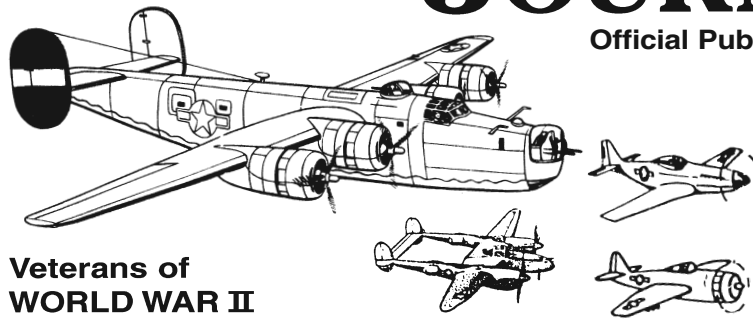


**NEXT 2ADA
CONVENTION:
CHICAGO!**

**Right back where
we started from.
SEE BACK PAGE.**

THE JOURNAL

Official Publication of the:



**Veterans of
WORLD WAR II**



Volume 47 Number 4

Winter 2008

An Ode to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library

By E. BUD KOORNDYK (389th & 93rd) • Photos from www.tournorfolk.co.uk and www.military-airshows.co.uk

What does it mean that we as a proud generation of men and women, who through God's providence, have been enabled to pass on to the generations that follow a living memorial such as the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich, England?

It will be a living memorial as long as men and women from generations that follow will step forward and give of their time and talents to help preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today, and as a continual reminder of the over 7,000 men and women who gave their lives in its defense in our generation.

The songwriter Woody Guthrie beautifully expressed this feeling, and I quote:

*"Nobody living can ever stop me,
As I go walking the freedom highway.
Nobody living can make me turn back,
This land was made for you and me."*



Pericles in 431 BC also said:

*"Take these men as your example,
like them, remember that posterity can only be for the free,
that freedom is a sure possession of those alone who have
the courage to defend it."*

It is a memorial which so aptly expresses our love for freedom. These freedoms have become the cornerstone and bedrock of our Memorial Library and with it the legacy which we will pass down to the generations that follow.

Freedom does not mean that we are able to do whatever we want to do. Freedom means that we have been set free to become all that God wants us to be and achieve all that God wants us to achieve and enjoy all that God wants us to enjoy, in whatever avenue of life we are asked to serve.

May those who follow us and are called to serve from our two nations on behalf of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library use these freedoms as a compass and north star to guide them through the uncharted waters that we see existing in the world today. May their heads and minds be lifted out of the confusion of earth long enough to hear the solutions of a higher being.



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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION



JOURNAL



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President's Message

BY JOHN L. LEE (93RD BG)



My congratulations to Earl Zimmerman for his service during the past year. I feel honored to follow him as president of the 2ADA. There are challenges and issues that need to be addressed and I am confident that we can do it.

For those who do not know my background, I was born in Baltimore, MD in 1922. After the U.S. entered World War II, I entered military service as an Aviation Cadet in pilot training. I made it through Basic Flying School at which time I failed a test flight and washed out of the program. Shortly thereafter I volunteered for Gunnery School and was subsequently assigned to a B-24 crew and shipped to England. After sailing on the original *Queen Mary*, I was assigned to the 93rd Bomb Group, 409th Squadron. Our crew flew 19 combat missions from January to April 1945. We flew back to the States as a crew and returned to civilian life in November 1945. I remained in the Reserve and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in 1948. I completed college under the G.I. Bill, achieving several degrees including Pre Law, B.S., and Juris Doctor, then was recalled to active duty. I retired from the Air Force in June 1982 as a Colonel, O-6. I moved from northern Virginia to Florida that year and since have been involved in a number of volunteer positions with the Red Cross and the Sheriff's Department.

Each time I attend a 2nd Air Division Association convention I am reminded of the amazing foresight of General Kepner and the others who began the 2AD Memorial Library. For any of you who have not visited the Library, I should say it is beautifully designed and certainly a place that truly is a living, vibrant, and unique memorial to those who gave their lives. There is no other like it.

My goals for this year are to strive for more unity and continued camaraderie for the 2ADA. Speaking of camaraderie, what a show of that closeness was shown at the final night of our recent convention in Dallas. Chuck Walker had planned a most impressive ceremony, beginning with the Presentation of the Colors followed by a parade of the veterans to accompanying patriotic music. The audience stood applauding until every last veteran was in place at the front of the room. What a memory!

I also would like to pave the way for the next generation, those extended members of our families, who have shown such interest in preserving the memory of our fallen comrades. For the past five years or more that I have regularly attended the 2ADA conventions and the 93rd Bomb Group reunions, I have met and come to know some of the sons, daughters, and other relatives who come and who know so much about the history of the 2ADA. They are "chips off the old block," so to speak. I hope all Group VPs and other members of the Executive Committee will encourage their following generation members to join the Heritage League so that they will become a link to the future of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library.

Some information from the Dallas convention that will no doubt be covered more fully by others in this issue of the *Journal*:

- The Executive Committee decided to publish in the future only two issues of the *Journal* per year, due to cost per issue.
- To use a professional convention planner to handle upcoming conventions.
- To continue the 2nd Air Division Association for some time.

I will be open for help, suggestions and advice. You have my e-mail address (*see the Directory on page 2*). Let me hear from you, and I hope to see all of you at our next convention. Why not come? ■

THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION traces its initial meeting to 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. It was organized as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Illinois on January 10, 1950. Members of the original Board of Directors were 2nd Air Division veterans Marilyn Fritz, Howard W. Moore, Jordan R. Uttal, and Percy C. Young. The association's purpose is 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 II; to support financially, and in any other way, the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division as represented by the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library of the Norwich Millennium Library; and to undertake such other activities as may from time to time be deemed appropriate by the membership.

REGULAR (VOTING) MEMBERSHIP in the association is limited to 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 II and any person who served with any bomb group or fighter group or any other unit of the 2nd Air Division assigned or attached. Provisions are made for Associate (Non-Voting) memberships and also for subscribing memberships (Non-Voting).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

BY JOHN LEE, 2ADA PRESIDENT

We have just returned from England where we attended services in Norwich and London. There were nine of us: Chuck Walker and son Charlie, Earl Zimmerman, Joan Patterson and daughter Carol, Dick & Gwen Robert, and Betty & John Lee. It was a full week of outstanding activities, starting on Sunday when I had the honor of laying a wreath along with more than twenty other individuals selected to represent various organizations. The 2ADA was given this honor only a few years ago when Dick Butler requested to do this and was successful. After several days of activities such as the Annual Governors Meeting, lunches and dinners, visits to the Memorial Library where we met members of the "Strangers Club" and to Hardwick, the location of the 93rd BG memories, on Thursday, November 13 we went to London to participate in "Even-song" commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the American Memorial Chapel. The Chapel is located in the east end of St. Paul's Cathedral. Many dignitaries were present, including the American Ambassador and the Lord Mayor of London as well as USAF personnel. I had the very distinct honor of giving a reading as part of the beautiful service. After the service, Chuck Walker, Dick Robert, and I accompanied the Ambassador and the Lord Mayor to the Chapel where the Ambassador and Dick laid wreaths. All in all a most unforgettable trip. ■

Executive Vice President's Message

BY RICHARD C. ROBERT (453RD)

By way of introduction, I am Richard C. "Dick" Robert, 453rd BG Secretary who was elected to serve as your 2ADA Executive Vice President at the Business Meeting in Grapevine, Texas on October 18, 2008. I have been a member of the 2ADA since learning about it while on a vacation trip to Norwich, England in 1985. For the past three years I've served as the 2ADA Backup Secretary, responsible for recording and transcribing the minutes of the 2ADA Executive Committee and Business Meetings. My successor in that position is Irene Hurner, Past President of the Heritage League. I will attempt to keep you informed of happenings in the Second Air Division Association by writing an article for each issue of the *Journal*. My main job as Executive Vice President is to assist President John Lee in carrying out the duties of his office in every way that I can. It is my intention to be in touch with the Bomb Group VPs as needed to keep the lines of communication open.

A brief glimpse of my background is as follows: I am a native of the State of Louisiana, and worked as an Engineering Survey Party Chief with the Louisiana Department of Public Works prior to WWII. I entered the Army Air Forces directly from civilian life into pilot training as an Aviation Cadet in 1942. After completing six months in the cadet program, I attended Radio Operator and Aerial Gunnery Schools and was assigned to a B-24 bomber crew for phase training in the Mojave Desert of California. In April 1944, our 10-man replacement crew flew a brand new B-24 from Northern California by way of Florida, South America, Africa and Wales to join the 8th Air Force in England.

After 8th Air Force combat training in Northern Ireland, the crew was assigned to the 734th Bomb Squadron in the 453rd Bomb Group at Old Buckenham, England. From May to September 1944, I flew 35 combat bombing missions over Germany and enemy-occupied Europe as a B-24 tail turret gunner on the "Hollywood and Vine" crew. We flew our first mission in the "Notre Dame" and our 35th and last mission in the "Spirit of Notre Dame." My sixth mission was flown on D-Day. After completing my combat tour of duty, I returned to the USA by ship in October 1944. Only two of our crew are still living, which is about average for 8th Air Force bomber

crews some 63 years after the war.

When the war ended, I returned to civilian life. I graduated from Louisiana State University with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering, and was licensed as a civil engineer and land surveyor. I retired from the engineering profession in 1984, after a career in the public and private engineering sectors.

The convention in Grapevine, Texas was just great. The Gaylord Texan Resort is located about ten miles north of the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, and was absolutely beautiful and extremely large. It had outstanding but expensive food and drink. The hotel has over 1100 rooms and the convention center could accommodate some 11,000 people. The resort was so large you needed a map to find your way around the complex. Everyone got lots and lots of walking exercise. Personal guides were also available to help you find your way to functions if you got totally lost. Between the hotel and convention center there was a huge, high, glass-covered atrium with a miniature Grand Canyon running through it. The atrium area was landscaped with beautiful flowers and plants. Elaborate model train layouts were located throughout the atrium area. There was even a miniature San Antonio River Walk. Many different types of restaurants were spread throughout the complex. The hotel claims it is the largest hotel in the State of Texas.

The convention committee chaired by Chuck Walker did a fabulous job with the convention arrangements. We were well fed and delightfully entertained. After dinner one night we had a visit from a very authentic-looking Mark Twain, who captivated the members and guests with tales of his life during the steamboat era. Another night we were treated to an outstanding video, "Liberators over East Anglia," by Dr. Vernon Williams. The Sunday night banquet was truly fabulous. The evening began with a VFW color guard and a Scottish kilt-clad bagpiper marching into the banquet hall followed by a parade of all our veterans. It was truly an outstanding start for the banquet.

There were a total of some 153 people registered for the convention and lots more who came just for the banquet. The traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony preceded the banquet, which was very mov-

ing as always. After a wonderful meal, the Chairman of the Awards Committee, E. King Schultz, Jr., presented the following awards: Oak Mackey, Past President's Award; Earl Zimmerman, Past President's Award; Andrew Hawker (Board of Governors), Distinguished Service Award; and Ralph Davis (467th BG), Distinguished Service Award. The final event of the evening was a musical program by an outstanding singer/musician, who played a keyboard while singing WWII songs and commenting on the air war over Europe by the Eighth Air Force and Second Air Division. It was by far one of the most entertaining evenings I've ever experienced at a 2ADA function. For those of you who did not attend this convention, I am sorry, because you missed a great one.

A majority of the members present at the business meeting approved a motion by Walter Mundy (467th BG) to "publish only two *Journal* issues per year" effective immediately. Treasurer Bill Nothstein reported that as of June 30, 2008 the 2ADA General Fund totaled \$100,179.44. Trust Chairman Matthew Martin reported that the funds under control of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF totaled \$2,984,402 as of October 9, 2008, which is a decrease from the previous year. The 2009 Second Air Division Convention is tentatively scheduled to be held in Chicago.

I just returned from the Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS) Convention at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL. Their conventions are somewhat different from ours, and are attended by those who have received the DFC, regardless of which war or branch of service they served in, even those still on active duty. It also is not a last-man-out organization, as there is a continuing supply of eligible airmen who have been awarded the DFC. Approximately half of those in attendance were WWII veterans, many of whom were 2ADA members, whereas the other DFC holders were mostly Korea and Vietnam helicopter pilots.

I will be in England from November 6-14, 2008 to attend the November activities in and around Norwich, which include the Remembrance Day Ceremonies, the Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Library Board of Governors, and the 50th Anniversary Dedication of the American Chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. ■

Report of the 2ADA Representative on the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust

BY CHUCK WALKER (445TH)

I am sorry that all who read this *Journal* could not attend the 2ADA's 61st Annual Convention where they could have met Libby Morgan, our new Trust Librarian. She is a lovely young lady, devoted to the task of continued betterment of our Memorial Library. At the convention she reported that the daily average of library visitors for the last quarter was 157. This is a good number! Libby also reported having had visitors from Michigan, Utah, California, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas. From all accounts, Libby is doing an excellent job.

Matthew Martin, Trust Chairman, reports that the first American student at-

tending the University of East Anglia has been chosen to provide the "American presence" in our library formerly filled by Fulbright. Meghan Purvis joined the library team in September. If this arrangement works well, a second scholar will be appointed next spring. This will assure an American presence in the library equal to that provided by Fulbright. The interest from the funds Fulbright returned to us is sufficient to cover the costs of two scholars.

I mentioned the 61st Annual 2ADA Convention at the beginning of this article. Those of us in Dallas who helped stage the convention were very pleased

with the number attending, but of course we wish it had been more. Some 150 registered at the hotel including 16 Brits whom we welcomed with open arms, and another 33 not staying at the hotel came to the banquet. Someone said it was the best facility we had ever had but it came ten years too late because of all the walking. To me, the icing on the cake was the bagpiper leading the color guard and the parade of the veterans into the banquet. Over sixty vets stood tall and walked with pride as the bagpiper led them in. I was told there were few dry eyes in the audience.

Stay well and happy in 2009. ■

Report of the Chairman of The Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF

BY MATTHEW MARTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

GREETINGS FROM NORWICH!

I must start this article by paying tribute to Chuck Walker and his team for all the hard work they undertook in arranging the convention in Dallas. Evelyn Cohen has, of course, undertaken this work in previous years but sadly she could not be present at this convention. And so Chuck Walker and his team, without previous experience, arranged what turned out to be a most successful convention. On behalf of all sixteen Brits present, I offer our sincerest thanks.

At the final banquet Bill Nothstein presented me with a check for \$20,000. On behalf of all the Governors and everyone connected to your Library, I give you my sincerest thanks. Your continuing generosity is truly wonderful.

The replacement for the Fulbright program is now up and running. We have our first University of East Anglia American post-graduate scholar spending time in your Memorial Library. Meghan Purvis is from California, and she is already making a significant contribution to the running of the Library. Next year, all being well, we hope to appoint two American Scholars.

In November we were delighted to be joined by nine Americans for our Annual

General Meeting of the Trust. They were your President John Lee and his delightful wife Betty, Executive Vice President Richard Robert and his special new bride Gwen, our old friends Earl Zimmerman and Chuck Walker, our most generous supporter Joan Patterson, and Carol Holliday from the Heritage League. I believe they enjoyed themselves and were glad they made the trip. It is a long way to come for a two-hour meeting. One very memorable feature of the week's activities was a service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the American Memorial Chapel. A number of senior members of the American Armed Services were present, as well as Robert Tuttle, the American Ambassador in London.

As I reported in my previous article, sadly two long-serving Governors have retired, namely Fran Davies and David Hastings. Fran has been a Governor for over a quarter of a century. During that time she has given unswerving, loyal, and wise service. David has been a Governor for even longer. It is difficult to exaggerate the contribution David and his wife Jean have made to the Memorial Trust and the Library. The large conventions held in Nor-

wich over the years required someone at this end to do a truly stupendous amount of detailed work. David and Jean shouldered the burden magnificently. I am delighted to report that both Fran Davies and David Hastings have been made Honorary Life Governors of the Trust.

I am pleased to report that we have secured the next speaker for our series of biennial lectures on post-war Anglo-American affairs. He is General Sir Richard Dannatt, KCB, CBE, ADC, who is presently Chief of the General Staff and the Professional Head of the British Army. He happens to be married to a Gurney! The lecture will be held on the 11th of November 2009. Put a note in your diary and do come. In the meantime, why not "Google" him?

I have now been Chairman of the Governors for over five years. During this time my knowledge of the activities of those who served in the 2nd Air Division USAAF in this part of the world during the Second World War and my understanding of America and Americans has increased significantly. In turn my respect for you all, whatever your affiliations, has grown immeasurably. I send you all my very best wishes and our profoundest thanks. ■

A TRIBUTE TO EVELYN COHEN

BY MAXINE MACKEY (392ND)

As the wife of a long time 2ADA member, group VP, and past president (Oak Mackey, 392nd BG), I would like to thank Evelyn Cohen for the sixty plus years she has served as chairperson of the 2ADA conventions. She has taken us to many fine cities and lovely hotels and resorts we might never have visited.

For the Mackeys it all started in 1978 when Oak came home from work with a Republic Airlines newsletter that included an article by Rick Rokicki about the Second Air Division Association convention coming up soon at the famous Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego. Oak asked me to call Evelyn right away at the number listed in the article. We signed up right away, and that was the beginning of our enjoying the many great conventions Evelyn planned for the 2ADA.

The Hotel Coronado was a fantastic place to visit for a first convention. The

weather was great, the food was wonderful. At our own 392nd BG hospitality room we met J.D. Long (2ADA president that year), Fred Thomas, Myron Keilman, Keith Roberts, and many other 392nd friends. We could not be more grateful for the many friendships that began at that first convention.

At the many conventions that followed I have had the honor of working for Evelyn and getting to know her. She has become one of my best 2ADA friends. She was a great support and help to Oak in both his presidential terms. We have seen her work tirelessly to accommodate members who come to the convention at the last minute. Over the years she planned ten conventions in Norwich; on many she traveled to England to make plans in advance. This was no small chore, as there are no hotels there to accommodate large groups. What a great job she did to find

us all rooms and get us fed. At one convention in Norwich she planned, there were twelve hundred in attendance — what a gal! The 50th WWII Anniversary Convention in 1995 was a special one with over seven hundred there. And who could forget the trip to Norwich in 2001 (soon after 9/11) to dedicate the new Second Air Division Memorial Library at its new facilities in the Forum. If it were not for Evelyn, many of us would never have enjoyed the many friendships with the Brits. Think of all the great times we have had along the way since our dear friend Evelyn planned her first convention in Cleveland in 1950. That was fifty-eight years ago! Evelyn, we cannot thank you enough for all those wonderful years of dedication to the Second Air Division Association and all its members.

Oak and I salute you!

God Bless. ■

A LONG TIME COMING

BY GREG MELLEN • SUBMITTED BY THE GONZALES FAMILY (458TH)

For more than sixty years, simply having survived the horror and privation of being a prisoner of war was enough for Jack Gonzales (458th Bomb Group, 754th Squadron).

The 82-year-old former staff sergeant was thankful he had survived to marry, become a father of three and live comfortably in Cerritos, California.

He never thought he was owed anything else. After all, he knew he was one of the lucky ones.

So when the medals he earned from the war never arrived, and when many of his war records were destroyed in a fire, Gonzales thought little of it. He just went on creating a life and a family and let the matter recede into memory.

