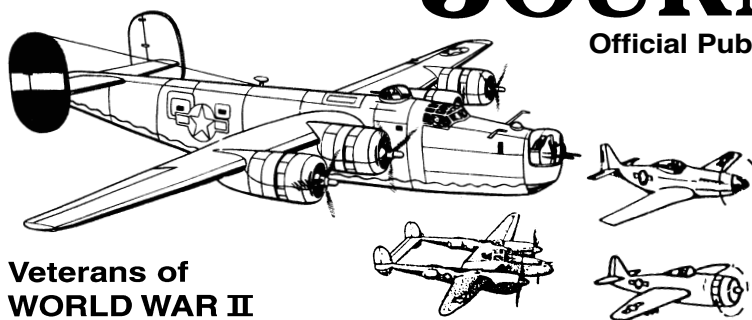


**Don't Miss the
62nd Annual
2ADA Convention!
September 3-7
in Chicago
SEE PAGES 15-18**

THE JOURNAL

Official Publication of the:



**Veterans of
WORLD WAR II**



Volume 48 Number 1

Spring/Summer 2009

THE 2ADA HONORS THE BRITISH CONNECTION



Six Memorial Trust Governors at Dallas, 10/20/08. L-R: Chairman Matthew Martin, Andrew Hawker, Chuck Walker, Joe Dzenowagis, Jr., David Gurney, Ben Du Brow.
PHOTO: CAROL HOLLIDAY



Leisure Time in Norfolk, 11/12/08: Trust Governor David Gurney on "Jake" during a fox hunt at Great Witchingham as fellow Governor Andrew Hawker looks on.
PHOTO: CAROL HOLLIDAY



At the Annual General Meeting of the Trust in Norwich, 11/10/08. L-R: Chris Williams, Michael Longe, David Douglas, David Gurney, David Hastings, Chairman Matthew Martin, Fran Davies, Chuck Walker, Peter Foster, Andrew Hawker.
PHOTO: CAROL HOLLIDAY

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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL



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President's Message

BY JOHN L. LEE (93RD BG)

We are looking forward to a convention worthy of the 2ADA, September 3-7 in Chicago. My wife, Betty, and Maxine Mackey have been working with Armed Forces Reunions Inc. to ensure they meet our needs. This is the first time the 2ADA has used such an organization and therefore we are covering some unexplored results. The necessary forms and details for the convention are in this issue (*see pages 15-18*), but if you have any questions, please give me a call or an e-mail.

We vets are now reaching the upper limits of our expected lifetime. The average age is now 87. The 2ADA will not be able to carry on much longer, so we should be working toward giving more responsibility to the younger generation. There seems to be adequate interest and knowledge among them to continue to support the memory of our fallen comrades. I am sure the subject of dissolution will be discussed at the September convention, but I feel we should be able to carry on for a number of years before that becomes necessary.

What can we do to make our upcoming convention a memorable affair? If you have any ideas, or recommendations, be someone who responds to this appeal! One thing the committee is planning is a ceremony to honor all the past presidents of this organization. These men did their part over the years to promote camaraderie and fellowship among the members and their wives and extended families. For this we are all grateful for their service and dedication. Our Memorial Library is a flourishing tribute to these gentlemen who served, to those young airmen who gave their lives, and to all of you who have continued to support the 2ADA.

We should also remember that it will be sixty-four years since the end of WWII and sixty-two years since the 2ADA was started in Chicago. Appropriate honor and respect should be given to those who were responsible for starting the organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have given valuable advice, encouragement and help during my term as President. Your notes, e-mails and phone calls have been much appreciated and welcomed. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago. ■

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION



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).

THE JOURNAL, the official publication of the Association, is published biannually.

Executive Vice President's Message

BY RICHARD C. ROBERT (453RD)

The 2ADA Convention Committee, chaired by Betty Lee, has been working closely with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. in planning our 62nd Annual Convention at the Westin O'Hare Hotel in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, Illinois on Labor Day weekend. This promises to be an outstanding convention. I encourage everyone who can travel, to make every effort to attend this important convention.

The Heritage League will hold its Annual Business Meeting immediately following our 2ADA General Business Meeting on Saturday, September 5, 2009. This will be a great opportunity for us old veterans to meet with the younger generation and inspire them to continue the support of our living legacy, the Second Air Division USAAF Memorial Library in Norwich, England.

The old guard is starting to give way to the younger generation on the Second Air Division Association's Executive Committee. President John Lee has appointed

Irene Hurner, a long-time associate member of the 2ADA and Past President of the Heritage League, as 2ADA Backup Secretary to Secretary Ray Strong. In her new position as Backup Secretary, Irene Hurner will be responsible for recording and transcribing the minutes of the 2ADA Executive Committee and the 2ADA General Business Meetings. The Backup Secretary position became vacant when I was elected 2ADA Executive Vice President at the Dallas convention last fall.

The Memorial Trust Board of Governors had their first meeting of the year 2009 at County Hall in Norwich, England on January 29th. Matthew Martin was re-elected Chairman, and Andrew Hawker was elected Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors. David Gurney, Professor Chris Bigsby and Joe Dzenowagis, Jr. were appointed as Governors for five-year terms.

The new inquiry desk for the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich,

donated in memory of 2ADA Past President Geoff Gregory, was installed on December 9, 2008.

Seems like yesterday, but the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France took place 65 years ago on June 6, 1944. On the morning of that day, 11,000 aircraft were in the air over southern England. D-Day was my sixth mission with the 453rd BG of the 2nd Air Division. Our Operations Officer, Lt. Colonel James Stewart, the Hollywood star, gave a very dramatic briefing on the invasion mission we were to fly later that day to bomb enemy communications at Caen, France. From our B-24 formation altitude of approximately 14,000 feet en route to the target, it appeared that the entire English Channel between Britain and Normandy, France was completely full of ships and boats. It was truly an amazing sight to see, and one that I will never forget. I am proud to have participated in that momentous historical event of World War II. ■

Reunion Reflections

BY MAXINE MACKEY, WIFE OF OAK MACKEY (392ND)

It is now only March and I am already looking forward to the next Second Air Division Association Convention. It will be the 62nd.

I am trying to recall why I enjoy the conventions so much. Maybe it's the veterans' war stories. Some I have heard many times; many have different versions. They are told from each veteran's own recollection; some are funny, some sad. I appreciate them all. And maybe it is watching the camaraderie among old friends that has survived all these years.

Maybe it is the candle lighting ceremony that takes place at each banquet with all the families and friends gathered there. The men and women conducting the ceremony represent the bomb groups, the fighter groups, and the headquarters of the 2nd Air Division to honor those who gave their lives for freedom. There is a great silence in the room as they light the eight candles. It is a very powerful and significant ceremony. I have witnessed this ceremony many times, yet the tears still roll down my cheeks.

Maybe it is seeing our British friends again. Some have come and gone, but there are always new ones to take their place. It could be listening to them bring news of our great one-of-a-kind Memorial Library in Norwich. It has been my good fortune to see the old library before the fire, the temporary library, and attend the dedication ceremonies of the new library. What great memories!

This will be the 30th reunion Oak and I have attended. Over the years we have made and renewed so many friendships; some no longer with us, some no longer able to attend. Maybe it's the emotion of remembering the feeling of fellowship that prevails throughout. Although there are some we don't personally know, every one is a friend.

Maybe it's knowing all the wonderful wives; some were married during the war. We have a great tie, these women and I. We were all married to these brave men who fought for peace in this world. I will miss working with some of you at the convention registration desk. Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. will be relieving us of that duty — which means I'll have more time to renew old friendships while we are together once again.

I am so looking forward to seeing all members, wives and families at the Second Air Division Association convention in Chicago in September. ■

The Vital Friendship with the Next Generation

The Dream of a "Youth Exchange" Moves Forward

BY DAVID HASTINGS, FORMER TRUST GOVERNOR

Nearly twenty years ago, the 2nd Air Division Association in America and the Memorial Trust in Norwich decided that it was essential to ensure that the friendships that we as a wartime generation enjoyed should continue on down through the ages if your Library was to continue to be a "living memorial."

The first two schemes failed to fly, but now thanks to a lot of hard work by Earl Zimmerman; David Hastings; and Melvyn Roffe, the Principal of Wymondham College; we could be in sight of success. Earl Zimmerman has talked with Park Tudor College in Indianapolis, and when Melvyn Roffe visited the United States last December, Earl very kindly took him to Park Tudor to meet with the principal, staff and students. The result is that both colleges have agreed to arrange a trial School Exchange later this year, which is wonderful news. The first visit will consist of two teachers and four students from each college, just to see if the proposed scheme will work, and we are hoping to receive financial support from the Memorial Trust in the UK and the 2ADA in the USA. If the idea is a success, then for future years we will need to consider raising a Foundation Trust to ensure that the friendships made can grow and expand every year.

For the American students it will be a great opportunity to see your Memorial Library and, even more important, to visit many of the old 2nd Air Division bases where it all happened in the Forties, as well as we hope making lasting friendships. For the British youngsters it will be a chance to see your great country and learn more about your history and how the wartime friendships with East Anglia began. If you are willing to help this project in any way, please contact Earl Zimmerman in the USA or David Hastings in the UK. ■

The Editor's Contribution

BY RAY PYTEL (445TH)

For those of you who have been wondering about the Idaho Memorial Walk Monument honoring the 8th Air Force at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, described in the Spring 2008 issue of the *Journal*, Jack Wendling (466th) has advised me that they have been oversubscribed in donations, and the monument will be in place on Memorial Day 2009. I have asked Jack to send us a picture of the monument.

Ralph Welsh (448th) has just advised me that he has sold over 250 copies of his B-24 and 2nd Air Division anthology and has hopes of connecting with some aviation periodicals, various air group conventions, and museums. The book is currently described in "The 448th Speaks" column on page 19 of this issue, and was reviewed on page 30 of the last issue of the *Journal* (Winter 2008).

While at the Dallas convention, we had a chance to meet up with another editor of two books, Jack Kingsbery (458th). Entitled *Cowboy Wrecks & Rattlesnakes* and *Yes, I'm Still Alive*, both were reviewed and excerpts written up in past issues of the *Journal*. The books are still available for \$17.95 each plus \$2 postage. Jack Kingsbery's address is P.O. Box 477, Crystal City, TX 78839, phone 830-374-3803. Both books portray humorous lifetime Air Force and Texas ranch adventures.

As a crew chief, Jack is remembered for "cooling" a newly arrived case of beer from the States, by getting a crew to slow time a replacement engine until the beer was drinkable U.S. style . . . (as you know, the English love their beer warm). The cost was estimated to be \$2,500. He said it was well worth it.

ANSWERS TO THE WINTER QUIZ

See page 5 of this *Journal*.

SPRING QUIZ




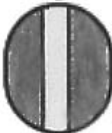

The Army Air Forces numbered 16 separate Air Forces. State AF number and name at least five locations or areas they were assigned to, and what duties or function did they perform? ■

THIS WAS THE 2ND AIR DIVISION BOMBER RECORD

The information below was gleaned from Roger Freeman's "Mighty 8th" books, Lloyd's *Liberator Global Bomber*, 8AFMMF: "Project Bits and Pieces" and Air Force's *History of WWII Combat Units*.

