J. Peschke
Richard F. Schaffer
Vitalis L. Tempel
George Wenick
Merline E. Whitley

392nd

John W. Arnold
Joseph A. Costa

445th

Raymond E. Bence
Eugene Capodagli
Eldon E. Gray
Charles R. Ham
Duke Mazerov (389th, 355th)
Rev. Joseph E. Quinlan

448th

Duane G. Christensen
Ray A. Yow

453rd

Charles H. (Moose) Allen
Dean H. Hart
John M. Tangorra

458th

Richard W. Nyman (355th)
D. Keith Yerty

466th

Charles J. Hinnen
Robert A. Marsh
William James Weisner

467th

Thomas F. Elsen

489th

Jack D. Albright (389th)
John D. Kernodle

Those of you not present at our reunion in Kansas City missed one of the better ones. As usual, the 453rd was represented by a great attendance. Those present are listed on page 22 so you can scan to see who you missed by not being there. We had cameo appearances by Lloyd and Irene Prang as well. Don and Mimi Olds were present also and brought many items which were enjoyed as all of us browsed through the photos, orders, flight plans, etc.

As you know, the *Journal* now lists new members on a separate page. This helps, as occasionally I forget whether I have mentioned an individual or neglected to do so. I try, but...

Harold Hays is not a new member, but we have missed him. Ruth writes that Harold has been seriously ill but appears to be on the mend now. Drop him a note of encouragement at 4435 E. Edgewood Ave., Mesa, AZ 85206. **Ronald Neumunz** has joined with us. Ron resides in London, England. **Paul Harper**, 2 North Plantation Rd., Greenville, MS 38701, flew with Norm Raeber. **James Lano** has also come aboard. He now lives at 20 Hall St., So. Portland, ME 04106.

There are also those who have folded their wings and left us. These losses continue, and each one hits us a little harder. I know age takes its toll and we can expect it to continue to do so, but that doesn't make it any easier. We have lost **Dallas Noffsinger**, **Robert Atkins** (who gave it a good fight for a long time), and, most recently, **Charles "Moose" Allen**. Moose was with us in Kansas City and we are grateful. His daughter, Linda, and son, David, are active with us. Our sympathies go to the families of all we lose.

At the 13th annual So. California 2ADA dinner we met and enjoyed a brief visit with **Tom Nelson**. He has since written a nice letter and included an article for the newsletter which we have mailed to our editor. **Bob Marx** has written to keep us informed on preparations for the 453rd BG reunion in Rapid City, October 9-12, 1994. It promises to be a great one. If you haven't signed up yet, you may be too late. Give it a go anyhow, as we want you there! **John Chase** wrote. John was with the 732nd Squadron. He flew with Lt. Tepfer's crew in "Lace." John lives in Seaford, NY now (3800 Miami St.). We hear from **Clair Miller** on occasion. He is constantly on the lookout for new members. **Wendell Jeske** sent us a copy of a really nice tape which includes scenes from our reunion at Spokane. **George Desmarais** wrote to say that he will see us in Rapid City. George was with the **Joe Meintel** crew. They expect to have eight crew members there.

Dale Smith has written. He is seeking to hear from anyone who knew his father, **Larry Smith**. Larry flew several missions with **Lt. Welding's** crew. Write Dale at 2507 San Anselmo St., San Diego, CA 92109. **Lester Naastad** wrote. He was engineer on **Andy Flekenstien's** crew and hopes to be at our reunion. **"Hap" Alonso** wrote to say that he hopes to be in Rapid City as well. We've also heard from **Abe Wilen**, **Don Parcels**, **Andy Low**, and **Larry White**. It is always nice to hear from those with whom we served. Keep your letters coming. We appreciate all of them, and it is particularly nice to hear from the cooks,



medics, motor pool, ammo personnel, bomb loaders, line crews, tower personnel, etc. Those of us who flew would not have been able to do our assigned tasks were it not for such devoted and dedicated people.

Mme Gisele Loth, Marlenheim, France has written to say that they "have not forgotten that they are free today because of your help 50 years ago." **Kurt Werner Schaechter**, also of France, wrote as well, and he too is grateful for your role in liberating France.

Phyllis DuBois, our librarian at the Memorial Room in Norwich, wrote to say that **Harvey Scaff**, who flew "Whiskey Jingles" in the 733rd SQ, had visited. He didn't know about us, so she told him. **Joe Thurning**, 732nd SQ, had visited as well. I have written to both and sent applications which I hope they will use. **Pat Ramm** called, and he and **Agnes** have had visitors. I believe Pat said that **Alan DeHaven**, **Art Thompson**, **Jack Mure**, and **Bob Beek** had all come a' calling. What great people Pat and Agnes are!

The 2ADA annual reunion for 1995 has been scheduled for July 3-6 in Lexington, Kentucky. Lexington is a lovely area. Not very far away there are many sites associated with Abe Lincoln, and Daniel Boone as well. Please mark your calendar and plan to join with us there.

Now, back to Kansas City. At our business meeting we had a good group and some good discussions. It was voted to send another \$1,000 donation to "our" school at Old Buckenham. It was voted to send our newsletter to each of the 453rd BG people for whom we have addresses. Perhaps some who aren't members will decide to become members. If not, they may want to make a donation to defray the cost of the newsletter. Incidentally, anyone can do this at any time. Every little bit is appreciated. It was voted not to contribute to the tower restoration at Wright-Patterson. The 2ADA is doing so, and all groups are supposed to be acknowledged. For better or worse, each of those who hold offices were again elected to the same office for 1994-95. This will be my last term. At Lexington you will elect a new vice president, so give this some thought and be prepared to nominate and/or be nominated.

At K.C. Wilbur Stites and I were each awarded a beautiful plaque. Neither of us had advance knowledge of this, and both were bewildered and in awe! A sense of surprise and wonder reached me that I have so many friends who seem to care. It is an astonishing feeling for

which I am grateful. Thank you! Merited or not, it denotes an amount of regard from those whose friendship I cherish. Our lovely wives, Jeanne Stites and Diana Clingan, were also recognized and most deservedly so. They were presented with an 8th AF necklace.

The 453rd has fewer members than some groups, but more than others. Regardless, we continue to be among those who have greater participation in our reunions. Let us continue to do so. We have around 570 members in the 2ADA.

If you move, please send Evelyn Cohen your change of address so that you can continue to receive the *Journal*. Please drop a card to Frank Thomas as well so that our roster will reflect your current location.

Did you know that Old Buck airfield was built by Taylor-Woodrow in 1942-43? The main runway was 2,000 yards on a NE-SW axis. Station 144 was closed on 20 June 1960.

That's all for now. We haven't heard from Harry Winslow, Marty Schwartz, Leon Helfand, Jim Masterson, etc., etc. for a while. Diana and I enjoy hearing from each of you from time to time. We try to respond as well, so drop us a line! Thanks for letting us spend this time with you. ■

Only old men remember.

TV images sing of Bosnia, Somalia and the Near East.

I see only pictures of Marines: handsome men bloodied while storming the beaches of Iwo Jima, the islands of Tarawa and Okinawa. I see the soldiers in the freezing forests of the Ardennes, or on the shores of Sicily or yet attacking Omaha's deadly fortresses. I also wonder where all the airmen are, where my crewmates are, those who flew with me in bitter cold and flak-filled skies.

Once more it's today.

Media images are of Rwanda, Haiti, and North Korea (again). But I see merely brutal slayings, mass killings and marching men.

Is murderous Anzio still a stepping stone to final victory? Was World War II just another great battle? Must gallant warriors still fall?

Who knows the dates? My war was half a century ago. Nothing, seemingly, has been learned.

Gore and glory march together. Men and machines will clash again.

Once more I wonder where all my buddies are, where all the soldiers are, where all the sailors are. Tell me that World War II was a good war, else too many lads have given their lives for naught.

Yes, I conclude. My war was a good war. But I remember.

by Joseph Broder (446th)

The 47th Annual Convention of the Second Air Division Association

MAY 28-31, 1994 • KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

by John B. Conrad (392nd), Outgoing President

Before the convention actually began on Saturday, May 28, there was a gathering of 2ADA officers, group vice presidents, and chairpersons of subcommittees on Wednesday, May 25. They were preparing for a full scale all day meeting on Thursday, May 26 of the association's executive committee.

The executive committee finalized and approved the reports to be made at the upcoming general membership meeting by various officers and committee chairpersons. Special emphasis was placed on the proposed changes in the bylaws to be adopted subject to the approval of the general membership. A schedule of lifetime membership fees, optional in lieu of annual membership fees, was adopted. Through 69 years of age the one time fee is \$150; 70 through 79 is \$120, and 80 and up is \$90.

Various gifts and contributions were approved, including an endowment of \$1,000 to the Memorial Room in memory of *Journal* editor William G. Robertie and an endowment of \$10,000 to the Memorial Room in honor of all who served in the 2nd Air Division in World War II. This is in addition to the payment earlier this year, the second of three annual installments of \$6,000 (\$9,600) each, to help cover the expense of services to an anticipated large number of American and other visitors at the library (through 1995). A grant of \$10,000 was made to the 8th AF Memorial Museum Foundation to assist in the completion of a replica of a World War II control tower at the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. An immediate grant of \$25,000 and a deferred grant of \$75,000 was confirmed for the 8th AF Heritage Center at Savannah, Georgia.

On Friday, May 27, convention chairwoman Evelyn Cohen and the group vice presidents opened the registration desk for the "early birds," including the golfers who play in the association's annual tournament. A greater percentage of those attending the convention this year arrived a day earlier than usual and attended the early bird party on Friday evening.

Even though a greater percentage than ever arrived a day early, most of our members and guests arrived and registered on the first full day, Saturday, May 28. The Hyatt Regency Hotel lobby and public rooms were filled with the pleasant and exciting buzz of warm greetings between old friends meeting again.

That evening a cocktail party, well attended by members and guests, preceded an excellent buffet dinner. This year, for the first time, seating was prearranged by tables assigned to each bomb group. After everyone was seated, groups were called to enter the buffet lines on a staggered schedule. When all had eaten, the awards ceremony began, conducted by Geoff Gregory, chairman of the awards committee, assisted by Bill Nothstein. In recognition of out-



Officers, members of the executive committee and chairmen of subcommittees attending the 47th Annual Convention at Kansas City. Seated (l-r): Bud Koorndyk, 389th, 2ADA representative, Board of Governors; Oak Mackey, 392nd VP; John Conrad, 392nd, outgoing president; Evelyn Cohen, HQ, VP Membership; Bud Chamberlain, 489th, VP Communications; Ray Pytel, 445th VP; Norma Beasley, AM, Director of Correspondence Services; Jordan Uttal, HQ, Honorary President. Middle row (l-r): Bill Beasley, 492nd VP; Gene Hartley, 389th VP; Earl Wassom, 466th VP; Andy Low, 453rd, Past President; Jim Reeves, HQ, Past President; Bill Nothstein, 466th, Treasurer; Dick Kennedy, 448th, Past President; Rick Rokicki, 458th VP; Wib Clingan, 453rd VP; Paul Steichen, 93rd VP. Back row: Hap Chandler, 491st outgoing VP; Geoff Gregory, 467th, incoming Executive VP; Ralph Elliott, 467th VP; Ray Strong, HQ VP; Chuck Walker, 445th, incoming President; Neal Sorensen, 489th VP. Absent: Dave Patterson, 445th, Secretary; Frank DiMola, 445th, Past President; Nelson Leggette, then 491st incoming VP; Cater Lee, 448th VP; Marvin Speidel, 446th VP.

standing service as group vice presidents, certificates were awarded to Oak Mackey, 392nd; Marvin H. Speidel, 446th; Cater Lee, 448th; and Neal E. Sorensen, 489th.

As Chairman Gregory announced others in turn to be honored, President John Conrad had the pleasure of presenting Distinguished Service Awards to Eleanor Storms, HQ; Will Lundy, 44th BG; Joe Whittaker, 392nd/HQ; Bill Davenport, 446th; Phil Day, 467th (accepted by Lloyd Haug); and Bill Beasley, 492nd. A seventh Distinguished Service Award was presented to Geoff Gregory, 467th; a surprise, as it was unknown to him in advance. Another unscheduled surprise was the presentation of a handsome clock to John Conrad by Evelyn Cohen.

Immediately following was a 50-minute presentation, "Portrait — Glenn Miller," a multimedia collection of pictures, words, and music of the musician, arranger and band leader. It was presented by Alan Cass, Director of the University of Colorado's Events/Conference Center and curator of the Glenn Miller Museum and Library. It was tremendous entertainment, enthusiastically endorsed by those attending.

Sunday, May 29, was set aside as "Group

Day." Each group could plan its own activities, such as business meetings, entertainment, or simply visiting and reminiscing with each other in the group hospitality rooms. For those without other plans, two tours were available. One was a conducted tour of Kansas City, and the other was a visit to the Harry Truman Library at nearby Independence. The day closed with a cocktail party and group dinners.

The annual general membership meeting, as required by the bylaws, was convened at 10:00 AM by President John Conrad. All required officer and committee chairperson reports were made and accepted by the members. Billy Sheely Johnson, president of the Heritage League, reported on the League's progress. Joe Dzenowagis was recognized and presented with a check for \$5,000 in appreciation for his and his family's continued activities in videotaping and preserving the activities and history of the 2nd Air Division. Robert Martin, Chief Editor of Turner Publishing Company, outlined the development and current status of the 2nd Air Division history book. Initially, it had been scheduled for completion and delivery by the time of this reunion, and he apolo-

(continued on next page)

his appreciation for the cooperation received from President John Conrad, Chairman Bud Chamberlain, and members of the editorial review board in compiling the book. The book will contain 360 pages, including 11 in full color; group and unit histories, a complete roster of members, our Roll of Honor, and over 1,800 personal biographies. Paul Tardiff of Defiance Graphics Corp., printers of the *Journal* for the past several years under the editorship of William Robertie, will continue as such under the guidance of the editorial review board. Bud Chamberlain, on behalf of the executive committee, presented proposed changes in the association's bylaws, the first changes since 1977. Principally affecting the duties of the vice president communications and increasing the number of voting group vice presidents on the executive committee from three to six, the changes were approved by more than two-thirds of the membership.

The final item of business to be presented in the general membership meeting before adjournment was the report of Dick Kennedy, chairman of the nominating committee. Those nominated were: President: Charles L. Walker, 445th; Executive Vice President, Geoffrey G. Gregory, 467th; Vice President Membership: Evelyn Cohen, HQ; Vice President Communications: C.N. "Bud" Chamberlain, 489th; Treasurer: Elwood "Bill" Nothstein, 466th; Secretary: David G. Patterson, 445th. There being no nominations from the floor, the above nominees were elected by acclamation. The group vice presidents nominated to serve on the executive committee for the coming year are: Paul Steichen, 93rd; Ray Pytel, 445th; Marvin Speidel, 446th; Cater Lee, 448th; Wilbur "Wib" Clingan, 453rd; and L. Nelson Leggette, 491st. These group vice presidents, like all other officers on the executive committee, have agreed to attend (except for a medical emergency) the two scheduled executive committee meetings each year at their own expense.

Following the close of the general membership meeting, most members and guests were free for the afternoon. However, this did not apply to the six association officers and six group vice presidents named above. They, along with the association's representative on the Memorial Trust Board of Governors, Bud Koorndyk (389th), and the three immediate past presidents, John Conrad (392nd), Dick Kennedy (448th) and Frank DiMola (445th), the sixteen voting members, and Honorary President Jordan Uttal (HQ), participated in an organizational meeting of the executive committee. This traditional meeting provided the opportunity for the president elect, Chuck Walker, to fill the appointive offices, name the standing committees, and establish the tenor of his leadership for the coming year. Like all executive committee meetings, other non-voting officers and chairpersons of the standing subcommittees are invited to attend and participate in the discussion of any subject before the group.

The third evening of our official 47th annual convention opened with members and guests attending the cocktail party throughout the length of the ballroom concourse, and then being seated by groups in the hotel ballroom. Formalities were opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag, the singing of the American and British anthems, and the invocation led by Bud Chamberlain.