It would have remained that way but for the perseverance of his family, who thought Gonzales deserved recognition.

The former Army Air Force B-24 ball turret gunner received the long overdue acknowledgement at the Fourth of July festival in Cerritos.

When asked why the medals were important now, Gonzales said, "I think I deserve them, for one thing. We went through a lot. We all did."

U.S. Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Lakewood, presented him with a number of the medals he had earned but never received, including a Purple Heart.

"One of the greatest parts of this job is helping people who have been caught

up in a bureaucracy or fallen through the cracks," Sanchez said.

Still trim and fit, Gonzales donned a World War II era uniform and received his medals. Standing beside him was his grandson Robert Jack Waddington, a veteran of the current war in Afghanistan.

About twenty family members sat in the front row during the 32nd annual "Let Freedom Ring" ceremony.

Earlier in the day, at a family party at Gonzales' home in Cerritos, he recounted portions of his World War II story that until two years ago his family knew little about.

But for the subtle cajoling of his daughter Linda Waddington and brother-in-law Jack Whetstone, his story would have faded with newspaper clippings, a diary and a log book Gonzales kept from his time as a POW.

Gonzales always said the war wasn't anything he wanted to talk about. He didn't even know until recently that one of his three brothers, who all fought in the war, had received a Bronze Star in the war.

That brother, Manuel Gonzales, attended the Cerritos event.

"All the issues he had to go through, this means a lot to him," Manuel Gonzales said shortly after the ceremony. "He never complained or nothing. He kept it all to himself. He was kind of like a silent hero."

Jack Gonzales said, "I was just glad to be home and alive."

But the family — especially Whetstone — wanted to know more about his service.

"I thought the war was all about heroes, and here was one of them," Whetstone said. "I wanted to know all about it."

So Whetstone questioned Gonzales, who he says was like a surrogate father and mentor, and searched the Internet for any information he could get. When Gonzales got tired of answering Whetstone's questions, Linda was called in.

Gradually, Gonzales re-created a story that sounds like a movie plot.

On June 18, 1944, less than two weeks after he and his crew had been part of a bombing raid on Abbeville, France, Gonzales and his ten-member crew were given an assignment for a bombing mission over Hamburg, Germany.

Piled into a B-24 bomber, "Rhapsody in Junk," the crew was hit by flak en route and had to abort.

Gonzales landed in a farm near Kiel, Germany, and was trying to make his way to Denmark when he was captured. He would go on to be questioned and threatened by the Gestapo, fail in an escape attempt, make it through a harsh winter and survive on a subsistence diet until April 29, 1945, when Stalag 7 was freed by Gen. George Patton.

Gonzales said seeing the German flag go down and the American flag go up and hearing Patton speak to the POWs is one of his fondest memories. ■

The Editor's Contribution

BY RAY PYTEL (445TH)

The 2ADA Executive Committee voted for two *Journal* issues in 2009. The tentative *Journals* should be out around May 1st and November 1st, providing we have sufficient information after the Chicago convention which is set for September 4-7, 2009. The Fall issue depends on any changes at that convention. 2ADA members should advise their group vice presidents as to their wishes about the

future of the *Journal*.

As WWII recedes further into the past, some of our WWII terminology seems to be replaced or modified by the current publications and historians. Some are so subtle that you can hardly notice — others seem to modify the “history” a little bit.

It all started with the 1949 movie *12 O’Clock High* when Gregory Peck intoned something like “You are no longer a lead pilot — you are just an aircraft commander.” Can you imagine in WWII combat instead of “*Pilot to crew*” you would hear “*This is your aircraft commander speaking*,” General MacArthur style?

In the last twenty years the original B-29 Superfort changed sex and became the current “Superfortress.” The 8th Air Force became the 8th Army Air Force when originally Hap Arnold made it a point to speak of the autonomous “Air Forces” when he was a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

sitting alongside Admiral Ernest J. King and the Commanding General of the Army, George C. Marshall. The “Army” was absent in most news bulletins and articles about the “8th Air Force” at that time, as the air arm strived for eventual independence which Congress enacted in 1947.

ANSWERS TO THE FALL QUIZ

See the article on page 27 entitled “2ADA Presidents and Conventions” and make up your favorite three “double” presidents and three city repeats.

WINTER QUIZ

1. Name five of the 2nd Air Division groups in sequence as they arrived at their England bases.

2. Give the names and locations of these groups.

3. Give the dates of the first and last missions of each group. ■

Does the “Bailout” Bother You? The Germans Tried It in 1919-1923

Frank D. Graham (1890-1949) taught at Princeton University and was one of America’s foremost monetary economists in the period between the two world wars. His book, *Exchange, Prices, and Production in Hyperinflation: Germany, 1920-1923* (Princeton University Press, 1930) is considered one of the major classics in monetary history. In lucid prose and a wealth of historical and statistical data, he shows how monetary mismanagement brought Germany to the verge of economic destruction. The table below, which is a facsimile of the original, concisely captures the disintegration of the currency system. Today we don’t print money *en masse* — we create it electronically. At least, we save the trees!

TREASURY BILLS DISCOUNTED BY THE REICH, ISSUES OF PAPER CURRENCY, INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES, AND INDEX OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATES AGAINST PAPER MARKS; 1919-1923
(VALUE FIGURES IN MILLIONS OF MARKS)

END OF MONTH	TOTAL AMOUNT OF TREASURY BILLS DISCOUNTED BY THE REICH	TOTAL ISSUES OF PAPER CURRENCY (EXCEPT EMERGENCY CURRENCY)	INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES 1913 = 1	INDEX OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATES IN BERLIN 1913 = 1
1919 DEC.	86,400	50,065	8.03	11.14
1920 JUNE	113,200	68,154	13.82	9.17
DEC.	152,800	81,387	14.40	17.48
1921 JUNE	185,100	84,556	13.66	17.90
DEC.	247,100	122,497	34.87	43.83
1922 JUNE	295,200	180,169	70.30	89.21
JULY	308,000	202,626	100.59	159.60
AUG.	331,600	252,212	192.00	410.91
SEPT.	451,100	331,876	287.00	393.04
OCT.	603,800	484,685	566.00	1,071.94
NOV.	839,100	769,500	1,154.00	1,822.30
DEC.	1,495,200	1,295,228	1,475.00	1,750.83
1923 JAN.	2,081,800	1,999,600	3,286.00	11,672.00
FEB.	3,588,000	3,536,300	5,257.00	5,407.00
MAR.	6,601,300	5,542,900	4,827.00	4,996.00
APR.	8,442,300	6,581,200	5,738.00	7,099.00
MAY	10,275,000	8,609,700	9,034.00	16,556.00
JUNE	22,019,800	17,340,500	24,618.00	36,803.00
JULY	57,848,900	43,813,500	183,510.00	262,030.00
AUG.	1,196,294,700	668,702,600	1,695,109.00	2,454,000.00
SEPT.	46,716,616,400	28,244,405,800	36,223,771.00	38,113,000.00
OCT.	6,907,511,102,800	2,504,955,700,000	18,700,000,000.00	17,270,129,000.00
NOV.	191,580,465,422,100	400,338,326,400,000	1,422,900,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000.00
DEC.	1,232,679,853,100	496,585,345,900,000	1,200,400,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000.00

2nd Air Division Memorial Library Endowment: 2ADA / “All Who Served” 2007-2008 Report

SUBMITTED BY LIBBY MORGAN, TRUST LIBRARIAN

*In memory of all who served in the 2nd Air Division USAAF Eighth Air Force in WWII.
Presented by members of the 2nd Air Division Association*

Pons, Gregory	<i>8th Air Force: American Heavy Bomber Groups in England, 1942-45</i>
Good Housekeeping	<i>A War Bride's Guide to the USA</i>
Delve, Ken	<i>Military Airfields of Britain: Northern England</i>
Hickey, Lawrence & others	<i>Revenge of the Red Raiders: The Illustrated History of the 22nd Bombardment Group During World War II</i>
Skinner, Edward	<i>Presidential Facts: Topical Lists, Comparisons and Statistics</i>
Oren, Michael B.	<i>Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East 1776 to the Present</i>
Hill, Kathleen & Hill, Gerald	<i>The Facts File Dictionary of American Politics</i>
Stowe, H. B. Editors: Gates, H. L. Jr. & Robbins, H.	<i>The Annotated Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
Noll, Mark	<i>The Civil War as a Theological Crisis</i>
Boritt, Gabor	<i>Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech that Nobody Knows</i>
Brinkley, Douglas	<i>The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast</i>
Rutledge, Ian	<i>Addicted to Oil: America's Relentless Drive for Energy Security</i>
Bishop, Stan D. & Hey, John A.	<i>Losses of the 8th and 9th Air Forces Volume 2: ETO Area January 1944 – March 1944</i>
Stevick, Pauline	<i>Beyond the Plain and Simple: A Patchwork of Amish Life</i>
Oakes, James	<i>The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln and the Triumph of Antislavery Politics</i>
Lynes, Barbara	<i>Georgia O'Keefe Museum Celebrating Ten Years 1997-2007</i>
Dallek, Robert	<i>Nixon and Kissinger: Partners in Power</i>
Baldwin, John & Powers, Ron	<i>Last Flag Down: The Epic Journey of the Last Confederate Warship</i>
Blount, Roy	<i>Long Time Leaving: Despatches from Up South</i>
Malone, Michael S.	<i>Bill & Dave: How Hewlett and Packard Built the World's Greatest Company</i>
Bugliosi, Vincent	<i>Reclaiming History: The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy</i>
Broadnax, Samuel L.	<i>Blue Skies, Black Wings: African American Pioneers of Aviation</i>
Woods, Thomas E. Jr.	<i>33 Questions About American History You're Not Supposed to Ask</i>
Epstein, Lawrence J.	<i>At the Edge of a Dream: The Story of Jewish Immigrants on New York's Lower East Side 1880-1920</i>
Halberstam, David	<i>The Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War</i>
Hill, Michael & Beitling, Robert	<i>B-24 Liberators of the 15th Air Force / 49th Bomb Wing in World War II</i>
Kane, J.N. & Anzovin, S.	<i>Famous First Facts: A Record of First Happenings, Discoveries and Inventions in American History</i>
Krueger, Lloyd	<i>Come Fly With Me: Experiences of an Airman in WWII</i>
Bowyer, Michael	<i>Action Stations Revisited: The Complete History of Britain's Military Airfields (No 2 – Central England and the London Area)</i>
Morgan, Ann Lee (Editor)	<i>The Oxford Dictionary of American Art and Artists</i>



BY MEGHAN PURVIS
American Scholar at the
2nd Air Division Memorial Library

It's 8:59 a.m. on a Thursday morning, and the main doors of the Norwich Forum library haven't yet opened to admit the early-bird patrons waiting outside. I have turned on all the computers and the interactive learning display. I have turned the Roll of Honor over one page, carefully jiggling the lock to get it to click shut again: it likes to stick. I've changed the display at the front to October's Black History Month theme, and I've found myself strangely invested in whether Norwich library users want to learn about the Underground Railroad. The clock ticks over: it is nine a.m., the library is open for business, and I'm the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library's newest librarian.

Well, okay, I'll be honest: I usually don't open Thursdays by myself, and I only did all of that morning's opening routine because I walked here especially briskly and beat Libby in by five minutes. But I still smile remembering that morning because, after five weeks of working as the first UEA American Scholarship recipient, that was the morning I felt truly settled in at the 2AD Memorial Library — still a bit nervous, and definitely still with a lot to learn, but also a part of a team I'm immensely proud to be part of.

Last July, I applied for, and was chosen as the recipient of, the scholarship being offered by the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust to an American doing post-graduate work at the University of East Anglia. I grew up in California and have lived in Norwich for the past three years — first as an M.A. student in creative writing, then for the last two years working towards a Ph.D. in creative/critical writing.

I began working in the Memorial Library in September, and it's been a mountain of a learning curve, but I've loved it. I work in the library ten hours a week, and

it involves a lot of regular library work — helping a teenage girl find books on American Pop Art for a school paper, reshelving returned books (an anonymous library user must be going through a phase of learning about plane nose art, because in the last week he or she seems to have checked out our entire collection on it), and smiling over, and over, and over again at the three-year-old who’s in love with our model of the Witchcraft and likes to come shriek hello at it on his way to the Children’s Room next door. But there’s also a lot of work I do here that’s special to the Memorial Library: helping people track down information about relatives, finding a museum for a late veteran’s donation of memorabilia that his widow wanted to make sure found a respectful and useful home, or assisting locals in planning holiday trips to a country I happen to be a bit of an expert on! And of course, my status as the in-house American has meant some specialized projects for me — I’ve been putting together reading lists of American adult and children’s books for a satellite library, and we’re starting up a book club reading American fiction that I’m really looking forward to (partly because it will give me an excuse to read more!) Another big project for the year is to set up a regular schedule of visits for local schools, to make sure the library continues being used and enjoyed for years to come.

Working in the Memorial Library has made me feel more connected to America, which despite the Internet and phone and mail can feel very far away at times. I found an entry in our Visitors’ Book by a veteran’s family from Modesto, a town an hour’s drive away from where I grew up, and I’ve enjoyed meeting a few visiting veterans or veterans’ families so far — I hope to meet more before the year is up! I’ve also been welcomed to my new post by current and past Governors, which has made me feel included and at home in the city of Norwich in a way that university life doesn’t always encourage. I consider it an honor and a privilege to be involved with the Memorial Library, and I’m tremendously excited to see what the rest of the year will bring. If it brings any of you across the pond, do come in and say hello — I’ll be the girl at nine a.m. opening the doors like I’m rolling out a red carpet. ■

2nd Air Division Memorial Library Endowment: 2ADA /Irvine Convention /“All Who Served” 2007-2008 Report

SUBMITTED BY LIBBY MORGAN, TRUST LIBRARIAN

*In memory of all who served in the 2nd Air Division USAAF Eighth Air Force in WWII.
Presented by members of the 2nd Air Division Association,
50th Anniversary Convention, Irvine*

Bowman, Martin	<i>Echoes of East Anglia: A Sentimental Journey Through Pictures and Memories 1940-1945</i>
Watkins, Roberta	<i>Battle Colors: Insignia and Aircraft Markings of the Eighth Air Force in World War II – Volume II Fighter Command (VIII)</i>
Langguth, A.J.	<i>Union 1812: The Americans Who Fought in the Second War of Independence</i>
Faggen, Robert & Frost, Robert	<i>The Notebooks of Robert Frost</i>
Caute, David	<i>The Dancer Defects: The Struggle for Cultural Supremacy During the Cold War</i>
Gifford, Bill	<i>Ledyard: In Search of the First American Explorer</i>
Krist, Gary	<i>The White Cascade: The Great Northern Railway Disaster and America’s Deadliest Avalanche</i>
Noll, Mark	<i>America’s God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln</i>
Friedman, Leon (Editor)	<i>Brown v. Brown: The Landmark Oral Argument Before the Supreme Court</i>
Sarris, Jonathan Dean	<i>A Separate Civil War: Communities in Conflict in the Mountain South</i>
Wilson, Joe Jr.	<i>The 784th Tank Battalion in World War II</i>
Carlin, Bob	<i>The Birth of the Banjo: Joel Walker Sweeney and Early Minstrelsy</i>
Davison, Eddy W. & Foxx, Daniel	<i>Nathan Bedford Forrest: In Search of the Enigma</i>
Williams, Wendy & Whitcomb, Robert	<i>Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Class, Politics and the Battle for Our Energy Future on Nantucket Sound</i>
Yenne, Bill	<i>Rising Sons: The Japanese American GIs Who Fought for the United States in World War II</i>
Friedman, David M.	<i>The Immortalists: Charles Lindbergh Jr., Dr. Alexis Carrel and Their Daring Quest to Live Forever</i>
Ethell, J. & Forstchen, W.R.	<i>Hot Shots: Oral History of the Air Force Combat Pilots of the Korean War</i>
Klein, Naomi	<i>The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism</i>
O’Keeffe, Georgia	<i>Georgia O’Keeffe: Nature and Abstraction</i>
Miller, Edwards	<i>Bankrupting the Enemy: The U.S. Financial Siege of Japan Before Pearl Harbor</i>
Fixico, Donald L. (Editor)	<i>Treaties with American Indians: An Encyclopedia of Rights, Conflicts and Sovereignty (3 Volumes)</i>
Feldman, Richard	<i>Ricochet: Confessions of a Gun Lobbyist</i>
Bray, Ilona	<i>U.S. Immigration Made Easy (3rd Edition)</i>
Haworth-Booth, Mark	<i>The Art of Lee Miller</i>
Thompson, Michael J.	<i>Confronting the New Conservatism: The Rise of the Right in America</i>
Faust, Drew Gilpin	<i>This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War</i>
Bowes, John P.	<i>Landmark Events in Native American History — Trail of Tears: Removal in the South</i>
Hasday, Judy L.	<i>The Civil Rights Act of 1964: The End of Racial Segregation</i>

61st Annual Business Meeting of the Second Air Division Association, 8th USAAF October 18, 2008 • Grapevine, Texas

A. Call to Order:

1. The 61st Annual Business Meeting of the Second Air Division Association, 8th USAAF was called to order by President Earl Zimmerman at 10:00 a.m. in Grapevine Room C of the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, Texas. Honorary President Jordan Uttal and Vice President Membership Evelyn Cohen were absent.

2. Secretary Raymond Strong gave the invocation, and President Earl Zimmerman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

3. President Zimmerman welcomed members and guests. He then read a note of regret from David and Jean Hastings stating they were not able to attend.

4. President Zimmerman appointed Richard Butler as Parliamentarian.

5. Secretary Strong verified that a quorum was present.

B. Report of the Delegate Committee (Barney Driscoll, Chairman):

Chairman Driscoll was absent. President Zimmerman stated that since the members present had previously heard the report or seen it in the Journal, it would not be read but placed in the minutes, and that attending members of record be declared official delegates with a list to be published in the 2ADA Journal.

"The report stated that the 2ADA is a non-profit, non-political organization composed of U.S. Veterans and registered with the Internal Revenue Service under Tax Code Section 501 (c) (19). Its TIN (Tax Identification Number) is 25-1327743. As such, all voting members present are official delegates. The reasonable cost to such attendees is construed to be a charitable contribution and may be deductible by those who itemize deductions on their annual income tax returns. The 2ADA cannot provide advice on these matters. Members are advised to seek their own professional advice as may be needed."

C. Report of the Secretary (Raymond E. Strong):

Secretary Strong reported that the minutes were published in the Journal and would not be read. There being no corrections to the minutes, they were approved as published.

D1. Report of the Treasurer (Elwood W. "Bill" Nothstein):

Treasurer Nothstein summarized the financial status of the 2ADA as of June 30, 2008:

Beginning Balance, July 1, 2007	\$107,338.56
Receipts	\$74,516.70
Disbursements	\$81,675.82
General Fund Balance, June 30, 2008	\$100,179.44

D2. Report of the Audit Committee (Elwood W. Nothstein, Treasurer):

Treasurer Nothstein reported that an Audit was performed by Vincent Palmer and Thomas Dawes on August 13, 2008.

E. Report of the Vice President Membership (Evelyn Cohen):

Vice President Membership Cohen was absent. No report was submitted.

F. Report of the Journal Editor (Ray Pytel):

Journal Editor Pytel reported all is well with the Journal, but he needs more articles.