Group #	44th	93rd	389th	392nd	445th	446th	448th
Tail Marking (Late)							

Location Name	Shipdham	Hardwick	Hethel	Wendling	Tibenham	Flixton	Seething
Background Color	WHITE	YELLOW	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK	YELLOW	YELLOW
Wing Letter (Early Tail)	A	B	C	D	F	H	I
Arrived in Europe	11 Sept 42	6 Sept 42	11 June 43	1 Aug 43	4 Nov 43	4 Nov 43	30 Nov 43
First Mission	7 Nov 42	9 Oct 42	9 July 43	9 Sept 43	13 Dec 43	16 Dec 43	22 Dec 43
Total Missions	343	396	321	285	282	273	262
Total Group Sorties	8,009	8,169	7,579	7,060	7,145	7,259	6,774
Bomb Tonnage	18,980	19,004	17,548	17,452	16,732	16,819	15,272
Aircraft Combat MIA	153	100	116	127	108	58	101
Other Losses	39	40	37	57	25	28	34
Enemy A/C Claimed	330	93	209	144	89	34	44
Last Mission	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45

Group #	453rd	458th	466th	467th	489th	491st	492nd
Tail Marking (Late)							

Location Name	Old Buckenham	Horsham St. Faith	Attlebridge	Rackheath	Halesworth	Metfield/N. Pickenham	N. Pickenham
Background Color	BLACK	RED	RED	RED	GREEN***	GREEN	WHITE
Wing Letter (Early Tail)	J	K	L	P	W	Z	U
Arrived in Europe	22 Dec 43	29 Jan 44	7 Mar 44	12 Mar 44	1 May 44	25 Apr 44	14 Apr 44
First Mission	5 Feb 44	24 Feb 44	22 Mar 44	10 Apr 44	30 May 44	2 June 44	11 May 44
Total Missions	259	240	232	212	106	187	64
Total Group Sorties	6,655	5,759	5,762	5,538	2,998	5,005	1,513
Bomb Tonnage	15,804	13,204	12,914	13,333	6,951	12,304	3,757
Aircraft Combat MIA	58	47	47	29	29	47	51
Other Losses	25	18	25	19	12	23	6
Enemy A/C Claimed	42	28	29	6	1	9	21
Last Mission	12 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	25 Apr 45	10 Nov 44*	25 Apr 45	7 Aug 44**

* 489th BG returned to States for B-29's. ** 492nd BG disbanded and assumed Carpetbagger missions. *** All yellow while in 20th Combat Wing.

The Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF

BY MATTHEW MARTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

GREETINGS FROM NORWICH!

How are the Trust's investments performing in these difficult markets? I am writing this at the beginning of March and I am conscious that it will be read not much sooner than in May. One thing for sure is that there will be significant turbulence over the intervening period. One other thing which is a distinct possibility is that there will be an increase in unemployment levels throughout the world over the months ahead. Naturally I hope that those levels will not be as high as they were in the States in the 1930s, but no one can be certain.

For those of you who remember Norwich, you will I am sure recall all the many ancient buildings, including the Anglican Cathedral which is over 900 years old. What is less clear to the occasional visitor is that there are wealthy charitable Trusts and Foundations also several hundred years old. Here, in the Old World, we have been used to running such institutions through good times and bad.

The Governors or Trustees of such institutions look at issues using a very long time frame. They are used to seeing the value of the investments under their control go up and down. Sadly, we are going through a very difficult down period at present. And so the value of the Trust's investments has reduced appreciably since these difficult times started. But, given time, perhaps even a very long time, they will recover. The one thing the Governors do not do is wring their hands and sell up everything.

We must, however, make sure our investment managers' investment performance is as satisfactory as it needs to be. We set them benchmarks and we monitor their performance. If there is underperformance as against those benchmarks, we want to know why.

Periodically we review who our investment managers should be, and we are entering this process at the present time. Our present investment managers have looked after the Trust's investments

for a long time. We have invited them and other specialist firms to make presentations in April in Norwich. If the Governors decide that there is a firm who may perform better, we will make a change. One thing, however, is certain. However difficult the times, we will come through them. If there is one thing that veterans of the 2nd Air Division are able to confirm, the world can be in one heck of a mess. Everything can look very black. But we will overcome. We always have done, and we always will.

On one other point, if you can, do pay us a visit in November. We have a special program of events; starting, most appropriately, with Remembrance Sunday on 8 November. There is then the lecture by General Sir Richard Dannatt on the 11th November. He is the professional Head of the British Army. Finally, there will be a short service in the American Chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on the 12th November. Do come! You will receive the warmest of welcomes. ■

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

BY CHUCK WALKER (445TH)

There is much excitement in the air about our upcoming convention in Chicago. Can you believe it will be our 62nd? I am certain Jordan Uttal, Evelyn Cohen, Ray Strong, et al, had no idea the association they created would indeed last this long. I doubt they dreamed the association would create such a magnificent memorial to our fallen comrades. We must all make a special effort to attend the Chicago convention as a show of appreciation for what the Second Air Division Association has accomplished in the past 62 years.

Our Memorial Trust Librarian, Libby Morgan, will be coming to Chicago, which is a real treat. She is doing a terrific job and we all want to congratulate her. The new greeting desk contributed by Terry Gregory in memory of her late husband Geoff is proving to be a fine improvement for both library personnel and visitors. (See photo on page 13.)

Chairman Matthew Martin accepted David Hastings' plea for audience of the President of Wymondham College with the

Governors concerning a student exchange with a Wymondham College student and a school in Indianapolis, IN. I am told the meeting went well. Everyone endorsed the benefits of such an exchange but also recognized the need for major funds for such a program. Regretfully, the Memorial Trust is not currently in a position to contribute funds as the Trust is hard-pressed financially to maintain our library.

Chairman Martin advises me that four Governors have recently resigned: Frances Davies, David Hastings, Richard Ashton, and Jean Steward. We have previously recognized the terrific job Fran and David have done over the years for the Memorial Trust and certainly we wish to thank Richard and Jean for their strong support of our Memorial. They both resigned because of the increased work load imposed by their jobs. I expect Matthew will be in a position to advise replacements at our Chicago meeting.

Take good care of yourselves, and I look forward to seeing you in Chicago in September. ■

News of Tom Eaton

BY DAVID HASTINGS

Tom Eaton's wife, Robin, asked me to give you this news. Sadly, Tom had a bad fall at home after Christmas and was rushed into the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital where he remained for a month. As you may know, previous to that he had suffered a stroke.

He has started to recover, but now needs palliative care 24 hours a day, so Robin has found a very lovely Care Home at Costessey on the outskirts of Norwich, where I visited Tom this morning. Initially he was very bright and we yarned about old times, all those very happy and exciting years we enjoyed when he was Chairman of the Memorial Trust, and the great 2ADA conventions. Then as Robin had warned me, he suddenly became tired and vague, but there is no doubt that he is in a superb Care Home with very friendly and kind nursing staff.

Old age is a terrible thing especially for someone like dear Tom who has played such an active and leading part in our community for so many years. Indeed, without Tom's wisdom and leadership and his establishing links with the 2ADA all those years ago, there is no doubt in my mind that we would not have the lovely 2AD Memorial Library or those great links of friendship that we all enjoy so much. ■

The Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors

BY CAROL HOLLIDAY, SECRETARY, HERITAGE LEAGUE

How does one sum up a trip worth a lifetime in one page? It is impossible. However, for all intents and purposes, this report focuses on the highlights from the 2AD Memorial Trust Governors Annual General Meeting in Norwich, England on 10 November 2008. I attended on behalf of Vicki Warning, Heritage League Representative to the Board of Governors, who could not make the trip this past year.

Chairman Matthew Martin opened the meeting by welcoming all and introducing visitors from the USA. Attending visitors from the 2nd Air Division Association were John and Betty Lee, Richard and Gwen Robert, Joan Patterson, Chuck Walker, Earl Zimmerman, and myself representing the Heritage League. Charlie Walker, Jr. traveled with his father but did not attend this particular meeting.

THE BIG PICTURE

Trust Auditor Chris Dicker presented the accounting, ending 5 April 2008. There are three main funds: the Capital Fund at 71.4%, the Book Endowment Fund at 7.4%, and the newest, the American Presence Fund (created by monies returned from the Fulbright Program) at 21.2%, which totals £1,743,903 in the Trust. An endowment dedicated to the memory of Geoff Gregory, 467th BG, was donated by his wife, Mrs. Terry Gregory. This endowment was used to purchase a new front desk for the library (*see photo on page 13*). Bernard Newmark gave another \$50,000, the 2ADA gave \$20,000, and the Heritage League gave \$1,000. The Trust also relies upon financial and other support from the Norfolk County Council. We cannot emphasize enough the need for donations and patrons, as these are most needed to keep your library alive and well. Matthew Martin profusely thanked all donors many times over. The 2AD Memorial Library dedicated to those special Americans who sacrificed their lives during WWII is a true living memorial, and we are especially blessed with all benefactors.

FROM FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR TO 2AD UEA SCHOLAR, THE TRANSITION . . .

Andrew Hawker introduced Meghan Purvis, a PhD student with the University of East Anglia (UEA) from Fresno, California. She is the first 2AD UEA Scholar-



Fellowship in England (L-R): Belton Wolf, B-17 pilot; 2ADA Memorial Trust Representative Chuck Walker (445th BG); 2ADA President John Lee (93rd BG); and 2ADA Executive Vice President Richard Robert (453rd BG) visit with Peter Chapman, Lay Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral.
PHOTO: CAROL HOLLIDAY

ship recipient, the program which replaced the Fulbright Librarian Program. She started on September 1, 2008, and works ten hours per week. Meghan's activities have included starting a book club with a focus on American fiction; she is also working with the four satellite libraries. Meghan's long-term goals include continuing the regular school visits started by her predecessor Fulbright librarians, with emphasis on promoting the Memorial Library's excellent collection of WWII memorabilia, maps, videos, and books. The library plans to increase funding from the American Presence Fund in 2009 to create a second scholarship for another UEA graduate student. This will allow for twenty hours per week with two students, and most likely will award £6,000 each for a total of £12,000.

REPORT OF THE TRUST LIBRARIAN

Libby Morgan introduced Sarah-Beth Nelson, an American who is volunteering her time as a storyteller and librarian in local elementary schools.

Each Norwich University College of Art student who filmed our veterans (the Oral History Project with about 25 interviews), at the 61st Annual 2ADA Convention will create a short film for the Memorial Library archives and the Norfolk Records Office.

The library's website, www.2ndair.org.uk, is in the process of being updated and should be completed by March 2009.

There are now four satellite libraries. These libraries contain information on each American airbase, each representing 3-4 bases, and are located at Dereham, Sprowston, Long Stratton, and Attleborough.

Libby was pleased to report a rise in visitors to the library daily, averaging about 161 per day on 2008. We are very lucky to have such fine library staff. They are all doing a very professional and excellent job.

John Page, the new Chairman of the Friends, reported that David Neale is very much missed. The Friends will continue to meet for special events and dinners, but outings will decrease as they have become prohibitively expensive. Colin Mann is Vice-Chairman. The *Second Thoughts* newsletter will continue to be produced with the help of editor Trevor Bond.