The food was excellent and the service superb. President Conrad requested that the staff be given a round of applause, a request heartily endorsed by those present. Honorary President Jordan Uttal, who had concluded his years of serving as master of ceremonies last year, did agree to again lead the Eight Candles for Remembrance candlelighting ceremony this year. Shortly after this beautiful ceremony was concluded, the amplifier and speaker system went out. While waiting for repairs, President Conrad ad-libbed, asking those in an understanding and cooperative audience celebrating wedding anniversaries and birthdays to stand and be recognized.

With the restoration of speaker amplification, President Conrad asked Executive Vice President Elect Geoff Gregory to escort Membership Vice President Evelyn Cohen to the podium. Here, on behalf of the association, Dick Kennedy presented to Evelyn a beautifully decorated "Philadelphia Bowl," awarded to outstanding Philadelphians. In addition, Evelyn was presented with two round trip airline tickets to Vancouver and two cruise tickets to Alaska, a token of our appreciation to Evelyn for all she has done for us and the association.

Dick Kennedy, who serves as the association's liaison officer to the developing Eighth Air Force Heritage Center in Savannah, gave a report on its progress and the potential it holds for us.

President Conrad was presented with a plaque commemorating "dedicated service" to the association during two terms as president. He took this opportunity to publicly acknowledge and commend to the membership all those who have worked so hard to maintain the Second Air Division Association as the viable organization it is. The members of the executive committee, group vice presidents and other officers and subcommittee members are all dedicated people. He expressed equal appreciation to the wives who are so supportive of the endeavors of these officers and committee members.

He then introduced President Elect Charles L. Walker and passed the gavel to him. President Walker expressed his appreciation for the honor

given him and pledged his dedication to the organization. He then declared the convention adjourned to enjoy the evening dancing to the excellent music provided and to visit among fellow members. ■

Photos courtesy of Vince Re, 467th BG



(left to right): Honorary President Jordan Uttal (HQ), President Elect Chuck Walker (445th), Executive VP Elect Geoff Gregory (467th), and outgoing President John Conrad (392nd).



Eleanor Storms (HQ)
Distinguished Service Award



Joe Whittaker (392nd/HQ)
Distinguished Service Award



Will Lundy (44th)
Distinguished Service Award



Bill Davenport (446th)
Distinguished Service Award



Bill Beasley (492nd)
Distinguished Service Award



Geoff Gregory (467th)
Distinguished Service Award



Evelyn Cohen (HQ)
receives "Philadelphia Bowl"



Jordan Uttal conducts
candle lighting ceremony

Attendees at Kansas City 1994

44th Bomb Group

Dave and Peg Brown
Al and Doris Browning
Ed and Kathryn Clark
Mike and Kaye Fusano
Paul and Cathryn Gregg
Bill Hawkins
Charles and Marilyn Hughes
Bob and Bert Johnson
Will and Irene Lundy
Tony and Cathy Mastradone
Bill Newbold

93rd Bomb Group

Joe Beach
Jim and Elizabeth Belwood
Henry Betz
Dutch Borcharding
Lew and Virginia Brown
Bill and Lee Brown
Bob and Betty Calkins
Cal Davidson
Martin Furst
Mo and E Gozonsky
Paul and Nora Harwood
Tommy and Cathy Hernandez
Chuck and Yonnie Hoffman
Mark and Barbara Hontz
Paul and Martha Hood
Jack and Pat Hurd
Jack and Midge Kerler
Burt and Carol Lenhart
Bob and Miki McKeever
George McNulty
Floyd and Dot Mabee
Morton Macks
Paul and Janet Meyers
Homer and Dotty Moran
Howard and Jan Nisbet
Bill Orient
Ray Rhoades
Dan Roure and Eileen Hunt
Joe Schwarzgruber
Tom and Letha Scott
Harold and Erma Secor
Don and Marylou Spencer
Paul and Marie Steichen/
John and Carol Faucette
Cal and Peggy O'Mara Stewart
Fred and Inez Stromborn
Owen and Anne Taylor
Dave Thompson
Dick and Patsy Trousdale
Norm Watten
Jack Weiss
Bob and Marge Wright

389th Bomb Group

Coo and Edith Boudreax
Frank and Nancy Chybowski
Gaynell Clark
Bill and Helene Denton
Bill and Jane Dowden
Barney, Emmie and Jennifer
Driscoll
John and Rosemary Fino
Geb and Betty Gebhard
Dorothy Gibson
Allan and Jean Hallett
George and Marie Hammond
Gene and Nancy Hartley
Don and Shirley Kinard
Don and Lucille King

Bud and June Koorndyk
Felix and Marjorie Leeton
Bill and Val McCracken / Kristin,
Erin and Meg Kinealy
George, Mike, Bob & Bea Makin
Bill and Elsie Meyers
Fred and Gladys Miller
Helen Schaefer
Ray and Deanna Shannon
Ken Smith
Dick and Marie Smith
Jack and Ruth Spooner
Jim and Mary Valla
Ed and Pete Young

392nd Bomb Group

Elmer Amble
Ernie Barber
Bill Barry
Vern Baumgart
Luke Beddingfield
Walt and Jeanette Bell
John and Betty Bross
Floyd and Roberta Bull
Jim Buzick
John and Wanda Conrad
Arnold and Cleome Dovey
Ray and Cile Dunphy
Charley and Helen Dye
Herman Garner and Annelle
Courtney
Gil and Marie Gilbert
Jim Goar and Virginia George
Dave and Rene Greene
Fred and Lorraine Hollien
Ben Jones
Bill and Renella Jurczyn
Myron and Blanche Keilman
Oak and Maxine Mackey
Jim Marsteller
Matt and Marge Mateski
Ed Moran
Art Oldon
Perry Onstot
Ed and Erma Popek
Bert and Margaret Prost
Rocky and Mary Rothrock
Roland Sabourin
Bill and Thelma Singleton
Harry and Edythe Vasconcellas
Stan and Millie Zybort

445th Bomb Group

Tony and Lois Bertapelle
Doc Bowen
Bill and Dorothy Boyanowski
Bill and Mabel Burt
Lee Calvano
Head and Renee Clark
Buddy and Wanda Cross
Fred and Marjorie Dale
Ro and Lil Desjardins
El and Jeanne Fischer
Gil and Kay Fisher
Seymour Grossman
Andres and Virginia Haley
Mary Catherine and
David Handly
Lowell Harris
Howard and Mary Hinrichs
Jack and Dede Knox
J.R. & Jean Lemons
Henry Lively

Pat McKeever
Glen, Jean & Barbara Marsteller
Sam and Pate Miller
John and Dorothy Nortavage
Frank and Rose Plesa
Ray Pytel and Twy Kieffer
Ron and Gwen Quackenbush
Al and Dot Querbach
Carl Rambo
Joe and Shirley Reus
Ed, Sue and Randy Roloff
Alan Saylor
Pete Snee
John and Mary Stemmler
Bob and Shirley Suckow
Chuck Walker
Ed and Mary Wanner
Roger and Melba Ward
Ira Weinstein
Don and Ivy Wimbiscus
Ed and Greg Zobac

446th Bomb Group

Bill and Jean Davenport

448th Bomb Group

Bill and Jean Hensey
Dick and Bobbie Kennedy
Jack, Lorraine, Tom & Yvonne
McDaniel
Tom Murphy
Milt and Ruth Nichols & Bill and
Anne Stapleton
H.O. Riley
Dick and Thelma Salmansohn
Lew Sarkovich & David and
Denise Petrovich

453rd Bomb Group

Moose Allen and Linda & Brenda
Anderson
Hap and Gladys Alonso
Lew and Trudy Barley
LeRoy and Gloria Berg
Wib and Diane Clingan
Arch and Kay Coran
Lyman and Geneva Crumrin
Jim and Dorothy Dyke
Joe Edwards
Ralph and Phyllis Ford
Russ Harriman
Irene and Keith Hurner
Jay and Anna Jane Jeffries
Wendell and Gretta Jeske
Swede and Virginia Johnson
John and Nita Kassab
Grace Lane
Doug and Jane Leavenworth
Andy Low
John and Teresa McGough
Burt and Maggie Madison
Bob and Lavawn Mallick
Guy and Norma Martin
Dorothy Middleton
Mo and Ludie Morris
Phil and Barbara Parsons
Dick Robert
Max and Betty Seale
Al and Betty Soltau
Wilbur and Jeane Stites
Sy and Betty Syverson
Russ and Edna Thompson
John and Josephine Vercler

Alex and Tootie Wallace
Ed and Francie Werner
John and Dorothy White/
Patricia Neuhauser
Bill and Doris Whiteley
Willie and Dorothy Williamson
Don and Ina Wills
Willie and Mary Jean Wilson

458th Bomb Group

George Ahlsen
Lucien and Evelyn Albert
Roy and Lil Boutte
Birtto and Jean Brumby
Dick and Edith Butler
Gerald and Barbara Covey
Dale and Virginia Dyer
Bill and Kathy Edkins
Larry Everett
Duane and Mary Fair
Larry and Marge Fick
Don and Carolyn Fraser
George Fraser
French Goudreault and Pat Molloy
Stan and Dot Hammell
B.P. and Georgia Hebert
Stormy and Sarah Ellen Hein
Fred and Virginia Honold
O.D. and Penny Johnson
Frank Josephson
Ed Klein
Peter and Evelyn Kowal
Tommie and Linda Lord
Ray and Martha Metz
Herman and Bertie Peacher/
Nannie Coats
Rick and Ceil Rokicki
U.B. and Opal Simoneaux
John and Laura Smith
George and Mary Snyder
Larry Van Kuran
Frank and Mildred Vermeiren

466th Bomb Group

Dick and Margaret Baynes
Frank and Louise Bostwick
Margaret Calderalo
John and Irene Horan
Jim and Mary Lorenz
Gerry and Sammy Merket
Stan and JoAnn Mohr
Bill and Lue Nothstein
Jim and Elinor Russell
Earl and Cynthia Wassom

467th Bomb Group

Forrest and Betty Brown
Joe, Helen, Joe Jr. and Joan
Dzenowagis
Ralph and Yvonne Elliott
Ed and Anita Goldsmith
Geoff and Terry Gregory
Lloyd and Carmen Haug
Jim and Barbara Hogarth
Sid Katz and Vivian Bernstein
John Logan
Bob Meyer
Floyd and Anne Pugh/
Catherine Woods & Martha Cole
Vince and Carolyn Re
Rocky and Ida Rothchild
Walt Weaver

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47th Annual Business Meeting

Second Air Division Association, 8th USAAF

Monday, May 30, 1994 • Hyatt Crown Center, Kansas City, MO

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President John Conrad at 10:00 AM, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Charles Walker, Executive Vice President.

QUORUM:

There were over 300 members present, constituting a quorum.

President Conrad stated that Roberts Rules of Order would prevail, and appointed Ray Strong, group vice president, Headquarters, as parliamentarian.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE COMMITTEE:

F.C. (Hap) Chandler, group vice president, 491st 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. Chandler moved that members in attendance be named official delegates to this 47th annual business meeting. Motion seconded and carried. Mackey (s).

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

President Conrad called for a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes due to the absence of the secretary, David Patterson. Jim Lorenz, 466th (m), Fred Dale, 445th (s).

REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Bill Nothstein, treasurer, summarized the financial reports for the period June 30, 1993 through December 31, 1993. These reports had been distributed to all group vice presidents earlier this week for review at their group business meetings. Balance as of June 30, 1993 was \$230,764.99. Total receipts through the beginning of May were \$136,579.11. Balance and receipts \$367,344.10. Expenses of \$78,991.74, leaving a balance at the end of April of \$288,352.36. The treasurer had extra copies of his report available for those interested. Motion to approve made by Joe Whitaker, HQ, Mabee, 93rd (s), carried.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

The audit committee is composed of Neal Sorensen, 489th BG, chairman; Donald Champagne, 489th BG; Floyd Mabee, 93rd BG; and Marvin Speidel, 446th BG. Chairman Sorensen explained that the audit committee has two functions: (1) to journey to Philadelphia, PA to meet with the vice president membership to review the receipts from the last convention and later on when the books have balanced for the year, and (2) they will go to Spencerport, New York to meet with the treasurer, Bill Nothstein, to review the entire funds of the association. He reminded the membership that this was big business. The committee reconciles the bank balances at the various banks and reviews the deposits and expenses. Last year at Hilton Head, receipts were \$334,839.78 including miscellaneous receipts. Expenses were \$335,034.13. The association incurred a deficit of \$194.35. The committee will be going to Spencerport, New York on the second Tuesday of August to do the annual audit. The report was approved.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP & CHAIRPERSON, CONVENTIONS:

(1) Charles Walker read a letter to Evelyn Cohen from Hazel Robertie thanking the Second Air Division Association membership for their kindness to Bill and to her over the past years, and especially to her at this time. "May the spirit of friendship and caring always be a part of the Second Air Division Association." (Bill Robertie was editor of the *Journal* for 22 years).

(2) There was a loss of approximately 5% of our members this year, a little under 400, but we continue to gain new members, so the loss was not too great. The problem is in not finding out who we lose during the year until dues notices are sent out.

(3) A convention and a celebration: The next 2ADA convention will

be July 2-4, 1995 at the Lexington, Kentucky Marriott, with 409 rooms. A Holiday Inn down the street can accommodate another 50 or 100 rooms. Feeding more than 950 may be a problem. Arrangements in KC were made for 700 rooms and we only used 300. Perhaps many were at the beaches in France or in England.

(4) Norwich, 1995 will be a *celebration*. Evelyn will be going to Norwich in June with the Chamberlains to make the arrangements. She will be meeting with the people from the villages to see what their plans are. For Cambridge cemetery we will need 500 chairs and a microphone, and will need to get someone to play taps and for the color guard. She will meet with the Lord Mayor, the Tourist Bureau and the RAF to see if they will parade. Presently all 250 rooms are spoken for, but she will take everyone who wants to go if she can get rooms and figure out the food. Celebration will be for VE Day. We will leave the U.S. on the 5th, arriving on the 6th. The 7th is a Sunday and will probably be proclaimed Memorial Day. She stated she had a letter from the White House wanting to know what the Second Air Division will be doing next year. When the secretary at the White House found out we were going, she wanted a history of the 2ADA, a couple of *Journals* and an agenda for President Clinton. Report approved.

INTRODUCTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT:

President Conrad noted that Bill Robertie, editor of the *Journal*, had passed away recently. He further stated that in the absence of David Patterson, Norma Beasley, Director of Correspondence Services, 492nd BG, was filling in as secretary taking the minutes. He introduced the following members of the current executive committee: Charles Walker, Executive Vice President; Evelyn Cohen, VP Membership; C.N. "Bud" Chamberlain, VP Communications; E.W. "Bill" Nothstein, Treasurer; Bud Koorndyk, Trust Governor; James Reeves, Past President; Frank DiMola, Past President (absent due to his wife's illness); Richard Kennedy, Past President. All group vice presidents were introduced: (Pete Henry, 44th, absent due to illness); Paul Steichen, 93rd; Gene Hartley, 389th; Oak Mackey, 392nd; Ray Pytel, 445th; (Marvin Speidel, 446th, absent); (Cater Lee, 448th, absent); Wilbur Clingan, 453rd; Rick Rokicki, 458th; Earl Wassom, 466th; Ralph Elliott, 467th; Neal Sorensen, 489th; Hap Chandler, 491st; and Bill Beasley, 492nd BG.

REPORT OF THE TRUST GOVERNOR, BUD KOORNDYK:

The remodeling of the library has been completed. The Memorial outside of the open portion has been enclosed and has become a part of the Norwich Central Library. The fountain is no longer there. The Board of Governors and the library staff are fully satisfied. They found it has enhanced the Memorial Room because it has taken away the traffic.

The library staff is as follows: Colin Sleath, Principal Librarian; Phyllis DuBois, Memorial Trust Librarian with assistants Leslie Fleetwood and Christine Snowden, part-time library aides, and Tony North, volunteer.

Branch libraries that we support are East Dereham, Attlebridge, Long Stratton and Sprowston, with a memorial section in each library.

Presently, there is a change in the governmental structure which may affect the library. Mr. Koorndyk read a letter from Mr. and Mrs. E. Kaplan, addressed to the Norfolk County Council, praising the courtesy, efficiency and helpfulness of the library staff. They expressed their appreciation of the lovely books.