G. Report of the Memorial Trust Board of Governors (Matthew Martin, Chairman):

Chairman Martin reported that it was an eventful year for everyone connected with the Memorial Library. Trust Librarian Derek Hills retired and was replaced by our new Trust Librarian, Libby Morgan, who hit the ground running. The Trust now holds the funds transferred last year from Fulbright through the 2ADA. The Memorial Library has an American post-graduate student, Meghan Purvis, as our first scholar. The third lecture by Lord Douglas Hurd on post-war Anglo-American relations was held last November. The funds under the Governors' control totaled \$2,984,402 as of October 9, 2008, which is a decrease from last year. A grant by the U.S. Embassy in London has enabled two Norwich University students to interview the veterans at this convention for an oral history project. The Memorial Trust is not a last-man-out organization and is expected to be in existence for hundreds of years. Younger people are being sought to serve on the Board of Governors, due to new rules which require Governors to step down after 25 years of service or upon reaching the age of 75. This has resulted in Fran Davies and David Hastings having to retire from the Board; however, they will be made Honorary Life Governors. The Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors will be held on November 10th in Norwich. There will be a special service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on November 13th to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the American Chapel. The Chapel was built after WWII with funds donated by the British people in memory of the over 28,000 Americans who lost their lives while based in the U.K.

Trust Governor Andrew Hawker gave a general report on activities in the Memorial Library in Norwich. We now have an American Librarian, Meghan Purvis from Fresno, California, who began working at the Library on September 1, 2008. Her grandfather served in the USAAF.

Trust Librarian Libby Morgan gave a detailed account of her activities at the Memorial Library during the past year.

H. Report of the President (Earl Zimmerman):

President Zimmerman reported on the Mighty Eighth Museum in Savannah, Georgia. There are 153 people attending this Convention. Now have less than 3,000 2ADA members. Need 50 members to conduct a business meeting. Have over \$100,000 in Treasury. The Executive Committee considered two motions at its Thursday, October 16th meeting: (1) A motion for Dissolution failed; (2) A motion to hold a 2ADA Convention in 2009 carried.

I. Report of the Legendary Liberator Campaign Committee (Walter Mundy, Chairman):

Chairman Mundy reported that the Fightin' Sam Exhibit at the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia is scheduled for completion in six to eight weeks.

J. Report of the Journal Forever Committee (Walter Mundy, Chairman):

Chairman Mundy reported that there was a lack of support for continuation of the Journal after dissolution of the Second Air Division Association. He received only 140 responses to the questionnaire in the recent 3,000 Journal issues sent out.

Walter Mundy (467th BG) moved to "publish only two Journal issues per

year” effective immediately, seconded by James Adams (93rd BG). Vote was 34 for and 6 against. Motion carried.

K. Report of the Convention Committee (Evelyn Cohen, Chairman):

Chairman Cohen was absent. No report was submitted.

President Zimmerman stated that 153 people were in attendance at this convention, and that Chicago, Illinois was being considered for the next convention in 2009.

L. New Business:

No new business was presented.

M. Report of the Nominating Committee (Lloyd Prang, Chairman):

Chairman Prang presented the following slate of officers for the 2008-2009 year:

1. President: John L. Lee (93rd BG)
2. Executive Vice President: Richard C. Robert (453rd BG)
3. Vice President Membership: Evelyn Cohen (HQ)
4. Treasurer: Elwood W. “Bill” Nothstein (466th BG)
5. Secretary: Raymond Strong (HQ)
6. Journal Editor: Ray Pytel (445th BG)

Oak Mackey moved to accept the nomination of John L. Lee (93rd BG) for President, seconded by King Schultz. Motion carried. John L. Lee was elected President.

Bob Jones moved to accept the nomination of Richard C. Robert (453rd

BG) for Executive Vice President, seconded by Bill Nothstein. Motion carried. Richard C. Robert was elected Executive Vice President.

Oak Mackey moved to accept the nomination of Evelyn Cohen (HQ) for Vice President Membership, seconded by Bill Nothstein. Motion carried. Evelyn Cohen was elected Vice President Membership.

Fielder Newton moved to accept the nomination of E.W. “Bill” Nothstein (466th BG) for Treasurer, seconded by Charles Walker. Motion carried. E.W. “Bill” Nothstein was elected Treasurer.

Oak Mackey moved to accept the nomination of Raymond Strong (HQ) for Secretary, seconded by Ray Pytel. Motion carried. Raymond Strong was elected Secretary.

E.W. “Bill” Nothstein moved to accept the nomination of Ray Pytel (445th BG) for Journal Editor, seconded by King Schultz. Motion carried. Ray Pytel was elected Journal Editor.

N. Adjournment:

President Earl Zimmerman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.



RICHARD C. ROBERT

Secretary Pro-Tem for Raymond Strong
Second Air Division Association, 8th USAAF

Folded Wings

44th BG

Mark Morris

93rd BG

Paul O. Bergman
Warren Christensen
Vernon J. Harriman
Harold E. Williams
Gabriel S. Zsigo

389th BG

Hugh V. Anderson
Paul T. Burton
Gene M. Curry
Tom G. Geannakakes
Wayne F. Huner
Elmer D. Huskission
John Kanyuck
Charles S. Landrum
H.E. Richardson
Harry E. Rowen
John P. Tucholski

392nd BG

John J. Goodwin
Henry F. Jurgens
James E. Reynolds
William W. Wall

445th BG

Wayne B. Allen
Victor E. Auchard
Raymond W. Barnes
Richard L. Boucher
Edward Goldsmith (492nd/467th)
Mervin J. Sheaffer

446th BG

Robert G. Meyer
Worth E. Neel
Frederick A. Schwartz
Jack E. Thurman
Quentin Wetteroth

448th BG

Thorpe L. Friar (489th)
Noble Germany
Philip D. LaRiviere
Robert C. Mount
Maj. Veryl L. Sneath (93rd)

453rd BG

Sheldon A. Baker
Edward J. Elliott
Donald A. Gillies
Ted J. Mathews
Orlando J. Russo
Edmund M. Survilla

458th BG

William W. Clark
Earl E. Diehl
Ben E. Drenth
Benjamin R. Hooker, Jr.
Ralph L. Hoyt
Robert N. Morin
Lowell B. Nelson
Joseph A. Pepino
Frank J. Polec

466th BG

James J. Berlinger
Harold E. Hansen
Charles M. Woodbury

467th BG

James F. Ballard
Walter E. Bandlow
Delbert R. Gardner
Edward W. King
John E. Mahoney
Donald J. Prescott
Gerald L. Pucillo
Vernon W. Rigsbee

489th BG

Vincent C. Angeloro
David P. Glick

491st BG

George O. Gauthier
John C. Gunning
John D. McGeary
John E. Miller
Joseph J. Swaner
Thomas Yurcina

Arco dei Fileni

BY EARL ZIMMERMAN (389TH)

While reading the book *The Battle of Alamein*, I ran across the following on page 356:

"At this point it seems that Rommel was deeply demoralized, by some accounts on the edge of a nervous breakdown, after a humiliating visit to Hitler's headquarters in East Prussia. He had gone there on the spur of the moment on 28 November, following a bruising meeting with Kesselring and senior Italian officers at the Arco dei Fileni, Mussolini's hubristic triumphal arch on the border of the Libyan provinces of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. The British called it 'Marble Arch' and it was probably as good a setting as any for the extraordinary decision Rommel reached."



On a mission to the island of Crete, 9 July 1943, we had to leave the formation and landed 200 miles from our base at Benghazi, Libya. We landed at a deserted airfield near Tamet and the tail gunner, S/Sgt. John P. Morris, and I caught a ride with a convoy of the British Desert Rats, the British 8th Army, to notify our base of our location. The convoy stopped at the Arco dei Fileni to have tea. The area around the arch was littered with burnt out tanks and trucks. I climbed to the top of the arch and engraved my name, rank, serial number and unit in the marble wall. There were thousands of other names engraved on the walls of the arch — German, English, Commonwealth types, Italian and a few Amerikanische.

A few months earlier and we could have nailed Rommel and his staff at the Arco dei Fileni and he wouldn't have had to take the pill. ■

HALESWORTH 489TH NOTES BY MEL PONTILLO

I would like to take you back in time to 1944. Perhaps you recall and/or participated in the very important bombing campaigns at Hamm, Germany. The missions were necessary to help salvage the problems and failures that resulted from Operation Market Garden. Specifically, the 8th Air Force was called into action to help prevent a losing Allied ground battle effort from becoming a catastrophe.

Operation Market Garden was the plan of Field Marshal Montgomery. It was, to date, the largest Allied daylight attack by airborne troops. Overall, the plan was designed to capture a series of bridges and roadways in Belgium, France and Holland. As the Nazis retreated in the summer of 1944, the Allies dropped troops behind enemy lines in hopes of securing a direct route to northern Germany and outflanking the retreating army. The operation was designed to shorten the war and bring the troops home by Christmas 1944. Unfortunately, Operation Market Garden fell apart and became the worst Allied reversal of that year. However, without the intervention of the 8th Air Force, Operation Market Garden would have been a far worse situation than it was.

The 8th Air Force was ordered to destroy the massive marshalling yards in Hamm, Germany. There was an unquestioned need in shielding Allied troops from the Nazi counteroffensive, which would have come via the Hamm marshalling yards. There was also an interest in safeguarding the Dutch Resistance personnel against Nazi retaliation. Finally, there was an additional need to prevent the Germans from turning the western border of Holland into a scaled version of the Atlantic Wall (or a replica of the Siegfried Line). In light of this, the Allies were in need of establishing a stronghold in the Holland that they invaded on September 16th.

The first mission to Hamm occurred the day after the British 1st Airborne Division in Holland was ordered to withdraw across the Rhine. In fact, takeoff time was a few hours after Operation Market Garden was officially declared halted. This was Tuesday, September 26, 1944.

My diary entries from that mission: *"This is my 21st mission. Our target for*

today was one of Germany's largest rail centers that supports troops in Holland... We were to hit the rail depot at the rail center of Hamm, Germany. The whole 8th Air Force was bombing in this area today."

The second mission to Hamm occurred four days after the first mission, on September 30th. Then, on October 2nd, Hamm's ability to export the Nazi war machine to Holland was significantly disrupted. The bombing mission was successful enough to enable the First Canadian Army to maintain a position near Groesbeek, Holland. This resulted in the Operation Veritable that began in February 1945.

My diary entry for that mission: *"This was the largest rail center in Germany, and I don't think that we will have to go back there again. I could see the bombs hit right into the target."*

It is noteworthy that crewmembers of the 578th Bomb Squadron had already been briefed for a mission to Stuttgart on the morning of October the 2nd. However, they then found themselves in a briefing room once again, being assigned to the Hamm mission shortly before takeoff time; thus, there was a sense of urgency in the third Hamm mission, as opposed to their original mission assignment.

Again, my diary observations: *"After we peeled away from the target, I saw three more groups drop their bombs. They smashed Hamm flat... We lost two ships over the target. One of them blew up in the air, and the other one spun toward the ground. No one was seen bailing out."* The 489th Bomb Group participated in all three missions to help destroy the Hamm marshalling yards and stop the Nazi war machine moving into Holland. The bomb crew that I was on participated in all three missions. Also, many of you were there and helped make these bombing missions a success.

DALLAS CONVENTION REPORT

I do not have much to say about the 2ADA convention and the 489th Bomb Group reunion, because I became a victim of illness. I was admitted to the Baylor Regional Medical Center in Grapevine on Sunday where they kept me overnight. They discharged me the next evening. The diagnosis was cellulites, treated with antibiotics. When I returned home, my doctor hospitalized me here for more testing and observation.

Sorry I participated in only about half of the events. What I saw was great and very enjoyable. It was nice meeting everyone who attended and seeing all the smiling faces. I am sure that there will be others who will be able to make a more comprehensive report than I could, that

(continued on page 20)

The 2nd Air Division Exhibit at the Mighty 8th Museum

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE MUSEUM

These are the final designs for the Second Air Division permanent exhibit presentation at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, Georgia. Fabrication of the exhibit should be in its final stages of completion by December 2008. During that time, the Exhibit design staff and the design team at Lowcountry Exhibits will be interacting on a daily basis to ensure historical accuracy and effectiveness of flow of the entire exhibit. Much of the construction will be done in the evenings and nights.

The exhibit will follow the basic design parameters included in this document — a design concept that is over a year in planning with input from the museum's Exhibit Committee and with extensive usage of the museum Archives and Collections in the Roger A. Freeman Air Force Research Center. The entire project will fit in with the museum's goals and concepts in our exhibit themes that mesh together to tell the story of the men who served in the Mighty Eighth.

In addition to these drawing concepts, there will also be separate presentations of examples of a Second Air Division Combat Wing and an expansion of a Ploesti mission diorama of 1 August 1943 that will include light and sound. High technology effects will be an integral part of the entire project, including visual and sound tracks utilizing the museum's extensive oral history interviews with 2nd Air Division veterans. A three dimension presentation and accompanying explanation of a combat box will utilize 24 models of the B-24 in flight. The "Fightin' Sam" nose now in the combat gallery will feature a high-tech bomb run with an actual Norden bomb-sight for visitors' interaction.

Artifacts from the museum's collections will be displayed to flesh out the stories of the men of the 8th — a theme which is recurrent throughout the museum. Original wartime daily diaries of General Hodges, 2nd Air Division Commander from 1942 to 1944, will be displayed and Hodges' notations utilized to comment on events of the daily war as they affected the missions and men of the 2nd Air Division. An entire presentation from one airman's wartime records will show visitors what the life of one wartime airman consisted of. Special uses and special attributes of the B-24 Liberator will be presented in a special section of the display.

The accompanying text will give an indication of the direction this presentation takes. As with all exhibits, last-minute alterations in course are not only to be expected, but are required. All Bomb Groups will be given equal attention throughout, as will the airmen and leaders of the Groups.

TEXT AND OUTLINE MATERIAL FOR SECOND AIR DIVISION EXHIBIT: PRELIMINARY

- Ploesti diorama presentation with sound
- Randy Green painting: Into the Fires...
- Text panel of orientation as to the 2nd Air Division, to include texts:
 - Define the B-24 Liberator as a Heavy bomber; numbers and locations of theater service, with numbers.
 - Include range, ceiling, speed, bomb load, twin tails, oval engines, gas tanks, wing design, bomb bays, turrets, nose wheels
 - Flight characteristics, missions, effective altitudes
 - April 1944 — arrival of silver planes
 - Some famous B-24s, e.g. "Ball of Fire" (later used as an air ambulance), "Teggie Ann"
- Discussion of crew training and airfields, e.g. Barksdale, Chatham Field, Will Rogers Field, Smyrna, TN — including crash photos
- 96th Combat Wing forming up models: 458th, 466th, 467th BGs — combat wing discussion
- Combat box discussion with B-24s in formation
- 492nd BG story: 467th, 801st
- Heading Out
- Aerial view of airfield
- Sperry turret and how used; cotton tails
- The Norwich Connection: things about the old established part of English heritage that lent itself for a closer connection between the Brits and the Yanks; Joe Manatelli's letter from a 12-year-old; Christmas in Europe; Earl Wassom's story of the purchase of a bike for a 12-year-old Brit; 453rd BG mission in Liberty Run to deliver Christmas gifts to 30 French war orphans
- Discuss Norwich and surrounding bases — B-17 bases were closer to London and reporters
- Life on bases with Red Cross girls, Ruth Coleman and Birdie Schmidt
- BAD 2 — B-24 crash into Freckleton School; school bell to display; local school kids; David Hastings
- Ditching; reasons for problems; Gibson Girl
- Crew positions: sextant, compass; radio; load calculator; personal equipment
- Crash landings

HISTORICAL, IN-DEPTH TREATMENT

1. Commanders, esp. Leon Johnson — Asa Duncan's Assistant Chief of Staff in Savannah; Ted Timberlake; Gen. Hodges; Ramsay Potts; Jimmy Stewart (joined Air Corps in 1941 after winning Academy Award for "The Philadelphia Story;" flew 20+ combat missions; Ops officer; COS 445th and 453rd BGs with Potts).
2. 93rd BG as early Group sent to North Africa to bomb oil fields and Wiener Neustadt
3. Ploesti including 367th high level raid and Halverston Raiders — 9 missions to Ploesti — OIL
4. D-Day — only 2 planes lost: B-24s
5. Operation Cobra with Ernie Pyle quote
6. Operation Market Garden
7. Battle of the Bulge
8. Bombing of Swiss towns — see "The Day We Bombed Switzerland"
9. 27 September 1944 mission to Kassel as example of greatest loss and unpredictability of war
 - Zodiac Brinkman 486th Sudbury nose art — period Life magazine
 - Cut out a wooden relief map of East Anglia and 2nd Air Division bases
 - Ray Gurga 493rd photos
 - Large variety of usages of the B-24 including Special Operations: sub patrols, limited because of secrecy of the Enigma codes; No ball missions (Operation Crossbow); Aphrodite project; AZON bombs; Carpetbaggers; Maquis John Boyer; supply drops for the resistance; Jedburghs and making mischief; fuel to Patton's tanks; troop supplies to the Rhine river (Operation Varsity); Diversions; Norway flyers
 - "Fightin' Sam" — with SCAD's Greg Johnson, professor
 - Oral histories, compilations — audio and video
 - Social life on base
 - 3rd SAD considerations
 - Fighting Scout Group to 2nd Air Division; cowboy missions (?)
 - Cody Hall's story of Jack Hagler/Greenland; B-24 window
 - Bernie Lay diary — shot down over France; Evasion; D-Day behind German lines
 - Ben Kuroki
 - Heavy Bomber Comparison
 - 2nd Air Division Association
 - Unpublished period photos and museum original artwork will be used to tell the story of the airmen.

RACKHEATH

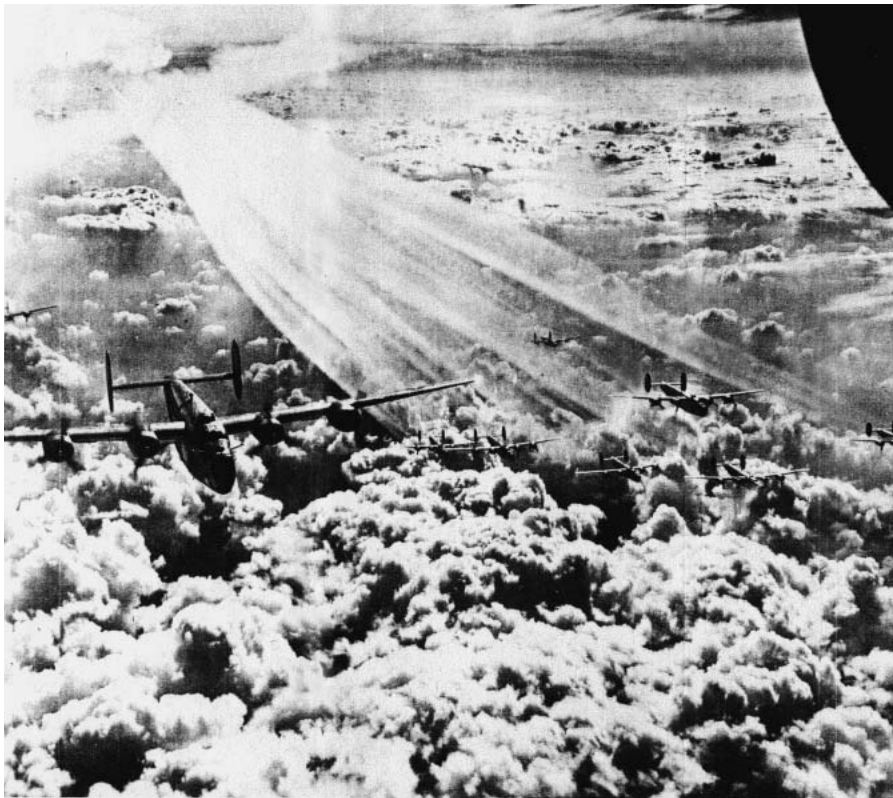


POOP from GROUP 467

BY WALTER J. MUNDY

The 467th Bomb Group reunion was held at the Drury Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, October 9-12, 2008. There were 41 members and guests, and a good time was enjoyed by all. There was a paddle wheel boat trip up the Mississippi River and a tour of the famous Arch that provided a ride to the top observation area or a documentary movie about how the Arch was constructed. A tour of the Anheuser-Busch Brewery was also interesting for many.