HONORARY LIFE GOVERNORS

Mrs. Fran Davies, 25 years service, and David Hastings, 28 years, were appointed as Honorary Life Governors. Fran was instrumental with Mrs. Anne Barne (now *(continued on next page)*)



WENDLING 392nd BY OAK MACKEY

Libby Morgan took up the reins at our Second Air Division Memorial Library on January 1, 2008 as our new Trust Librarian succeeding Derek Hills. You are all well aware of Derek's fine service for twelve years and he left some very large shoes to fill. As Trust Chairman Matthew Martin put it in his remarks to the 2ADA Executive Committee last October, "Libby has hit the ground running." Some examples of her early contacts include attending Memorial Day services at the American Cemetery near Cambridge on 26 May 2008 where she laid a wreath on behalf of the Governors of the Memorial Trust. Soon after, on 11 June, Michael Macy, U.S. Cultural Attaché, introduced her to Professor Philip Davies, Director of the Eccles Centre for American Studies (British Library) at the U.S. Embassy. From this meeting she came away with very useful ideas on how to promote the "American Studies" aspect of the Memorial Library. She has visited the Imperial War Museum at Duxford where she met Sue Chippington, Head of Learning, to study the museum's educational outreach program to schools, followed by a guided tour of the museum, including the American Air Museum. She worked with the Norwich School of Art and Design on a grant application to send two film studies students to the 2ADA convention in Dallas to film live interviews with some of the WWII vets. The application was approved and I can personally testify to its success, for I was interviewed and filmed by one of these fine young students, as were many others. The results of those interviews are now on file at the above named school and at the Memorial Library. This is a long-term program and will continue with interviews of local people about the "friendly American invasion" of East Anglia during WWII. Libby came to the 2ADA convention in Dallas last October, along with her husband Stephan, and she brought along some very encouraging statistics about the Memorial Library. Here is a brief example in the four months just prior to the convention: June through September, there were a total of 15,734 visitors; during that time the Library was open a total of 100 days, and

therefore there were 157 visitors daily. The Second Air Division Memorial Library is a unique, living memorial to our WWII friends who have gone before, defending freedom, and when we go, we can go knowing our Memorial is in good hands.

As you have seen elsewhere in this *Journal*, the 62nd Annual Convention of the Second Air Division Association will be at the Westin O'Hare Hotel, September 3-7, 2009. Included in this issue are four pages of information about the convention, including the forms necessary to make your reservations with the hotel and with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. If you desire more information about the hotel, go to www.westin.com. Your Convention Committee, Betty Lee and Maxine Mackey, with the help of Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. are planning an outstanding, excellent convention. The food will be the best, there are three exciting tours, there will be a new Dzenowagis film, and the music of our youth will be featured at the banquet. Also, they have planned a couple of surprise programs that I am not allowed to reveal at this time. Chicago was selected for this convention because of the central location. O'Hare Airport has more direct, non-stop flights from across our great nation than any other airport. The hotel is near the airport and offers complimentary shuttle-bus service from and to the airport. Thank Armed Forces Reunions for locating the hotel and negotiating the very reasonable rate of just \$99 per day. If you have not attended a convention recently, you may not want to miss this one. I believe there will be at least 100 Second Air Division veterans there, and that the total attendance will

Farewell to Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert

Colonel Lawrence G. Gilbert, USAF (Ret.) died March 19, 2009. He was a proud leader and friend at the 392nd Bomb Group in war, and his leadership continued in a very positive way in peacetime. He was Founder, President and C.O. of the 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association, where he was active in a leadership role for a lifetime. Within him lay a deep and abiding concern for those who lost their lives while serving at the 392nd Bomb Group in England. He was among those responsible for the 392nd BG Memorial erected at the air base near Wendling in September of 1945, and for its care over the years. He was always a friend with a smile, always upbeat, the eternal optimist whose attitude influenced everyone who knew him in a positive way. Goodbye, Colonel, we will miss you.

exceed any convention of recent years, likely exceeding 200. Do plan to come; you will have a good time!

Now a special note to my good 392nd BG friends. From conversations, e-mails, letters, etc. with some of you, we can expect a large contingent of you in Chicago. At least 20 veterans, plus their wives, plus associate members, X Gens, Heritage League and others — all of that adds up to at least 50 people. If you don't come, you will miss a good one!

"Takeoffs are optional — landings are mandatory." Just ask Capt. Sullenberger.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE TRUST *(continued from page 7)*

deceased) in creating the Friends. Fran, how can we forget the multitudes of your quiet acts, and the grand Mrs. Barne? You are both great ladies. David was instrumental in recreating the Memorial Library after the devastating fire in 1994, and after much hand-wringing, it later reopened in 2001. Both Fran and David will be missed on the Board as both dedicated the best of their time to the Memorial Library. I can't forget all those memories, David . . . As you so eloquently put it, "*This is your library.*" But this is true, David: You've had a unique role steeped in this library's history. It would not be what it is today if you had not contributed so much.

Since the meeting we have been updated that General Sir Richard Dannatt, GCB, KCB, CBE, MC, ADC, who is the Chief of the General Staff, the professional head of the British Army, accepted Chairman Martin's invitation to speak at the next Biennial Lecture scheduled for 11 November 2009. These lecture series focus on post-war Anglo-American affairs, and this promises to be a most fascinating event.

Lastly, a hearty thank you to those who've helped me clarify the finer points of this writing: Governors Matthew Martin, Andrew Hawker and David Gurney; and Trust Librarian Libby Morgan. To those who delegated and allowed me to attend, my mother Joan Patterson and our USAAF veterans and those responsible persons in the Heritage League, a huge thank you! It was a special trip and one I will not forget. ■



BY DICK BUTLER

The 44th Bomb Group made a second TDY in North Africa. This time we took off on 16 September 1943 from Shipdham. Our destination was the airfield Oudna Number One in Tunisia. The reason we were sent there was to assist the Allied troops that had landed at Salerno, Italy and were pinned down on the beaches. However, by the time we arrived in Tunisia, the Allied troops had broken through the defenses and we were not needed. So as long as we were there, Ninth Air Force Headquarters decided we should be used on some other missions. We made bombing missions to Pisa, Italy and Leghorn, Italy. Both of these were very uneventful. When the group had been in North Africa the first time, a very successful bombing mission to Wiener Neustadt, Austria had been made. The next one was a different story.

The 1 October 1943 mission to bomb the Messerschmitt factory at Wiener Neustadt, Austria was a very costly mission for the 44th Bomb Group. Six planes were shot down. My plane, "Miss Emmy Lou," was wrecked at Catania, Sicily, as I will discuss in the next paragraph. "Earthquake," piloted by my good friend, Bill Aldridge, was forced to crash land at Bari, Italy and "Earthquake" was destroyed. I also lost several good friends. William Newbold, who had been our original navigator, and Henry Zwicker, who had been our original bombardier, were on a plane that was in the same formation that I was in and were shot down. Newbold became a POW and Zwicker was killed. A very good friend and fellow pilot, Stanley Olson, was killed and another, Tom Hobson, became a POW.

As we got out of the target area, the fighter attacks ceased. We were able to see that a number of 44th planes were no longer with us. We had one seriously wounded waist window gunner. He was a substitute crew member as our regular one had been put in jail in Tunis the night before. We could see that we were losing fuel from our wing tanks and the hydraulic system had been shot out. As we came abeam the heel of Italy, it became apparent that we would not make it across the

Mediterranean. Our emergency information document indicated there was an emergency airfield at Catania, Sicily, so we headed for it. As we approached Catania, I contacted the tower and told them we were approaching and had to make an emergency landing and we would have no brakes, a wounded man aboard, and we would have to land immediately due to fuel shortage.

Loy (Potsy) Neeper, flight engineer, cranked the main landing gear down manually and pushed the nose wheel out through its doors. He told me that he had checked the flap cables out on the wings and that one of them had been shot through but he thought we could still lower half flaps. We put down half flaps, but when we were at about three hundred feet, Jack Tenney, co-pilot, and I both had to turn the control wheel full right. We hit the runway that way in a skid but managed to stay on the runway. We knew we were not going to be able to stop, and told the tower so. We could not turn off the runway, as B-25 aircraft were lined up alongside the runway on one side and on the other there was a solid row of fifty-five gallon drums. We were still rolling pretty well when we got to the end of the runway, and in a very short distance ran into a sand embankment. As we hit it, the nose wheel collapsed and the nose of the plane was crushed almost all the way back to the windshield. We had no difficulty getting out of the plane immediately. There was no fire. The gunners got the wounded one out.

Catania Airfield was a very primitive base that had been set up during the Sicilian Campaign. There were no buildings; just tents. We were told that they had no way to get us back to our base. We were assigned tents and given cots, a blanket, and a mosquito net. Our wounded gunner was taken to a hospital someplace and we never saw him again, but I know he survived the war. Jack Tenney and I kept after the commander and his staff to find us a way to get to Tunis. We had no luck on the afternoon of our landing or on the next day, although we did see C-47 aircraft coming and going. But then on our second evening there I went into the tent that served as an officers' mess and I saw at the bar a fellow that I had known in high school, Jim McColl. I learned he was a C-47 pilot that was engaged in hauling fifty-five gallon drums of gasoline from some base in North Africa across to Catania. I asked him if he could give us a ride across the Mediterranean Sea to our base at Oudna Number One. He readily agreed to do so that next day.

So in the morning, the 4th of October,

we got on Jim McColl's C-47. It had a load of empty fifty-five gallon drums on it. We took off and headed out across the Mediterranean. The weather continued to worsen, and all of a sudden we were in a thunderstorm and getting bounced around very severely. Then some of the drums broke loose and we struggled to re-tie them down. Jim turned around and we went back to Catania. Jim said we would wait until the next day to try again. We did, and the flight across the sea to Oudna Number One was uneventful.

When we got there we found out that the 44th had departed and gone back to England. Only a very few 44th ground personnel had been left on the base to clean things up. Our tent was still standing and the foot locker that I had been issued to keep my things in was there but it had been stripped of everything. Fortunately I had not taken a lot of personal items with me when we left Shipdham. But all the clothing I had was the flight suit I was wearing. I realized that I had to get our crew home to Shipdham and that we would have to get to Marrakech where we could get a MATS flight to England, but I was told there was nothing available to take us to Marrakech. But fortunately, my friend Jim McColl had not left, and he agreed to take us as far as Algiers. This was typical of Jim. He was a very carefree guy, always willing to help someone. In this case he said his parent organization didn't know where he was anyway.

We flew to Algiers. When we got there we were told that there was no airlift available to take us to Marrakech but there might be something at Oran. So Jim flew us to Oran. He said he just could not go any farther, that he better get back to his unit, so he left us at Oran. The next day we were fortunate to get a MATS flight to Marrakech. The second day there, we were able to get on a MATS C-54 to Prestwick, Scotland.

At Prestwick we were given travel vouchers for trains to Norwich via London. We arrived in Norwich late in the evening. A truck was sent from Shipdham every evening to carry personnel to Norwich for an evening of relaxation. The truck always left Norwich at 11 p.m. for the return to Shipdham. We got on that truck and finally got back to Shipdham. When I went into the 67th Squadron orderly room, the man on duty was very surprised to see us and said he had to get the squadron commander, Bill Cameron, right away and tell him we were home. I convinced him to wait until morning and that I would see the commander then. He was very glad to see us. He knew that we had

(continued on next page)

World War II vet gets to fly B-24 as he did in war

BY RUTH SHEEHAN • REPRINTED FROM THE RALEIGH (NC) NEWS & OBSERVER
SUBMITTED BY MARIE WHITTAKER

BURLINGTON — Charlie Taylor's hands, wrinkled and mottled, grasped the wheel firmly.

In his eyes was a look of fierce concentration.

On his face: a beatific smile.

Taylor, 88, a World War II pilot who flew 36 missions in a B-24, took the controls of a restored bomber in the sky over Alamance County on a recent afternoon. It was his first time in 64 years.

Taylor got to climb into the co-pilot's seat after his children and stepchildren chipped in to buy him a sponsorship of the plane through the Collings Foundation.