There was a small deficit of £2000. Market value of our funds continues to go up. The library operates under the Charity Commission scheme. The funds are invested in 75% wide range (£301,000) and 25% (£105,000) lower range in order to conform with the trust investment act of 1961 for a total of £402,000. Special endowment fund is a total of £26,600. This is a separate fund which is kept in part of the Memorial Trust and the income from that fund is used to buy books. There is a line item which contains the names of all who have invested in the fund to be kept in perpetuity. An investment of £500 or \$800 is needed. Each book purchased will have a bookplate with the donor's name. This money will

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47th Annual Business Meeting (continued from page 23)

help to reduce the amount needed to be taken from the general budget. Special gifts from the executive committee were: \$1,000 in memory of the 2ADA *Journal* editor William Robertie, \$9,087 toward toward the three year commitment of the executive committee for the years '93, '94, '95. To help underwrite the cost of meeting the expenses of the trust and visitors coming over, \$10,000 which is a portion of the money contributed by the members when submitting their dues, will go into the special endowment fund.

Mr. Koorndyk briefly told about the meeting on March 31 with Edward McBride, the Cultural Attache of the American Embassy, who is also chairman of the Fulbright Commission and a member of the Board of Governors. Report approved, Joe Whitaker HQ (m), Hathy Veynar, HQ (s).

JOE DZENOWAGIS:

President Conrad introduced Joe Dzenowagis and asked him for an overview of the work he and his family have been doing. Mr. Dzenowagis stated they have completed 300 interviews, including German pilots. Fifteen documentaries have been produced based in part on the interviews. There is a lot of untouched footage because of time and resources. They have had the opportunity through major TV channels to expose us in some areas. Last night at 7:30 PM in the Detroit metropolitan area, *Memories of War* was shown to lead into the national memorial concert to be repeated at 10:30 PM and then at 3:30 AM tomorrow. The 2ADA will be recognized. Mr. Dzenowagis thanked the 2ADA for its help in this project. He pointed out that his son Joe does the work on his own, part time. He does the major physical and technical work, and his wife Helen and daughter Joan do a tremendous amount of work, especially the remote shoots. He thanked key supporters, namely Jordan Uttal and many others. In gratitude and appreciation of the work done by the Dzenowagis family, President Conrad presented him with a check for \$5,000 on behalf of the 2ADA.

The most recent documentary was made at Norwich in 1990. Taping and editing of the RAF tribute to the 2ADA involving the reception at the civic center watching the band and Coltishall honor guard is now available at \$49.50. Contact Joe Dzenowagis.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HERITAGE LEAGUE:

Billy Sheely Johnson brought greetings from the Heritage League and gave a background of the formation of the league, which was formed in 1987. There is a dedication to instilling the deeds of those who served in the 2nd Air Division into the succeeding generations. The Second Air Division Association formed the league in 1987 for this purpose. During 1988 through 1991 the executive committee had representation of children. In 1992 the torch was passed from the spouses to an executive committee consisting of nearly all first generation descendants. The board of directors continues to have two spouses serving thereon. Goals and strategies are: promoting the league in various military periodicals, the creation of a new brochure which was distributed to military museums, an annual essay contest for young descendants, continued support pledged to the Memorial Room in Norwich, not only monetarily but by fostering bonds of friendship between the Heritage League and the English Friends of the Memorial by exchanging newsletters, pen pals and reciprocity of associate memberships between the two organizations. The Heritage League donated \$1,000 in 1992 to the Memorial. In 1993 \$750 was contributed. They plan to continue this kind of support. Their present goal is to find a facility in the U.S. where they can pay tribute to the 2nd Air Division. Mary Beth Barnard, VP Communications, Heritage League and 445th Bomb Group historian, has been appointed as the Director of History and Archives at the Heritage Center in Savannah, Georgia. The Heritage League is planning for a place in the Heritage Center. The league is also planning to have a mini reunion of its own in 1999. Current membership is 532, up from 417 six months ago. Membership is growing and the records are being updated to include lineage.

Mrs. Johnson introduced the following members of the Heritage League executive committee who were in attendance: Irene Hurner, Executive VP; Caron Veynar, VP Membership; Ed Zobac, Treasurer; and Jeane Stites, Past President and Director.

BOB MARTIN, EDITOR IN CHIEF AT TURNER PUBLISHING COMPANY:

Mr. Martin brought greetings from Mr. and Mrs. Turner of the publishing company. He stated that they are the largest publisher of military association histories in the country. To date the Second Air Division

history is the largest military air group history they have ever published. The history of the 2nd Air Division is in the final stages and should be ready the last of June for distribution in July. It will be Smyth sewn. It will have a full color cover. It will contain 11 pages of color photographs, including the end sheets both front and back. There are over 1,800 biographies and photographs; 360 pages including the Roll of Honor. There are special stories, averaging two to three for each bomb group, sent in by the members. The unique part of the book is that it is not written by a historian, but by the veterans who served and lived it. All groups are represented, including the fighter groups. This has been a team effort, not only by the publishers, but also John Conrad, Bud Chamberlain, Jordan Uttal, and Charlie Freudenthal. This is a limited edition. A 5% royalty on all presale books will go to the association for the Memorial Trust or whatever project the 2ADA chooses. The prepublication cost is \$49.95. All pictures will be returned with the book if ordered; otherwise the pictures will be mailed separately. Mr. Martin gave the veterans a standing salute.

AT THE 11th HOUR, THIS BEING MEMORIAL DAY, A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Changes in Bylaws: Bud Chamberlain reported on the changes in the bylaws. A major change was the addition of three more group vice presidents to serve on the executive committee and the attempt to broaden the purpose of the vice president, *Journal* to include not only the *Journal* but expand on our efforts to better communicate with the community and ourselves. It was proposed to change the vice president, *Journal* to vice president, communications.

There were a number of other changes which were considered and approved by the executive committee. Amendments to Articles 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 were made. The new bylaws will be in a subsequent issue of the *Journal* for everyone's perusal. A motion that the presentation of the bylaws, in detail, be dispensed with due to their presentation to all groups at their business meetings, was made by Andy Low, Gene Hartley (s), and unanimously approved.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS — BUD CHAMBERLAIN:

(1) Bill Robertie passed away on May 8. Bud Chamberlain read a letter from Roger Freeman paying tribute to Bill Robertie for the excellent work he had done with the *Journal* and which he hoped could be printed in the *Journal*.

(2) Paul and Beverly Tardiff of Defiance Graphics Corp. had built a relationship with Bill Robertie over the past 14 years and helped with the excellence of the *Journal*. Paul Tardiff was introduced and in turn expressed his feelings about the 2ADA and Bill Robertie. He gave a history of their relationship as editor, publisher and friend. Hazel asked him to express her thanks for the concern of the 2ADA membership during this difficult time.

The new issue of the *Journal* will be printed with state of the art desktop publishing. Paul expressed his appreciation for being able to meet the veterans with whom he has had contact through the *Journal*. He stated he hoped to continue with a good high quality and favorable cost effective publication with a minimum of disruption. It is a period of transition and all attempts to remain on an even keel will be made. He closed with "God bless you all, God bless America" and thank you for having them.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEES: Report of the Chairman, 2ADA/FMLA (American Librarian Fund) Oversight Committee — Bud Chamberlain:

The Fulbright Commission, which is our partner in an agreement to implement the American Librarian Fund, made a proposal to the governors to add a third staff position to the Memorial as our American presence. This proposal is inconsistent with the purposes under which we set up the fund. We intended that the American presence be the senior position in the Memorial Room and, to the extent funds were available, the library aide. After nearly three years, the agreement with Fulbright, which both parties entered into in good faith, for a variety of

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47th Annual Business Meeting (continued from page 24)

reasons, we find unworkable. The executive committee has chosen to take steps to recapture these funds and has set up its own entity to manage it and to look to another American agency to aid in selecting a potential candidate as our American presence. Fulbright has been advised that we wish to dissolve the agreement in such a way that the funds are restored to the Second Air Division Association. To do that a 501 (c) (3) corporation has been established called the Second Air Division Association American Educational Foundation, and it will take over when we can restore the funds from the Fulbright. We are in the process of working that out. We will then have what we intended to have in the first place. Report approved — J. Reeves, HQ (m), M. Keilman (s).

Report of the Nominating Committee:

Dick Kennedy prefaced the nominating committee report by saying he was a member of the board of directors of the Savannah Eighth Air Force Heritage Center, as well as liaison officer to the Heritage Center. With reference to the revised bylaws, because of the separate provision for voluntary contributions to the 8th Air Force Heritage Center as well as to the Memorial Trust, it is with pleasure that he looks forward to receipt of the dues statement. He agreed with Billy Sheely Johnson and Bob Martin that we are members of an amazing association.

He further stated that the nominating committee, as required by the 2ADA bylaws, presented the new slate of officers during this report. This year, the qualifications of seven candidates who were well qualified and willing to serve in the capacity of executive vice president were reviewed. All in all, fifteen potential executive vice presidential candidates were interviewed. There is a great deal of talent in the 2ADA. As prescribed in the bylaws, the 1995 nominees are: Charles Walker, President, 445th BG; Geoffrey Gregory, Executive Vice President, 467th BG; Elwood "Bill" Nothstein, Treasurer, 466th BG; Evelyn Cohen, VP Membership, HQ; David Patterson, Secretary, 445th BG; C.N. "Bud" Chamberlain, Vice President Communications, 489th BG; Jordan Uttal, Honorary President, HQ. Past presidents serving on the executive committee are John Conrad, Richard Kennedy, and Frank DiMola. The committee has selected the vice presidents from the following six bomb groups to serve on the executive committee: 448th, 491st, 445th, 93rd, 453rd, 446th. The nominating committee, David G. Patterson, 445th BG; James H. Reeves, HQ; Rick Rokicki, 458th BG; and John Conrad, 2ADA President, were introduced and thanked for their services. Nominations were closed and election was made by acclamation. A. Low (m), Mackey (s).

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ELECT:

Geoffrey Gregory, newly elected executive vice president, was introduced. He spoke briefly about his history. He has been a member since 1978 and has not missed a reunion since joining the 2ADA. Four things of importance to him in order are: family, bomb group, 2ADA and "his" library, and he hoped all members also considered the Memorial Room as "their" library.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Conrad reported that the executive committee approved a pledge of \$100,000 for the development of the Heritage Center in Savannah and a pledge of \$10,000 for the finishing of a WWII replica of a control tower at the Air Force Museum in Dayton. The membership has asked for life membership fees for many years; therefore, the executive committee passed the following life membership fees which will become effective in 1995: 69 years or younger \$150, 70-79 years \$120, 80 years and up, \$90.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sarah Hein of the 458th BG, from Albuquerque, told the membership they were walking history and urged them to tell their children and grandchildren and to put their history on tape for the future. Put it down before you forget it!

PRESIDENT ELECT WALKER:

Charles L. Walker, newly elected president, will be installed at the banquet tonight. He was asked to address the membership. He urged the membership to document their history as Billy Sheely Johnson and Sarah Hein had suggested, and expressed his thanks to the membership for being elected as president. He pledged to work diligently to maintain the high standard of excellence that past presidents have provided the association in making and keeping the 2ADA the finest and most respect-

ed WWII veterans organization in the world. "With the new slate of officers we are in good hands."

President Conrad stated he had received a letter from Bill Clarey, past executive vice president, in which he sent his best wishes to the membership for a successful convention.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Norma M. Beasley
Secretary Pro Tem for
David G. Patterson, Secretary ■

The Thirteenth Annual 2ADA Golf Tournament

by Pete Henry (44th)

The Thirteenth Annual Golf Tournament of the Second Air Division Association was held at the Rockwood Golf Club in Independence, Missouri, on 27 May 1994. We had 29 golfers, including two ladies.

Eight prizes were awarded as follows: Tommy Hernandez (93rd) and Roland Sabourin (453rd) tied for men's low gross, and Hernandez was awarded the plaque on a match of cards. Sabourin received a cap and towel as a consolation prize. Plaques were also awarded to Elmer Amble (392nd) for men's low handicap; Cal Davidson (93rd), winner of men's peoria tournament; and Jean Leavenworth (453rd), winner of women's peoria tournament. Golf balls were awarded to Bob Johnson (44th) for men's longest drive on the 8th hole, Renella Jurczyn (392nd) for women's longest drive on the 8th hole, and Cleo Rowley (489th) for men's closest to pin on the 14th hole. Renella Jurczyn was closest to the pin on #14, but only one prize was awarded per player.

As most of you know, I was unable to attend the Kansas City convention for health reasons, and I cannot thank Paul Gregg (44th) and Chuck Walker (445th) enough for taking over on fairly short notice and conducting the tournament so admirably. I also want to thank Rick Rokicki (458th) for the beautiful 2ADA plaques.

Plans are underway to hold the 1995 stateside convention in Lexington, Kentucky over the Fourth of July weekend, and details of the 14th annual golf tournament will appear in the *Winter Journal*. ■

Attendees at Kansas City (continued from page 22)

489th Bomb Group

Ray and Lyn Blanchard
Bud and Mike Chamberlain
Don and Betty Champagne
Jim and Jean Davis
Charlie and Helen Freudenthal
Homer and Geneva Haile
Jean McGrath
Walt and Lynn Rodgers
Cleo Rowley
Frank Skeldon
Neal and Pat Sorensen
Bill and Polly Wilkinson

491st Bomb Group

Hugh and Thelma Bennett
Hap Chandler
Ross and Vel Houston
Chuck Mussett & Cathy Mayberry
Ken and Janet Neitzke
Pat and Joanne Patterson
Bill and Jacque Rigg

492nd Bomb Group

Bud and Margaret Beasley
Bill, Norma and Craig Beasley
Jim and Brenice Brown
Jerry and Freda Campbell
Bud Carter
Barney and Hazel Edwards
Ed and Betty Erickson
J.P. and Jac Harper
Billy Sheely Johnson

Jim, Joe, Michelle and Tonya
McCrory
Bob and Pat Mattson
Sam and Edith Micelli
Bill and Molly Sparks
Don and Billie Whitefield

Headquarters

Lyle and Gerlie Carbaugh
Evelyn and Lil Cohen
Earline Embrey
Marilyn Hughes
Dotty Korgmann
Dave and Lida B. Norris
Bea Puch
Jim and Edna Reeves
Eleanor Storms
Ray and Ruth Strong
Jordan Uttal
Miit, Hathy and Caron Veynar
Joe Whittaker

Guests

Alan Cass
University of Colorado
R.J. Martin
Turner Publishing
Robert Doyle
American Library Association
Paul and Beverly Tardiff
Journal Publishers



392nd B.G.

BY OAK MACKEY

On January 4, 1944, while returning from a mission to Kiel, Germany, a B-24 from the 392nd BG named "Alfred" crashed near Sheringham, which is near Cromer on the North Sea coast about twenty miles north of Norwich. Witnesses report it was flying on two engines and apparently was unable to gain altitude to clear rising ground. Five of the crew were killed in the crash, and there were five survivors. Those who perished were: Lt. Colby Waugh, pilot; Lt. Arthur L. Cound, navigator; Lt. Virgil E. Thomson, bombardier; S/Sgt. Don C. Belden, gunner; and S/Sgt. Edward R. Murphy, gunner. Survivors were: Lt. James W. Barton, copilot; T/Sgt. Lester L. Wagner, engineer; T/Sgt. Parke V. Kent, radio operator; S/Sgt. Earl J. Johnson, gunner; and S/Sgt. Henry Wilk, gunner.

On May 7, 1994, services were held at the All Saints Church and churchyard in Sheringham to dedicate the memorial there in memory of Lt. Waugh's crew. The following report was sent to me by Mr. Doug Willies. Because there is no way I could improve on the report, I will repeat it to you verbatim:

Memorial Dedication Remembrance Service for the Crew of "Alfred"

"No fewer than nineteen relatives of the crew of B-24 "Alfred" from the 392nd BG, including sole survivor Henry Wilk and family, attended the memorial dedication and remembrance service held at All Saints Church, Upper Sheringham, Norfolk on Saturday, May 7th. The visiting Americans embraced three generations and traveled from all over the U.S., including five from Alaska. In addition to Mr. Wilk, those attending represented the families of the pilot Colby Waugh and radio operator Parke Kent.

"The service was preceded by a buffet lunch hosted by organisers Doug and Celia Willies. It was attended by all the American guests, the Rector & Mrs. Peter Barnes-Clay, the chaplain from USAF Mildenhall, Lt. Col. (Chaplain) Don Taylor & Mrs. Taylor, those accommodating visitors in their homes, and the third member of the organising trio, May Ayers. This enabled the representatives from the three American families to get to know each other before the service began, and it also provided an opportunity for a family reunion for the twelve members of the Waugh family who had journeyed from all over the U.S. to attend the function.