The membership voted to have our 2009 reunion the second week of October, 2009 at the Mighty Eighth Museum in Savannah, Georgia. This should be a great opportunity to see the new Second Air Division Exhibit. Following my report on the status of the *Fightin' Sam* and the 2AD exhibit, Jay Shower generously offered his dad's, Col. Shower's, photo album of every mission flown by the 467th and numerous items of Col. Shower's flight gear to be placed in the archives of the Mighty Eighth Museum. I want to thank Jay for providing this valuable part of the legacy of the 467th BG. The Mighty Eighth Museum is the best place for the archives of the Second Air Division Groups. I urge the Groups to use the Mighty Eighth Museum as the home for their archives and not scatter them around to museums that do not focus on the Mighty Eighth's achievements. Future generations will benefit greatly by being able to see all of the organizations that comprised the greatest Air Armada that the world will ever know.



Above is a copy of a photo that the Mighty Eighth Museum needs information about, and who or what group took the picture. They would like to use the picture in the Second Air Division Exhibit. I would appreciate it if anyone who has any information about it, please respond to me at 15533 Swallowtail Road, Edmond, OK 73013, Tel. 405-340-1677, Fax 405-359-9537, E-mail: waltermundy@sbcglobal.net ■

More News from the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum

BY WALTER MUNDY

I have just returned from the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum where I attended the Trustees Board Meeting. As the Representative of the Second Air Division Association, I reported on the activities of the Second Air Division Association, and I worked with the archivist on the *Fightin' Sam* Exhibit and the Second Air Division Exhibit. I met with Professor Greg Johnson and an associate who are developing the software program for the *Fightin' Sam* interactive exhibit where a visitor can sit in the bombardier's seat and simulate a bomb run. This will be the only exhibit in the world where a visitor can experience a bomb run and hear the intercom conversation between the pilot, the navigator, the bombardier, and the radio operator. The visitor will also see and hear the flak during the bomb run from the IP to the target. The 2AD Exhibit will include a lot of artifacts that have not been displayed. Jay Shower has generously offered to provide Col. Shower's scrapbook containing photographs of every mission that the 467th carried out and other items of equipment that the Colonel used.

The museum, in order to provide a representative display of all of the fourteen bomb groups and Headquarters, has requested that the bomb groups that have artifacts, photos and stories provide this historical material to the museum. I request that the group vice presidents, particularly those who have not provided any artifacts or materials thus far, to contact me. Some groups have provided extensive displays. Some groups have not provided any material. This is the Home of the Mighty Eighth Air Force and the Second Air Division, where our legacy will live on for the future generations to see and learn about the warriors of the Eighth and our significant role in providing the freedom that we all enjoy. ■

The End of the Story and a Dream Come True

The visit of the well-known American author Marjorie Hodgson Parker to the 2nd Air Division bases in Norfolk in October 2008

BY DAVID HASTINGS

After having enjoyed nearly two years of helping the well-known American author Marjorie Hodgson Parker to write her best-selling book *David and the Mighty Eighth* — which is the story of how we English youngsters lived in World War Two, met the 2nd Air Division USAAF and established a unique friendship — we could not believe that Marjorie, with her husband Joe and youngest daughter Sarah, would one day fly over to see all the places featured in her book.

But in October 2008 the dream came true. Rather than stay in a Norwich hotel, Sue Simpson, a friend of ours in our village at Salhouse, who owns a superb bed & breakfast built in a beautifully restored barn overlooking farmland, had them to stay, which meant they were just a few minutes away from us. They arrived just before lunch on Friday, October 17th, settled in and then joined us for an early “welcome” supper.

The next day, Saturday, was a rest day and they wanted to see our Norfolk Broads (lakes), so we took them sailing in our yacht “Demoiselle” which we keep on South Walsham Broad. The weather was perfect with a blue sky and a good breeze, so we sailed downstream on the River Bure towards the sea and made Upton Mill before we tied up in the reeds for a picnic lunch. Then back home to South Walsham and Salhouse. As a Texas cattleman, Joe wanted to see some of our own cattle, so Sue kindly arranged for him to visit the marshes at Upton and see them. Then in the evening all our family gave them a “meet and greet” supper in our house which was fun.

Sunday was the “Base Day” and we started off at Rackheath and the home of the 467th BG, just two miles from our home. Marjorie stood on the wartime main runway, then visited the marker, the superbly restored control tower, the Private Miney plaque, the village sign, the 467th room in our new church, and some of the aircrew huts still remaining in the woods of Rackheath Hall. She also visited the old Little Church. Then in the afternoon we went out to Hethel airfield, the home of the 389th BG and my crew of Lt. Al Dexter, where much of her book takes place. Marjorie was amazed to stand on the site of the old dispersal for “Pugnacious Princess Pat” and see the fence that Al Dexter lifted me over. Then the Friends of the Memorial led by Steve kindly showed them the superbly restored wartime base chapel, where Al Dexter used to take me to see Father Beck in 1944, followed by tea in his office. Everyone was so kind. In the evening we all had supper in the famous wartime haunt of the 467th BG, the Rackheath “Green Man” pub.

On Monday, Marjorie and her family spent the morning in the unique 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial Library, before going to see the Jarrolds and Waterstones book stores in Norwich who had sold her book. Then it was into the studios of BBC Radio Norfolk for a thirty-minute interview with Graham Barnard before finally having lunch in the Assembly House. 2:00 p.m. was another big occasion, when the Lord Mayor of Norwich officially welcomed her in the Parlour to the City of Norwich, followed by a personal tour of our City Hall. Back home to Salhouse for a short rest before we left for our Cathedral, as Marjorie had always wanted to attend Evensong. On arrival we were all placed in special seats with the choir, which was quite something. The



The Parker family, Sarah, Marjorie, and Joe, in the wartime chapel at Hethel.

service ended at 6:00 p.m. and then we drove the twenty miles out to the old wartime airfield at Hardwick and the home of the 93rd BG. Here the Friends of the Memorial committee had arranged for Marjorie and her family to meet Maurice Hammond and see the two P-51 Mustang fighters that he has beautifully restored and flies, as well as an AT6 Harvard and a Stearman, both types that Marjorie’s mother flew in the war as a WASP pilot. This was followed by a great fish and chips supper in one of the wartime huts. Yet another memorable day.

Tuesday was “Education Day” and they had an early start at 8:30 a.m. as the guests of honour at Norwich School for the annual Trafalgar Day Service in the Cathedral, as Lord Nelson was an Old Boy of the School. This was followed by coffee with the Headmaster Jim Hawkins, who then gave them a personal tour of my old school, which was featured in the book. Then another coffee with Rachel Lightfoot, the School Development Manager, before Marjorie talked to over 100 students in the Bishop’s Palace in two groups. They loved her. The questions flowed so much that we were late for the school lunch. Then in the afternoon we visited Wymondham College, which is built on the site of the huge American Air Force wartime Morley hospital. The college is the main one in Norfolk, with over 1200 students on campus. They visited the wartime Nissen hut chapel, the 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial Garden, the Library, and the new Sixth Form Centre and 106-bedroom Sixth Form Hall of Residence. To end the day they had tea with Lady Ralphs, who is the widow of Sir Lincoln Ralphs who formed the college after the war, at her lovely house in Norwich.

The day finished with a sad “farewell” supper in our house, and on early Wednesday morning we saw them off on their way to London and back home.

For everyone involved, Marjorie, Joe and Sarah have left us with so many wonderful memories of how *David and the Mighty Eighth* finally came to life once more. ■



**491st BOMB GROUP
POSTREMUM ET OPTIMUM
the
RINGMASTER
REPORTS**

BY JOHN PALLER

It was during the year of 1988 that a number of 491st Bomb Group members met in Colorado Springs at the 2nd Air Division Association convention.

From that humble beginning sprouted the 491st Bomb Group (H) Inc., which blossomed into a closely-knit group with a large number of loyal members. Success was achieved because a cadre of individuals in leadership positions were there at the start and served with distinction for

the next twenty years.

After formally organizing on the 1st of November 1988 at the Days Inn in Savannah, GA, annual reunions have been held without interruption, all the way to the convention held in McLean, VA in September 2008.

Now, I am sad to report, it looks like it is time to close the book on our beloved organization. The Board of Directors will be scheduling a “last round-up” — again in Savannah, only this time, instead of being guests of the Days Inn — with no home of our own — the 491st BG will be “home” at the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum. This event is tentatively scheduled for April or early May of 2009. The Board plans to make a presentation to the museum of our assets. Then steps will be taken to formally close out the business of the corporation. Through the years, dedicated people who willingly have devoted their time and energy to keep the

organization viable have superbly run the 491st Bomb Group (H) Inc.

Without question our quarterly publication “The Ringmasters Log” has provided the membership with pertinent news, history, reunion notices and all that was necessary to bind the organization together. Nelson Leggette, ably assisted by his wife Irene and the many contributors, has devoted countless hours in making this publication one of the best.

To keep the legacy alive, I am enrolling all four of my children in both the Heritage League and the Next-Gen group for the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. I hope other veterans of the air war over Europe will do likewise.

For our 491st members, please mark your calendars and make every effort to be in Savannah in the spring — and bring the kids!!! (Or, have the kids bring you.)

God Bless You All! ■

SHIPDHAM



Guest Article

**BY RUTH W. DAVIS-MORSE
Secretary, 44th Bomb Group
Veterans Association**

The 44th Bomb Group’s annual reunion was a tri-city event, starting in Harrisburg, PA, then thirty miles west to the Army Heritage Education Center in Carlisle. On the third day attendees visited Gettysburg. Only Harrisburg has an airport, a fact that determined the course of events. Forty-three veterans attended the reunion, accompanied by eighty-four second and third generation members. The Civil War Museum in Harrisburg depicted the occurrences that led to the war — slave markets, Fort Sumter, and the overwhelming political disagreements that resulted in massive bloodshed.

Placing the 44th Bomb Group in a position of significance at the Army Heritage Education Center (AHEC) was a challenge to 44th BG members of the Army Air Force. It was resolved by placing the Group’s Flying Eight Ball logo on two significant areas in the Soldier’s Walk, so distinctive that casual visitors inquired,

“Who is that Group?” Leaders and historians of the 44th BG were honored in impressive bricks and pavers. Will Lundy’s seventeen files of 44th records, safely guarded in acid-free folders, were available for perusal by all, along with Lee Aston’s reconstituted A-2 flight jacket.

The big event at AHEC was the presentation of General Leon Johnson’s Medal of Honor, earned by leading a force of the 44th Bomb Group in the attack on the Columbia Aquila Oil Refinery (Target White V) at Ploesti, Romania on 1 August 1943. Colonel William Pierce read the citation and General Johnson’s grandson, Leon Abbot, gave a stirring and emotional recitation of the unique leadership of this great general.

Inside the chapel at Carlisle Barracks, Chaplain Arthur Pace delivered a resounding memorial sermon to those who had given all. His message to the veterans was, “Live to the fullest: they died to give you that privilege.” Luncheon was in a room named for Air Force General Hoyt Vandenberg. Eight members of the 44th were pinned with belated awards by Mr. John Gibson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. Mr. Gibson is the son of Brigadier General John H. Gibson who as a colonel commanded the 44th Bomb Group in 1944. The awards that were made were obtained through the efforts of Lee Aston, Chairman of Awards and Decorations on the 44th BG Board of Directors.

On the last day, attendees enjoyed a trip to Gettysburg and were welcomed to the newly revised tourist center. The Cyclorama depicting Pickett’s Charge had been

newly restored and the museum offered a battle-by-battle story of the entire war. The bus tour provided the opportunity to visit the high points of the three-day battle; ending at the Torch of Freedom that was dedicated 75 years after the treaty was signed at Appomattox Courthouse.

Since the men who flew in the Army Air Force were a part of the United States Army, the Army Heritage Education Center in Carlisle, PA is inviting WWII airmen to consider this location as a repository for their memorabilia. Of course, if a family wishes to keep such items, the family’s wishes would receive first priority. However, if it would be difficult for relatives to care for old uniforms, badges, flight records, letters or any other personal items, AHEC is more than delighted to preserve them and make them available to historians, researchers and families.

AHEC will soon be breaking ground on their new Education Center, and on a regular basis will be displaying materials from different wars. There will be seating where children, members of the community, and veterans groups can attend educational programs about the Army’s history. If anyone would like to discuss this with any of the administrators, call Greg Statler at 717-245-3094 or John Warsinske at 717-245-4114.

According to 44th BGVA President George Washburn, our next group reunion will be in Tampa, Florida. The 44th BG was activated at MacDill Army Air Field, Tampa on 15 January 1941. A plaque on the airbase commemorates that event. ■



BY CLARENCE LUHMANN

This is October 17, 2008 and I am sitting in the hospitality room of the 445th BG at the convention center at the Gaylord Texan Resort. As with everything in Texas, it is big.

We had the 2ADA Executive Committee meeting on Thursday and it was voted to have a 2009 convention, tentatively in Chicago. We also cut down the number of *Journals*. There will now be two a year. There's a money crunch.



We have returned safely (as we drove) home from the 61st Annual Convention of the Second Air Division Association. It was an interesting time. The Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, Texas is a very big place. There is a lot going on, as there are many conferences, etc. going on all the time. We had to get our bearings as to where to go. The only hard part was the long walk from our room to the convention center. Everyone at the Gaylord was very helpful and friendly. Anytime we looked confused, someone asked to help. Many thanks to Ray and Jean Lemons for heading up the committee to get the convention together. The most impressive time was before the banquet on Sunday evening. The color guard and a bagpiper led all the veterans to the front of the hall. After the colors had been posted, a candle-lighting ceremony took place. We had lots of good food. The time spent with friends we have made over the years was the best. We missed some who couldn't make it.

We want to congratulate John Lee, our new president, and wish him a good year.

It was nice to see so many veterans and we enjoyed visiting with them. God willing, we will see you next year in Chicago.

Here at home, the farmers are busy harvesting their crops and the yields are better than expected. By the time you receive this *Journal*, we belatedly wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year. ■

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Join the Kassel Mission Historical Society

KMHS is a non-profit Michigan Federal Income Tax-Exempt 501(c) organization:

- To perpetuate and promote the memory and history of the Kassel Mission of September 27, 1944 by the 445th Bomb Group of the 8th Army Air Force, 2nd Air Division, 2nd Combat Wing.
- To fund and dedicate memorials to the Kassel Mission at appropriate locations.
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5 ZEKES

a D.F.C. and a SILVER STAR



THEY were a cocky crew. They were good and they knew it. They'd lived together, trained together, worked together, fought together. And they'd named their B-24 the *Double Trouble* because they meant to make plenty for the Japs.

This morning, flying "recco" along the New Guinea coast, they had caught a lone Nip supply ship and were about to let her have it ... when suddenly from the top-turret: "Zekes at eleven o'clock ... two of 'em ... high!"

The pilot kept to his bombing run. The crew watched the pair of Japs and braced themselves. And then, without warning, Zekes started to rain from all over the sky.

"Two Zekes at six o'clock!"

"More fighters! Two at nine o'clock ... three at eleven ... two more at ten!"

A dozen Zekes dived in for the kill ... screaming down ... filling the sky with a 4th-of-July display of exploding shells and tracers.

The *Double Trouble's* crew fought back with every gun on the ship. And when the big plane lifted at the bombs' release, the pilot put her into evasive action.

The nose-gunner got the first one ... blew him into a flaming torch. Top-turret caught another in his red-hot tracer streams. Two

more went down like falling leaves, trailing wakes of smoke into the sea.

The *Double Trouble* was peppered with bullet holes. Her left wing was riddled. Her tail was badly mauled. But the crew had its fighting blood up.

Zeke number five came in high ... took a solid burst from the waist-gun, fell into a slow spin, and all at once disintegrated.

Five up and five down! That was enough for the Nips. The rest got homesick.

Then the boys let go their guns and relaxed ... and told each other how good they were.

They didn't talk about the months of training that prepared them for today's fight ... or the spirit of teamwork drilled into every AAF flier ... or the will-to-win that makes the AAF the "greatest team in the world."

They didn't put it into words, but they understood it. Right then, it added up to five Zekes.

But to the Commanding General it added up to far more than that ... to him it meant heroism and gallantry in action. That's why, the next afternoon, he pinned a Distinguished Flying Cross on every man, and a Silver Star on the skipper.

U. S. ARMY RECRUITING SERVICE



MEN OF 17...



If you want to fly on the "greatest team in the world", an AAF air combat crew ... go to your nearest AAF Examining Board ... see if you can qualify for the Air Corps Enlisted Reserve. If you qualify, you will receive this insignia ... but will not be called for training until you are 18 or over.

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Great Friend of Downed Airmen Dies

Andrée de Jongh, 90, of the Belgian Resistance

BY DOUGLAS MARTIN • SUBMITTED BY AUBREY D. HENDERSON (392ND)

ANDRÉE DE JONGH, whose youth and even younger appearance belied her courage and ingenuity when she became a World War II legend ushering many downed Allied airmen on a treacherous, 1,000-mile path from occupied Belgium to safety, died recently in Brussels. She was 90.

Her death was announced by a website for former resistance fighters, *verzet.org*. There was no information about survivors.

Derek Shuff, in his book *Evader* (2007), told of three British crewmen whose bomber made a forced landing in 1941. They found their way to the underground and were ensconced in a safe house when a slip of a young woman appeared.

"My name is Andrée," the 24-year-old woman said, "but I would like you to call me by my code name, which is Dédée, which means little mother. From here on I will be your little mother, and you will be my little children. It will be my job to get my children to Spain and freedom."

She left and the three sat in stunned silence. One finally spoke. "Our lives are going to depend on a schoolgirl," he said.

Two of the men survived the grueling trek along what became known as the Comet escape line because of the speed with which soldiers were hustled along it.

Ms. de Jongh eventually led 24 to 33 expeditions across occupied France, over the Pyrenees to Gibraltar. She herself escorted 118 servicemen to safety. At least 300 more escaped along the Comet line.

When the Germans captured her in 1943, it was her youth that saved her. When she truthfully confessed responsibility for the entire scheme, they refused to believe her.

The citation of her Medal of Freedom with Golden Palm, the highest award the United States presented to foreigners who helped the American effort in World War II, said Ms. de Jongh "chose one of the most perilous assignments of the war."

Andrée de Jongh was born on November 30, 1916, in Schaerbeek, Belgium, the youngest daughter of Frédéric de Jongh, a schoolteacher. She was brought up to admire Edith Cavell, shot the year before Andrée was born for helping Allied soldiers



In her 20's, Andrée de Jongh rescued dozens of Allied airmen. Here she was thanked after the war by Jack Newton.

escape from Belgium during World War I.