The plane, known as the Liberator, was all but forgotten by Hollywood, which pictured World War II as being fought by the smaller, sleeker B-17 Flying Fortress, a more photogenic bomber.

In fact, though, far more B-24s than B-17s filled the air during World War II. They carried more bombs and were involved in some of the war's deadliest raids, most notably the near-suicide attacks on the oil refineries of Ploesti, Romania.

Few still exist. According to the Collings Foundation, their B-24 is the only one still flying.

"Most were melted down into toasters and cars," said Hunter Chaney, the marketing director of the nonprofit foundation, which is dedicated to preserving planes and history.

The B-24 was rescued by Collings from an airplane boneyard in India. Thanks to the encouragement and donations of a group of World War II veterans, the foundation restored it to flying status in 1989. Since then, the Liberator, as well as a B-17 and a P-51, have toured the nation, drawing crowds at small airports and luring aviation buffs into the air for \$425 for a 30-minute ride.

On the planes, all the equipment, save for a modern GPS, is original. So is the ear-splitting breeze that blasts through the thin, aluminum fuselage, and the cloying fragrance of engine oil and aviation-grade gasoline.

The goal is not just to let a dwindling population of veterans relive the past, but also to bring their war stories alive for their descendants. Taylor's son, two grandchildren, and three great-grandsons joined him on the 45-minute flight from Burlington to Fayetteville.

Taylor's great-grandsons — 13-year-old David Chappell and 11-year-old twins Justin and Andrew Scott — climbed like



Charles Taylor, 88, sits inside the B-24 at the Burlington-Alamance Regional Airport in Burlington, North Carolina before a 45-minute flight to Fayetteville. AP PHOTO

monkeys in the tight confines of the B-24, peering out of the nose turret, wielding massive deactivated machine guns in the waist gunner's open-air portals.

Taylor's granddaughter, Karen Bass, snapped photos of her grandfather at the controls.

Taylor, although thrilled with the flight, wasn't fully satisfied with his performance. He had trouble keeping the plane on a smooth, steady course. Then again, he was accustomed to being the pilot, sitting in the left seat of the cockpit, rather than on the right as the co-pilot.

"It never did feel right having the throttle on the left," Taylor said, shaking

his head.

When gas began to leak from a loose fuel cap and spray over the right wing, forcing the plane to turn back, Taylor just shook his head in exasperation.

"That happened to me several times!" he said, as if this were a design flaw that he had noticed over the past several months rather than eleven presidencies ago.

The Liberator landed in Burlington for a quick fix of the fuel cap before completing the trip to Fayetteville. For Taylor, the fuel leak meant only more time in the air, and at the controls.

"If I died right here today," he said, "I'd die a happy man." ■

44TH NEWS (continued from page 9)

survived the Wiener Neustadt mission but did not know where we had been.

There is a sequel to this story. In 1947 I received orders sending me to Castle Air Force Base in Merced, California. The 93rd Bomb Group with its B-29s had just been transferred there from MacDill AFB in Florida. I was assigned to a new squadron of the 93rd, and much to my surprise, Jim McColl, the man who had rescued our crew from Catania Airfield in Sicily, was also being assigned to that squadron. We had a lot of experiences together for the next two and a half years. Later I was assigned as the Operations Inspector in the Inspector General Division of 15th Air Force Headquarters at March AFB in California.

I managed to get Jim McColl assigned to the headquarters as Chief of the B-29 Standardization Team so we were together again for a time. Then in 1966 I was assigned as Commander of the 320th Bomb Wing at Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA, and much to my surprise found that my great friend Jim McColl was retired in Sacramento. Again, we had some good times together and stayed in contact for several years until Jim passed away. ■

Three Generations Participate in Veterans' Research Study at 2ADA Convention

BY PAULETTE R. HEBERT, Ph.D.

At the 61st Annual Convention of the Second Air Division Association, Richard (Dick) Robert was accompanied by his wife, Gwen; his daughter, Dr. Paulette Robert Hebert; and his granddaughter, Bridgette Hebert. Both his daughter and granddaughter currently live in Stillwater, Oklahoma and are affiliated with Oklahoma State University. Dr. Hebert is a Professor in the Department of Design, Housing and Merchandising (Interior Design Program) and Ms. Hebert is a graduate student in Human Development Family Science with an emphasis area in Gerontology. They, along with OSU colleague, Dr. Jan Johnston, Assistant Professor in Human Development Family Science and a Gerontology Institute faculty member, traveled to Grapevine, Texas to conduct a study with the veterans at the Gaylord-Texan Hotel.

The researchers were interested in studying veterans' home satisfaction. They developed a proposal that was approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). They also were given permission by Charles Walker, 2ADA Convention Chairman, to conduct the study during the convention. The mother and daughter team thought that this would be a great way to connect with their father/grandfather and his legacy and to learn more about him and his peers. They, along with Dr. Johnston, also thought that the 2ADA convention would be a great site to conduct research in their areas of expertise.

Their study was administered in three parts: questionnaires, interviews, and memory sketches. In the questionnaires, veterans were asked about their current home, with several questions focused on natural and artificial lighting. Lighting is Dr. Hebert's main area of expertise, and the survey's results are anticipated to fill a gap in the current lighting literature. Simultaneously, interviews and memory drawings were conducted. The interviews were intended as a "bridge" between the questionnaire and the drawing, allowing for spontaneous remarks. They were conducted with selected veterans by Dr. Johnston and Bridgette Hebert. Individually, veterans met with Dr. Johnston or Ms. Hebert in a private room off of the main lobby. The interviews were tape-recorded. The memory drawings consisted of sketches produced by the veterans of their WWII living quarters and surrounding areas. Some veterans, includ-

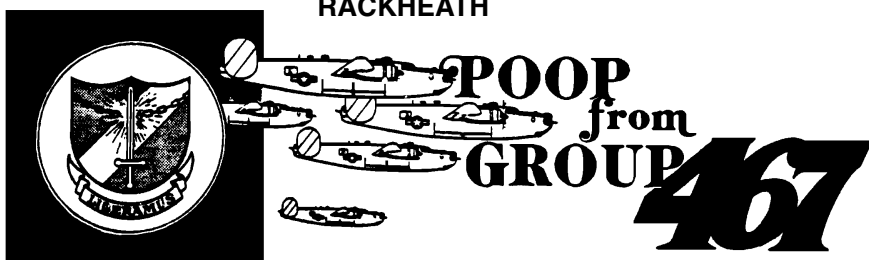


Three Generations (L-R): Bridgette Hebert, Richard (Dick) Robert, Paulette Hebert

ing Richard Robert, participated in all three parts of the study.

Data was successfully gathered from the veterans in all three parts of the study. They were very generous in sharing their memories and insights. Currently, the researchers are in the process of reviewing

and coding the data. The researchers would like to express their appreciation to Richard Robert, Charles Walker, and the 2ADA for allowing them to conduct their research during the convention. We appreciate all of the memories that the veterans have shared. ■



BY WALTER J. MUNDY

This will be my last report as Group Vice President. I have notified Ralph Davis that I can no longer serve, due to the ill health of Ruth and my recent knee replacement and other infirmities that occur with old age. I have fond memories of serving and working with the membership of the Second Air Division Association.

The 467th Bomb Group reunion will be held in Savannah, Georgia, the first week of November at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Detailed information will be in the Group Newsletter.

The Mighty 8th Museum's new Second Air Division Exhibit with *Fightin' Sam* will be completed by the time of our visit — except for the interactive bomb display as a unique feature of *Fightin' Sam*. The work to complete the Second Air Division Exhibit has unfortunately been delayed due to the economic crisis, and at this time no completion date can be set with any certainty. I will try to report on the progress when such information becomes available.

My very best wishes for the Executive Committee and the 2ADA membership. ■

KETTERINGHAM HALL DIVISION HQ

A Visit to Ketteringham Hall,
12 November 2008

BY EILEEN WALLACE

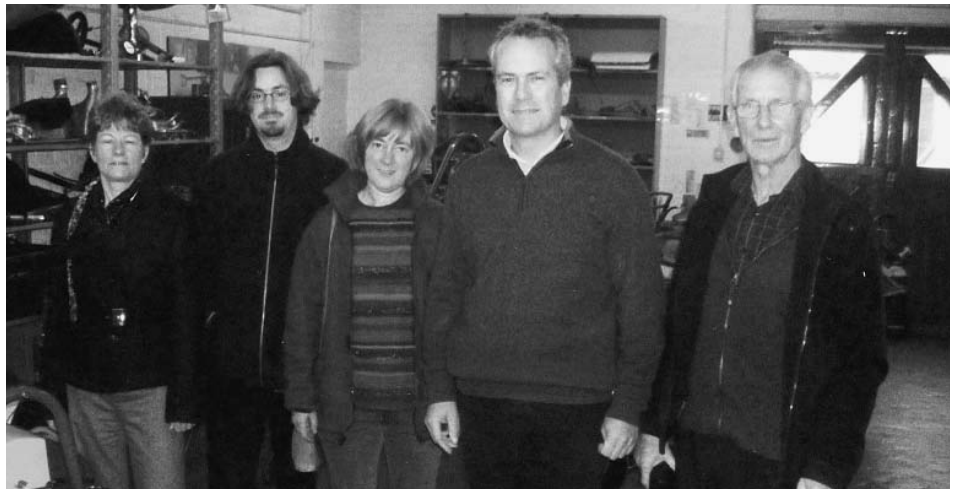
Trust Librarian Libby Morgan, Tom McKeown, and myself (library staff) were fortunate to have a guided tour of Ketteringham Hall recently. Having previously been based at Horsham St Faith, the Hall was the headquarters of the Second Air Division from December 1943 until their departure in June 1945.

Only a few miles from the centre of Norwich, the Hall is set in peaceful landscaped parkland and is adjacent to the site of the Hethel airfield, where the 389th BG was based. The owners of the park can be traced back before the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the Hall was originally built in the Tudor period. The Hall was requisitioned from the Boolean family whose forbears had purchased the house and park in 1836 and who then made extensive alterations, also in the Tudor style. Though some of the family refused to move out and continued to live in part of the house, the interior was remodeled for use as the Operations HQ and Nissen huts and other buildings comprising a small village were constructed on the grounds, most under cover of the parkland trees. During a visit by veterans in 1987, one reminisced that she saw two shows by James Cagney in the Nissen hut known as the 'opry house'. The Chapel, which the Boolean family built in 1840, was used as the operations room and a mezzanine floor was constructed to allow officers an overall view of a larger operations map.

Returned to the Boolean family after the war, the estate was sold to the Duke of Westminster (one of the richest men in the UK and leaseholder of the U.S. Embassy in London) in 1948 and was first used as a school, and in 1968 it was leased to and later purchased by Lotus. This successful sports car and racing team company had moved from London to the former airfield at Hethel two years earlier, and until relatively recently used the Hall as offices and the outbuildings as workshops. The Hall is now leased as office space to other businesses and the team was privileged to have access to the communal



Above: Ketteringham Hall. Below: Eileen Wallace, Tom McKeown, Libby Morgan, Clive Chapman, and Bob Dance at Classic Team Lotus.



parts of the building.