"Immediately before the service commenced at 2:30 p.m., Lt. Col. Taylor took the salute at the parade led by the Sheringham Salvation Army Band and consisting of ex-service members of the Royal Naval Association, Royal British Legion, Far East Prisoner of War Association, Royal Air Force Association, Aircrew Association, and cadets from the Air Training Corps. The parade

included fourteen standard bearers from the various organisations and totaled some eighty participants.

"In a packed church, three hundred people took part in a beautiful and moving service conducted by Rector Peter Barnes-Clay, assisted by Chaplain Taylor. During the remembrance service, with the congregation assembled around the memorial stone and after the exultation and Burma epitaph, wreaths were laid by Henry Wilk, family representatives, and also by the British Legion, Far East Prisoner of War Association, Royal Air Force Association, and the chairman of Upper Sheringham Parish Council. After the one minute silence, a Salvation Army trumpeter sounded the last post and reveille.

"Following the service, the congregation retired to the Village Hall (which had to be supplemented by a marquee in view of the attendance!) for tea, coffee and light refreshments — all provided and served by ladies from the village. Decorated with the British and American national flags, those attending enjoyed much nostalgic reminiscence and heard a moving tribute to the crew of "Alfred," composed and sung by villager Malcolm Townsend.

"Souvenirs from the crash were given to Henry Wilk and relatives of the crew members, and Upper Sheringham Church is now the proud owner of a flag of Maine, the home state of Colby Waugh, presented by a nephew. It will be cherished. A small team of helpers provided transportation for the American guests over the period May 2nd to May 10th in order to convey them between Sheringham and Norwich, Wendling, Upper Sheringham Church and the memorial, Sandringham, and other places of interest as required. In a constant battle against time, most were able to visit the 392nd memorial at Wendling and some managed to get along to the 2AD Memorial Room at Norwich. I am delighted to report also that we did re-discover Henry's favorite pub at Little Dunham, the Black Swan. Still there, intact and waiting for him!

"For us, it was a hectic few days after two years of research and planning, but very, very rewarding. It gave us all great pleasure to have some very wonderful people stay and be with us. Those who made the unscheduled stop at Sheringham 50 years ago are marked by the memorial and will never be forgotten. Those who returned half a century later will also be remembered with great affection for a very long time."

The memorial stone in the churchyard in Sheringham was placed there almost entirely by the efforts of Doug and Celia Willies, and May Ayers. For over two years, they raised the necessary monies and did the research to locate relatives of the crew members who died there. Also, they searched for the survivors of the crash and found that four had died of natural causes since the war, and they found Henry Wilk, the lone living survivor. Incredible, just totally incredible. How could we ever thank these three people enough? This was an act of true devotion, kindness, concern and friendship. It seems so insufficient, but thank you, May Ayers; thank you, Celia Willies; thank you, Doug Willies. If any of you would like to write to Doug Willies, his address is: 17 Campion Way, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8UN, England.

The 392nd's John B. Conrad was president of the Second Air Division Association for two consecutive terms. Although he had some help from other 2ADA officers and committees, it was up to him to oversee and coordinate everything. His leadership in this regard was outstanding. We applaud you, John, and we thank you sincerely for a job well done. I told John I would be pleased to step aside if he wanted to run for his old office of group VP. His reply was something like, "No way, José." He has earned a rest from 2ADA affairs for a while; however, keep in mind, the three previous 2ADA presidents remain voting members of the executive committee, so he is not completely off the hook yet. Thanks again, John, you did good.

The 47th annual convention of the 2ADA was in Kansas City, May 28-31, 1994. Attendance was down some, compared to earlier conventions, but keep in mind that the Hilton Head convention was only six months earlier, and at least one bomb group had scheduled a group reunion at about the same time. There were 56 people from the 392nd BG registered for this convention.

On Group Day, May 29th, those from the 392nd who did not go on one of the tours, gathered in a corner of the Terrace Restaurant at the hotel for lunch. It gave us all a chance to gab and visit for a while, and the restaurant helped in this regard, for the food service was slow. We had one waiter for the 40 some of us, and he did an excellent job, but he needed help. Anyway, it was fun.

At our group banquet that night, Roland Sabourin announced there were six members of his crew present. At this point in time and at our age, that is remarkable, and I think it is fitting that I name them: Roland Sabourin, pilot; Elmer Amble, copilot; Fred Hollien, engineer; Bill Singleton, bombardier; Walt Mateski, waist gunner; and Ed Moran, tail gunner.

Once again, Ernest Barber brought a truck load of albums, tapes, and other memorabilia all the way from Georgia. Our hospitality room was too small for a bar and memorabilia, so Ernie volunteered to display it all in his bedroom, which was located directly across the hall. What a guy. Thank you, Ernie.

You have read the saga of the traveling hospitality supplies. The excess left over in May 1993 at the 392nd BGMA convention in Albuquerque, traveled to Chicago in the fall for an 8th AFHS convention. From there, it was smuggled to Georgia for safe-keeping, and appeared later at Hilton Head. Someone took the remains to Florida, where it stayed until it appeared again in the hospitality room in Kansas City. We still didn't drink it all there; what was left may be back in Albuquerque. If traveling improves liquor, we have some real good stuff. Can we drink it all up at the 8th AFHS convention in San Diego this fall?

(continued on page 27)

Report to the Board of Governors and Second Air Division Association

BY E. BUD KOORNDYK

I was asked this past year by a dear friend in the Second Air Division Association what I would miss the most about serving as the American Representative from the 2ADA on the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, if I were to become physically unable, or for some other reason felt inclined to no longer serve in that position.

After much serious consideration and thought, the single word "friendship" came to the forefront of my memories — new friendships from within the membership of the 2ADA since being nominated as a Governor on the Memorial Trust, but also the strengthening of ties with the members that I had known prior to my nomination, and especially the new friendships engendered in Norwich from the members of the Board of Governors, the Norwich Central Library staff, our own Memorial Room staff, and the Norwich citizenry.

To have been so graciously accepted and entertained in the homes and family lives of the Eatons, the Hastings, the Kings, the Davies and also by a most gracious lady, a founding Governor of the Memorial Trust, Anne Barne...to have been extended the hospitality shown to me and my family members by Ted Inman at the Duxford Air Museum...to have had the pleasure of having lunch with Professor Howard Temperly at the University of East Anglia, as well as dining at the American Embassy with the Cultural Attache and the Fulbright staff...As the title of a popular American song from years past states, "Memories are made of this."

I would also be remiss if I failed to thank all the governors for the friendship accorded me during my early visits and my deep appreciation for the many dedicated hours devoted to administrating the affairs of the Memorial Trust and the Memorial Room of the Second Air Division in the Norwich Central Library. May I assure you that even though at times we seemed to work from opposite ends while arriving at our goals, the ultimate concern from both sides of the ocean always was, and will continue to be, the preservation of an everlasting memorial, dedicated to those of the 2nd Air Division who so gallantly made the supreme sacrifice in the defense and preservation of freedom during the difficult days of World War II.

Then, as is true in all of our lives, it is often the most common things that touch our hearts and lives with an indelible stamp. In my case it

would be no longer being able to walk into the library when I arrive in Norwich for the annual meeting of the Board of Governors and to be greeted with a beaming smile and hug from our librarian, Phyllis DuBois, and then to see the smiles of our library aides...not having the opportunity of chatting with Colin Sleath, principal librarian of the Norwich Central Library, over a cup of tea in his office, discussing the activities of the Memorial Room for the past year and sharing the status of the branch libraries and the role they continue to play in the everyday lives of the villages...not having the privilege of being introduced by Phyllis DuBois to visitors using the facilities of the Memorial Room for educational research and being recognized as an American veteran who played an active role in the struggle for freedom during World War II, then to be bombarded with questions on that period of time, as well as life in America in general.

During my visit last year, I was surrounded by a class of eleven year old boys and their headmaster who had come to our library to study the role the American soldier had played in Norwich during the war years. To witness the enthusiasm shown by these lads when they discovered that I had served as a pilot of one of the B-24 Liberators stationed in Norwich during those years will always be remembered.

Added to my memories was the privilege of sitting around a small table in the cottage home of Ron and Pat Everson, enjoying a cup of tea with biscuits and not being able to find an empty spot on the table where I could place my cup. I then discovered that every available table, bookcase, stairway and shelf was stacked with memorabilia from the 448th Bomb Group. I also questioned Pat about how she ever found such an understanding husband like Ron, who never seemed to mind having his meals served to him using the floor as his table. Her answer was only her gracious smile. We then walked slowly down the lane, past the thatched roof school of Pat's childhood, on to the church in the village where I was shown the beautiful memorial stone dedicated to the 448th Bomb Group located in the cemetery, where a beautiful bouquet of flowers is placed weekly by a loving and dedicated woman of the village.

As I continue to draw on my memories, there comes to the foreground the occasions when I have been a participant at the yearly ceremonies during the latter part of May at the

American Military Cemetery at Madingley. To see English people of all ages spending a beautiful Sunday afternoon under the sun-drenched skies, commemorating a memorial to those Americans who gave their lives in defense of liberty and freedom...to witness the presentation of hundreds of floral wreaths, standing so elegantly against the marble Wall of Remembrance that is inscribed with the names of those boys who gave their lives but whose remains are known only to God, as Taps are being played and the notes echo over the hills and valleys that surround the cemetery...to see the rows upon rows of some 3,812 white marble headstones that watch so majestically over our departed comrades. The crosses and Stars of David are so symmetrically arranged that on the last day, when the trumpets shall sound and time shall be no more, the dead shall rise and look over each other's shoulders at the focal point in that cemetery, which is the flag of the United States of America, waving so gently in the breeze of the English countryside, and at which at the base of the flagpole can be found the following inscription, taken from the poem "In Flanders Field," and I quote: "To you from falling hands we throw the torch — be yours to hold it high."

As the sun begins to set in the western skies over the beautiful and serene fields of waving grain in its panorama of color and beauty surrounding the American Military Cemetery at Madingley, I discover the final and lasting realization of what our Memorial Trust and Memorial Room in the Norwich Central Library truly represent. All of our combined efforts on this behalf are brought back into the proper focus.

My eyes grow misty as I find solace in the Word of the Holy Scripture as found in the book of Isaiah, the 40th Chapter: "They shall mount up on wings of eagles. They shall run and not grow weary. They shall walk and not grow faint."

This, then, is my answer to the question asked by my dear friend and departed member of the Second Air Division Association, Lloyd West.

I thank you for permitting me to share with you my memories which were indelibly stamped during my years of service as a Governor of the Memorial Trust.

My God bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hand, and bless you with health and happiness in this New Year. ■

392nd B.G. (continued from page 26)

Ben Jones, of Litchum, Norfolk, was a guest of the 392nd BGMA at the Kansas City convention. In 1989, during the dedication ceremonies at the Wendling air base, Ben displayed parts of the P-38 that crashed in the field near the Beeston church in 1944 in the Ploughshare pub for all to see. At that time, he was 18 years old. He has taken an avid interest

in all things pertaining to the 392nd BG, and we are proud and thrilled when he comes to our conventions.

Jim Marstellar of New Park, PA is a young associate member of the 2ADA who also is interested in all things about the 392nd BG and was at the K.C. convention. His uncle was killed in a crash during the Friedrichshafen mission on March 18, 1944. He has traveled to

Germany to visit the crash site and has interviewed Germans who were witnesses. At K.C., he displayed an album of pictures of the crash given to him by the Germans.

I hope you read the story in the last *Journal* by Edward G. King of the 467th BG, about how you can use Phone Disc at your local library to locate long lost friends and crew members. Check it out! ■



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

BY HAP CHANDLER

Nelson Leggette and I attended the executive committee meeting of the Second Air Division Association at Kansas City this past May. The 491st vice president was selected as a member of the association's executive committee and began serving a one year term beginning May 30, 1994. Members having information to bring to the attention of Second Air Division Association management are urged to contact us.

HISTORY GROUP

Under the leadership of Jack Leppert, 853rd Squadron navigator, the 491st history committee completed *The Ringmasters*, a history of the 491st Bombardment Group (H), in record time — eleven months. The committee also includes Vin Cahill, Frank Lewis, John Fitzgerald, Hap Chandler, and Barbara Lewis.

Louis Bur is handling sales of the history from his home in Lennon, Michigan. A number have been presented to libraries across the country by Ringmasters and their children. The book is getting rave reviews from

RINGMASTERS HISTORY

Available at \$50.00 from:

Louis Bur
 12339 Lennon Road
 Lennon, MI 48449
 (313) 621-3727

Please make checks payable to:
Ringmasters History

historians for its personal accounts of the tremendous air battles that took place during the 491st's combat career.

**SAN ANTONIO REUNION,
 OCTOBER 10-12**

Registrations indicate a full house for our 50th anniversary reunion at the Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. There is still room left — it is suggested that you place your reservation promptly.

Ed Watson, P.O. Box 966, Etowah, NC 28729-0966 (phone 704-891-2620) is the reunion coordinator.

GOLF SHIRTS

Harold Fritzler has just received a new supply of 491st golf shirts in sizes XL, L, and M. He also reports that he now has Ringmaster hats at \$8.00, as well as squadron patches at \$7.50.

We have one of the most outstanding arrays of memorabilia in the Second Air Division thanks to the efforts of Harold and his wife Florence. Their address is 1130 S.W. Chestnut Drive, Portland, OR 97219; phone 503-244-8790.



**491st History Committee Chairman
 John Leppert**

SGT. KENNETH WEIBLE

We continue to receive requests for information regarding relatives who served in the 491st. On August 8th we received a call requesting information concerning Sergeant Kenneth Weible, KIA 26 Nov 44, on the Misburg raid. He was a member of the 853rd Squadron. If you knew Sgt. Weible or have any knowledge of him during his tour with the 491st, please contact Andy DeCusati, 709 Townsend Ave., New Haven, CT 06512 (phone 203-469-4478).

**26 NOVEMBER 1944:
 TARGET MISBURG**

This was the bloodiest day in the Ringmasters' history. Attacked by more than 150 Luftwaffe fighters, the 491st lost sixteen aircraft and crews before 8th Mustangs came to the rescue. The USAAF fighters were led by Captain Bob Whitlow of the 2nd Air Division Scout Force. Recently the Luftwaffe account of this mission from the enemy viewpoint became available from Luftwaffe archives.

The 301st German Fighter Wing led the attack against 491st bombers just south of Hanover. They quickly shot down 16 of our bombers and inflicted major damage on the others, forcing two to force land in friendly territory.

Against this frightful toll the 491st gunners and their fighter escorts accounted for 26 Luftwaffe fighters, resulting in 26 KIA and 13 wounded pilots. It is reported that the 301st never recovered from the losses suffered on

this day. By contrast the 491st was back in the air the next day, never losing its effectiveness despite the fearsome toll. For this action the group was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, WWII's top award to battle units.

Here is the complete Luftwaffe account:

**MISBURG AS SEEN FROM
 GERMANY**

On November 26, 1944, the storm clouds that had been stationary over northwest Germany a week ago had long since moved on, and this time the 8th Air Force found the



**Working on 491st History:
 John Fitzgerald (left) & Nelson Leggette**

skies almost cloudless.

The weather conditions were now more suitable for a counter attack, and the Germans lost no time in preparing the serviceable aircraft — some 550 fighters of all types.

Meanwhile the bomber waves had passed into German territory, headed southeast toward the Elbe. The 1st and 6th Fighter Groups scrambled from Mecklenburg. The 301st Wing was brought up to readiness at all the airfields between Stadel and Salzwedel. Long-range visibility was relatively good. The Americans' vapor trails were soon seen and the German air defense fighters were able to set up their attacks in good time. No one could miss seeing the enemy's tightly packed combat boxes.

A force of 50-80 German fighters went into action against the first bomber formation on a broad front, but the Mustang escorts were on guard and already formed up to ward them off, with the loss of six German fighters in the first five minutes.

At this point, when the 301st German Fighter Wing entered the fight, the rest of the damage was done. All three groups of the 301st Fighter Wing took off from fields in the area. At this time the leading squadron of the 491st bombers were just approaching Hanover. The 301st moved to a point just south of Hanover. It was at this point that the fateful encounter with the enemy took place.