She was working as a commercial artist in May 1940 when the Germans absorbed Belgium. Having had first-aid training, she began working as a nurse. She quietly pored over the myriad German rules governing control of movement and conferred with confidants about escape.

Her task was harder than that of Ms. Cavell, who had only to move men across the Dutch frontier. Belgium was surrounded by occupied countries. Eventually Ms. de Jongh settled on the long route to Spain.

When she got her first two airmen to the British Consulate in Bilbao, Spain, she asked for support for further missions. Officials there were sufficiently convinced of her integrity to overcome skepticism among the British intelligence brass that she might be part of a Gestapo plot.

Ms. de Jongh's mission had wider resonance because it signaled to Allied nations that pilots and crews crashing in enemy territory were not lost. It also succeeded in coupling espionage with escape by sending critical information to Allied channels.

The Comet operation was complex: organizers needed to recover fallen airmen, procure civilian clothing and fake identity papers, provide medical aid for the wounded, and shelter and feed the men as they moved along their long obstacle course.

It was also so dangerous that Ms. de Jongh warned recruits that they should expect to be dead or captured within six months. Her own father was captured and executed, along with 22 others.

Her inspiration was sometimes all that kept exhausted men plodding on. Bob Frost, a bomber crew member, said in an interview with a publication of British veterans groups, "It was her eyes, they were absolutely burning and there was an air of supreme confidence about her."

She was captured escorting a soldier over the Pyrenees in January 1943 after a German collaborator betrayed her. After twenty interrogations, the Germans still refused to believe her confession and she was sent to the Ravensbruck concentration camp. There, among skeletal and shaven forms, she was so unrecognizable that the Gestapo could not identify her for questioning.

Ms. de Jongh later worked in leper hospitals in the Belgian Congo and Ethiopia. She was made a Belgian countess in 1985. ■

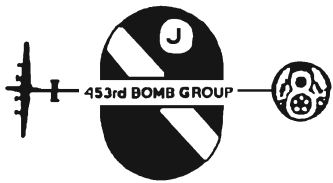
489TH NOTES

(continued from page 12)

will be available in this *Journal*. As for the 489th Bomb Group reunion, see the October Newsletter. Charles Freudenthal made a great detailed report on the 2008 reunion, which would be difficult to surpass. I was glad to be at both, even if it was part-time. My son and daughter were with me to enjoy our reunion.

Our 2009 group reunion is scheduled for Florida with Marlin Gehrke in charge, according to the 489th Bomb Group meeting we had in Dallas.

On behalf of the 489th Bomb Group I want to thank Diane Quin, daughter of member Jim Gililand, for putting together a great and splendid reunion. All who attended enjoyed it very much. For those members who did not attend, we missed you and you missed a great time at the 2008 reunion. Thanks again for the great effort of the Gililand family for this great event. ■



NEWS OF THE 453RD FROM FLAME LEAP

BY LLOYD W. PRANG

Walter Bala called a little while ago and asked how the 2ADA convention in Grapevine, Texas went. I think I used up a whole bunch of his nickels (dimes? quarters?) telling him all about what he had missed by not being there.

Now I'll begin to tell you what you all missed. About 150 people attended. The Gaylord Texan Hotel was beautiful and was everything you have ever heard about Texas! The hotel was BIG, BIG, really BIG! Everything about it was LARGE, including the "miles" we had to walk to get to the convention center, where all the activities took place. If you have a computer, you can check out their website and see what I mean. I have got to thank **Chuck Walker** for a job well done. I don't know how he put all this together, especially for the price, which was extremely reasonable. We also have to thank Chuck for driving us around for the "vittles." When we finally found the place where Chuck wanted us to buy the "stuff," we learned that the town of Grapevine was half dry — no hard beverages; for that we'd have to drive into Dallas for the rest of the "stuff." **Linda Wittig** and her daughter **Brenda Tudek** offered to go and get "it," but it seemed that we were doing pretty well with what we had, so I opted not to go.

Next, we found the Texas Station, which is a sports bar and grill. It had the biggest TV screen I had ever seen. We had no trouble seeing a football game from about a block away. That may be a slight exaggeration, but it seemed like a block away. And the hamburger was BIG! Irene and I also managed to "find" the Old Hickory Steakhouse. The food was delicious. And when the check arrived it was BIG. But it was worth the price.

I have to compliment the 453rd people. The 453rd had the largest number of people in attendance. The 2ADA had a hospitality place near the registration area, which was in the back 40 acres. (This was my interpretation of where the convention hall area was located.) I'm glad the 453rd had our hospitality room in the area where most of our rooms were located. Needless to say, it was well attended. Linda and Brenda presented everyone with a small bottle filled with after-dinner mints.

The bottle had a picture of a B-24 and an insignia of the 8th Air Force. The inscription said "Thank you for your service, 453rd Bomb Group." Linda and Brenda always dream up some nice thing for our gang to take home as a memory of the good time we had together. Thanks, Linda and Brenda.

At the Executive Committee meeting I invited all of the members to visit our hospitality suite. **Earl Zimmerman**, the president of the 2ADA, stopped by for a few minutes as did **Walter Mundy** of the 467th and **Oak Mackey** of the 392nd. In addition, since he liked what he saw of how the 453rd did things in Las Vegas, **Paul Billings**, aka *der troublemaker* of the 389th, and his navigator stopped by. It was good to see everyone one more time. Another thing decided at this committee meeting was that in 2009 there are to be only two issues of the *Journal*. The publication date of the first one is still undetermined because they will be wanting to give you as much information as possible about the 62nd convention of the 2ADA. It is being considered for early September somewhere in the Chicago area.

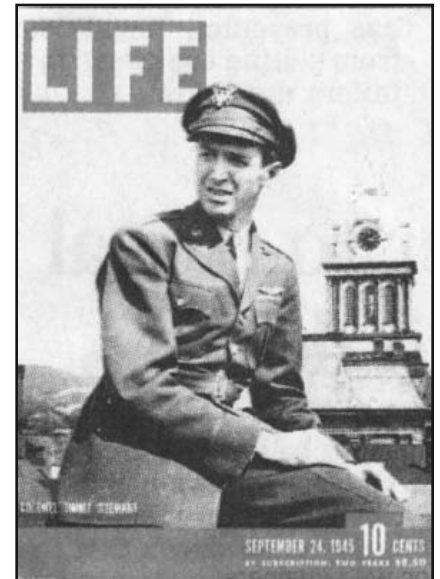
Now for a list of the 453rd people who were there: Mo and Ludie Morris and their daughter, Karen Merrell; Jeanne Stites; Bert and Claire Biel and their daughters, Irene Hurner and Barbara Mello and grandson Andrew Argentieri along with Sam and Pat Argentieri; Allen and Dorothy Williamson, Jim Dyke, Dick and Gwen Robert; Dick's daughter Paulette and her daughter, who is, by now, a Lt. in the Civil Air Patrol; Linda and Herman Wittig; Brenda and Phil Tudek; Murray and Shirley Schwartz, Larry Syverson and two guests, Dwayne Burgess and Charles Alred; Pat and Agnes Ramm; Russ and Nona Neatrou; and finally, Irene and Lloyd Prang.

The 453rd had its version of a business meeting Saturday during the 2ADA dinner, and while we didn't manage to equal the brevity of the one in Michigan we did manage to complete it in about ten minutes. **Dick Robert** read the minutes of the last meeting; **Mo Morris** gave a financial report and **Allen Williamson** read the list of nominees. The members who were present approved everything and the meet-

ing was adjourned. FYI, Lloyd Prang, Jim Dyke, Oliver Morris, Dick Robert and Wilbur Stites were re-elected to continue in their respective positions. Also, the 453rd will continue to print two issues of the Newsletter next year. I think and hope all of the various appointees will agree to remain in their respective jobs. I also thank Dick Robert for agreeing to remain in the job of 453rd secretary although he has now been elected to be Executive Vice President of the 2ADA. Congratulations, Dick. Thanks to everyone for all they have done for the 453rd during the past year.

Finally, since this will be the last issue of the *Journal* for 2008, Irene and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas and hopefully a Happy, Healthy 2009. ■

“LIFE” GOES ON: Famous brand emerges as photo site



More than seven decades after *Life* first appeared as a magazine devoted to photojournalism, the venerable brand is to be resurrected as a website early next year. The site will let visitors search and browse through about 10 million professional images from *Life's* archives — the bulk of them never before seen by the public — plus thousands of photos of current events that will be added each day. Visitors will be able to view the photos, share them or print them out for non-commercial use — all free. **Life.com** will also sell framed photos and personalized coffee table books.

— From *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* staff,
Associated Press and Bloomberg News reports



HETHEL
**389th Bomb Group
Green Dragon
Flares**

BY FIELDER NEWTON

The 389th Bomb Group joined 600 members of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society at the Savannah reunion with 28 from our group attending. A visit to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum was enjoyed by all. Of special interest was a cottage sponsored by the Escape and Evasion Association that showed the many secret places where radios, guns and men could be hidden. We also saw the nose section of *Fightin' Sam* and a volunteer informed us that a hands-on simulated bomb run would be installed when the technical equipment arrives, which should be soon. In addition to *Sam*, the Hall of Honor had many interesting exhibits and banners honoring all of the 8th Air Force Bomb Groups. The chapel is beautiful and the well-groomed grounds had many fine exhibits.

Savannah is a very interesting city, which we were able to tour on Wednesday. Our guide pointed out many of the historical Victorian homes built at the turn of the 19th century in neighborhoods facing landscaped squares.

The 389th had a large hospitality suite thanks to Paul Billings underwriting the cost and Dave Borland furnishing the drinks and snacks. Many happy moments were spent by the veterans and their families, visiting and telling war stories. The suite made it possible for our historian, Kelsey McMillan, to use her vast technical skills and laptop computer for us to talk to our friends at Hethel while seeing them on the laptop screen. We can't thank Kelsey enough for her great work as our historian and newsletter editor.

The Second Air Division Association held its 61st convention at the huge Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas with about 150 attending. The 389th had 26 hardy souls who enjoyed the surroundings as well as getting together at the planned activities and the Association's hospitality suite.

Prior to the convention the 2ADA Executive Committee had their annual meeting and decided to continue the Association and to plan another convention, in Chicago in 2009.

At the Executive Committee and the membership meetings, I pointed out that the original 8th Air Force Archives were placed in the Paterno Library at Penn State in early 1990 by the late Jim Hill who was the editor of the *8th AF News*. These archives have grown through the years and are being very well preserved and used by students, historians and professors from other universities. New material is always welcome and bomb group histories would be well cared for. It also was suggested the 2ADA records and history could be deposited in the archives when the organization decides to disband. Following is the procedure to be used to send material or memorial gifts to the World War II Eighth Air Force Libraries Endowment. This information was supplied by Shirley Davis of Penn State:

WORLD WAR II 8TH AIR FORCE LIBRARIES ENDOWMENT

Monies received for this endowment enable the Penn State Libraries to acquire new collections materials and fund additional staff and material resources to arrange, organize and describe portions of the Eighth Air Force Archive as we work towards

the eventual goal of creating a searchable online guide to the Eighth Air Force Archive to share with veterans and the worldwide scholarly community.

If a memorial gift is given, a personalized bookplate will be placed in a new library volume purchased for the Eighth Air Force Archive collection. A formal acknowledgement of all contributions is made.

GIFTS IN KIND

The University Libraries welcomes certain gifts of books, journals, manuscripts and other appropriate materials. These gifts will enhance our collection and will support the commitment of Penn State to excellence in teaching and research. Donations are accepted with the understanding that the materials become the property of the Libraries. Under the federal tax regulations, the Libraries cannot give appraisals or estimates of value for donors. Valuation is the responsibility of the donor. The Libraries can, however, provide a list of qualified appraisers upon request.

If you are interested in making a gift to the University Libraries, please contact James Quigel, Head of Historical Collections and Labor Archives, 104 Paterno Library, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802, or Shirley Davis, Assistant to the Dean of University Libraries, 510 Paterno Library, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802.

"Til we meet again. ■



**446TH BOMB GROUP
FLIXTON - BUNGAY
UPDATE**

BY CARL H. ALBRIGHT

This article is dedicated to the value and importance of the contributions made by the younger generations to the activities of the 446th Bomb Group as well as to the activities of other 8th Air Force historical associations. It is only by the inclusion of these dedicated individuals, who have stepped up and taken over many of the offices and day-to-day chores, that we can keep our history alive.

The 2008 reunion of the 446th BG was held in San Antonio, Texas and, in my book, was a great success. Much of the planning for and coordination of the activities for the reunion were in the capable hands of members who were not part of the WWII 446th BG. An unofficial survey of the reunion that was made by Helen Farrington and published in the September 2008 *Beachbell Echo* shows the value and necessity of these younger generations. The survey shows that there were 31 veteran members, 15 of whom were accompanied by their spouses, plus six widows of members who had folded their wings and four whose family members were KIA. In addition, there were 26 adult children — 12 of them with their spouses, three grandchildren, three nieces, one nephew, one brother, three daughters-in-law, three sons-in-law and one grandson-in-law. Of special note there were five association attendees who had no family ties to the group. If my math is correct, the ratio of younger generations to original 446ers is almost 2 to 1.

Erna Sittler Torney was the guest of honor at the reunion. Erna, one of the Red Cross ladies, married pilot Jack Torney while Jack was stationed with the 446th. ■



SEETHING

The 448th Speaks

BY KING SCHULTZ

FOLDED WINGS OF THE 448TH

Henry A. Anderson (6-17-08), Albuquerque, New Mexico

James D. Bell (4-04-08), Blairsville, Georgia

Paul N. Beyerl (6-02-08), Lisle, Illinois

Richard Casterline (9-30-08), Gainesville, Georgia

Paul E. Goeken (11-12-06), Tremont, Illinois

Albert Marquez (5-26-08), age 95, waist gunner on the Charles Foutche crew, 33 missions

Joseph Miller (4-08)

Francis W. Scarbrough (7-17-08), Morton, Illinois

Richard Styslo

Stanley Swiencki, Erie, Pennsylvania

For Those Who Remember 1 April 1944

The following document, dated 2 April 1944, has been declassified:

HEADQUARTERS, 448th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) APO 558

SUBJECT: Operations Officer's Report —
Mission of 1 April 1944 —
Pforzheim, Germany

TO: CG, 2nd Bombardment Division,
AAF Station 147, APO 558

1. **General Narrative.** The 448th Group took off at 0630 to 0700 hours. Instrument procedure was used and the Group formed on the Checkerboard at 18,000 feet. The lead and deputy lead PFF ships took off from Hethel at 0634 and joined the 448th over Buncher 7. At 0710 the 446th lead ship called and requested the forming altitude be lowered one thousand feet. This was done and the Wing assembled around Buncher 7. The 448th was leading the Wing and Division, 446th high right and the 93rd low left. Upon departure from the English coast, a climb was begun to 22,000 feet. After reaching 18,500 feet, the 446th Group called asking to stop climbing and let down because of the dense haze. The lead ship made a gradual let-down and crossed the enemy coast at 14,500 feet. I lost sight of the 446th Group and found out they had turned back because their formation was split up due to weather conditions. The PFF equipment in the lead and deputy lead was not working and pilotage was made difficult because of cloud cover and haze. At Control Point No. 3 the lead gave the code word for PFF bombing and fired a Red-Yellow flare. Bomb bay doors opened at the CBW IP and the bombing run was continued for approximately 20 minutes. During the run the lead ship called and said his equipment was not working and directed that I take over. I informed him that our equipment was also out, so he held the lead. The 14th and 2nd CBW's did not follow us on this run, but continued further east. Our leader made a 180° turn and flew northeast to join the other CBW's. At this time the 14th and 2nd CBW's called and said their equipment was not working. The leader closed his bomb bay doors and made several turns to the left and right, apparently trying to pick up the target. The leader again signaled for me to take over the lead, which we did. By this time our wing had joined the other CBW's. After we had taken over the lead I decided to



RAF Red Arrows
formation over Seething

set course for home and pick up a target on the route out. The navigator told me we were in Germany so I told the bombardier to pick up an airport or large town. He picked up a town immediately and with the three to four tenths undercast, I decided to bomb visually. The visual code word was given over VHF and the bomb bay doors opened. Bombs were away at 1104. Approximately ten minutes later the navigator picked up a check point and we set course for the enemy coast, followed by the other CBW's.

On the route out, the haze layer above us lowered and forced the formation to fly at 14,000 feet. After crossing the enemy coast the formation was partially split up due to very poor visibility and some of the ships were low on fuel. We landed at base at 1434 hours.

Accurate, meagre flak was encountered two miles south of Brussels on the route in. Flak was again encountered five minutes from the enemy coast approximately 10 miles south of course on the route out. Fighter support was spotty on the route in, nil over the target and excellent on the route out.

2. **Aircraft Not Attacking.** Twenty-four A/C took off. Three A/C returned early. Twenty-one A/C were dispatched and attacked a target of opportunity.

3. **Aircraft Lost.** A/C #42-52098, 41-100109, 42-110087, 42-100356 are missing, cause unknown. The lead PFF A/C, with three personnel from this Group, is also missing. Eight survivors on A/C 42-100356 have been rescued in the English Channel.

HEBER H. THOMPSON
Capt., Air Corps
Command Pilot, Deputy Lead

Burst Pipe

REPRINTED FROM THE 490TH BG'S "BOMBS AWAY"

A pipe burst in a doctor's house. He called a plumber. The plumber arrived, unpacked his tools, did some mysterious plumber-type things for a while, and handed the doctor a bill for \$600.

The doctor exclaimed, "This is ridiculous! I don't even make that much as a doctor!"

The plumber waited for him to finish, then quietly said, "Neither did I when I was a doctor."



WENDLING 392nd BY OAK MACKEY

Today is October 27, 2008. Maxine and I returned from the Second Air Division Association convention at the Gaylord Texan Resort Hotel in Dallas, Texas just one week ago. Did we have a good time? Well, yes we surely did. Chuck Walker of the 445th BG did a fine job of organizing the convention with able assistance from Mrs. Terry Gregory and Ray & Jean Lemons, all from Dallas. The hotel employees treated us all like royalty, always with a big smile and a helping hand, and it is always great to mingle with the many friends we have come to know in years past, especially our British friends who traveled so far just to be with us.

The hotel is most unusual. There is a glass-covered atrium at least one acre in size, full of flower gardens, a creek runs through, there are fountains, three model train displays, and ample walkways to enjoy the whole thing. The nine-floor hotel encircles the atrium; the very large convention center joins the hotel in the back. Two large rooms in the Grapevine ballroom area were reserved for the Second Air Division Association. We had all our meals and entertainment in one room which was also open all day as a Hospitality Room. The General Business Meeting was in the other. Yes, my friends, we had a great time in Dallas! The cost? Well, all this luxury was just \$129.00 per day.

Attendance at conventions has declined in recent years mainly because of advancing age and declining membership. Even so, 170 members and guests came to this convention, including the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, Matthew Martin; and Board Governors David Gurney, Andrew Hawker, and Ben Du Brow. Other British guests were Pat and Agnes Ramm, base contacts at Old Buckenham (453rd BG); and Libby Morgan, the new Second Air Division Memorial Library librarian, and her husband Stephan. Also from England were Rory McVicar and Liam Wells, students who were there to conduct interviews with WWII vets. Others from the UK were Suzi Hanna, Elliott Mulhall, Kevin, Rose & Matthew Waterfield. My apologies if I left anyone out. For the first time in many years

David and Jean Hastings were unable to attend this convention. David and Jean, your cheerful faces and unending enthusiasm were sorely missed. Hopefully, you can join us next year.