The picture of a quiet rural setting is hard to reconcile with the amount of wartime activity with heavy trucks and Jeeps maneuvering around the narrow country lanes. The peaceful setting isn't quite what it seems, though. The former Hethel airfield is still used by Lotus cars and the runways form part of the sports car test track. Across the road, the former Hethel airbase administration buildings are the base of Classic Team Lotus, run by Clive

Chapman, son of the late Colin Chapman, founder of Lotus Cars and Team Lotus. Clive showed us around the workshops where his team restores and maintains classic Lotus cars for enthusiasts and their own collection of Formula 1 racing cars including Mario Andretti's Lotus type 77, which won the Japanese F1 Grand Prix in 1976.

Thanks to Bob Dance and the Chapman family for allowing us access and providing a fascinating guided tour. ■

2AD Photo Intelligence Veteran Dies

Harold L. "Mack" McCormick died March 28, 2009, in Cañon City, Colorado. He was born May 16, 1918, in Florence to Benjamin and Anna McCormick. He graduated from Cañon City High School in 1936 and the University of Denver in 1940.

Mack married Jeanne Elaine Rolfes on January 8, 1941, and enlisted in the Army in 1942. He did photo intelligence as part of the 2nd Air Division on missions over both Germany and France. After the war, Mack earned the rank of Colonel in the Air Force Reserves and retired after 30 years of service. He was a liaison officer for the Air Force Academy, and helped many young people from the Fremont County area to pursue their interests in a military career.

Following his family's tradition in show business, he managed a number of movie theaters across Colorado and New Mexico, including the Skyline Theater in Cañon City. In 1960, he first ran for public office and served ten years in the Colorado House of Representatives and 18 years in the Senate. He was instrumental in Colorado water law and later served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate. ■



A “New Look” to your Memorial Library

BY JENNY CHRISTIAN, TRUST LIBRARY MANAGER

Those of you at the Dallas convention will no doubt recall our Trust Librarian Libby Morgan and Board of Governors Chairman Matthew Martin sharing plans with you about the new enquiry desk due to be installed in your Memorial Library in early December.

I am delighted to report that the desk is now in place and we are enjoying the numerous compliments from both patrons and colleagues. The room has a more “light and open” feel whilst retaining a welcoming ambience. You may notice from the photograph the absence of the brushed steel memorial panel bearing the text written by Pericles that was on the front of the old desk. We are waiting for the panel to be reinstated shortly.

The generosity of the family and friends of Geoff Gregory have made all this possible. I’m sure you will agree from the photograph that it would have had Geoff’s approval and is a fitting tribute to his memory. ■



Memorial Library Staff at the new enquiry desk. Seated: Tom McKeown and Lesley Fleetwood. Standing: Jenny Christian (left) and Libby Morgan.

Working with Children and Young People

BY LIBBY MORGAN, TRUST LIBRARIAN



Beth’s work, and some of the events she has organized on behalf of the Memorial Library:

Saturday 17th January: “So you want to be president?” an American-themed stories and activities event for children aged 8 and under, in the Children’s Library at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library. This was timed to coincide with President Obama’s inauguration.

Thursday 5th March was World Book Day, and Sarah Beth

Sarah Beth Nelson is a children’s librarian from the USA — in Norwich until May 2009, with her husband who is studying law at the University of East Anglia. She contacted the Memorial Library last year volunteering to work in the library. She has been working with us this year to help us develop and deliver services to children and young people, and I thought you might like to hear about some of Sarah

visited Long Stratton Library (one of our “Wing Collection” libraries), where she hosted three classes of children from local junior schools, entertaining them with stories by American authors. During the day Sarah Beth met with over 80 children!

17th – 20th March: Three classes of 8 & 9 year olds from a local Norwich junior school visited the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library. They were particularly interested in learning about “planes” and “airports,” “instructions” and “connections,” and each group of children spent thirty minutes in the Memorial Library, finding out about the history of the 2nd Air Division in World War II, what planes they flew, watching a short film we have about the B-24, and then making their own (paper) airplanes and giving them a “test flight.” Sarah Beth hosted these visits, and 90 children visited the Memorial Library over the three days.

Monday 6th April: We’re planning to host an afternoon activity in the Memorial Library during the Easter school holidays called “Flights of Fancy” for 8 to 11 year olds. This will be a fun craft-based session, giving children the chance to design their own assembly ship markings, to create their own nose art, and to make and test out various designs of paper airplanes.

Saturday 18th April will see Sarah Beth at Dereham Library (another of our “Wing Collection” libraries) telling American-themed stories. This is the start of an “American Week” that Dereham Library is holding, as part of the local Abraham Lincoln Bicentenary Celebrations. Swanton Morley (a small village close to Dereham) has links with the Lincoln family and the local parish

(continued on next page)

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE POND (continued from page 13)

church has organized a year-long Lincoln Festival to celebrate their American links. In addition the Memorial Library is supporting Dereham Library by giving them an "American Classics" book collection of adult and children's fiction, and a special collection of non-fiction titles on short-term loan. We're also hosting a film evening for them during that week — showing films from our collection featuring the 2nd Air Division.

Sarah Beth has also been working on putting together a presentation for junior school aged children about the "Americans in Norwich during World War II." And she has also helped us to create a collection of children's storybooks for us to use with younger aged children. I haven't had time to read them all, but so far my two favorite books are *Duck for President* by Doreen Cronin, and *The Scrambled States of America* by Laurie Keller.

On behalf of the Memorial Library I'd like to thank Sarah Beth for all her hard work over the last few months, we'll miss her when she returns to America at the beginning of June.

It isn't only Sarah Beth that has contributed to the work that the Memorial Library does with children and young people. We have had a growing number of schools visiting the Library since January — and all the staff contribute to the success of these visits, by talking to the children about the history of the 2nd Air

Division in East Anglia during World War II, and ensuring that relevant memorabilia, artifacts and photographs from our collection are displayed for them to look at.

On 26th February we hosted a visit by the 15th Norwich Air Scouts, and this was part of the e-mail sent thanking us for organizing the visit:

"Following a conversation with Simon (our other leader) on the way home, the visit may lead to the possibility of a larger project inspired by the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library. We have several camps for the scouts during the year and we are always looking for themes, and Friday's visit got my cogs turning about maybe having a U.S. airmen/1940's themed camp."

It's good to know that we may be helping to inspire future generations of pilots and aircrew.

And finally, I thought you might be interested in some good news about the library in which the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library is located. Your memorial couldn't be in a better place:

"For the second year running, the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library is Britain's most popular library, according to a national library survey. In 2007/8 the Millennium Library issued more items and attracted more visitors than any other library in the country, retaining its title as the UK's most popular library from the previous year." ■

Reading Across the Pond

BY MEGHAN PURVIS, UEA AMERICAN SCHOLAR

Being an American living outside the U.S. has made me an automatic expert on some things: regional accents, the intricacies of the Electoral College, Mexican food. Only recently, though, have I turned my newly-authoritative eye to American literature, and I have to say it's definitely been a eye-opening experience. Challenging, at times frustrating, but ultimately I think one of the most rewarding aspects of working at the Memorial Library.

One of the first proposals for the UEA American Scholar was the formation of a book group reading American fiction, and given my background in literature, it was a project I was excited to take on. The first step was to print up a flyer advertising for members. After a few back-and-forths with the publicity department, we had a flyer we were happy with. We posted it up throughout the library, we had it on the plasma screen at the entrance, we put notices in library bulletins and on the website announcing our new book group, and I made up a dandy little sign-up list at the desk for all our new members. And we waited. And waited. By this point it was nearing Christmas. I went back to California for the holidays, and I returned to find two names on the sign-up sheet. One of them was a librarian who does cover work in the Memorial Library and, I suspect, felt sorry for me. Things were not looking good. I was starting to think, *Well, at least we made a go of it, even if it didn't work out*, when . . . e-mails and phone calls and names started to come in. Not just come in, but *flow* in. In about five days, we went from a grand total of three people (three counting me, of course) to a full group of fifteen, with a healthy waiting list of would-be members! I'm still not sure what the tipping point was — I like to think it was my poignant arrangement of our new book section, or perhaps the simple eloquence of our flyer explaining the new process for obtaining visa waivers when traveling to the U.S. — but then again, I may be a little biased. In any case, as of my writing this, "Reading Across the Pond" is off to a sprinting start.

And after having gotten to know the members a little, I couldn't think of a better composition of people for a book group — or any group! At the first meeting we took turns introducing ourselves and explaining why we were interested in American literature, and answers were all over the map. There's a younger woman studying literature at UEA who was interested in discussing

books in a less formal setting, and several women from around Norfolk interested in learning more about American fiction. There are two married couples attending — one of which has lived in Israel and done work translating English novels into Hebrew — as well as an older Scottish gentleman who moved to Norwich to be closer to his grandchildren and, incidentally, is a veteran of World War II himself. There are also two other Americans in the group, both women who moved to England during the early- and mid-sixties and stayed here.

I've described the group because I think its diversity — of age, of background, of experience — is part of why the book club has been so immediately vibrant. Our first selection was John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men*. Calling the meeting to order, I had a backup list in my head of discussion questions, just in case people were shy, but within seconds of the meeting starting, I realized I had nothing to worry about. Everyone had something to contribute: one woman had vacationed in California and could describe the location of the novel to the rest of the group; another man had been particularly curious about the ranch work in the novel and came having researched the terms and background for the rest of us. It also took one woman asking a question about a word she thought must refer to some type of ant for the Americans of the group to realize that "yellowjacket" hadn't made it across the Atlantic!

But I think that even more than the things people had to say, what has made me happiest and proudest was the way people said them. The book club has gone from a collection of disparate individuals to a real group in about half a meeting — by far the most common opener to a comment was something like "What did we think of..." or "How did everyone react to..." People have their own views, but they're curious — eager, even — to find out how someone different from them has viewed the same story. One of the aims of starting "Reading Across the Pond" was to expose people to American literature who might not have had a chance to read much of it before, but it seems what it's really doing is even more central to the Memorial Library's purpose: fostering connections and understanding between British and American readers. The fact that I routinely have to herd people towards the door at the end of meetings because they're so busy continuing discussions can only be more evidence of this. Unpacking great American novels, promoting diplomacy, strengthening ties between Great Britain and the United States — not a bad job for a Tuesday evening, I think! ■

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION 62nd ANNUAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2009
THE WESTIN O'HARE – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Thursday, September 3

3:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
6:00pm - Hospitality Room Open for duration of Reunion
6:00pm - Sub-Group Hospitality Rooms open for duration of Reunion

Friday, September 4

11:30am - 12:00pm Reunion Registration Open
12:45pm - 4:15pm CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL CRUISE (*see description on page 18*)
4:30pm - 5:30pm Reunion Registration Open.
Additional hours will be posted at the reunion, if necessary.
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party- Cash Bar
7:00pm - 9:00pm Dinner

Saturday, September 5

7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast
9:00am - 10:30am Business Meeting
10:45am - 11:45am Heritage League Meeting
12:15pm - 5:15pm MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY (*see description on page 18*)
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party- Cash Bar
7:00pm - Dinner
A new Joe Dzenowagis film will be shown following dinner.

Sunday, September 6

7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast
9:30am - 4:00pm CITY TOUR (*see description on page 18*)
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party- Cash Bar
7:00pm - 9:00pm Banquet and Ceremony Honoring all Past Presidents

Monday, September 7

7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast
Farewells and Departures

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD!
www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION – HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

**THE WESTIN O'HARE – ROSEMONT, IL
888-627-8517**

The Westin O'Hare is located at 6100 River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018. The hotel is just 3 miles away from the Chicago O'Hare International Airport. The hotel is only five blocks from the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center (formerly Rosemont Convention Center), Allstate Arena, Rosemont Theatre, and the Blue Line "EL" train providing service to downtown Chicago. Contact the hotel for accurate driving directions.