This time the German fighters found a gap in the Mustangs' defense that allowed them to get through to the bombers. They soon had

(continued on page 29)



BY RAY PYTEL

This time we will dig deep somewhere in the bowels of my PC (computer, to the uninitiated) to pick up some gems and germs that may interest you, amuse you or infuriate you, preferably all three of the above. Just remember that lies (especially statistical) are difficult to defend but the truth is impossible; also remember that if you have to say something good about someone all the time, don't tell the truth!

Jordan Uttal commented about my last column and called me a "wit," but I quickly corrected him and said I only deserve half of that accolade, and that maybe some day my column will be full of wit, but he should not wait for it, as I'm not always perfect!

I am sure that by now everyone has read or heard that our new 2ADA fearless leader is Chuck Walker, and true to his name he took over even before the gavel was passed. Pete Henry, the perennial golf tournament honcho was "indisposed" and at home...so *voila!* Chuck Walker took over the leadership, and graciously let half the gang win "all the marbles" to the point that only one winner came to claim his award just before the business meeting! Fred Dale proposed an additional rule, to give the winner one minute to claim the prize or it goes to the golfer next in line. "That way, maybe I'll win next time," he said. Not being a golfer, I have only one comment: How was hail measured before golf was invented? (Note to Frank DiMola: Meatballs don't count except in the Italian district.)

Mary Beth Barnard has accepted a position with the 8th Air Force Heritage Center in Savannah, Georgia. Her knowledge of B-24s, the 8th AF and Second Air Division history will serve her well, as well as us, and will prevent another "Smithsonian fiasco," where their history of WWII aviation fails to even acknowledge that a B-24 existed. (Each time they write and ask me to join, I write across their application blank, "I don't exist; I flew in a B-24," and send it back in their prepaid envelope. Good thing I'm a "kind and gentle" B-24 veteran.)

Mary Beth also indicated that she will keep her ties with the 2ADA and the Heritage League. What do you plan to do in your spare time, Mary Beth? By the way, her new home address is 12300 Apache Ave. #605, Savannah, GA 31419. I am sure she'll appreciate hearing from all of her 2ADA friends!

Remember the silk gloves we used to keep our hands from freezing? Well, they are available, as well as many other silk items from WinterSilks, P.O. Box 130, Middleton, WI 53562. (Yes, they have silk underwear for both sexes!)

This issue's "Campus Trivia" includes several of our 445th officers getting caught "moonlight acquisitioning" those BTU packets sometimes called "coke" just to keep from freezing to death. (Each Nissen hut got one bucket of this "recycled coal" each day, which lasted about ten minutes in that cold, damp British climate). I shall not mention any names, but their initials were Chuck Walker and Glenn Marsteller. Needless to say, the reprimand on their record didn't hurt; after all, anyone willing to "appropriate" anything that burns to keep from freezing can't be all bad or "dumb," the promotions board said. This type of activity was considered Yankee ingenuity or American "know-how." Taking the matter into your own hands turned out to be a virtue! They were lucky no one found out how they "piped" drain oil from the Liberators into their little coke burner! No one said what they did with the burning oil aroma in their oversize Nissen tin can.

Does anyone remember eating those delicious rabbits at a restaurant on Old Compton Street in London? It seems that the hair stood up on the nape of our necks after reading that they were arrested for using alley cats as the substitute for the main entree! The only side effect that could be noticed was the substantial increase in both the air crews' and ground crews' habit of prowling around the local villages at night, but there was no noticeable reduction in the mice population reported.

"Air Force infantry" was an oxymoron first

time trying to ward off hordes of Mustangs. The combat in the air over Hanover grew more and more intense.

The German fighters followed the bombers on back past Osnabruck, but the Mustangs kept them at bay.

At the end of the day the 301st alone had lost 26 KIA and there were 13 wounded pilots.

The operations added up to another blow to the home air defense. All in all they had lost 90 fighters to the Mustangs and Liberator gunners.

The German Communique for the 26th

class, but that's what some of the 445th's "graduated gunners" were assigned to after finishing their tour of duty. It seems that there was a scare about the Germans 'chuting snipers down to cause havoc among the ground crews at night, so the gunners were manning old, water-cooled machine guns around the "base" and freezing to death. But Yankee ingenuity again...our Sperry ball gunner Ray Gilliam improvised a "used oil" burner in the sand-bagged gun emplacement to keep from freezing in their electrically heated combat clothes with no electric outlets to plug into. (Besides, these electric suits operated only on the 24 volt system of the mighty Liberator.) No Germans came, no guns were fired and no one froze...but the affected gunners smelled like some refinery was on fire!

Someone from Cambridge University came over with one of those right handed clipboards one day and said we could sign up for some lectures at this great institution. I signed up for several of them, but I only recall being hauled to Cambridge in a 6 x 6 or something like that just once. The subject was "Your Puritan Heritage" and expounded on the English from the Norwich area settling down in Massachusetts. Is there anyone else who got in on these Cambridge lectures? Can't be that all of you guys were such great poker players.

Dave Patterson is recovering from a quintuple bypass. His heart area must resemble a B-24 fuel transfer system! He's doing well, I understand, but rumors persist that his doctor had to call in a B-24 hydraulic system specialist to re-route all the "piping."

Finally, we wish to thank Mary Catherine Handly and her son David for coming to our group dinner. Mary Catherine is the widow of deceased 445th member Lynn Handly. Again I wish to thank all of the 445th members who came over to our hospitality room and the newcomers, and, oh yes, those who brought their own VCR tapes, Dede and Jack "Hard" Knox, "Billy" & Don Whitefield, Al & Dot Querbach, and of course, Cheerful Chuck Walker, who brought a "rough version" of the Dzenowagis's RAF "tattoo" (*British for military band ceremony*) which was a hit not only with all the 445th members but also all the members from the other groups who came to watch the VCR tapes, especially the "tattoo" salute by the RAF to the 2ADA!

See you at Lexington, Kentucky, next Fourth of July! ■

491st RINGMASTER (cont. from page 28)

the Liberators in their sights. Suddenly the air was full of machine gun fire and engines screaming. The first of three FW-190s plunged earthward, killing Lts. Henning, Dossmann, and W.O. Handdle.

1st Lt. Voller was sitting hard on the tail of a Liberator, but the two Mustangs chasing him were too quick. After a wild dogfight, the German fighter went down.

The 301st was pressing home its attack against the four engine bombers, at the same

stated: "American terror bombers penetrated northwest and central Germany today with a strong fighter escort, dropping their bombs mainly in urban residential areas. Damage was particularly extensive at Hanover."

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

See you in San Antonio for our 50th anniversary. We expect to have a number of key Second Air Division Association officers in attendance at the historic Menger Hotel.

Keep those dog tags jingling! ■

Attlebridge Tales



by Earl Wassom

Nineteen 466ers showed up for the 47th annual convention of the 2ADA. Our group dinner was outstanding and everyone participated enthusiastically. Since we were meeting just before the 50th anniversary of D-Day, we asked Gerry Merket to share with us his experiences on this momentous occasion.

Gerry flew three missions on June 6, 1944, although he had not been alerted to fly. Determined not to miss the action, he got into his flight gear and reported in as an observer. The pilot did not question him, as he was known to have an observer rating. He was given mission credit for two and was almost court marshalled (his own testimony) because of this unmilitary behavior. However, his reputation as a fine bombardier "saved his neck" and with his 2 DFCs, he survived the war and gave us first-hand insights into that historic day fifty years ago.

Another 466er flying on D-Day was combat photographer Everett D. Elkins. The picture and press release from his hometown newspaper in Hollywood, California declared him to be "the first man to obtain invasion day photographs." Captain Elkins is shown here with his own specially constructed camera. We are proud of these members of our 466th Bomb Group. Elkins took pictures and Merket



First man to obtain invasion day photographs is combat photographer Capt. Dale E. Elkins, 4118 Garthwaite, Hollywood, Calif. Capt. Elkins is shown with his own specially constructed camera. He is a member of the Liberator group commanded by Col. Luther J. Fairbanks of Burt, Iowa. — USAF PHOTO.

observed. The 466th was well represented on June 6, 1944.

Frank and Louise Bostwick conducted a fantastic raffle. There were more gifts than people: original art work, a book written by one of our own, a framed group logo, and many other fun things. The proceeds from the effort are being forwarded to give continued support to the Memorial Room in Norwich and to begin a 466th Bomb Group fund in support of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Center now under construction near Savannah, Georgia, the birth site of the 8th Air Force.

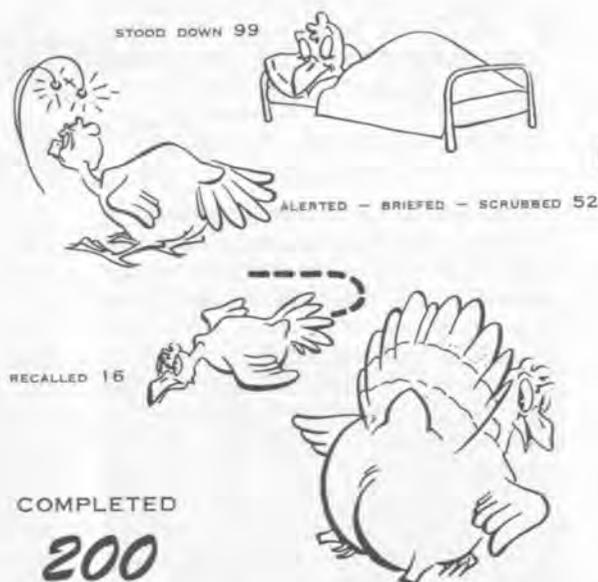
Although John Horan had been a member of the 2ADA for 40 years, he had never attended a national convention. We were delighted to see him and Irene and celebrate with them his public recognition as a forty year member.

Coming up in 1995: (1) The trip to Norwich, England is in May, 1995. Thirty 466ers have made their reservations to go and be involved in the VE Day festivities. (2) Dick Baynes, 466 BGA board member, gave details on the 466th Bomb Group reunion which will be held June 7-11, 1995 at Dayton, Ohio. This will be an exciting time for all of us to get together. Our last stand-alone reunion was in Colorado Springs in 1993 — over two hundred were present. Let's top that number in 1995! (3) Then in July, Independence Day holiday, the 48th annual 2ADA convention will be in Lexington, Kentucky at the Marriott resort right in the middle of the beautiful "Bluegrass State." These three meetings are very close together but come at a good time in the year. Start your plans now to attend as many of these gatherings as possible. You will never regret it!

Memorabilia: A letter has been received from Cathy and Donald Thomson. Their residence (the old headquarters building at Attlebridge) is up for sale and they will be moving to Honingham. She has learned that the RAF-Swanton Morley Airfield will be closing, and there is talk of establishing a heavy bomber museum to include both RAF and USAF collections of wartime items. She would like to put on permanent loan all memorabilia donated by the 466ers which she had acquired, as long as all donors agree. If not, she will return anything to the owners which they have given over the years. If anyone wishes to have an item returned, contact her and specify what it is that you wish to claim. Also, include the cost of postage for shipment back to the States.

Do You Remember? Melvin J. Keck, a 466er, used to play his trumpet on missions. His pilot was from Hayes, KS. The Purple Heart was awarded to Keck on 13 April 1944. He was a gunner who lost his life on a mission 13 October 1944 and was buried in Cambridge, England. His brother, Sal Keck, would like to learn anything he could about the crew

466th across the board



— SECRET —

members and their whereabouts. If you have information, let your VP know.

Getting to the 200th Mission: In a secret document which was declassified on 14 September 1945, the Saxon illustration above shows that it took 367 operational efforts for the 466th BG to fly 200 missions between March 1944 - March 1945. I recall that it was just about as traumatic to be alerted, briefed, scrubbed, or recalled as to fly an actual mission.

Group History Update: *Attlebridge Diaries* update will be available in the spring of 1995; that is, if the advance sales are sufficient. We must have 500 confirmed orders before it will be published. No extra copies will be printed. If you want copies for yourself, your children, your library or a school, you must order now. This publication will contain the complete and original text of *Attlebridge Diaries* and about 20,000 additional words. It will also include 50-100 new photographs (both wartime and current), most of which you have not seen. Don't delay in placing your order with Taylor Publishing Company, P.O. Box 12431, Charlotte, NC 28220. The deadline for ordering your copy has been extended by the publisher.

Membership: Now is the time to contact our crew members or ground crew personnel who don't belong to the 2ADA and get them to *join and come to the conventions*. Let them know what they are missing — get them to attend one of our reunions and they will come again! Any names and addresses of 466ers that you have who are not members or who are not attending the meetings, pass them on to me and I will also contact them.

Taps for Harry A. Dolph: The Second Air Division Association and the 466th Bomb Group Association regret the passing of Harry A. Dolph on June 12, 1994. He was the hard working editor of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society (AFEES) Communication and the 466th BGA *Attlebridge Notes*.

(continued on page 31)

489TH NOTES

BY
NEAL SORENSEN

The changes in type and formatting of the *Journal*, due to new equipment being installed at the printer, are welcome changes for those who write material. With the newer and faster equipment, our deadline has been extended. Of course, that only means that we will write our column a little later! Hopefully, it will give us fresher material. Charlie Freudenthal's newsletter will still remain the most current source of news about the 489th. We are indeed fortunate to have Charlie's dedication and humor to enjoy in his bimonthly newsletter.

The committee to succeed Harry and Ginny Wagon on our mid year get-together in Orlando has been active. Ginny Belward, Tom McQuoid and Garrett Verplanck will be keeping all members advised. We are coordinating

it with the ZADA mini-reunion in Orlando, so those of you who were in more than one group will have an opportunity to look for buddies at both events.

Most of us remember our crew members very well, and in the intense months of flying with them in Europe developed a love and camaraderie that has lasted ever since. What we may not know are some of their experiences prior to assignment to our crews. Bill Martin was the ball turret gunner on Shroyer's crew (I was navigator). Bill confided to me recently that he and four other ball turret gunners whose names began with the letter M were determined to be in the same combat unit. On the day that orders came, Bill was the only one who was not to be shipped out of Westover for RTU training with the group his buddies had been assigned to as a foursome. "I was truly upset," Bill related to me, "so I rushed down to the First Sergeant to see if I couldn't be included in the group of my friends. I didn't know Shroyer or any of you; I just wanted to be with my buddies. The first sergeant heard me out patiently, then said, 'You live down on Long Island, don't you, Martin? You go home every weekend by avoiding the MPs when you do so. Not only that, but your orders are to remain within 50 miles of

Westover so you can return quickly, if need arises.' (He paused, and I wondered if I had talked myself into trouble.) 'I assigned you to a Westover crew BECAUSE I knew what you were doing on your weekends.' " Bill concluded his anecdote, "I left with a new sense of the kindness that so often tempers what we unknowingly call paperwork."

Another member of Shroyer's crew was left waist gunner John H. Rainey, who currently resides in Vacaville, CA with wife Millie and daughter Frances. Due to an injury to our pilot, Ed Shroyer, when we were at the rest home, our crew was broken up and John was transferred to the 445th to complete his missions. His recent letter to me reminded me that during wartime, even when your combat is completed, your peril is not. (*Ed. Note: John's story, in his own words, appears below.*)

The Heritage League continues to ask us to make a record of our wartime experiences for those who follow us on the paths of the future. If you have a memory or philosophy learned through your war experiences, please write to me. I may have to abbreviate or in some minor manner make changes, but the message will be yours, and we will all be richer for having gained your insights. ■

MY TRIP ON A LIBERTY SHIP

BY JOHN H. RAINEY (489TH)

There has been a lot written and on television about the liberty ship *Jeremiah O'Brien*. It is the last of the liberty ships that is seaworthy, and it left San Francisco to take part at the celebration of the landing of the Allies on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. I prayed that it made it.

The focus of the stories of the liberty ships is how they carried men and material to the men of the Armed Forces prior to and during the invasion of Europe. I remember one in particular with a great feeling of gratitude because it carried me home safely.

When I had completed my missions as an armorer-gunner with the 489th and the 445th Bomb Groups, I staged with others and was sent to Southampton to board a ship to return to the US of A. As I stood on the docks of that city, the tensions created by the combat role I had just experienced seemed to flow from me and I felt exuberant.