Because the 392nd BG Memorial Association had its annual business meeting in conjunction with the 8th AFHS convention in Savannah in early August, there were only nine 392nd Crusaders in Dallas. They were: Bill and Renella Jurczyn, Perry and Jon Onstot, Charley Wheelwright, John Bellaby, Tom Perry, Maxine and myself. We do expect a larger turnout in Chicago next year.

Yes, you read it right, next year's convention is tentatively planned in the Chicago area. We were in the west this year

(Dallas is sort of in the west); in Grand Rapids and Washington the previous two years. It's time for a convention in the Midwest, which is where Chicago is at. (My high school English teacher would have a fit about that last sentence.) Airline flights come non-stop to Chicago from throughout the entire country, which makes travel a little easier for us old folks. As of now the date is planned for sometime in September. The thinking here is to schedule the 2ADA convention away from the 8th AFHS convention which is August 18-22. With this in mind, perhaps we will have a better attendance at our convention than in the past two or three years.

Be cheerful, be glad; it's been a wonderful life. ■

458th BOMB GROUP

HORSHAM ST. FAITH



BY RICK ROKICKI

Sorry to say we were unable to attend the Dallas convention. We had too many scheduled events during that period. Missing two conventions in a row after twenty-five consecutive ones since 1975, was a little hard to take. I'm told the next one will be in the Chicago area. Looking forward to that.

I recently received a letter from our new Trust Librarian, Libby Morgan, listing the nine new books purchased through our book endowment fund. With the endowment of \$3,000 that the 458th established years ago, interest accrual annually enables the purchase. Included in the nine-book purchase was Marilyn Jeffers Walton's *Rhapsody in Junk*, a daughter's return to Germany to finish her father's story. Others are:

1. *8th Air Force: American Heavy Bomber Groups 1942-1945*, by Gregory Pons
2. *Warbride's Guide to the USA: Good Housekeeping*
3. *House of Pain: Vanquished Civilization Across the American Southwest*, by Craig Childs
4. *Imperfect Presidents: Tales of Misadventure and Triumph*, by Jim Cullen
5. *Cry Havoc: The Crooked Road to Civil War, 1861*, by Nelson D. Lankford
6. *Nixon and Mao: The Week That Changed the World*, by Margaret MacMillan
7. *Big Brown: Story of UPS*, by Greg Nieman
8. *Cold War at 30,000 Feet: American/British Fight for Supremacy*, by Jeffrey A. Engel

Over the years I have sent the Trust Librarian book reports of books I thought would interest English students. Several of these recommendations have been purchased as a result of my input. Please feel free to send me reviews of any books you feel merit a thought to purchase. The last review I sent in was for a book entitled *Arabian Knight* by Thomas Lippman, a story of Col. Bill Eddy, USMC and his influential policy in the Middle East, and regretfully, how much of his advice went unheeded, from WWII through the '50s. ■

Editor's Note: At the Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Trust in November 2008, David Hastings MBE, the sole remaining Trust Governor who knew the 2nd Air Division USAAF in the war, had to retire under the new age rules that prevent anyone over the age of 75 from serving the Memorial Library, but he has been made an Honorary Life Governor to mark his long service. At his retirement he made a farewell speech which I thought you might enjoy as it highlights the history of our unique Memorial and the friendships in England.



“Mr. Chairman and fellow Governors, thank you for your kind words and the very great honour of being made an Honorary Life Governor, which I will cherish for the rest of my life. As the last Governor left who had the privilege of knowing the 2nd Air Division USAAF in the war, and as this is my last meeting, I hope you will allow me a few minutes to share with you just some of the memories of the last twenty-eight very exciting and challenging years in the history of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library.

My friendship with the 2nd Air Division began in 1943, when my mother's work as the Deputy Commandant of the British Red Cross in Norwich meant our home in Norwich was “Open House” to the 2nd Air Division. We made many friends, only to lose them within a few weeks as the carnage of your losses in those early days was terrible. Even later on, when I was adopted by Lt. Al Dexter and his crew of the 389th at Hethel, death was never far away and I lost a very great young friend who was killed on a mission. Then my crew chief, Pop Gantus, who volunteered for aircrew after the Al Dexter crew had completed their missions, was shot down and killed just a few months before the war ended. I am so glad to have Earl Zimmerman, my old friend from the 389th, here today. Earl, you and the 389th really spoil us at Hethel and we can never thank you enough.

So my generation knew that we had a huge debt to repay, which is why in 1980 when Tom Eaton invited me to his office to ask if I was willing to become a Governor, I jumped at the chance to serve your Memorial and start to repay some of the debt — although I have to admit now that my generation of Trust Governors have really gained more than we have put back, thanks to all your friendship.

I was lucky enough to join the Trust when many of the original Governors were still there, and to be trained by such people as Lady Mayhew, Anne Barne, Tom Eaton, Alfred Jenner, Jordan Uttal, Tom Cheyne, Bill Wuest, and Roger Freeman. They were wonderful, and I will never forget Lady Mayhew's words of guidance when she repeatedly said, “Remember, this

THE END OF AN ERA

BY DAVID HASTINGS

is their Memorial, not ours. We are only the custodians.”

The Memorial Library was very different in those days. Known as the American Room, it was situated in the corridor leading from the main library to the reference library and the library was run by the Norwich City Council. We had no staff, just the Roll of Honor, one line of bookshelves, and very little money. We met in the Chief Librarian's office. Just before I became a Governor, the Trust had almost exhausted the original funds donated in 1945 and Tom Eaton had made his memorable visit to his first 2nd Air Division Association convention to spell out the situation. The Association responded immediately, and every year since, making you the single largest donor to the Memorial and we can never thank you enough. There is no doubt in my mind that without Tom's wisdom and leadership we would not have the Memorial Library that we all enjoy today, and I was indeed privileged to serve as his Vice Chairman for ten years, followed by being Vice Chairman for Paul King for four years.

We decided in those early days that the Memorial must change its image. Roger Freeman redesigned the brochure, we produced our first leaflet, and we also made our first film, “Remember Them,” which we took around the villages, schools and clubs. This was such a success that thanks to Lt. Col. James Mahoney of the 467th BG who had taken colour film all during the war, we made a second one, “A Village Remembers,” using his voice for the commentary and Jordan Uttal speaking the closing words. This proved another success, and a London film company converted both films to videos and we sold thousands of them before sadly the masters were destroyed in the fire.

Another great memory was the evening when Anne Barne called a meeting to form the Friends of the Memorial, and we were staggered to see the lecture theatre at the old library filled to capacity. How blessed we have been with the Friends at the Norwich conventions when they acted as coach couriers, arranged all the Base Day programmes, strengthened the links with the old bases, and provided so much support to the Trust. The vision of Anne Barne was taken to the USA and the Heritage League was formed.

Then that amazing moment in a packed Music Room at the Assembly House, when Anne Collins, the Cultural Attaché from the U.S. Embassy in London, announced

that we had been awarded a Fulbright Scholar, the only library in Europe to receive such an accolade, and the Association then raised funds to carry this on in perpetuity. Tom Eaton asked me to act as liaison officer to the Fulbright Commission, and I enjoyed fourteen wonderful years of happy meetings mainly in London but occasionally in Norwich. One special meeting was when the U.S. Ambassador invited us to his private residence at Winfield House to thank the Trust and our Fulbright Scholars for all that they had achieved. You have only to read the book made by Fran Davies to realise just how good our eight Fulbright Scholars had been for Anglo-American relations and the Memorial Library.

By now the Norwich City Library had come under the control of the Norfolk County Council. Hilary Hammond arrived as the Director of Libraries, visited the Memorial, and asked to attend a Governors meeting where we were overjoyed to hear him declare that “the Memorial Library [is] the jewel in the crown of the County Libraries.” He became a huge supporter and eventually a Governor, and indeed we owe him so much. We slightly extended the Library, Roger Freeman gave us the huge B-24 mural, we added the tail fins and Group boxes, Geoff Gregory gave us the Freedom Shrine, Jordan Uttal gave us a slide projector in memory of Joyce, and we now had our own small staff.

Then how can we ever forget all those 2nd Air Division Association conventions. Jean and I have been lucky enough to attend twenty-six of them with that great family. In those early days Evelyn Cohen had a huge task with up to 1800 delegates attending, and we met such famous people as Jimmy Stewart, Andy Low, and Moose Allen. Also how can we ever forget all those wonderful 2nd Air Division families who had us back to their homes after the conventions and gave us so many great tours of the USA. So good to have Joan Patterson here with us today, as we have enjoyed so much fun and laughter with her and David on holidays both in the USA and Europe. Then of course, as a pilot, how can I ever forget those 29,000 miles of flying with David Patterson in his great Cessna C-337 to almost every part of the United States, a real British pilot's dream.

Next we had the Norwich conventions, and for Jean and I and our small company to work for Evelyn Cohen was such great fun. Evelyn demanded 110%, but it was a great challenge and a chance to try out some new ideas.

How can we ever forget those private 2nd Air Division Association trains from London with the 2ADA headboard on the locomotive and the Anglian Big Band playing Glenn Miller music on the platform when you arrived. The Norwich composer

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THE END OF AN ERA *(continued)*

of your moving “2nd Air Division Fanfare” and his request that we should include the recorded sound of B-24s taking off echoing around the nave of our Cathedral — something we never thought the Dean would allow, but he did and the services became a high spot of the conventions. We must never forget the huge support we received from RAF Coltishall, RAF Neatishead, and the USAF at Mildenhall. What about the year when RAF Coltishall gave you a whole day with a private air show including the Red Arrows, something that we later discovered cost over £800,000. What a gift to the 2ADA.

Then the banquet at the Norwood Rooms, when we got the famous Ray Shields Orchestra from London to play in their USAAF uniforms and Jimmy Stewart stood up on the stage to conduct the orchestra when they played “The Glenn Miller Story” — his wife Gloria never forgave me! That night, Mike Benarcik, a B-24 pilot, also presented the famous painting “Welcome Home Yank” to the Royal Air Force, the WACs wore their wartime uniforms, and Jordan Uttal told a very risky story in front of our Lord Bishop — what memories.

Then on your next visit when nearly 800 attended, we had to take every hotel room in Norwich plus some outside, and we also had to build a huge tent on the Norfolk Showground for the banquet. As always, we produced a daily newssheet, and the job of getting a copy under each bedroom door at all the hotels every morning was quite exciting. Luckily the next time you came back we had just opened our superb new Sport Village in Broadland. We easily sat down over 1200 for the banquet, and I was reunited at last with my old wartime B-24 pilot, Al Dexter. We also played a joke on then President Frank DiMola, when he and Elizabeth were collected from the Hotel Nelson by a Rolls Royce for the reception at County Hall and when he arrived he found to his horror a huge RAF Guard of Honour awaiting his inspection.

How can we ever forget those nights at Broad House, Wroxham, when Edward and June Trafford always invited a coachload of the 2ADA to supper. One year Jimmy Stewart and Andy Low played and sang squadron songs, and another year we even got Evelyn Cohen and Geoff Gregory to sing, much to the amusement of Colonel Al Shower. Edward was the first person to donate funds for the rebuilding of the Memorial Library after the terrible fire — what a family indeed.

Then in 1992, the Trust was asked by the Tourist Board to help with “The Friendly Invasion” year and Tom Eaton told me to “find a B-24 and bring it to Great Britain.” If you had said in 1943 that I would become a pilot, fly a B-24 across the Atlantic

and fly again with my old wartime pilot, I would have laughed at you, but it all happened that year. The visit of “Diamond Lil” was a huge success, and to see over 20,000 people waiting to greet us at Norwich Airport on our arrival was amazing, as were all the low level flights over the fourteen bases, Headquarters, and the Morley Hospital (now Wymondham College), which we had to repeat, flying as many youngsters as we could.

Next was that awful memory of 1994 when Tom Eaton phoned me very early in the morning, telling me to get up to the library quickly. Tom, Hilary, and I just stood watching in horror as our library burned to the ground. Two days later we were allowed into the stack tower to see what was left of our office, and then we spent several days packing up our archives which had been saved in the basement but needed to be freeze-dried. I think it showed the strength of the Trust that we had a temporary office open within three days at Noverre House, thanks to Paul King, and then reopened a temporary Memorial Library in Glasswells early the next year.

Then in 1995 we had the 50th Anniversary of VE Day Parade and we tried to recreate the original 1945 parade. Thanks to the 2nd Air Division Association, Norwich had the finest VE Day parade outside London, with 405 of you on parade. Evelyn told me to have the coaches ready at the bottom of Guildhall Hill, as you would never march all the way to the Cathedral — but you did, being cheered all the way. We had to end it all on a high note, so we hired our Theatre Royal, and Bob Brister and his amateur cast put on a tremendous 1940s show, we showed a huge picture of Evelyn on the stage screen, and we all ended by singing our hearts out with “We’ll Meet Again.”

Then we started the huge task of working with the 2nd Air Division Association and our top London design firm of Event Limited, to design and build your dream of your new Memorial Library. John Whitehouse designed the superb Appeal brochure, but sadly was killed in a horse riding accident — a terrible blow, for as a young pilot and businessman he had been earmarked as a future Chairman of the Trust. Another memory was the happy days working with Roger Freeman at his home in Dedham to produce the new Trust brochure. You also visited the Bure Valley Railway and named a locomotive “2nd Air Division USAAF,” which is still proudly hauling passengers today in your memory.

So finally to 2001 and the opening of your magnificent new Memorial Library, the only one of its kind in the world, and the last Norwich convention we would organise with Evelyn Cohen. The twelve months of planning had been completed, the print and design work finished, and

then came the awful events of 9/11. Evelyn phoned to say you would still be coming, and then something happened which I doubt many of you know about. Two days after Evelyn’s call I received a telephone call from a Special Branch Officer in London to say that I was to meet him at the Norwich Police Station the next day at 10:00 a.m. — no arguing, just be there. He was a steely blue-eyed and crew-cut officer who explained that you were the first large group of U.S. citizens to visit Europe since 9/11 and the U.S. Embassy was very worried, so he and his team would look after you from your arrival at Heathrow and Gatwick until they put you back on your planes to return home. He asked to see the programme and immediately made changes. He then looked at the Fly-Past we had arranged, and removed all the civilian aircraft. He even closed the airspace over Norwich during the opening ceremony, which did not please Norwich Airport, but he was right. Two days later he was back with some of his team and asked to walk the route our coaches would take from the Cathedral to the Forum — the route was changed. He also said that no members of the public would be allowed in the Cathedral, but the Dean and I pleaded with him as this was the only occasion when we could all be together. In the end he relented, but only if local people entered by the left door and were screened, with the 2ADA using the right door. Not many people noticed the armed plainclothes policeman on all our coaches, nor the police marksmen on the top of the City Hall and St. Peter Mancroft. How amazed we were at the opening ceremony to learn that the father of General Hess, who jointly opened the new Memorial with our Lord Lieutenant Sir Timothy Colman, flew B-24s from Hethel with the 389th, was shot down and became a POW. What a joy it was to hear the youngsters from Wymondham College play the “2nd Air Division Fanfare” that morning as their tribute to you. You also presented the College with that amazing wall mural for their wartime Chapel and opened the 2nd Air Division Memorial Garden at the College, so the 1200 students on campus will never forget you.

How can we ever forget that night in St. Andrews Hall when you received the Freedom of our City, a project we started in 1995 and was so well deserved. Luckily for us, the Dzenowagis family has preserved all those memories on film, a priceless gift to your Memorial, so that future generations will be able to relive all these occasions and understand the price of the freedom they enjoy today. Also that last evening with Evelyn after the convention was over and we paid all the bills and sorted out the paperwork, when she had us all watery-eyed as she reminded Jean

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2ADA PRESIDENTS AND CONVENTIONS

1946-48	Howard Moore Chicago (preliminary organization)	1975-76	Goodman Griffin Norwich, England (May)	1992-93	John B. Conrad Las Vegas, Nevada (October)
1948-49	Father Edward Seward Chicago, Illinois (October)	1976-77	Earl Zimmerman Valley Forge, Pennsylvania (July)	1993-94	John B. Conrad Hilton Head, S. Carolina (November)
1949-50	John Cunningham Chicago, Illinois (October)	1977-78	J.D. Long Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (July)	1994-95	Charles Walker Kansas City, Missouri (May)
1950-51	Raymond Strong Cleveland, Ohio (October)	1978-79	E.A. Rokicki San Diego, California (July)	1995-96	Geoff Gregory Lexington, Kentucky (July)
1951-52	Raymond Strong New York City (October)	1979-80	Pete Henry Norwich, England (June)	1996-97	Neal Sorensen Milwaukee, Wisconsin (June)
1952-53	Jordan Uttal Chicago, Illinois (October)	1980-81	David Patterson Cambridge, Massachusetts (July)	1997-98	Oak Mackey Irvine, California (May)
1953-54	Percy Young Chicago, Illinois (October)	1981-82	Vincent LaRussa San Antonio, Texas (July)	1998-99	Earl Wassom Oak Brooks Hills (Chicago), IL (May)
1954-55	Fen Marsh Washington, D.C. (August)	1982-83	Andrew Low Nashville, Tennessee (July)	99-2000	F.C. "Hap" Chandler Austin, Texas (May)
1955-56	Stephen Posner Washington, D.C. (August)	1983-84	Charles Freudenthal Norwich, England (May)	2000-01	Felix Leeton Tampa, Florida (May)
1956-57	Richard Clough Chicago, Illinois (August)	1984-85	J. Fred Thomas Palm Springs, California (October)	2001-02	Walter J. Mundy Norwich, England (November)
1957-58	Stephen Posner Hershey, Pennsylvania (August)	1985-86	E. Bud Koorndyk McAfee, New Jersey (September)	2002-03	Richard Butler Baltimore, Maryland (September)
1958-59	Percy Young New York City (August)	1986-87	James H. Reeves St. Charles (Chicago), Illinois (July)	2003-04	Richard Butler Oak Brook, Illinois (June)
1959-60	Dean Moyer Chicago, Illinois (August)	1987-88	Carl I. Alexanderson Norwich, England (May)	2004-05	Geoff Gregory Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (May)
1960-61	John Karoly Washington, D.C. (October)	1988-89	C.N. (Bud) Chamberlain Colorado Springs, Colorado (June)	2005-06	John DeCani San Antonio, Texas (May)
1961-62	Charles Stine Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (October)	1989-90	Frank DiMola Hilton Head, S. Carolina (November)	2006-07	Alan Senior / Oak Mackey Washington, D.C. (October)
1962-63	John Cunningham / Percy Young Chicago, Illinois (September)	1990-91	Richard Kennedy Norwich, England (July)	2007-08	Earl Zimmerman Grand Rapids, Michigan (August)
1963-64	Jordan Uttal Norwich, England (June)	1991-92	Richard Kennedy Dearborn, Michigan (July)	2008-09	John L. Lee Dallas, Texas (October)
1964-65	Warren Alberts Chicago, Illinois (October)				
1965-66	Warren Alberts Washington, D.C. (June)				
1966-67	Charles Merrill Dayton, Ohio (June)				
1967-68	John Jacobowitz Washington, D.C. (June)				
1968-69	John Jacobowitz Chicago, Illinois (June)				
1969-70	Paul Trissel Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (June)				
1970-71	Ken Darney Cincinnati, Ohio (June)				
1971-72	Joseph Whittaker Williamsburg, Virginia (July)				
1972-73	William Robertie Norwich, England (May)				
1973-74	William Robertie Colorado Springs, Colorado (July)				
1974-75	William Brooks Wilmington, North Carolina (July)				

THE END OF AN ERA *(continued from page 26)*

and I that this was the last of the Norwich conventions. We all still treasure the Bronze Medallion that everyone involved was given that year.