The hotel has 525 accommodating guestrooms and suites. Handicapped and non-smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your hotel reservations. Each room features complimentary High Speed Internet access, complimentary HBO, radio/alarm clock, hairdryer, and iron/ironing board. Guest may also enjoy access to the indoor heated pool, sundeck (seasonal), and the Westin WORKOUT® Gym. Parking at the hotel for registered guests will be \$15 per day. Check-in is at 3:00pm and check-out is at 12 noon.

The Benchmark Restaurant, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving continental cuisine with a mesquite flair. **The Bakery Café**, open for breakfast/brunch, serves your favorite Starbucks coffee and pastries. 24-hour room service is also available.

The Westin O'Hare provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the Chicago O'Hare International Airport. It leaves the hotel approximately every 20 minutes. After retrieving your luggage from baggage claim, proceed to the Bus/Shuttle Center – which is (1) floor beneath the baggage claim area. Follow the red arrows to the Bus/Shuttle Center and then proceed to Door #3. The hotel vans are green & white.

The hotel has parking for guests staying at the hotel with RV's. Should electrical hookups be required, please call Chicago Northwest KOA RV Park at (800) 562-2827 or (815) 923-4206. The park is located at 8404 S Union Rd, Union, IL 60180, which is approximately 42 miles away from the hotel. Call the park for information, directions, and reservations.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at (888) 441-7575.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

-----CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL -----

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION - HOTEL RESERVATIONS REUNION: SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2009

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NUMBER (_____) _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEP. DATE _____

_____ # OF ROOMS NEEDED _____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS
_____ SMOKING _____ NON-SMOKING _____ KING BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS

In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$99 + tax (currently 13%) Rate will be offered 3 days before and 1 day after reunion dates, based on availability.

CUT OFF DATE: 07/30/09. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled 24 hours prior to your date of arrival.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

**MAIL TO: THE WESTIN O'HARE, 6100 RIVER ROAD, ROSEMONT, IL 60018 OR FAX: 847-698-5483
ATTN: RESERVATIONS**

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION – ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order or register online at www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Checks returned for insufficient funds will be charged a \$20 fee. All registration forms and payments must be received on or before July 30, 2009. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. All new registrations accepted at the reunion will be charged a \$10 onsite processing fee. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: 2nd AIR DIVISION

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 7/30/2009		Price Per Person	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION PACKAGE				
Includes Breakfast on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Dinner on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Hospitality Room, entertainment, administrative and other reunion expenses. Please select your entrée choice(s) for the banquet on Sunday:		Package Price		
PRIME RIB		\$ 276		\$
SALMON		\$ 276		\$
TOURS				
FRIDAY: CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL CRUISE		\$ 58		\$
SATURDAY: MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY		\$ 45		\$
SUNDAY: CITY TOUR		\$ 45		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.				\$

Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

FIRST _____ LAST _____ BOMB GROUP _____

SPOUSE AND GUEST NAMES _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ CITY, ST, ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES ☐ NO ☐ ARE YOU FLYING? ☐ DRIVING? ☐ RV? ☐

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD!

www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Tour Descriptions

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL CRUISE

Friday, September 4

Chicago has one of the most identifiable skylines in the world. Marvel at Chicago's soaring towers while enjoying a 90-minute, narrated river cruise. This tour spotlights more than 40 architecturally significant sites where you will discover a new perspective on the city including the Trump Tower, Merchandise Mart, 333 W. Wacker, the Wrigley Building, the Tribune Tower, the Sears Tower, River City, and Marina City. Witness the construction of the Chicago Spire, an ethereal 2,000-foot tower by renowned Spanish architect Santiago Caltrava. When it is completed in 2010, The Spire will be the tallest structure in North America and the loftiest residential building anywhere. Professional guides will recount the dramatic story of Chicago's rise from the Great Fire of 1871 to become the home of the skyscraper and the cradle of modern American architecture. Complimentary Starbucks Coffee, soft drinks and fresh-baked muffins or cookies are provided on board the boat.

12:45pm board bus, 4:15pm back at hotel

\$58/Person includes bus, guide, and cruise.

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY

Saturday, September 5

Enjoy a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry. Arrive at the museum and begin your adventure in Chicago's world famous and original hands-on museum. Explore the depths aboard a real German sub captured during WWII, or take to the skies aboard an actual 747-passenger jet that was rebuilt inside the museum. Stroll down "Yesterday's Main Street" to learn how technology has changed our lives. Don't miss "Colleen Moore's Fairy Castle," now in its 60th year of sharing its collection of precious miniatures. There's something for everyone at the Museum – and that goes for appetites, too! The museum includes a food court and an old fashioned ice cream parlor. Following lunch, gather outside the theater entrance. If you wish to purchase tickets you may view the featured Omnimax presentation shown on the theater's five-story tall screen. The action is so real you will feel a part of it!

12:15pm board bus, 5:15pm back at hotel

\$45/Person includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch and Omnimax on your own.

CITY TOUR

Sunday, September 6

Begin your driving tour of Chicago with some of its most well-known landmarks. Take in Wrigley Field, Lincoln Park, Lake Shore Drive, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the famous "Loop," Chicago's Financial District. Enjoy lunch on your own at Navy Pier which offers a food court for a quick bite or restaurant dining. Restaurants include Joe's Be-Bop Café, Billy Goat Tavern, Capi's Italian Kitchen, and the famous Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. After lunch, enjoy the beautiful scenery and the boats as you browse in the many retail shops the Pier has to offer. Following lunch and shopping, continue the city tour. Learn the history of Sears Tower, one of the world's tallest buildings, and drive past the world's famous architecture including the Trump Tower. Hear about the Great Chicago Fire, how the Chicago River runs backward, and the City's 2016 Olympic Bid.

9:30am board bus, 4:00pm back at hotel

\$45/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch is not included.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.

All tours require a minimum of thirty people.



SEETHING

The 448th Speaks

BY KING SCHULTZ

FOLDED WINGS OF THE 448TH

Harry G. Holmberg (1-1-09), Forest Park, Illinois
J.R. Moore

SEETHING

Pat and Ron Everson report that the Seething Control Tower is looking in great shape, and also that there are some new display cases for people to see. They are not getting many new items for display; therefore this is your opportunity to send them some items for this purpose. They also report that the Seething local historic thatched village school is to be replaced on the same site by a new building. The original building is to be turned into a private dwelling.

RALPH WELSH BOOK — WOW!!!

The Ralph Welsh book covered in the last *Journal* has now been released. The table of contents in the last *Journal* does not provide the full impact. As I read the book's 400 pages, the reality caught up to me — namely that each item in the table of contents probably averages two full pages; in other words, some longer, some shorter. As I read, those that involved the 448th became highly significant to me. Many of these were missions I was on,



Seething Control Tower Museum, 2009

but have another perspective, mainly the involvement of one or more crews that had significant difficulties. Also very interesting were many of the narratives of particular crews from other bomb groups, about a mission I was on, but I was unaware of what had happened to them. You can learn a great deal of what occurred when you were participating in the same mission but you never knew about it before. In summation, for anyone who flew combat with the 2nd Air Division, you will find write-ups of major events during missions you were on.

To procure a copy of this book, contact Ralph Welsh, 1525A Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115, phone 415-440-3808. The price is \$19.95 plus \$5 postage and handling. ■

HALESWORTH

489TH NOTES

Emilio "Mel" Pontillo, 87



Mel Pontillo, 489th Group Vice President for the past five years, died on April 7th, his son Tim has advised. Mel had been diagnosed last fall as having pancreatic cancer. Though he was obviously not well, he attended both the Second Air Division Association convention and the 489th BG reunion, held a week apart in Texas in October. Mel's wife, Marcie, died in May 2003.

Mel was the flight engineer on Bud Chamberlain's crew in the 846th Squadron. Funeral arrangements were incomplete as of this writing. Condolences may be sent to the Simpson Funeral Home, 1119 Washington Ave., Monaca, PA 15061, or to the website: www.simpsonfuneralhome.com.

SYNOPSIS OF THE 489TH BG

The following information is reprinted from Official History of Air Force Combat Units of World War II:

Constituted as 489th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 14 September 1943. Activated on 1 October 1943. Trained with B-24s. Moved to England, April-May 1944, and assigned to Eighth AF. Entered combat on 30 May 1944, and during the next few days concentrated on targets in France in preparation for the Normandy invasion. In an attack against coastal defenses near Wimereaux on 5 June 1944, the group's lead plane was seriously crippled by enemy fire, its pilot was killed, and the deputy group commander, Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance, Jr., who was commanding the formation, was severely wounded; although his right foot was practically severed, Vance took control of the plane, led the group to a successful bombing of the target, and managed to fly the damaged aircraft to the coast of England where he ordered the crew to bail out; believing a wounded man had been unable to jump, he ditched the plane in the Channel and was rescued. For his action during this mission, Vance was awarded the Medal of Honor. The group supported the landings in Normandy

on 6 June 1944, and afterward bombed coastal defenses, airfields, bridges, railroads, and V-weapon sites in the campaign for France. Began flying missions into Germany in July, and engaged primarily in bombing strategic targets such as factories, oil refineries and storage plants, marshalling yards, and airfields in Ludwigshafen, Magdeburg, Brunswick, Saarbrücken, and other cities until November 1944. Other operations included participating in the saturation bombing of German lines just before the breakthrough at St. Lo in July, dropping food to the liberated French and to Allied forces in France during August and September, and carrying food and ammunition to Holland later in September. Returned to the U.S., November – December 1944, to prepare for redeployment to the Pacific Theater. Redesignated 489th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) in March 1945. Equipped with B-29s. Alerted for movement overseas in the summer of 1945, but the war with Japan ended before the group left the United States. Inactivated on 17 October 1945.

SQUADRONS

844th: 1943-1945. 845th: 1943-1945.

846th: 1943-1945. 847th: 1943-1945.

(continued on page 21)

YOUR HERITAGE LEAGUE

BY BRIAN H. MAHONEY, Heritage League President

What is the Heritage League? It is a *perpetual organization*, established by forward-thinking members of the Second Air Division Association in 1986, with the specific intention of *outlasting it*.

What is the purpose of the League? It is to *perpetually* honor and remember the service and sacrifices of the Second Air Division in WWII, and keep its legacy alive, instructing future generations in the timeless lessons it teaches about the high cost of freedom, and a generation which knew that price was worth paying.

What does the League do? Presently, it helps veterans and their descendants locate one another and to research Second

Air Division history. It arranges memorial wreath placements at the overseas American cemeteries holding 2AD dead or commemorating their missing. It provides (through meetings, a website and the *Heritage Herald* newsletter) forums for all interested parties to work together. It generously supports parallel efforts in England (two organizations) and the United States (several) to memorialize the Second Air Division of WWII. It welcomes veterans, their families and admirers to its membership and its conventions. It plans and prepares for the future, and actively maintains strong relationships with similar commemorating organizations. It stands

ready to take over tasks that should go on, even as the "last man out" clause dissolves its parent organization.

The League is excited to be holding its 2009 annual meeting amongst you during your 62nd convention in Chicago, over Labor Day. But *now* in preparation for what may be the last such gathering, we are coming back to you, "rank and file" members and officers alike, to ask a few things!