The wait for transport seemed to last forever, but at last our ship arrived. It was delayed at its last port-of-call in France. It was a liberty ship. I boarded with a spring in my step — I was going home at last and alive. Life was good.

It wasn't long before I felt something was wrong. We seemed to be headed toward the Canary Islands rather than west to New York. We were ordered below decks, where the returnees were stacked three high in bunks in the hold. I learned that we were trying to avoid German submarines. It wasn't long before the destroyer escorts which were near to us in the convoy started to drop depth charges. The

sound of the explosions were magnified by the hull, and the noise was deafening. We could see nothing from the hold in the ship, far different than in a B-24 heavy bomber. Trusting nameless and faceless sailors for our safety was foreign to me. I learned that day that the fear of the unknown and helplessness are the greatest fears that one can experience.

Things finally quieted down and we turned west. Again I relaxed, and prayed that the remainder of the journey would be uneventful. It was not to be so.

About mid-Atlantic we ran into a ferocious storm. The ship would climb a wave that was so steep it felt to me as if it were standing on its fantail. As it reached the crest of the wave, it would tip forward and the screw (propeller) would come out of the water. This would cause the ship to shudder violently. It seemed to me that the rivets holding the ship would pop. The ship would then plunge into the chasm between the waves until the bow would become submerged in the following wave, and the deck was awash. This was my first ocean voyage. The plunging and the rocking made me sick, and I thought that surely the boat would sink. I understood from later conversations with others that one or two liberty ships broke apart during the storm.

The storm abated at last, and a couple of days later we entered the port of New York. The sight of the Statue of Liberty took on a new meaning for me. I thanked God that at last I was safely home.

I believe the name of the stalwart liberty ship that served me so well was *The Raven*. ■

ATTLEBRIDGE TALES (cont. from page 30)

Harry was the author of a very successful book, *The Evader*. This story also appeared in the condensed version of *Reader's Digest*, January 1994. Prior to "folding his wings" he was an active director of the AFEES. He was born and reared in Michigan and enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) after high school.

He joined the Army Air Corps in October 1940 and spent almost eight years in the service. After his plane, "True Love," was shot down over Holland in August 1944, he was protected by and participated with the Dutch underground for eight months. Harry helped train the underground with small arms and fought beside the brave Netherlanders during the German occupation of their country. His best weapons were not bombs and guns, but luck and guile.

In 1989, he met and shook hands with the former Lt. Ernst Scheufle, ME-109 pilot, who shot down "True Love" on August 15, 1944. He had a personal interview with Oberstdeutnant Scheufle, JG5 Luftwaffe, in Meppel, Holland.

In civilian life, Harry was a businessman and salesman. He became an avid boatsman and began writing articles on boating. In 1976 he and his wife, Patricia, moved to Pasadena, Texas, where he opened his own insurance agency. He sold the business and retired in 1984. Later they moved to Marietta, Ohio, and a short time later to Williamstown, West Virginia, where he died.

His wife arranged to have him interred in Arlington National Cemetery. His many friends will miss him and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Patricia.

Harry's passing means that we who remain must work a little harder to try to make up for his loss. He gave much, unselfishly, during his life. May he now rest in eternal peace! ■

I enjoyed Ken Driscoll's article in the last *Journal* about the black Libs flying out of Harrington, as I know whereof he writes. I was flying out of Leuchars, Scotland during that time and know the details of the black Lib that was shot down by the Russians near Murmansk. One of the gunners on that crew was from my original crew of the 389th, Lt. Harold L. James, pilot.

The black Libs flying out of Leuchars were assigned to the Ball Project, with Colonel Bernt Balchen as commander. He wore the Medal of Honor and the crews really liked him. I had the privilege of flying with him on two occasions.

On 20 September 1944, Colonel Keith Allen, pilot; Captain Schreiner, copilot; and seven crew members took off from Leuchars on an operational mission to drop supplies to the underground in Norway. After crossing the coastline of Norway, number one engine began to smoke and run rough. This condition existed until they reached the target area and released the containers. The engine then caught fire and was feathered, and the fire extinguished itself. After a short staff meeting on the flight deck it was decided to try for Murmansk, as heading back over the North Sea on three engines was a bit risky.

The plane finally crossed the mouth of Kola inlet as the crew looked for a place to land. Three searchlight cones of three each were turned on, indicating an airfield. In attempting to make a 360 turn, without knowing it the pilot flew over the battleship *Archangel*. During this time, the Russian colors of the day were being fired from the Very pistol; all lights on the plane were turned on, including the landing lights; and calls were being made on the International Distress Frequency.

At this time, the battleship *Archangel* opened fire along with some shore batteries, hitting engine number two which caught fire, shooting off the left rudder and damaging the left wing. With the plane on fire, Col. Allen ordered Capt. Schreiner to bail out the crew, advising that he would follow. Despite the flames, the engineer released two life rafts through the bomb bay. The right waist gunner

SHOT DOWN BY THE BATTLESHIP ARCHANGEL

BY EARL ZIMMERMAN (389th)

was hit by flak and bailed out; the navigator escaped through the nose wheel well after destroying all the classified material and making sure the IFF was destroyed.

When his parachute deployed, the navigator looked up and saw his plane explode. When he reached the ground, he threw his gun away and called for the other crew members. His call was answered by machine gun fire. Eventually he was captured by a Russian lieutenant who took him before Russian engineers for questioning, after which they were convinced of his identity. A Russian staff officer took him to view the plane, which was entirely demolished, and on his return to the Russian quarters he identified the remains of Colonel Allen.

The Russians relinquished control of the crew to Captain S.B. Frankel, USN, who dispatched a message to London. Burial rites for Colonel Allen were conducted by Captain Frankel, in the presence of Russian Admiral Golovko, Commander Morton, Royal Navy and local diplomatic agents, with six of the ambulatory crew members acting as pallbearers. A

farewell salute was fired by a Russian Guard of Honor.

All crew members were happy to get out from under the jurisdiction of the Russians as they boarded the HMS *Rodnay*, which took them to the naval air station at Scapa Flow where they disembarked. Two amphibious aircraft took the crew back to their home base at Leuchars, Scotland.

RAF Leuchars was a strange airfield. Among other units stationed there were the Green Libs, Operation "Sonnie," with civilian markings, flying into Sweden bringing out the American internees; a Canadian outfit flying white Libs on sub patrol; Royal Navy fabric covered biplanes, fitted with torpedoes; strange looking aircraft which were crewed by French, Polish, Norwegians and South Africans, and a few assorted uniforms which could not be distinguished. Our operation was restricted to a small area around a hangar, and we met the other crews at the local pubs but none would reveal their missions.

Does anyone out there know of any other Libs being shot down by a battleship? Perhaps in the Pacific. Let me know. ■

As you are probably well aware, Col. Bernt Balchen was highly respected in Norway, and he is regarded as one of our war heroes. Among his many decorations, I will particularly mention that he was appointed Commander 1st Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav with sword and star by H.M. King Haakon the Seventh. This is the second highest ranking decoration that can be given in times of war. All crews who flew out of Leuchars, please contact me, as I plan to get in touch with the Norwegian Resistance Museum.

Vidar Falck, Lt. Col. NOA
Military, Naval &
Assistant Defense Attache
Royal Norwegian Embassy
Office of the Defense Attache
Washington, DC

THE IMPORTANCE OF ON-SCREEN CREDITS

BY HAL ALEXANDER

In all my years in television, I have always recognized the importance of the on-screen credit. But not until recently did I come to realize just how important it really was.

During World War II, I served as a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber as part of the 8th Air Force stationed in wartorn England. At precisely 20 minutes past two on January 7, 1944, our bomber crashed into a mountain in Northern Wales. Five of the men on board were killed outright. All of the survivors, myself included, were separated and placed in different hospitals throughout Great Britain.

I was released from the hospital several months later and returned to active duty. However, due to the complexities of war and all the shuffling about, I found I had completely lost track of the other surviving crew members. That is until now.

It seems that one night recently, my former navigator, a Mr. Julian Ertz of Newport, California, was relaxing at home and enjoying an evening of television when my name suddenly appeared on the screen.

Could this be the same Hal Alexander he had flown with during World War II nearly 50 years earlier? He had to find out.

As luck would have it, Julian belonged to a civilian organization known as the 2nd Air Division Association, and another member of that group just happened to be former Directors Guild president Delbert Mann. Working on the hunch that I might indeed be his long lost tail gunner, Julian asked Del if he could help track me down. Del immediately looked me up in the DGA directory and gave Julian my home telephone number.

Because it was such a long shot, my navi-

gator put off calling for several weeks and then had his daughter call for him. My wife Pat answered the phone that evening, and was absolutely shocked to hear a strange woman ask if anyone at this number had ever been a tail gunner on a B-24 that crashed in Wales some 50 years ago. Unable to speak, Pat simply handed me the telephone.

Julian and I see each other quite often now, and we both would like to publicly thank Del Mann for putting us together.

So please keep fighting for those on-screen credits — you never know when you're going to fly into a mountain.

Editor's Note: This item appeared in the Dec. 93 - Jan. 94 issue of the Director's Guild of America News. It is reprinted here with permission. Julian Ertz and Del Mann are 2ADA members. ■

THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

(AS AMENDED 30 MAY 1994)

Article 1 NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The Second Air Division Association."

Article 2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this association shall be to advocate and support an adequate, effective and efficient Army, Navy, and Air Force at all times; to perpetuate the friendships and memories of service together in the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force in England during World War 2; to support financially, and in any other way, the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division as represented by the Second Air Division Memorial Room of the Norwich Central Library; and, to undertake such other activities as may from time to time be deemed appropriate by the membership.

Article 3 MEMBERS

1. Eligible voting **Regular Members** shall be those personnel, military and civilian, American or British, who at any time served with the Headquarters organization of the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Bomb Division, or 2nd Air Division during World War 2 and any person who served with any bomb group or fighter group or any other unit of the 2nd Air Division, either assigned or attached.

2. A nonvoting **Associate Membership** shall be available to immediate family members of all 2nd Air Division personnel upon payment of regular dues.

3. A nonvoting **Subscribing Membership** shall be available to any friends or associates of 2nd Air Division personnel, or any individual who, by virtue of association with the organization demonstrates his interest in, and makes contributions of a literary, artistic, or historical nature to the perpetuation of the 2nd Air Division, the 2nd Air Division Association, or the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division, USAAF. All applications for regular, associate, or subscribing memberships shall be addressed to the membership vice president of the association, in writing, and must be accompanied by the annual dues.

4. **Honorary Members** shall be nonvoting and elected by the recommendation of the executive committee at any duly convened meeting of that committee by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

5. **Annual Dues** for each class of membership, until changed, shall be: Regular - \$15.00 per year, Associate - \$15.00 per year, Subscribing - \$15.00 per year. *There shall be separate provisions on each dues notice for voluntary contributions to the 2ADA for the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division and the 8th Air Force Heritage Center.*

Article 4 PROCEDURES

1. Prior to the annual meeting, the president shall name a nominating committee who shall present a slate of officers to be voted upon at the annual meeting. In addition, the presiding officer must call for nominations from the floor.

2. Vacancies occurring among the elected officers shall be filled by the president. Such appointees will serve until the next regular election.

3. The executive committee shall be charged with the responsibilities and shall have the authority usually extended to a board of directors, including the management of the association and the control of its financial affairs; but the executive committee shall not have the power to commit the association beyond the funds on hand.

4. The executive committee shall meet at the call of the president for the transacting of such business as may properly come before the meeting. It shall require the presence of at least a majority of the committee at any meeting to constitute a quorum. At any meeting of the executive committee, the vote of a majority of those members present and voting shall determine any matter submitted to the committee for considera-

tion. Special meetings of the executive committee may be called by the president by giving no less than 30 days written notice of the date, time, and place of such a meeting and the business to be transacted thereat or at the written request of not less than three (3) members of the executive committee giving notice as set forth herein. Any committee member may waive call for notice of any special meeting.

Article 5 OFFICERS

1. The elected officers of this association shall be: honorary president, if one is designated, a president, an executive vice president, two operating vice presidents (one membership and one communications), a secretary and a treasurer.

2. The officers' terms shall be one year from the date of election at an annual meeting or until their successor is elected and qualified, or appointed. Appropriate funds shall be designated yearly at the annual meeting of the executive committee to cover the operating expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the officers of the association. These funds may be expended at the discretion of said officers.

3. The president shall preside at all meetings of the association and at all meetings of the executive committee and shall be a member, ex officio, of all committees (except the nominating committee) and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the executive committee.

4. The executive vice president shall, in the absence of the president occupy and discharge the office of the president.

5. The operating vice presidents shall be empowered to perform any duties consistent with their offices.

6. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all general and executive committee meetings, assist the operating vice presidents in the performance of their duties, shall perform such other executive committee duties as the president may require and such other duties as are usually pertinent to this office, or as may be required of the incumbent.

7. The treasurer shall deposit in the designated depository banks all membership fees and disburse the funds of the association. The treasurer shall account for the transactions of his office annually or at any time at the request of the executive committee. All money due the association shall be paid to the depository banks. He/she shall pay all bills by check. It shall be the duty of the treasurer annually, to prepare a draft of a budget or estimate containing the anticipated income and expenditures incident to the affairs of the association for the coming year. An audit committee composed of three members of the executive committee shall make such examination of the books and accounts of the treasurer as may be considered appropriate and report thereon as to the result of their examination at the annual meeting of the association.

8. An active regular member of the 2nd Air Division Association may be appointed by the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division in England to its membership. He/she will actively be the voice of the association on the Board of Governors, and will see to it that the board is always kept aware of the wishes of the association relative to the operation of the Board of Governors, and the Memorial Room. He/she will report regularly to the membership of the association in the periodic newsletters, and at the annual meeting.

9. Group vice presidents shall be 2nd Air Division Association members elected by the members of their respective groups attending the annual convention or group reunion. Those elected shall notify the 2nd Air Division Association president as soon as possible. The duties of the group vice presidents will be those of encouraging membership and participating in the activities of the 2nd Air Division Association. In the event of a vacancy between annual conventions, the president of the association will appoint an interim group vice president.

(continued on page 34)



BY RALPH ELLIOTT

Twenty-three 2ADA members from the 467th attended the May 27-31 2ADA convention in Kansas City along with some 600 other members. While it was far below the usual 1200-1500 people usually attending, one bonus was the shorter lines at breakfast and shorter serving time at the banquets. Among the attendees were Joe and Helen Dzenowagis with son Joe Jr. and daughter Joan. (It was a working convention for all of them, as they continued their video filming project to put as many Second Air Division personal histories on tape as possible. If you don't have a collection of Dzenowagis tapes, check the 467th Poop for details and mailing addresses.) Also in attendance were: Ralph & Yvonne Elliott, Ed & Anita Goldsmith, Geoff & Terry Gregory (Geoff is the new 2ADA executive vice president), Lloyd & Carmen Haug (they will host the 1994 467th convention in Minneapolis, September 15-19); John Logan, Bob Meyers, Floyd "Puff" & Anne Pugh with Catherine Wood and Martha Cole; Vince & Carolyn Re, and Walt Weaver.

My apologies if I've missed anyone, but Yvonne and I have been on the road since May 1st and my "files" are the hip pocket sort. We're currently at the Glowing Embers RV Park in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; en route to Anchorage, Alaska. Our daughter, Becky Price, whom many of you met at the Tucson convention in 1991, and her hus-

band Mike live in Anchorage and report that the salmon fishing is currently fabulous. They caught eight kings last week; the largest was 40 pounds and the rest were over 20. If you've seen the Tucson weather reports recently (Donna reports 10 consecutive days over 110°), you know why we're not headed home yet. Maybe after the Minneapolis convention.

Some mail has caught up, including a letter from Phyllis DuBois at the 2AD Memorial Room in Norwich, acknowledging the 467th gift of four Allan Healy history books. These were given in honor of Col. Albert J. Shower, 467th commanding officer; Joe Ramirez, "Witchcraft" crew chief; J. David Swearingen (deceased), past president of the 467th BG (H) Association; and Robert L. Salzarulo, past president, 467th BG (H) Association. Phyllis reports that these books are already out on loan to one of the local schools doing a project on the 467th.

If you don't have the new edition of the history yet, I suggest you send your \$40.00 to Vince La Russa forthwith.