Finally, the opening of the Forum by Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 2002. As Chairman I had the privilege of introducing Prince Philip to the Senior Governors, the 2ADA President, and our small library team before showing him around. He was deeply impressed, especially by the bookplates, which made it, in his words, "a truly living Memorial." The bureaucrats said that we were not to ask him to sign our Visitors Book, nor was I to give him a Medallion — but I decided to do both, as it had to be done. I had a severe telling-off afterwards, but it was worth it. Then the happy memories of working with USAF of today at Mildenhall and the students at Wymondham College to strengthen their links to your beautiful Memorial Library. We must also never forget your gift of copies of your wonderful painting "End Game" which now hang in many of our civic buildings, village halls and with the USAF at Mildenhall, so that you will never be forgotten, nor must we forget all your Markers on the old wartime bases and the many roads which we have had named in your honour.

So TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS of trying to repay just a little of the debt we owe to the 2nd Air Division USAAF, but not really succeeding, and working with a great team of Governors and library staff who worked so hard to meet all the challenges in the early days, but it was great fun. Memories and friendships that Jean and I will remember for the rest of our lives, and all down to meeting you in 1943 and then answering Tom Eaton's request in 1980. THANK YOU. ■

Norwich Honors 2nd Air Division Veterans (2001)

BY MARY G. SALTARELLI

On a bright, colorful fall day at Cambridge Memorial Cemetery at Madingley in Norfolk, England, a World War II B-24 Liberator tail gunner stood before the remembrance wall with tears welling in his eyes.

Pointing with his outstretched hand, Bill Nothstein showed his co-pilot's son the names of his late father's fallen friends, which were among those of more than 5,000 missing U.S. servicemen. Since he was a child, the son had heard about these 2nd Air Division comrades who went down in the North Sea on a bombing mission takeoff.

Behind them, standing amongst the long curved rows of more than 3,000 stone crosses and stars, Everett Jones Jr. of Dallas visited his training classmates who died in action during the Allied air war.

"When you see all those crosses, you realize how many lives were cut short — they never knew life's joys such as a good wife and children," said the 83-year-old formation lead pilot, who with his crew, flew 32 missions over Europe. "This time I had to tell my friends, 'I don't think I'll be back.'"

Early this month, more than six hundred B-24 Liberator crewmen and their families visited Norfolk in East Anglia, as the City of Norwich bestowed the Freedom of the City award to the veterans and a new 2nd Air Division Memorial Library was dedicated in their honor.

More than 43,000 U.S. airmen flew 95,948 bombing sorties over Europe and the Mediterranean from thirty airfields in Norfolk. Their presence made an indelible impact on the City of Norwich, said Lord Mayor Keith Ratcliffe on Tuesday, as he presented the Freedom of the City scroll to the 2nd Air Division Association.

Telling American veterans that he was one of the local youths who called out "Got any gum, chum?" to the airmen stationed near Norwich, Lord Mayor Ratcliffe thanked them for saving the city's freedom, and saluted them for fulfilling their latest mission overseas.

"Since the terrible events on the 11th September in the United States, we, in Norwich, have been moved by your resolute determination to come to our City, your second home, for . . . the opening of your wonderful new Memorial Library," wrote Paul R. King, Chairman of The Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division, USAAF which is based in Norwich.

Just before a memorial service at the medieval Norwich Cathedral, built in 1091,

"Take these men as your example, like them remember that posterity can only be for the free: that freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it." – PERICLES, 431 B.C.

residents of Norwich warmly shook hands with the veterans and told them "Welcome home."

"It's very touching," Jones said of the local people's gratitude. "People come to you and ask for your autograph. It's something you don't experience anywhere else. I love Norwich — I'd love to come back again, but I think it's a little late in life."

After the memorial service, 2nd Air Division veterans mounted the steps of the new Forum building, which houses the Memorial Library, for a dedication ceremony. Hundreds of Norwich residents gathered around and applauded their arrival. A Royal Air Force honor guard greeted veterans as two British Jaguar fighters and a U.S. Air Force KC-135 tanker flew overhead.

During the Memorial Library dedication, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Sir Timothy Colman, read a message from Queen Elizabeth II; and U.S. Air Force Major General Kenneth A. Hess, commander of the 3rd Air Force, read a message from President George W. Bush.

"This room is a living memorial to those Americans of the 2nd Air Division, United States Eighth Air Force, who flying from bases in these parts, lost their lives defending freedom 1942-1945. 'They gave their tomorrows for our today'" reads an inscription on the wall of the Memorial Library.

Below the inscription is the 2nd Air Division Roll of Honor, which includes the names of nearly 7,000 men who lost their lives flying from the Norwich area. "To the glory of God and in memory of Americans of the 2nd Air Division who gave their lives defending freedom," reads the front page of the Honor Roll.

"If I had crew members I could enjoy this with, it would mean a lot more to me," said Bob Cash of Dallas, a radio operator and top turret gunner with the 492nd Bomb Group, who was shot down in a raid on Politz on June 20, 1944.

Two weeks after D-Day, 20-millimeter cannons from German Messerschmitt ME410s hit Cash's plane, setting it on fire. As Cash struggled to attach his parachute, he and the pilot were thrown from the catwalk, which crosses the bomb bay, onto the plunging plane's bombs. Cash, who is

six foot, three inches tall, thrust his pilot, who had his parachute on, back onto the catwalk and out of the bomb bay door.

"Nobody has seen him since," he said, crying quietly.

Cash jumped out of the plane behind his pilot and landed in the frigid Baltic Sea, where he was picked up by German Marines. The only survivor of his nine-man crew, Cash spent the remainder of the war in German POW camps, marching 800 miles from a Poland-based Nazi POW camp during the winter of 1945 as the Russian army was advancing.

"It hammers it home to you that freedom has to be bought — it's not free," said Cash of his war experiences. "You've got to fight for it."

On a large turkey farm near the Norfolk village of Weston Longville, members of the 466th Bomb Group visited their airfield, known as Attlebridge. Turkey barns now line the runways that once roared with sounds of B-24 engines straining for takeoff. The airfield's control tower now houses modern agricultural offices with computers.

"Memories come back of taxiing down these runways — then coming home and trying to land," said Frank Bostwick, a B-24 tail gunner from Jacksonville, Texas who flew 35 missions. "They would come in really early and wake us up for breakfast and briefing and then we stood around waiting to get on our planes."

During one mission, a piece of anti-aircraft flak came through his B-24's thin metal skin and hit the 19-year-old Bostwick's parachute as it was hanging out behind him, narrowly missing his hand.

"You just had to get the fear out of your system and focus on what you had to do," he said.

Digby Horner, a veteran Royal Air Force pilot in his 70's and a member of the Royal British Legion, lays a wreath twice each year at the 466th Bomb Group memorial near Weston Longville — once each Memorial Day and once each November 11, England's Remembrance Day.

This month Horner laid a wreath of red poppies, the English Remembrance Day symbol, surrounded by veterans of the

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YOUR HERITAGE LEAGUE

BY BRIAN MAHONEY
Heritage League President

I speak for five of my colleague officers when I thank the 2ADA for a most gracious welcome at the 61st Annual Convention in Grapevine. It was a delight to see so many of you there, showing us “kids” what hale-and-hearty can look like among a group whose average age (we were told at several points) was 86! We were well entertained and fed by Chuck Walker and committee, and were moved by the magnificent “drumming in” of the vets by color guard with bagpipes.

In the same vein it was wonderful to have on hand several of our Governor friends when we paid our highest recognition, the General Wm. E. Kepner Lifetime Service Award, to our own Vicki Brooks Warning, a proud 466th daughter. She has been our President, a member of our Executive Committee for 21 years,

NORWICH HONORS VETERANS

(continued from page 28)

466th Bomb Group and their families, as blustery winds whipped the Norfolk coastal area bringing rain, sleet and snow.

“We were having problems here in 1940 and ’41, and they came and gave us a hand,” Horner said, explaining why he devotedly lays the wreath remembering American veterans. “It’s a gratitude.”

Residents of Weston Longville, which has less than 200 cottages, shared their war memories with the veterans and their families over lunch. There was Eddie, whose mother laundered sheets for the airmen, while he lit the stoves in their barracks each day after school, so they would be warm when they returned from their missions.

“Every spring, we pick snowdrops that were planted by the Americans,” said Michael Pointer, 60, a member of the British Royal Legion who lives in the village. “And the local girls here received nylons from the airmen — the prettier you were, the more nylons you had.”

Jones, whose crew led 22 missions for

and since 2000 has been our Representative to the 2AD Memorial Trust.

We congratulate the 2ADA on your collective decision to go ahead at least another year, and thank you for accommodating our generation (still working, and with kids or grandchildren of school age) by setting summer in Chicago as your goal for number 62. We look forward to convening alongside you once again!

Our committee stands ready to work with President Lee as you consider what programs you might like to continue after you stand down the organization. We offered a range of ideas to help with publishing the *Journal*, and have asked that you and the Governors of the Memorial Trust please consider letting the Heritage League perpetuate the “American presence” within the Memorial Library by taking on the dedicated voting seat of the 2ADA when it winds down. As you know, we are chartered to be a perpetual organization, and such service, besides meaning a great deal to us as descendants of the Second Air Division veterans, would let us fulfill our legacy mission, honoring and remembering your service and sacrifices, and especially that of our comrades who paid that last full measure in freedom’s name.

My best wishes to each of you for a healthy and enjoyable holiday season and New Year, and I hope we get to see many of you in Chicago. ■

the 466th Bomb Group, is proud of their four Distinguished Flying Crosses, twenty Air Medals, and two Purple Hearts. He was accompanied on this return visit to Attlebridge Airfield by his tail gunner, Bill Campbell, whom he had not seen since 1945. Together, they reminisced about their many missions.

“You didn’t know from one time to the next when it would be your time,” Jones said. “You’d see guys going down off your right wing. We once watched two planes go down — one exploded in mid-air and the other went down in a spin. It could happen to you that quick — we were lucky.”

“You were a good pilot,” Campbell said.

Current officers and pilots of the U.S. Air Force who are stationed in England were on hand in Norwich for the Memorial Library dedication to honor the World War II airmen.

“They’re anxious to go and do their thing, as we all were,” Cash said of the possibility that these officers would soon go to war.

“I told all of them if they need me, to call me, and they laughed,” Jones said. ■

Some jokes are “punnier” than others

- The roundest knight at King Arthur’s table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
- A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it’ll still be stationery.
- A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
- A grenade thrown into a French kitchen might result in Linoleum Blownapart.
- Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
- Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, “You stay here. I’ll go on a head.”
- A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital where he was kept under close observation. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, “No change yet.”
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- In democracy it’s your vote that counts. In feudalism it’s your count that votes.

BOOK REVIEW: Anthology of B-24 / 8th Air Force / World War II Stories

BY RALPH WELSH (448TH)

An anthology of B-24 and 8th Air Force World War II aerial combat stories, infantry soldiers' experiences, war stories, and the Battle of Britain.

By Ralph Welsh (448th BG), WWII pilot/commander, 33 European missions. College, stockbroker, manager, finder/intermediary sales of 11 companies to H.J. Heinz, Labatt, etc. Founder, owner of a graphic arts mail order company/27 years, retired age 87. Married to Ann 52 years, 3 fine boys, 1 great girl.

75 bomber crew member narrations on their most memorable combat missions. 75 diverse war-related stories. Short autobiography. Saga of infantrymen, Bulge to Russian soldiers. 20 WWII personalities and other life experiences.

Price: \$19.95 plus \$5.00 handling and postage. Contact: Ralph Welsh, 1525A Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94115, phone 415-440-3808, e-mail: randawelsh@yahoo.com. Depending on sales, a generous donation will be made to the 2ADA or the 2AD Memorial Library.

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14. Misery and Teamwork over Misburg
15. Ordeal in Paris
16. Prisoner of War
17. Regensburg
18. Our Unforgettable Mission Was Worth Every Penny
19. An Underground Storage Depot
20. What Happened to Lt. Edwin M. Helton's Crew – Let Us Never Forget

Chapter V – People

1. Control tower, Parachute packer, Female flight engineer, Jimmy Doolittle
2. I Remember Billy
3. Major General Andrew Low
4. Are These the Final Details of Glenn Miller's Death?
5. Hap Arnold – Commanding General of the Army Air Forces
6. His Bravery Was No Act
7. Jimmy Stewart: Flying High Without a Scandal
8. James Stewart, Liberator Pilot
9. One Day in the Life of Aviation Ordnance
10. A Hero Who Brought Out the Best in the French
11. The Gunner
12. 448th Bomb Group Profiles
13. Yanks in Britain
14. Eisenhower's D-Day Speech
15. 8th Air Force Nomads
16. Rommel – Leader of the Afrika Korps and Master of Mobile Warfare
17. A Viking in the 8th Air Force
18. Patricia's Enduring Mission
19. Interview with Adolph Speer

Chapter VI – Still More Mission Stories

1. The Ballantrae Disaster
2. Mission 23 – Baumenheim
3. Duneberg 1 – April 7, 1945
4. Duneberg 2 – by Gordon Baker
5. Duneberg 3 – More on the Duneberg Raid
6. Duneberg 4 – After the Mission Is Over
7. The Final Flight of the Original "Bird Dog" Crew
8. My First Trip to Germany
9. Crunch Landing at Seething
10. December 24, 1944
11. Dessau Was No Picnic
12. It's a Small, Small World After All
13. 448th Mission to Underground Storage Facility
14. Half a Mission Gets You
15. Mission with a Surprise Ending
16. Not a Happy New Year
17. Over the Rainbow
18. Paralyzed with Fear
19. Wesel, Germany
20. Mission No. 18: "D" Day, June 6, 1944

Chapter VII – Almost Everything

(This is a file of miscellaneous items of varied subject matter)

1. Pilot stories and quotes
2. Hearty Hilda
3. Issy Was a Hero
4. Reflections and Recollections
5. International Travel
6. Humorous stories

Chapter VIII – Other Stories

1. How We Spent VE Day
2. Ernie Pyle's Column on the St. Lo Air Raid
3. Getting Even
4. The 1919 U.S. Army Air Service Flying Regulations
5. Nazi General Caught in 44th BG Bombing Raid
6. Tales of the 44th: Return to Kjeller
7. Norway Remembers Americans' Sacrifice
8. Princess' Death Ends Fairy Tale
9. The Revenge of Corporal Weinberg
10. Short Field Landing or Home on the Prairie
11. Was It Really Fifty Years Ago?
12. We Are The Mustangs
13. The Battle of Splasher 5
14. California One-Way!
15. France to England in a Life Raft
16. The Luftwaffe's Last Liberator
17. The Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum
18. Shot Down by the Battleship Archangel
19. Mike's Flag
20. Midnight
21. The Freckleton Tragedy
22. Oradour sur Glane, Saturday, 10th of June, 1944
23. The 489th from B-24 to B-29
24. The Father of Aerial Bombardment
25. Luftwaffe Sturmgruppen
26. Nazi Generals Justified Their Defeat

Chapter IX – Aris A. Mallas

This chapter contains a modicum of the writings of an interesting, accomplished gentleman from Texas (born in Ohio), whom I am happy to call my friend.

1. Brief Biographical Sketch
2. Military Experiences: Infantry Radioman, Bulge to Russians, and Ordnance
3. Foreword to Book “El Lobo and Spanish Gold”

Chapter X – Flying Stories (Mostly)

1. WASP (Women’s Air Service Pilot) B-24 Experience
2. Marine B-24 Pilots in South Pacific
3. B-24 Losses
4. American Eagle Squadrons
5. Military Aircraft Losses, By Country
6. My Shortest Mission
7. The “Liberalization” of the Soviet Air Forces
8. Russian Excursion – World War II Style
9. OSS Code Name: Carpetbagger
10. Recovery Team Gets First Glimpse of 1944 B-24 Crash Site in China (1997)
11. Ditching with Nose Turret Shot Off
12. On the Trail of Bomber “Wabbit Tracks”
13. Lest We Forget (Mission to bomb German heavy water plant in Norway)
14. The End of Barbary Terror – While Europe Appeased the Barbary Pirates, America Sent In The Navy (1812)
15. Humorous Short Story of American GI on English Train
16. Korean War Facts
17. Psychological Impact of Air Combat
18. All in a Day’s Work for a Bombardier
19. Pilot Dead, Two Others Injured, B-24 Returns
20. Drama Over Cologne (14 October 1944)
21. Buzz Bombs. D-Day Was Too Late!

Chapter XI – Non-Flying Stories

1. USAAF Air Transport Command
2. B-47 Stratojet
3. Bits and Pieces of a Tour
4. Grand Theft – Command Car????
5. Introduction to England
6. Journal Editor Visits with ‘Hump’ Flyers
7. Let’s Play Tag!!!
8. To the Limit of Their Endurance
9. Landing in “Neutral” Switzerland
10. London Air Raid
11. Last Plane Home to the USA
12. Lest We Forget – “The Black March”
13. The Tempelhof Experience 1949-1951
14. Reflections on Tonopah Lights and Delights
15. Tracer Ammo: Maybe not as much help as you thought!
16. Trucking
17. View from the Tower
18. Chivalry in Adversity
19. How Did My Brother Die?
20. The Skies Over Kassel . . .
21. Taps
22. Auf Wiedersehen

Chapter XII – Finally, Me Again

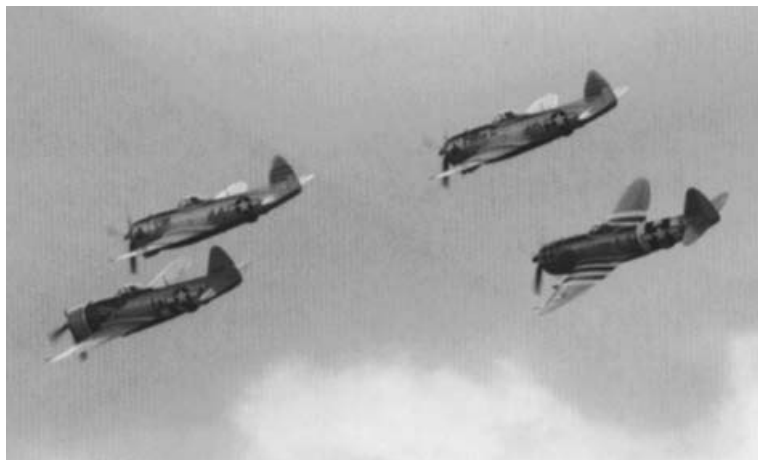
1. Biography 1945-2008, 63 years in 9 pages

Epilogue

Thunder Over Michigan

BY ERIC DUMIGAN • REPRINTED FROM “FLYPAST,” OCTOBER 2008

The Yankee Air Force Museum’s “Thunder Over Michigan” air show took place at Willow Run on August 9-10, 2008 and proved to be a very well-attended event, with big crowds and plenty of warbirds. It was definitely a year for formations, and one of the most popular consisted of a U.S. Navy McDonnell Douglas F-18C Hornet flying with the Warbird Heritage Foundation’s North American T-2B Buckeye 155235 (N27WS) (*top*). Another big hit was a grouping of four Republic P-47 Thunderbolts (*middle*). Sunday’s spectators were treated to a flypast of the world’s only two airworthy Consolidated Liberators — the Collings Foundation’s B-24J “42-52534” (NX224J) “Witchcraft” and the Commemorative Air Force’s N24927 “OI 927” (*bottom*).