First, we ask you to direct your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, a well as unrelated admirers, to us as members. In the case of our long-term supporters, this might mean a fresh approach to people who have come to a mature appreciation of the historical importance of the 2ADA in WWII. Membership vice president Marybeth Dyer is at 1020 Glacier Avenue, Pacifica, CA 94044. Her email is smbdyer@sbcglobal.net. We also have a full explanation of member classes and dues, and the ability to join and pay online,

(continued on next page)

OLD BUCKENHAM



NEWS OF THE 453RD FROM FLAME LEAP

BY LLOYD W. PRANG

Wilbur D. Stites, 87



Wilbur Stites, longtime editor of the 453rd Newsletter, passed away on March 1, 2009 after a long and arduous struggle with Alzheimer's Disease.

He was assigned to the crew of William E. Lofton as a waist gunner. The crew flew 35 combat missions over Germany. On the 17th mission, their plane was severely damaged and they were forced to bail out in Belgium within four miles of enemy territory. But all made it back.



At the 61st Convention of the 2ADA in Grapevine, Texas, the 453rd managed to get a wonderful hospitality suite and it was well attended. I understand that we are going to have a complimentary "gathering" room at the Westin Hotel for our exclusive use at the convention in Rosemont (Chicago) Illinois. Hopefully we'll be able to show some of the WWII tapes that I have. Driving there makes it easier to bring this stuff. Irene and I are planning to go there on March 19 to "check things out." From what I understand, this place is quite nice. I think you will be pleased with the hotel. The dates are September

3 to 7, 2009. If you live close, driving is easy. If you're far away, the O'Hare airport is easy to get to and the hotel is only three miles away. Plus, there is a hotel shuttle for your convenience. And there is no charge for the shuttle. Time is getting short for us, guys — please make every effort to be there, and bring the "kids"!

Oh yes! Also, please let me know if you're going to be there. In the past I got this information from **Evelyn Cohen**. Evelyn isn't able to plan these things anymore, so unless you tell me, I won't know that you're going to be there. This is not good, so please tell me! Also, if your kids are coming with you, please give their names to me. In addition, I'll need to know if you're coming by car or by air. This information is important, so please do as I have requested.

Hank Barker sent us a Christmas card — and he put a Jimmy Stewart stamp on it. The card had a note that said "Sorry I missed seeing you in Dallas. The trip to Savannah in August took all my time and money. Please give my best wishes to your daughter Betty. Early in August my daughter, Margaret, drove us to Savannah for the 8th AFHS National Reunion. I represented the 453rd Bomb Group." This year I hope Hank will join us at the 2ADA convention in Chicago. Knoxville, TN and

Rosemont, IL are about the same distance as Knoxville, TN and Savannah, GA. It's an easy drive, especially if someone else is doing the driving.

Once again, please talk to your "kids" about your wartime experiences. On January 4, 2009 Wendy Skokowski found and used the 453rd website to ask for information about her father, **Russell Frost's** wartime experiences. Russ was the copilot on the **Fred Jenkins** crew, 735th Squadron. He died in March of 1988. She mentioned that they were at Old Buck from August '44 until March '45. I had information regarding two of the crew: one had died, another had asked to be removed from our mailing list in 2002. The rest either didn't know we existed or perhaps didn't care, so I had nothing regarding them. In reply she wrote: "When I read Dad's log, I am more and more impressed at the courage displayed by the soldiers and airmen. His accounts are so matter-of-fact and display little emotion, though it pops out from time to time. I would like to add my thanks to you and all the men and women who helped bring an end to this brutal war. God bless you and may you have a safe and healthy new year."

About a year ago I received a letter from **Libby Morgan**, the new Trust Librarian for the 2ADA. She told of the books that were purchased via the Book Endowment program. They are: *8th Air Force: American Heavy Bomber Groups in England 1942-45* by Gregory Pons and the *James Brown Reader: Fifty Years of Writing About the Godfather of Soul* by N. George & A. Leeds (Editors). There were also two

(continued on next page)

458th BOMB GROUP

HORSHAM ST. FAITH



BY RICK ROKICKI

As you know, the *Journal* will now be published only twice annually, declining membership and the loss of operating revenue being the cause. In conjunction with the above, let me explain our 458th membership decline. Since Ceil and I handle the 2ADA roster, we receive revisions from Evelyn Cohen generally every two weeks. These revisions show new members, address changes, “folded wings” and a “drop list” for non-payment of dues. This is the part I’m concerned with. It would appear that if a member paid his dues over these many years and his name appears on this list, one of three reasons could be the cause: moved without notifying Evelyn of his address change, now in a health care facility, or has passed away. In any case, since most of us are at least 83, the likely situation is the third reason. Jim Reeves’ letter to the editor in the Fall 2008 issue of the *Journal* shows the 458th’s average age was 86. Unless Evelyn is advised, the drop list is enforced and any name that should have been in the “folded wings” list will not be there. Therefore, it behooves any family member to contact the membership vice president of his status.

In the latest revision of the roster we received, there were 331 on this list. Of that number, the 458th had 24 names listed. Most of these were members since 1975. However, we’re in the “average” column, since the 14 bomb groups averaged 23.6 loss of member-

ship. With the Headquarters group being much smaller, it brings the average to 22.

John Curcio, a long-time member of the 458th, sent me the 2009 *Bomber Legends* calendar. The front cover shows Capt. Howard Slayton and his crew in front of “Arise My Love and Come With Me.” It was a “photo op” and happened on their way to “Little Lambsey Divey” in which they normally flew their missions. The www.bomberlegends.com website is dedicated to providing a venue for bomber crews, ground support personnel and others who preserve military aviation history.

Bud Hartzell, who many years ago helped me find most of his crew who then became members in our group, sent me the following: On a visit to his ophthalmologist’s office for a cataract removal, he noticed many photos of servicemen on the wall. When Bud asked about the photos, the doctor told him they were of the 361st Fighter Group. Bud said the 361st was in the Second Air Division in which he was a bomber group crewman. The doctor’s uncle was a fighter pilot and shot down several ME-109s. Since the 361st was one of the five fighter groups in the Second Air Division, the doctor said he would bring his 361st history book for him to borrow. Bud was surprised to read of several references and photos of the 458th, the first being where the 361st escorted our four Azon bombers in an attack on bridge targets in the Paris area in May of 1944. This was the first operational mission of the Azon crews. The 361st escorted three such missions with the 458th before the Azon project was abandoned. Later on the pre-Christmas party of this fighter group, they were a part of the 2,000 plane raid in the Bon-Trier area. From the information on the three copy pages he sent me, three pilots were mentioned as shooting down four ME-109s. However, it wasn’t clear whether the doctor’s uncle was one of the three fighter pilots, although their names were given. Now how coincidental that after more than sixty years, this would be?

It is entirely possible that the convention to be held in September in Chicago may be one of the very few left for our Association. Do your best to attend.

Spring can’t be here soon enough to suit me, since the robins have been here for weeks. ■

YOUR HERITAGE LEAGUE (continued from page 20)

at <http://www.heritageleague.org/membership.htm>.

Second, on behalf of our descendants and all in the future who will cherish and respect your great contributions to peace and justice, I ask you to give very serious thought to the official, final charge your organization would give to mine. While you are still “hale and hearty,” make known to your leaders (and to the Heritage League board) what roles and programs of the 2ADA should be handed off to the League, and what provisions should be made to endow efforts under our stewardship. We have indicated to the Trust Governors and to the 2ADA Executive Committee our willingness to perpetuate the present 2ADA seat on the Memorial Trust as a Heritage League seat, ensuring a perpetual American connection and input for the Memorial in England. If 2ADA members like this idea, *and say so now to their elected leaders*, it could become an official request from the right people to make it: the veterans of the Second Air Division, speaking through their Association to the trustees of *their* memorial. This is something *you* can make happen, which *we* can only suggest. It would have to happen *before* dissolution.

You may have other ideas along these lines; it is my duty and honor to hear them, and to carry out any that are consistent with our perpetual mission of honoring and remembering. Let us hear from you *now*. ■

489TH NOTES (continued from page 19)

STATIONS

Wendover Field, Utah, 1 October 1943 – 3 April 1944; Halesworth, England, c. 1 May – November 1944; Bradley Field, Connecticut, 12 December 1944; Lincoln AAFLd, Nebraska, c. 17 December 1944; Great Bend AAFLd, Kansas, c. 28 February 1945; Davis-Monthan Field, Arizona, 3 April 1945; Fairmont AAFLd, Nebraska, c. 13 July 1945; Ft. Lawton, Washington, 23 August 1945; March Field, California, 2 September – 17 October 1945.

COMMANDERS

Col. Ezekiel W. Napier, 20 October 1943; Lt. Col. Robert E. Kollmer, 5 Feb. 1945; Col. Paul C. Ashworth, 11 April 1945–unkn.

CAMPAIGNS

American Theater; Air Offensive, Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland. ■

NEWS OF THE 453RD (continued from page 20)

books purchased in honor of **S/Sgt. Jay Jeffries Jr.**: *Bomber Bases of WWII, 2nd Air Division 8th Air Force USAAF 1942-45 Liberator Squadrons in Norfolk and Suffolk* by Martin Bowman, and *F.W. Woolworth and the American Five and Dimes: A Social History* by Jean Maddern Pitrone. ■



BY CLARENCE LUHMANN

We are looking towards spring after a cold hard winter. Right now we are having our high school basketball tournaments. Our local girls' team lost out at the second level. Now it is time for the boys' tournament. It is a time well known for bad weather (raining and freezing). Today is March 10, 2009.

This year the 2nd Air Division Association convention will be held in Chicago, September 3-7, 2009 at the Westin O'Hare Hotel. The Second Air Division started in Chicago, and it is nice to be able to go back for the 62nd reunion. I encourage as many as possible to attend as the end is coming nearer. I hope to see many in Chicago.

In this issue we have some guest articles submitted by Linda Dewey:

Kassel Mission Pilot Receives Silver Star 63 Years after Tragic Mission

BY AARON ELSON

On Sunday, May 25, 2008, in Lakeland, Florida, Lt. Col. Paul Swofford, USAF (Ret.), was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in bringing a crippled bomber with wounded men aboard — including himself — safely back to its base in England, following the spectacular Kassel Mission air battle of September 27, 1944.

With one of the bomber's four engines shot out, a damaged hydraulic system, and a face full of glass slivers from a shattered windshield, Swofford guided his plane, *The Sweetest Rose of Texas*, to a safe landing at Tibenham. Swofford was waved off on his first approach because he was coming in on a taxiway. His engineer had to hand-crank the landing gear back up and Swofford was able to control the plane and circle the base at about 300 feet to come in for another landing.

Like many World War II veterans, Swofford, now 87, was reluctant for a long time to talk about that day or any of the other of his 35 bombing missions. He stayed in the Army Air Forces, later the U.S. Air

Force, and went on to fly B-29s and B-47s. After retiring in 1966, he taught college mathematics.

In 1999, I interviewed Swofford at his home in Lakeland, and then posted a transcript of the interview on the kasselmission.com website. Swofford's pastor, Darin Kress of the Scott Lake Baptist Church, read the interview and prodded Paul to speak to the congregation about his experiences. Swofford did, and the members of the church were deeply moved. In 2005, Swofford was able to obtain Purple Hearts for himself and for his copilot Ward Smith, which was awarded posthumously to members of Smith's family. Now the Air Force has also awarded Swofford



Major General Robert R. Allardice presents Kassel Mission pilot Paul Swofford with the Silver Star. PHOTO COURTESY USAF

the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest combat military honor, for his heroism during the notorious Kassel Mission.