I mentioned, as did Phil in the June 1 issue of "Poop," that Geoff Gregory has been elected vice president of the Second Air Division Association. Lest you miss the importance of this position, it means that Geoff is in line to become president of 2ADA at the next convention in Lexington, Kentucky in July 1995. Don't miss the chance to bend Geoff's ear in Minneapolis this fall. I have been able to help make some changes in 2ADA policies and procedures (six voting group VPs, May-June 2ADA conventions, and a favorable 2ADA convention refund policy), and Geoff should be able to expand the group's influence over the next two years. Important decisions are in the making concerning continuation of librarian financing at the Memorial Room, recapture of funds now held by the Fulbright Commission, and new relationships with the 8th AF Heritage Center in Savannah, Georgia.

It sometimes makes heavy reading, but do take time to read the important executive committee reports in this issue of the *Journal*.

We'll look forward to seeing you all in Minneapolis shortly. ■

2ADA BYLAWS (continued from page 32)

Article 6.....THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The executive committee will consist of the six elected officers of the 2nd Air Division Association, the 2nd Air Division representative on the Board of Governors of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust, USAAF, the three immediate past presidents (not currently serving as an elected officer) and six group vice presidents selected by the nominating committee on a rotating basis. The executive committee shall be authorized to act on all matters that it might properly find before it. It shall require the presence of at least nine members of the executive committee at any meeting thereof to constitute a quorum.

Article 7..... CONVENTIONS AND MEETINGS

1. It is the intention of this association to have one regular convention per year at a time and place to be determined by the executive committee. A quorum shall consist of all regular members present and voting. Not less than 30 days before the date of such annual convention, each member will be advised in writing of the hour, date, and place of the annual convention meeting.

2. The following shall be the order of business for conducting all annual meetings of the members of the association: (A) Call to order, (B) Report of the Delegate Committee, (C) Report of the Secretary (including the reading of the minutes of the last meeting), (D) Report of the Treasurer and Report of the Audit Committee, (E) Report of the Membership Vice President, (F) Report of the Communications Vice President, (G) Report of the Memorial Trust Governor, (H) Report of the President, (I) Reports of the General Committees, (J) General Business - old and new, (K) Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers, (L) Adjournment.

3. Each regular member shall be entitled to one vote on any matter submitted for a vote.

4. A majority of all votes cast at any legally held meeting shall bind the association. At any such meeting only regular members shown by

the records of the association to have paid their dues and being otherwise in good standing shall be entitled to vote.

Article 8..... PUBLICATIONS

1. The association may issue, at regular intervals, bulletins, proceedings and other publications as necessary to record the progress made by the association and to give the members useful information. All such publications shall be issued under the direction of the communications vice president subject to the executive committee as to scope, policy and expenditures.

2. Members shall receive such general publications issued at regular intervals by the association.

3. All material submitted for publication shall be considered the property of the association and shall be retained in its possession until officially released by order of the executive committee.

Article 9..... COMMITTEES

The committees of this association, appointed by the president, shall be nominating, convention, audit, delegate and such others as the president may feel necessary and as the president may decide to appoint.

Article 10..... PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Roberts Rules of Order shall be the governing authority in all proceedings of this association except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.

Article 11 METHOD OF AMENDING THE BYLAWS

The bylaws shall be amended by a two-thirds majority of those regular members, present and voting at any meeting provided for by Article 7.

These amended bylaws shall become effective when adopted by two-thirds of the regular members present and voting at the annual convention members meeting in May, 1994. ■

In the summer issue of the *Journal* on page 9, there was an article on finding long lost prospective members. I wish something like this had been available many years ago. Using this method we have, as of July 15, found and signed up nine new members for HQ, and we still have some more names to search for. I will have a full report on this in the next HQ newsletter. Meantime, if you happen to have any old rosters of any part of HQ, please send me a copy and I will search for those whom we have not already tried to find.

We had a delightful time in Kansas City, even though the number of HQ people present was less than usual. Those attending and a report on the convention appear elsewhere in this *Journal* (please see page 22). The 1995 meeting will be held over the Fourth of July weekend in Lexington, Kentucky — put this date on your calendar now and be ready to pack up your firecrackers and join us! Several of our new members have already promised to come, and we have a committee already at work to try to get a larger turnout of our "old" members.

If you want to go to Norwich with Evelyn for the VE Day celebration next May, you need to contact her at once. I do not know if there are any rooms left or not. And, as of July 15, we have \$1,543.00 to be added to the HQ Endowment Fund. I will make a final report in the next HQ newsletter.

Once again I am including some of the information which some of you have sent to me about your experiences both during your time at HQ and during the years since.

James Hinton Reeves worked in the A-3 Operations Section and the War Room. He says, "I have enjoyed the companionship of a great wife (Edna), three children, and six grandchildren, and I have been in the retail furniture business and real estate rental business since 1945. I had active duty with the Air Force for three years and 18 years in the reserve. I have served as vice president for HQ and as president of the 2ADA, and presently I am chairman of the group relations committee. I enjoyed working in A-3. We always knew what was going on down in the groups. It was certainly a time of learning for this young airman. I received great training under the very capable leadership of Col. Bob Terrell and Col. George Brown, who later became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I compiled a booklet on aircraft accidents, complete with photos of the wrecked aircraft, for which Col. Brown awarded me the Bronze Star. It was presented to me by General Kepner. It was indeed my pleasure to serve with such a great group of people. I was Chief Clerk of the A-3 Section (M/Sgt) before being given a direct appointment as second lieutenant. Many of the things that were taught me by these outstanding officers, I have applied in my business experiences through the years."

Norwood C. (Woody) Middleton was the Assistant Division Quartermaster. He says, "I resumed a newspaper career in 1946, became managing editor of the small daily in Pulaski, VA (1946-49) and the Roanoke Times and

DIVISION



BY RAY STRONG

World News (1957-79), with a stint at covering Virginia politics and the legislature between 1949 and 1957. I was president of the Virginia Press Association. I retired in 1983 and published a 500+ page, hardback history of the city of Salem, Virginia. I was active in the Boy Scouts, the Presbyterian church, history museum development, and the Kiwanis Club. I traveled extensively in the U.S., Canada, and Costa Rica in pursuit of birding as a hobby. As assistant division quartermaster, I engaged in helping to keep supply lines open (mostly via the telephone) between our assigned bases and the QM supply depots, for such needs as food, housekeeping and office furnishings and supplies, petrol, tentage, etc. I accompanied QM equipment flights to France in the fall of 1944 during the Allied advance. In March 1945, I attended a week-long military leave course at Balliol College, Oxford University, along with others from the U.S., Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. Highlights were: a walking tour of several colleges; an informal party at Rhodes House, headquarters of the Rhodes Scholarship Foundation; several lectures, including one on Shakespeare, followed by a tour of Stratford-on-Avon, Ann Hathaway's cottage, his birthplace and his burial site; and the pleasure of meeting and conversing with the movie magnate, Samuel Goldwyn, in Balliol's Common Room."

John Sanders worked in the Technical Inspection Department under Col. Wilbur Simons. He says, "After the war, I worked as an aircraft mechanic for the Temco Aircraft Co. We overhauled all the C-54s used in the Berlin airlift during the blockade. Finally advanced to assistant general foreman on the flight line. After 11 years in aircraft, I left to go into business as a paint contractor — mostly layout and striping parking lots. I did this for 17 years, after which I retired. Janice and I have had a good long retirement. We travel some, garden, fish, work in our church, and generally enjoy family and friends. My job at 2AD HQ was in the Inspection Department. We, usually two officers and three enlisted specialists, would go to a bomber base and make a thorough inspection of all phases of the base: aircraft, armament, motor pool, aircraft logs and records, mess hall (my favorite!), etc. We would usually inspect two bases and then go back to HQ to write up our reports, which were then sent to the groups for proper action. Our WAC secretary, who typed up the reports, corrected spelling, etc. was a very efficient, personable and pretty young lady named Evelyn Cohen! One experience off duty was one time Don Elgas and I went to Cambridge where we joined a group of about a dozen GIs who were

given a tour of the college by a nice older gentleman. We saw the impressive buildings and classrooms, etc. While being shown around, we were invited to have tea with a professor and his wife at their apartment. They were most gracious and visited with us for a very proper tea time. After we left the professor's apartment, our guide said, "Young men, do you realize that you just had tea with the world's most renowned historian? Professor Treveljan."

As you are probably aware, ground was broken for the 8th Air Force Heritage Center this past summer. For your information, I am quoting the following from a recent communication from the center: "We are also developing the storyline for the museum portion of the Heritage Center. In the August letter I alerted you and your membership to identify materials, memorabilia, artifacts and archives that might be made available to the Center for display and preservation of Eighth Air Force history. We now need to know as soon as possible what your members are willing to make available." If you have material for the Center, contact Gary Miller, Museum Director, at 1-800-421-9428.

The other option for deposit of materials is to send paper materials to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Room in Norwich and other materials to the American Air Museum at Duxford, England, which is planning to build a permanent American museum soon. Contact should be made before you ship materials to either of them.

One final note: I have loaned my little book about a story of a conflict between the vicar of the church and the head of the Ketteringham Hall estate to several of you. I cannot remember either the exact title of the book or to whom I last loaned it, but I would appreciate it if whoever has it would send it back to me, as others are waiting to borrow it. ■

VA Declares Policy Dividends

The Department of Veterans Affairs will pay more than \$955 million in dividends in 1994 to veterans holding veterans' life insurance policies.

The payment affects 2.5 million government life insurance policies issued to World War I, World War II and Korean Conflict veterans between 1917 and 1956, according to a statement issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The largest group to receive payments will be 2.1 million veterans of World War II, who will receive about \$392 each, the statement said.

The payments are scheduled to be credited automatically to policyholders on the anniversary date of their policy, and payments can be received by check.

No application is necessary, but questions can be directed to the VA insurance toll-free number at 1-800-669-8477. ■

UPCOMING REUNIONS & CONVENTIONS

**Second Air Division
Association
48TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
July 3, 4, 5 & 6, 1995
Lexington, Kentucky**

Details will appear in the Winter Journal.

Florida Regional Reunion III

FEBRUARY 12, 1995

Plans are now underway to convene the third Florida regional reunion of the 2nd Air Division Association. It will once again be a one-day reunion in Orlando on February 12th. The Clarion Plaza Hotel has again agreed to offer us an attractive room rate for the night of February 12, 1995, as well as for the three nights preceding February 12 and three nights after that date. This will offer those who so desire an opportunity to attend the reunion activities and also leisurely take in the many world renowned tourist attractions in the Orlando area.

We are hopeful that this early alert to this upcoming event will encourage many members to mark their calendars and plan to attend. Florida members of the association will receive full details by mail at a later date. Members living outside Florida and non-member WWII 2nd Air Division veterans who might be interested in attending may receive this additional information by writing to the address below:

Luther C. Cox
4932 Oakbrooke Place
Orlando, FL 32812

**MAKE THIS 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF
WORLD WAR II A SUPER GREAT AFFAIR.
SURPRISE ENTERTAINMENT WILL TAKE YOU BACK!!!**

KINGMAN ARMY AIR FIELD REUNION

The 4th annual reunion of Kingman Army Air Field is being held September 30, October 1 & 2, 1994. We're looking for former military and civilian personnel and families, and the general public is also welcome. We will have static displays, air demos, dinner and dance, tours, etc. Please contact us at:

Kingman Army Air Field Reunions
Attn: Rob Chilcoat
6000 Flightline Drive, Box 3
Kingman, AZ 86401
Tel. (602) 757-1892

NEW MEMBERS

HQ

Clifford A. Bertagnoli (453rd)
Luther E. Cloxton, Jr. (44th, 389th)
James T. Coulthard
Winston F. Coy (466th)
LTC Mark A. Eaton, Jr.
Erwin W. Eggleston
Harry Fullington
Francis J. Garbarino
James Marantos
Clyde W. Rine

44th

L.J. Dietz
John Domas (492nd)
Glenn T. Gordon
James V. Gratta
Norman W. Nutt
Col. Robert C. Schmidt (Ret.)
Meg Smith (AM)
Sue Johnson Vandenberg (AM)

93rd

Clement S. Bertolino
Lee C. Burkhalter
Norman G. Gould
James B. Grace
Clarence R. Gross
Sameul F. Hall
Ben Kuroki
Stephen D. Scorey
George W. Scorey (AM)
B. Joseph Troisi

389th

Paul J. Caron
Mary Lou Duke (AM)
James E. Dunwoody
Johnathan A. Machia (AM)
John M. Motz
Ernest J. Pohle
Jack E. Richardson
Lawrence R. Witter
Richard A. Wood

392nd

Milton M. Adler
R.N. Colquhoun

445th

Henry C. Clayton
Carol Miller (AM)
Joseph R. Mintner

446th

Albert R. Krassman, Jr.
Stuart S. Merwin

448th

Lawrence E. Anderson
I.A. Buechner
Robert W. Carroll

448th

Rex F. George
Marian Kiefer (AM)
Glenn R. Mack
Walter W. Mannell
Ernest Pilley

453rd

Malvin L. Amy, Jr.
Katherine Hart (AM)
James G. Lano
Randall V. Nelson
Arthur Thompson

458th

Rev. Leonard P. Edwards (355th)
Walter P. Glazer
Ernest W. Gordon
William McKennon
Robert J. Molloy
Bernard J. Schaefer
Alan S. Sheren (AM)

466th

Irene Arbaugh (AM)
M. Fred Coon
Joe Van Dyke
Charles E. Walker

467th

Elizabeth J. Elson (AM)

489th

George M. Dilberian
Robert E. Knode

491st

LTC Wentworth Brackett (Ret.)
Thomas Brubeck
Albert K. Fischer
Kenneth W. Kleinfehn
Anthony R. Nabozny
John R. Omar

492nd

James C. Bundy (AM)
Alex M. Casaday (44th, 389th)
Robert J. Downes (389th)
George W. Parker
Paul S. Rothwell (467th)

56th FG

Col. Francis S. Gabreski (Ret.)

479th FG

Col. Robert B. Kleinman (Ret.)

SM

Nicholas G. Baldino
Wayne Corbett
Dr. Harold V. Garrity, Jr.
John W. Wenn
Richard A. Wood

THE PX PAGE

If you have articles or items for sale that pertain to the 2ADA, they belong on the PX Page.
Please submit them to P.O. Box 627, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Boots From Heaven

by Janet L. Howard
and Odile Lavandier

A French and American perspective of the events surrounding an American bomber pilot's imprisonment in Buchenwald and the reunion with his French Resistance rescuers forty years after the war. It is a poignant true story of human kindness amidst human treachery where human kindness and love are the clear victors and where the strength of bonds developed over a few weeks in 1944's war torn Europe are reinforced and leap decades to a warm present day international family reunion. A good read — especially for 2AD veterans and kin. ISBN 0-940121-26-3, 271 pages, hardbound with photos, 6 x 9, \$28.95. Published by Cross Cultural Publications, Inc.

Cross Roads Books
P.O. Box 506
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

BOMBARDIERS HISTORY BOOK

Bombardier: A History is now available for \$54.95 (\$49.95 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling) from:

Bombardiers, Inc.
500 Jackson Street, #1407
Daphne, AL 36526-7029

P.S.... Know a bombardier? How about your crew bombardier? We need to know of them and their location and fate! If you have any information, please contact Bombardiers, Inc. at the address above, or call 205-626-3920.

FLIGHT FROM MUNICH

A TRUE STORY
BY DONALD C. TOYE

On April 14, 1944, "Nine Yanks and a Jerk," a B-24 of the 445th Bomb Group was attacked by enemy fighters during the bomb run over Munich. Lt. Toye, copilot, recounts how he was forced to bail out of the crippled bomber over Luxembourg on the return flight. He met Sergeant Clarence Wieseckel of a downed B-17 crew in a partisan camp in the Belgian Black Forest. With the help of the underground, they walked across France to safety in Switzerland.

This is Toye's story — a heart-filled tale of courage, strength, faith and valor — of their 19 day trek on foot to safety and the dangers they encountered every step of the way. *Flight From Munich* is an unusually good read!