Norwich, England, to Dedicate Memorial to American Fliers

REPRINTED FROM THE BRIDGEPORT (CONNECTICUT) TELEGRAM, APRIL 30, 1963

NORWICH, ENGLAND, APRIL 28 — (AP): This ancient English city will dedicate a memorial in June to 6,032 American airmen killed while flying against the enemy from nearby bases.

An American memorial room in Norwich's new public library is a gift of the people of Norfolk County in the heart of East Anglia, whence bombers of the U.S. Second Air Division carried World War II to Germany.

The air division's headquarters was near Norwich, a city 110 miles northeast of London that dates back to the year 294. It now is a thriving industrial city of 125,000.

Books in the memorial library room, all of American origin, were bought with money from the Second Air Division's war

memorial fund, started soon after the division flew its last enemy mission in April 1945.

For years an honor roll of the Division's dead has been displayed in Norwich City Hall. City officials have turned a page of the open book every day so that none would be exposed more than 24 hours at a time.

When the reading room is dedicated, that honor roll will be moved to it. To carry it to its new home, the Air Force is trying to find an American airman stationed in Europe whose brother or father is memorialized in the honor roll.

The Second Air Division was the largest of three based in England. During the 30 months it was in England it flew 483 enemy missions, dropping 200,000 tons of bombs

on German targets.

Jet planes from Britain's air force and the U.S. Air Force will fly over as the dedication takes place on June 13.

Some 200 Americans are expected at the ceremony, many of them wartime airmen, some of them dependents of those killed during the war. U.S. Ambassador David Bruce is expected to speak.

Outside the library, a memorial water fountain and garden will have a walk made up in part of stones and pebbles gathered by the Second Air Division Association from the 50 states and the three military academies.

Above it all, flying from the city of Norwich's flagpole, the 50-starred American flag will fly for the first time. ■

Grateful Britishers Host to Son of Airman Hero

BY ERLE ROWERY • REPRINTED FROM THE OAKLAND (CALIFORNIA) TRIBUNE, AUGUST 29, 1963

CASTRO VALLEY — An English town, anxious to repay a favor of nearly 20 years standing, welcomed a U.S. war hero's son.

John La Riviere, 18, has just returned to his Castro Valley home from a visit to Sculthorpe Airfield in Norfolk County, England, where he was the honored guest of residents from the neighboring city of Norwich.

The youth was only three months old when a B-24 bomber piloted by his father, John La Riviere, Sr., went down in 1945 on a combat mission out of Sculthorpe.

In all, more than 6,000 Americans gave their lives in wartime service at Sculthorpe as members of La Riviere's unit, the U.S. Second Air Division.

When the war ended, citizens of Norwich decided to demonstrate their appreciation for the enormous sacrifice by their American allies. With funds accumulated gradually over the years, they built a library in memory of the World War II dead. And two months ago, they completed the building's "American Memorial Room."

Then they decided to host a selected group of Americans at dedication ceremonies. Invitations were sent to Second Air Division veterans and to relatives of their fallen comrades.

More than 200 persons accepted. Through the cooperation of the U.S. Air Force and the Second Air Division Association, they were flown to Norwich for

the special occasion.

Young La Riviere has high praise for the grateful hospitality shown by the British while he was there. "We stayed in private homes and no one could have been nicer," he explained. "Every time you walked anywhere, people would stop and introduce themselves, then tell you how much they appreciated what America did during the war. You couldn't help feeling proud."

When their 15-day visit ended, John and three friends left the official visitors' group and flew to the mainland for a look "on our own" at France, Switzerland and Germany.

The four young men and women found Zurich "picturesque," France "wonderful," and West Berlin a "welcome contrast to East Berlin, where they're still trying to rewrite the history of the war to suit themselves." ■

Happy Landings

REPRINTED FROM THE 490TH BG'S "BOMBS AWAY"

- An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy which required the first officer to stand at the door while passengers exited, smile and give them a "Thanks for flying our airline." He said that in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally, everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane. She said, "Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?" "Why, no, Ma'am," said the pilot. "What is it?" The little old lady asked, "Did we land, or were we shot down?"
- Overheard on an American Airlines flight into Amarillo, Texas on a particularly windy and bumpy day: During the final approach, the Captain was really having to fight it. After an extremely hard landing, the flight attendant said, "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Amarillo. Please remain in your seats with your seat belts fastened while the Captain taxis what's left of our airplane to the gate!"
- Another flight attendant's comment on a "less-than-perfect" landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

5,000th B-24 Arrives for Modifications

REPRINTED FROM THE TUCSON DAILY CITIZEN, JUNE 24, 1944

LIBERATOR NAMED "V-GRAND" AND CARRIES NAMES OF BUILDERS

With the most unusual paint job of any B-24 Liberator bomber ever to be delivered to the Tucson division of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation — the written names of those who built her — *V-Grand*, the 5,000th Liberator to be built at Convair's San Diego plant, has arrived here for modification, W.R. Lawrence, division manager, announced today.

Number 5,000 at San Diego, *V-Grand*'s Tucson number will be in the 3,800's, indicative of the number of Liberators that have been sent from the big modification

center here to world battlefronts since the first plane was modified late in 1942.

MORE BOMBERS ORDERED

Although *V-Grand* is the 5,000th B-24 to be built at San Diego, approximately 7,000 of the big four-engined bombers have been built for the Army and Navy. Convair officials stressed the fact that huge production of Liberators surmounting all records of the past has been ordered by the government.

Names of aircraft modification mechanics and others that have a hand in tailoring *V-Grand* for battle at the Tucson plant will be added to those of workers who first built the plane as it moves through the

modification line, plant officials said.

The first small parts of *V-Grand* went into jigs at San Diego just before June 1, and the wing center section, nose component and tail fuselage sections were mated on the long Liberator assembly line on June 5. A week later the plane left the production line and was in the hands of flight crews for its first test hop.

Approximately 400,000 rivets went into her, in addition to some 50,000 other parts and thousands of feet of electrical wiring and metal tubing. Hundreds of other parts will go into *V-Grand* at the Tucson plant before she is given her final check-flight and turned over to the Army for assignment to a crew. ■

A Good Story Bears Repeating . . . Many Times!

REPRINTED FROM THE 2ADA JOURNAL, SUMMER 1995

Editor's Note: In the Summer 1995 Journal, Gene Hartley was the author of the "389th Green Dragon Flares" column. After reminding readers that the Green Dragon was the formation ship for the 389th BG, Gene wrote, "With recognition to the many varied authors and the myriad of different versions of the following song found in different theaters of war, I offer this version, sung to the tune of 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home'." King Schultz (448th) resubmitted it to the Journal after seeing it recently in the Heritage League Herald. He said, "I thought this song is so much fun that it is worth printing it again in the Journal. We sang it at the 'Debriefers' luncheon this week and everyone howled with laughter."

A mission tomorrow at dawn for us, hurray, hurray,
They'll notify next of kin for us, hurray, hurray,
With the next thirty missions we have to fly,
The odds are that we shall bail out or die,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way.

A mixer of concrete should never grow wings, hurray, hurray,
A B-24 is one of those things, hurray, hurray,
It floats through the air with the greatest of ease,
Just like an egg beater batting the breeze,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way.

Our number three prop has run away, hurray, hurray,
And our number one turbo has gone to stay, hurray, hurray,
With a shot in the ball and those guns out,
The top turret's jammed and just spinning about,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way.

The target's protected by trainer planes, they say, hurray,
The flak is feeble and poorly aimed, they say, hurray,
But the trainers are Messerschmitt 109's
And the feeble flak holed us 300 times,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way.

Precision bombing at noon for us, they say, hurray,
The bombardier toggled them out in train, hurray, hurray,
We aimed at the harbor, we hit all around,
Survivors are feasting on fish that they found,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way.

We circled the target to steady their aim, hurray, hurray,
And when we return, our leaders we'll blame, hurray, hurray,
We pick out the towns that have most of the flak,
And circle them all on our way coming back,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way.

The B-24's are here to stay, hurray, hurray,
They plaster them in the Yankee way, hurray, hurray,
She's short and chunky, a queer looking hack,
But she'll take you out and she'll bring you back,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way.

The thirtieth mission's the final one, they say, hurray,
They'll let you go home and catch up on your fun, hurray, hurray,
They think you'll come back for another tour,
But take it from me, that's a pile of manure,
And we'll all fly on in the Second Division Way. ■



To the Editor:

After some cursory research and talking to our 489th Bomb Group News Letter Editor, Charles Freudenthal, indications are that your Fall *Journal* is correct about "Hap" Chandler listed in the "Folded Wings" section. Charlie mentioned that his August News Letter was returned. His prior June issue of the News Letter was not returned. So, it could be assumed he received the June issue.

Mel Pontillo (489th)
837 Childs Avenue
Monaca, PA 15061-1318

Editor's Note: "Hap" is calling everyone on the phone, saying "I am still alive!" But what does he know? And he did not say where he was calling from when he talked to my answering machine.



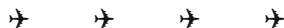
To the Editor:

Can you possibly send my letter to Mr. Robert Clark Barnes, as I would be very happy to contact him; his story in the Fall *Journal* is really very interesting and I wonder if he could have known my father, 1st Lt. Thomas Harvey Sears (445th BG).

I enjoy the *Journal* as it brings me near to my father whom I never knew, as he died on March 23, 1945, just three weeks before I was born.

Mrs. Diana Sears
Montolieu 25
1010 Lausanne
SWITZERLAND

Editor's Note: Aside from Robert Barnes, does anyone else remember her father? I am sure she would like to hear from you.



To the Editor:

I joined the Second Air Division Association and the Station 146 Tower Association many years ago as an associate member. My uncle, S/Sgt. Keith Wann, was with the 448th Bomb Group. He was reported MIA on June 27, 1944 while flying on a bombing mission to Creil, France. Nothing else is known.

My reason for writing is to thank you for the *Journal*. The articles written and

published have given me a much appreciated insight into my uncle's life while living with the 448th. I also stay in touch with the very devoted staff of the Station 146 Tower Association.

I do not remember my uncle Keith and only know of him through family stories and a few pictures. His mother spent the rest of her life hoping that he was alive and would return someday. As the years passed, her acceptance of his death was inevitable, but I know there was always a thread of hope in her heart until she died at age 97. She was most proud of being a Gold Star Mother as she rode in the town parade every Memorial Day.

I just want to say thank you to all the veterans who take the time to write down their WWII experiences so that people like me continue to have a link to our beloved relatives.

Antoinette "Toni" Levitt
2040 Wallace Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130



To the Editor:

"The 448th Speaks" ran an article by Kenneth C. Goodrich that included the following: "The target hit end-to-end was a big hospital — couldn't have made a better intended bomb run."

Did you happen to notice it? Have any of your readers commented on it to you?

Goodrich makes me sick, crowing over his great success in destroying a hospital. What kind of person is that, blowing the sick, wounded and dying to kingdom come? And the patients — Germans? Prisoners? Civilians? Perhaps even downed American airmen? All the same to Goodrich.

We have rules of warfare from the Hague and the Geneva Conventions that call for "sparing, as far as possible, hospitals, hospital ships . . . etc." I'm ashamed to have been in the same outfit as this fellow.

I would like to see my letter printed in the next issue of the *Journal*. Also, I request in the meantime that you send a copy of this letter directly to Mr. Goodrich, whose address you must have.

Philip D. LaRiviere (448th)
453 Tennessee Lane
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Editor's Note: I sent the letter to Ken Goodrich and he replied as follows:

Dear Ray,

I received a letter from you that was forwarded from Philip LaRiviere from Palo Alto, CA, saying he is so frustrated by the article that was in the *Journal*. I don't know who sent it to the *Journal*, as it was only to be a personal article to a few family and friends and a few ex-crew members on that mission of August 26, 1944.

This was my third mission as the bombardier. We were in the third position,

near the lead and deputy lead. Both lead and deputy were shot down; no one got out of either plane. We had an engine hit by flak also, so the pilot asked me to get rid of the bombs (eleven 500#, I believe). I had no bombsight but I did have an automatic camera so we had pictures of what happened. Since the pilot was able to fly OK, I asked if he could continue and he said yes, so I asked if we could try to drop them over a guessed-at target and he said yes, as at that time we were southeast of Frankfurt and over farmland. Nothing was planned, so I merely set the intervalometer at 300 interval but with no map or real view of a potential target. With no knowledge or intent, they hit that hospital, as we discovered as we got to France and Lord Haw Haw was on the radio that we had indeed hit the hospital. I was met at the plane when we landed as the radio inquiry had discovered me as the bombardier. This info was forwarded to President Roosevelt, as we all knew that we didn't intentionally bomb hospitals. I'm quite sure there were very many during World War II the world over that were destroyed in that way. I wonder how many the Germans did under the same manner. I had no hate or intention of animosity, as I'm sure few did have. What happened in France, England, Holland, Belgium, etc. over Europe? What happened in Hawaii on the ships and perhaps air base? What happened all over the Pacific Islands and China and Japan, particularly in the Tokyo bombing by the U.S. when 130,000+ Japanese were killed in the fire bombing and the atomic bombs? On bombed ships?

I hardly believe any bombardier or crew had great animosity toward anyone. What I wrote about has no proud content — I don't go hunting or fishing, as I feel that deliberate killing is cruel.

As an afternote, after moving to Oregon in 1977, I met a lady as I was remodeling her house. She made the remark during a talk that she was from Austria and was drafted into the German army before war was declared. She said she was in that hospital many times and that the largest German Headquarters was in the entire basement of that hospital. I no longer felt as bad, as that is totally illegal the world over! She said it was badly destroyed but that she felt happy about it as it upset very much of the German government.

Sometimes we have to survey the overall picture and think of the times and try to see the bigger picture even if it hurts.

I didn't like the war, and I had five brothers in it (no one hurt). I've never been proud of all I did, even though my intentions were always good.

Ken Goodrich (448th)
5076 Leonard Rd. #4
Grants Pass, OR 97527



To the Editor:

I want this picture to appear in the 2ADA *Journal*. Did it ever appear in a copy of the Tibenham *Journal*? It is a good picture of you. I am sure the members of the 2ADA will enjoy taking a view of it.

I really do enjoy reading the *Journal*. It's really great to keep abreast on what is happening with all the troops!

I am sorry I was unable to go to Dallas to the 61st 2ADA convention. I am sure the news will appear in the *Journal*.

Jim Reeves (HQ)
P.O. Box 98
Moultrie, GA 31776

Editor's Note: When I became the Journal editor, it was then 2ADA President Chuck Walker who intoned, "Pytel will have to have time to get his feet wet!" Needless to say, at the next break of the Executive Committee meeting I quickly located the ubiquitous camera fiend Carl "The Original" Rambo and we went out the front door of the Marriott and "got my feet wet" in the flower fountain. (I was glad no one said "Pytel must learn the ropes" — I'd hate to run around looking for a rope to hang myself with on the front steps of the mighty Marriott.)



To the Editor:

My husband, the late Don Whitefield (445th BG) was honored with the "Missing Man" flyover at the last meeting (2008) of Bonanza owners at Oshkosh. It is mentioned in their magazine, as quoted below. It made us all so proud.

Billie Whitefield
1434 Martin
Houston, TX 77018

For the past several years, Bonanzas to Oshkosh has been privileged to flying in the AirVenture Showcase-of-Flight Hour that precedes the professional air show each day. Each year Showcase time becomes more precious as aircraft manufacturers try to purchase it to show off their designs.

This year EAA Air Boss Joe Schumacher came through with a time slot for eight members of the Texas V-Tails flying team to perform their 8-minute routine before the crowd of roughly 80,000. Once again they nailed their times and flew their positions with accuracy.

Their hard work and skillful airmanship was displayed with fine precision as they were led by Wayne "Smudge" Mudge, a former USAF fighter pilot. It was fitting that Smudge led, as his Bonanza is a 1968 Model 36 and this is the 40th anniversary of the "Stretch Debbie."

Smudge's wingmen included Jim Averett, Mike Parrish, Leldon Locke, Ray Lewis, Joe Sasser, and B2Osh founder



Ray Pytel (445th BG) became editor of the 2ADA Journal in July 1995, at the 48th Annual 2ADA Convention in Lexington, KY.

Wayne Collins.

If you were counting, only seven pilots were mentioned. The eighth team member, Bill Whitefield, bowed out at the last minute when his father Don passed away unexpectedly on Friday, July 25. Don was a B-24 navigator in the Mighty 8th, flying out of England in World War II. In honor of Don and Bill, during the team's signature "T for Texas" formation pass over Airshow Center, they executed the Missing Man formation.

Thank You from England

As one of the Norfolk people who knew the 2nd Air Division USAAF in the war and has enjoyed a close and wonderful friendship ever since, can I say how sorry we are that this may be one of the last issues of that great 2nd Air Division Association *Journal* that has meant so much to us over the years. Can I thank Ray Pytel, and before him Bill Robertie, for what I've always believed was the finest veterans' newsletter and which has achieved so much in keeping the links of friendship going.

However, you will all never be forgotten here in East Anglia and at your Memorial Library, your old bases with their markers, your memorial garden at Wymondham College and the mural in their wartime chapel, plus the USAAF road names around our county and the paintings with the USAF of today at Mildenhall, and many other items which mean that your bravery, sacrifice and friendship will always be remembered with pride and affection.

Yours sincerely,
David J. Hastings
A now retired Trust Governor

High level conference at Savannah



Left to right: Hap Chandler (standing), General Ramsay Potts, Jim Reeves (seated), Walt Mundy (standing), Al Asch (seated). Photo submitted by Jim Reeves.

*62nd Annual Convention
of the Second Air Division Association
September 4-7, 2009*

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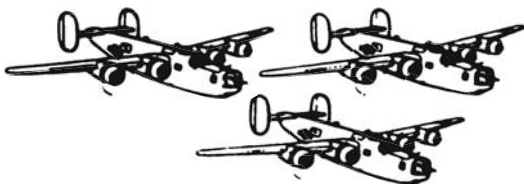
Rosemont is a Chicago suburb adjacent to the east side of O'Hare Airport. The Westin has complimentary shuttle bus service every 20 minutes to and from the hotel.

As of this date, November 20, 2008, negotiations with the hotel are not complete. The hotel has made a tentative offer of \$99 per night. Meals and meeting room prices will be decided soon. **Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.** will be making all arrangements and negotiating prices for the 2ADA this year. They are fully experienced in this field, having served Infantry Divisions, Naval Units and Ships, the Marines, the 8th Air Force Historical Society, and others for over twenty years. Some of you may have attended 8th AFHS conventions and are aware of **Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**'s excellent services.

You will be making your own hotel reservations this year. This gives you great flexibility in making your payment, which is not due until you check out. You may pay by cash, check, or credit card; the choice is yours. Payment for meals, tours, etc. will be made to **Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.** A form for this purpose will be provided in the next JOURNAL.

**CHICAGO, CHICAGO, HERE WE COME,
RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM!**

**SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION
EIGHTH AIR FORCE**
RAY PYTEL, JOURNAL EDITOR
P.O. BOX 484, ELKHORN, WI 53121-0484



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