For a paperback copy, send \$8.95 to:

Donald C. Toye
823 SE Kane Street
Roseburg, OR 97470

Military History Books

A bookseller has a catalog listing 728 military books which is changing every day. All books are rated according to condition. Contact:

Kisselburg Military Books
665 Wildwood Lane
Stillwater, MN 55082
Tel. 612-439-1884

The First Fifty Years

The Pocatello Regional Airport now has available the book entitled *The First Fifty Years*. The book contains a compilation of history from the former Pocatello Army Air Base covering the war years 1942-1946. Personal accounts of those who trained and lived in the area are included. If you would like a copy, please send \$20.00 plus \$4.00 for postage and handling to:

Mr. Len Nelson
Pocatello Regional Airport
Pocatello, ID 83205

MILITARY MEDALS

Due to the recent changes in the laws regarding the sale of United States issued full size military medals, a variety of medals are now available from William R. Walker. It could be medals you earned, or you may be interested in collecting the different medals that were issued during your military days. Many of us are aware of how difficult it can be to get the proper paperwork and then file it for replacement medals and awards.

For a list of medals available along with prices, write to:

CW-4 William R. Walker
U.S. Army Ret.
Post Office Box 5656
Huntington, West Virginia 25703

Letters



To the editor:

I want to join the 2nd Air Division Association in a great GI salute for Bill Robertie.

I can remember the first time I met him. It was a great pleasure. It was during the reunion in July 1978 at the del Coronado Hotel in Coronado, California.

My first impression of Bill was that he was a very fine gentleman, a man of quality. I went up to him and introduced myself. Bill looked up at me and said, "Ramirez, how many times are you going to introduce yourself in the same day? I met you this morning, remember?" I realized that after a few tequila stops with my fellow GIs, I was past the preflight warmup and had made a jackass of myself. I have never forgotten that encounter.

Whenever I wrote to Bill with an article or photos, they were always printed. He was very generous about printing stories of the 467th BG Liberator "Witchcraft," and I have felt privileged to be a part of the 2ADA *Journal*. Many stories are printed about officers and flying combat crews, but Bill always made space for us, the ground echelon.

He will be greatly missed by all of us.

Joe R. Ramirez
13727 Cornish Crest Rd.
Whittier, CA 90605



To the editor:

I am an American post graduate student working towards my M.A. degree here in Norwich at the University of East Anglia. The subject of my thesis (and hopefully doctoral topic!) is the cinemas that were established on the Air Force bases here in East Anglia during the war.

Although I have had the opportunity to meet many veterans throughout the summer, I was hoping to register a plea for any of your recollections about seeing films on the bases — whether it be training films, entertainment/Hollywood movies, or shorts. Were the movies important to the GIs' experience in the war, and why?

I was wondering if anyone recalled any stars visiting with USO tours or if any particular memory of screenings leapt into mind. Indeed, any memory would be valuable to my research!

Below is my address in the USA, and from there, my parents can forward any response to England. The importance of the American presence in East Anglia during WWII has made my own English experience a very special one. Thank you for your assistance.

Caroline Frick
9512 East Stanhope Road
Kensington, MD 20895



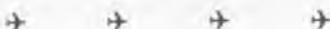
A TIMELY NOTE FROM OUR FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, BERTHA CHANDLER:

Dear Bud:

Today I learned of the fire at Norwich Central Library. I am sure it will take time to decide what will happen; however, for many, many reasons, I hope the 2nd Air Division Memorial Room will be rebuilt and continue as a unique living memorial — and however it is appropriate, that is an effort in which I would like to be actively involved. Having watched so many younger people come to use the collections at the Memorial Room, having listened to so many recollections being shared there in English and American accents, having myself found so many special friends as a result of my experiences there, I very much would like for others to continue to be able to find the Memorial Room as a place for information and history and opportunities for friendships. Although I have been a "non-correspondent," I have continued to talk to groups in this area about the Memorial and to share slides and photos of it and of Norwich. The years I spent there are an experience matched by no other in my life.

I will write as well to Hilary Hammond and to Tom Eaton. I can't quite imagine how the plan for the future will be formulated, but wherever my help might be useful, please ask. It will be a challenge with immense rewards.

Every day work and my family seem to consume more hours than the day provides, but that is just an observation, not a complaint! Our library recently automated and joined a 24 town consortium, which has kept us hopping. This year I am president of the consortium (actually, it is a non-profit corporation). In early January my mother had cancer surgery. She does well and has just celebrated her 81 years with a couple of weeks in Friendship, Maine. I do hope all is well with you and your family.



To the editor:

I ran across a commemorative postage stamp showing a B-24 making a run on the Ploesti oil refineries, and I thought it might be of interest to some of our members.

The only post office where I have seen it is in Newhall, California, 91321-9888. It is a 29 cent postage stamp and is included in a self-service pack of 10 stamps (one B-24 stamp, and nine stamps showing other scenes of WWII), with an item number of 8903S.

There is also a larger pack, number 8903T, which contains 20 stamps (two B-24 stamps).

The packs are being sold at face value, which amounts to \$2.90 for the small packet and \$5.80 for the large packet.

I would think any post office could order these stamps by the item number if they do not already stock them.

J.F. Murta
1304 N. Maryland Ave.
Glendale, CA 91207



PLEASE NOTE!

WE NEED YOUR NEW ADDRESS IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR JOURNAL. ADVISE EVELYN COHEN.

To the editor:

I wish to tell you of how I managed to locate my crew after 45 years, thanks to Bill Robertie.

I wrote Bill a letter telling of a landing we made when we almost didn't make it because of three engines having to be feathered due to lack of fuel. This was published in a 1989 issue of the 2ADA *Journal*.

Over a year ago we were able to locate my copilot, and this year we got together in Kansas City. What a good time we had. We also had the wife of our nose gunner, and she has taken a place on the crew. Her husband passed away in 1986 due to cancer. My hat is off to her.

We took a lot of photos when we got together, and here is one of five of us standing by the wall fifty years later.

Fred Weatherly
3325 Wilmer Road
Wilmer, AL 36587-8257



(l-r): Archie J. Coran, radio; Homer E. Mercer, top turret; William G. Whitely, pilot; Paul Corbiero, co-pilot; Fred Weatherly, tail gunner.

Ed. Note: The following letter was received by Keith Roberts (392nd) after the publication of his article "Songs That Are Part of My Memories" (2ADA Journal, Spring 1994, p. 11). The article had previously appeared in the Eastern Daily Press, Norwich, England.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Received your article and press cutting via Mr. Bunny Lewis, for which I thank you very much indeed. It is very gratifying to know that my songs meant so much to many Americans who were serving here in this country.

The shows I did on the QE2 on D-Day were much appreciated by the Americans on board and there were many happy reunions.

Thank you once again for the article, which I shall put among my memorabilia.

Best wishes to you and all of your wartime buddies.

Dame Vera Lynn



To the editor:

This letter is in response to the two generated by my D-Day article in the Spring 1994 issue of the *Journal*. This part is for Marvin Speidel, VP of the 446th BG, who deserves a kudo for acknowledging the fact that his group was led by a PFF aircraft "...made necessary..." on the first D-Day mission. That statement differs from the one contained in the Winter 1993 issue of the *Journal*, "...the lead aircraft was the 'Red Ass'..." There was never any argument about the fact that the 446th BG led the 8th Air Force or that Col. Brogger was the mission commander. This matter is not about seeking credit — it is about bringing forth the actual facts. I submit that a more accurate account of the first D-Day mission might be as follows: 8th Air Force heavy bombers led by the 2nd Air Division attacked the invasion coast. Leading the 2nd Division was the 446th Bomb Group under the command of Col. Jacob J. Brogger, their C.O. who rode in a 446th aircraft piloted by Capt. Charles Ryan. On this mission, the 446th BG flew in six sections each composed of six aircraft. Capt. Ryan flew off of the wing of the PFF aircraft that led the first section.

Concerning the reference to semantics, in air crew parlance the lead aircraft is the one in front who leads the way to the target, whose smoke markers indicate when the other aircraft drop their bombs, and who leads the formation back to base.

For the record, I am familiar with all the references cited, except for *The Liberator Legend*. If Col. Brogger had ridden with us, this controversy would not have occurred. He chose not to do so for reasons of his own. I can only speculate as to what they may have been. Perhaps he wanted to fly with a crew he knew. Maybe there was a realization that his options as an airborne commander were extremely limited — there was no secondary target and he could not abort the mission. The only option possible was a decision to bomb visually, and that was very remote. We were briefed that there would be a solid undercast. This information was not based on a forecast but on current reports being made by special weather reconnaissance flights over the Normandy coast. That may well be the reason we went in at 15,000 feet.

The statement concerning the function of PFF aircraft to provide assistance for navigational and bombing purposes to the leadership of a mission is not quite accurate. On the many lead missions our crew flew before and after D-Day, the mission commander rode in the right seat. If the target was visual, our bombardier dropped visually. If there was an undercast, the H2X radar was used. You may not be familiar with the fact that at the time, the 564th Squadron at Hethel was composed of selected lead crews from many 2AD units who received additional training in the use of PFF equipment. *The Pictorial History of the 389th Bomb Group* contains a photo which

shows M.Gen. Hodges presenting an award to the 564th Squadron commander, Major Dale Sisson, naming that unit the "...finest squadron in the ETO..." My point is that PFF crews were well qualified and routinely led missions in which bombing was either visual or by radar.

With regard to the comment about members of other groups claiming to have led the 8th Air Force on D-Day, such claims may be more understandable if one considers the unusual formation flown on the first mission. Instead of flying in the normal compact pattern designed to concentrate bombs on a relatively small target, the 446th BG attacked in line-abreast formation so as to strike as much of the coastline as possible.

I do not know this to be a fact, but it seems logical to assume that other bomb groups did likewise. My flight plan indicates that we released at 0600 hours — if anyone dropped prior to that time, they did in fact cross the coast and bomb before the 446th BG!

This part of my letter is for Fred Breuninger. Surely you had tongue in cheek when you used the expression "...impugn the integrity..." The last time this matter was alluded to in an article I wrote over six years ago, the acrimony of the 446th VP included a phrase about persons "...crawling out of the wall..." You stated very emphatically that Gen. Doolittle had personally selected Capt. Ryan's crew to lead the 446th BG on the first D-Day mission. That myth was laid to rest by Gen. Doolittle himself, and I advised you of the fact in a personal letter since I chose not to embarrass you publicly at the time.

I cannot argue with the information you claim to cite from the National Archives; however, bear in mind that it is a repository and the documents stored therein are as they were submitted. This means that their contents may not be true and that they may contain errors. The most well known example of the former is the Declaration of Independence. We know that some of the first part of that famous document was not true at the time it was written, and there are many who will argue today that all men are not "...created equal..." Your reference is an example of the latter. Litwiller's name is misspelled and it is in the wrong place. On the late afternoon of 5 June 1944, we received the normal briefing for a lead crew separately from the other crews and were informed that we would lead the group. While your references may reflect accurately the material contained in the National Archives, my comments state what actually occurred.

Robert A. Jacobs
203 Cannister Court
Hampton, VA 23669

Ed. Note: If it hasn't been already, this topic will soon be exhausted for the 2ADA Journal.

DID YOU FLY BOMBERS AND FIGHTERS?

THIS IS AN OPEN LETTER TO YOU...

We are sending this letter to each of you who flew as pilots in both bomber and fighter aircraft in World War II while in the 8th Air Force. Thus far we have identified very few pilots who first completed a tour in either a B-17 or B-24 and then were assigned to a combat fighter group to escort bombers and otherwise engage the enemy.

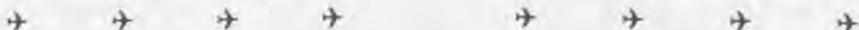
Much has been written about the achievements of 8th Air Force bomber crews and about the exploits of fighter squadrons; *something* has been written about former bomber pilots who were assigned to 8th AF "Scouting Forces" where they flew fighter planes. (These pilots in the "Scouting Force" were not primarily designated to fly combat missions, although records show that some of them did engage in combat.) *Nothing* has been published, to our knowledge, about those of us who became fighter pilots in designated combat groups flying P-47s and P-51s.

Because we were a unique set of pilots who had an extraordinary combination of combat experiences in both bomber and fighter aircraft, we might merit a little place in the history of the 8th Air Force. It is with that possibility in mind, that we are seeking more information so that we can put together a report or an article that relates how we made an unusual contribution to the war effort. A couple of you have already furnished us good tales that can be used, yet we need more from each of you — that is, more than the "bare bones" official records. Therefore, we are asking each of you to provide the following:

- (1) Your name, address and telephone number.
- (2) The identity of your bomber squadron/group and fighter squadron/group, *including dates*.
- (3) Why or how did you happen to transfer to a fighter outfit after you had completed your bomber missions?
- (4) What was the most exciting or significant event for you while flying (a) in bombers? (b) in transition from bomber to fighter pilot? (c) in fighters?
- (5) After WWII, what was your career (flying or other career)?
- (6) Please send a picture of you with your bomber crew, a picture of you beside your fighter, and a picture of you at present (1994).

When we receive this information from you we can prepare a summary document that could be added to 8th Air Force records and might serve as the basis for an article suitable for publication. Be assured that we will send the summary document to each of you for your review prior to submitting it to anyone else.

James J. Scanlon
453rd BG, 4th FG
949 Washington Blvd.
Abilene, TX 79601



Dear Second Air Division Friends:

There are really no words that are adequate enough to express my shock, horror and dismay at hearing of and finally seeing the dreadful sight of "our" beloved Second Air Division Memorial Room and a large part of our Norfolk heritage going up in flames. It is just unbelievable that this could have happened and with such speed.

My heart goes out to all of you who have given so much of yourselves and worked so hard over many years to make the Second Air Division Memorial Room such a unique and splendid memorial. I know that some of you must be absolutely distraught right now, and I want to assure you that many of us over here are ready to help in any way we can. Now that Phyllis has a base to work from, and we are trying to come to terms with the losses incurred, I feel the only way from here is up. Although you have a tremendous task ahead of you, remember that you do not stand alone.

Patricia J. Everson
"Stanmare"
Seething
Norwich, Norfolk
NR15 1AL

→ → → →

To the editor:

I was a navigator with Bill Kraham's crew when we were with the 445th BG, 700th BS, from April 1944 to April 1945. Recently I have been trying to contact former navigators who went to navigation school with me at San Marcos, Texas and several navigators who were sent overseas with me on the same orders as replacement crews. I am having some measure of success.

Would it be possible to get a listing of former navigators with the 2AD? Your effort would be greatly appreciated.

Edward R. Barber
2717 Mesilla, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Our records are not listed by position (i.e. navigator, pilot, etc.), but hopefully some of the former navigators will see this in the Journal and contact you. — Ed.

→ → → →

To the editor:

As the former widow of 1st Lt. Woodrow W. Cole, a bombardier on the "Liberty Belle" attached to the 67th Bomb Squadron, 44th Bomb Group, I am interested in gathering more information and details surrounding the circumstances of his death, which occurred on January 21, 1944.

When I received the "deeply regret" telegram from the War Department, I was 20 years old and still a bride, as 25-year-old Woody and I had been married only nine months prior and we had so little time together before he left for overseas duty. The telegram and the follow-up letter from General "Hap" Arnold gave no details of the way in which he died, and my letters and calls to Washington, DC left me completely frustrated. When I asked for names of surviving crew members, I was told that they were not allowed to give out that information. I grieved for years afterward, because I had no knowledge of how my husband had died.

Weeks afterward, I received his personal effects that included a torn and scarred picture of me that he carried "for luck," a letter that he had written the night before that fateful flight confessing that he felt that it would be his last mission, and the enclosed snapshot of a group of

men and women whom I hope will be recognizable to some of your readers. I pray that these are surviving crew members of the "Belle" and if so, that they will write to me and share their memories of Woody (extreme right in photo), their time in England and that final flight.

I married my present husband in 1950, and out of respect for him I had not sought further information about Woody until the recent ceremonies honoring D-Day. I was appalled at my sons' lack of knowledge regarding the historical reasons for commemorating a period in our lives that was so compelling and had a great bearing on how they were raised. I am writing our family's history so that they and their children will appreciate the efforts of those young men who served so willingly and sacrificed so much in that great event that Studs Terkel called "The Good War!" I am also interested in subscribing to the *Journal* and receiving news of reunions, and hope to purchase the 2nd Air Division's history. Thank you for helping my cause!

Meg Smith
812 E. Fesler Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454-4602

→ → → →



1st Lt. Woodrow W. Cole, 44th BG, 67th SQ (far right). Do you recognize anyone else?

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 627

IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS 01938



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