The medal was presented by Air Force Major General Robert R. Allardice, Director of Strategy, Plans and Policy, Hq U.S. Central Command. Initially planned to be held at MacDill Air Force Base, the ceremony was moved to Scott Lake Baptist Church because so many family and church members wanted to attend. Swofford was one of sixteen children.

This bodes well for the 445th BG, as KMHS is now working with Senator Carl Levin, Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee, to see that all Kassel Mission participants are recognized.

Article courtesy of the Kassel Mission Historical Society, <http://www.kasselmission.com>, serving the entire 445th Bomb Group, 2nd Air Division, 8th AF.

Designing the 445th BG T-Shirt BY DAVE SHAFER

*From the Kassel Mission Chronicles,
Fall 2009 Issue*

If you let your mind wander, it will usually take you to where you want to go. This was never truer than when Linda Dewey and I set out to produce a T-shirt

for the 445th Bomb Group. The only requirement Linda requested was to incorporate a photograph of B-24s into the design. For some, that may have been a tall order, but I have all of my father's combat photography from when he piloted B-24s in the 445th.

Top priority was to create a design that I would wear. (*Sounds selfish, but from my experience, a good B-24 T-shirt is hard to find.*) As ideas swirled, one struck a chord: "Blood Chits" were used early in the war by British and U.S. air crews seeking assistance in escape or evasion after being downed behind enemy lines. The white field and graphic nature of our flag design subtly hearkens back to chits. A wartime poster helped me find a letter-



The finished T-shirts, in Savannah. RAY LEMONS PHOTO



Getting ready for our "Shirt Shot." N. KLEEMAN PHOTO

ing style of the early '40s.

Help in my search for a B-24 blueprint came from a PR person at General Dynamics. He connected me with a wonderful man in the archive at the San Diego Air & Space Museum, who sent me drawings suitable for this project. I felt the drafting illustration would lend a sense of significance and balance the artwork.

So, by being involved and passionate with what "My Heroes" — Dad and his crewmates — did by flying that big, beautiful B-24, this "next-generation" son has met more heroes and wonderful people than I could have imagined.

A German's Response to the KMHS Website

The following was posted on the website of the Kassel Mission Historical Society. The Society sent it on, believing it is of interest to the entire 2nd Air Division.

By accident I saw the Kassel Mission website (www.kasselmission.com) while looking for a company in Kassel. Although I was born in El Paso, Texas, I was raised in Germany as a typical army child. After my parents divorced, my mother, who is German, and I stayed. I became a German citizen.

I live near Mannheim, like Kassel an industrial city hit badly during World War II. Like the story of Walter Hassenpflug, almost every family in Germany has its memories of death because of the madness caused by the Nazis. I guess therefore there is a pacifism persistent in Germany. No questions are about the causes and responsibilities for this disaster.

My grandmother married during World War I and gave birth to a child named Wilhelm. Her husband was killed at the end of the "Great War." In the 1930s she remarried and had three more children.

Then came the greater catastrophe: Nazi terror and World War II. Both my grandfather and uncle were drafted. Being a war orphan, my uncle was brought back from the Eastern front because of my grandmother's application to the war ministry. He served in Mannheim. In 1943, he was killed during an air raid. He hadn't yet turned 30. That day my grandmother turned gray.

Only a few weeks later, my uncle's house — where his widow and two girls lived — was hit by a bomb. All were killed.

From there on my grandmother didn't care much any more about the oppression by the Nazis, and in public called the Führer a "Drecksack" (dirt bag), and wished that "the devil should get him!"

She listened to BBC radio and gave the information she heard to her neighbors, which was considered treason for which she risked being shot right away. In the last weeks of the war, she hid an escaped prisoner of war from Belgium in her barn until the war was over.

Now to Kassel: I run a business that makes special lockers/dressing cabinets, and therefore did some work for a Volkswagen plant in Kassel. Last year they bought an old industrial area in Kassel, where during World War II airplane parts had been built. Today VW rebuilds old motors there. At this site, there are still some known bombs lying in the ground which are left there because it would be too dangerous to excavate them.

From my side here let me assure you that every old person I talked to in my childhood was thankful to have been liberated from the Nazi evil. In the middle of November, Germany thinks of all the dead — the soldiers, the civilians, the many killed in the concentration camps, and those millions of refugees, widows and orphans like Mr. Hassenpflug. This day is called "Volkstrauertag" (People's Mourning Day). This year (2007) it was on November 18. The official mourning is always done in Parliament and is broadcast on TV.

Our President, Horst Köhler, addressed in his speech that all should learn from the past and never forget. Also, that we all should do our best for peace in the world. Since World War II there have been hundreds of new wars and millions dead.

I wish you and all of your members, and all of those brave soldiers still alive, peace and happiness.

YOURS TRULY, TONY BARNES

Kassel Mission P-51 Flies Again BY AARON ELSON

You have to forgive Linda Dewey if she waxes a bit emotional about the 361st Fighter Group. Without it, she believes, she wouldn't be here.

While John Wayne was making westerns in California, there was nothing make-believe about the cavalry charge of the P-51 Mustangs from the 361st, which arrived on the scene in time to save the 445th Bomb Group from total annihilation on September 27, 1944.

Ironically, only moments after the 445th

suffered the worst one-day loss of any bomb group in 8th Air Force history, the 379th Fighter Squadron of the 361st set a European Theater record by shooting down eighteen Focke-Wulf 190s and ME-109s and destroying three more fighters on the ground.

As if to mirror the resurrection of the Kassel Mission in the eyes of history, one of those P-51Bs has been restored and is flying again.

The Impatient Virgin — in which Victor Bocquin claimed three kills on the Kassel Mission — crashed in a training accident in Norfolk, England, on June 22, 1945.

The crash site was located in 2002, and a pair of aviation archaeologists, David Wade and Jeff Carless, began an exploratory dig the following year. Some of the items they found were in such good condition that the pilot's dinghy was still capable of being inflated.

The aircraft was restored by the experts at Pacific Fighters in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and made its first flight on July 17 of this year. Two weeks later, *The Impatient Virgin* flew again at AirVenture Oshkosh, where it won the Best Mustang and Silver Wrench awards.

The Impatient Virgin is owned by the John Sessions Foundation in Seattle.

To see a video of the restored plane's first flight, go to YouTube and search "Impatient Virgin."

To celebrate its flight, you might want to mix yourself an impatient virgin with the following recipe: 1.5 ounces of cream, 0.5 ounce Creme de Cacao; 0.5 ounce Frangelico, and 0.5 ounce Vanilla Vodka. Please fly responsibly. ■



The Pacific Fighters crew stands with the restored P-51-B Mustang. Front row (from left): Dave Sharp, Christopher Shackelford, Bill Bailey, David Bailey, John Muszala (president), Kevin Larson, John Muszala, Jr. Back row: Pedro Puente, Jared Nelson, Ethan Howell, Jared Muszala.

My Visit to East Anglia, December 2008

BY WALTER F. HUGHES (PILOT, 93RD BG)

I arrived at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford at 10:30 a.m. on December 20, 2008 in the company of an English lad, Guy Talentire, age 10, of Colchester, my honorary guide and his grandparents. I had contacted Phillipa Wray, archivist for the American Air Museum, who arranged a complimentary entry for me.

My work colleague, Dr. Peter Briggs of St. Ives, arrived earlier and alerted the docents so I was graciously received.

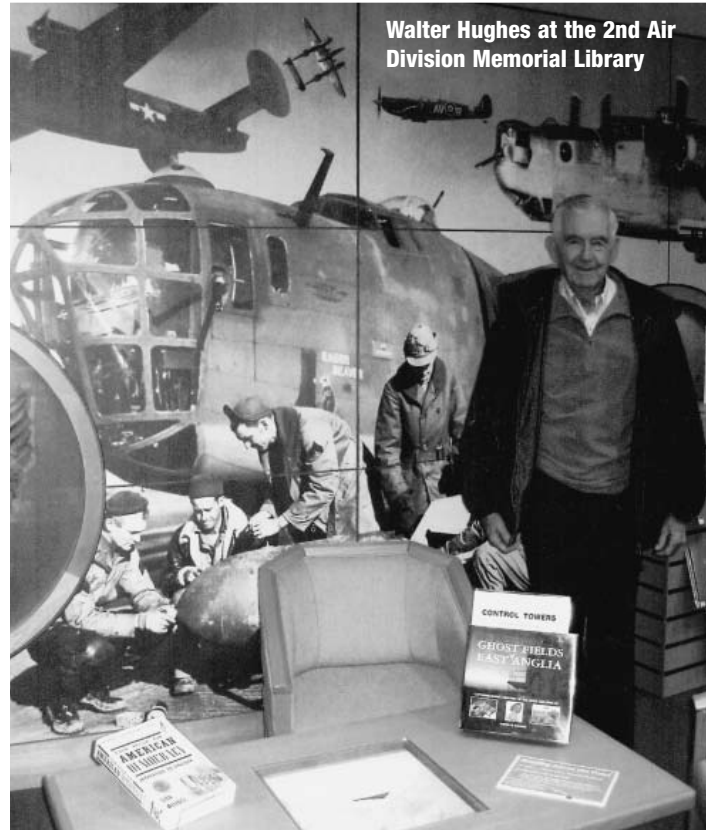
The American Air Museum is in a separate and very beautiful building molded into the surroundings such that one has little concept of its vastness until stepping inside at a level above the floor displays and eye-level with suspended ships like the B-17 and C-47.

The display is impressive; a B-52 on the floor is the centerpiece. The next most prominent are the B-24 and SR71 Blackbird. A B-17, C-47, and many more are well displayed and described for visitors.

The B-24 included an impressive audio-visual accompaniment, including the common “Friendly Fire, folded wing” video that is never so labeled. Close inspection of the video reveals that the B-24 wing is broken by bombs coming from above. Overall, a very impressive display of American military planes.

My only concern with the exhibit is that my co-pilot Peter Scott's name is not on the roll of honor which is a part of the U.S. Air Museum's WWII display.

We walked back to the Imperial War Museum and looked at the equivalent display of British warplanes — also a very well



done exhibit.

I drove to Madingley Cemetery where I had buried Peter Scott on Wednesday, November 22, 1944. The entry way was the same, but the small chapel was gone. New was a visitor's center, a beautiful chapel with reflecting pools. A major difference was that when we buried Peter, the graves were in a grid. Now they are in semicircles, and though I carry a vision of the location, I would not place it in the new design. There was a memorial wall with names of the people buried there. Pete's name was not on it.

In the visitor's center I asked about Pete because his name was not on the Register of Honor in the visitor's center. After fruitless searching, the curator asked if Peter had been “repatriated.” When I answered that he had been reinterred in Arlington, he explained: When a body is removed from Madingley, or any overseas cemetery, ALL traces are sent with the body and no record of any kind remains at the overseas cemetery. Seemed odd to me, but in any event, Madingley is a beautiful cemetery, well worth a stop for contemplation in a quiet and beautiful setting.

On Monday, December 22, Peter Briggs and I drove to Norwich and parked the car about five miles out in a park-and-ride. I highly recommend it as the only way to get around Norwich or any other English town. Like all English cities, narrow streets and no parking make driving into town a nightmare.

We met my son, Robert, and my English host, Brenda Basten, at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library. I had made arrangements with Libby Morgan, archivist and Trust Librarian, for the visit and to meet two authors who had expressed a wish to meet me.

The library is in the new “Millennium Forum Building,” built after the fire in the original library. It is a beautiful building, and the 2ADA Memorial is a bright area to the left of the entry to the



main library.

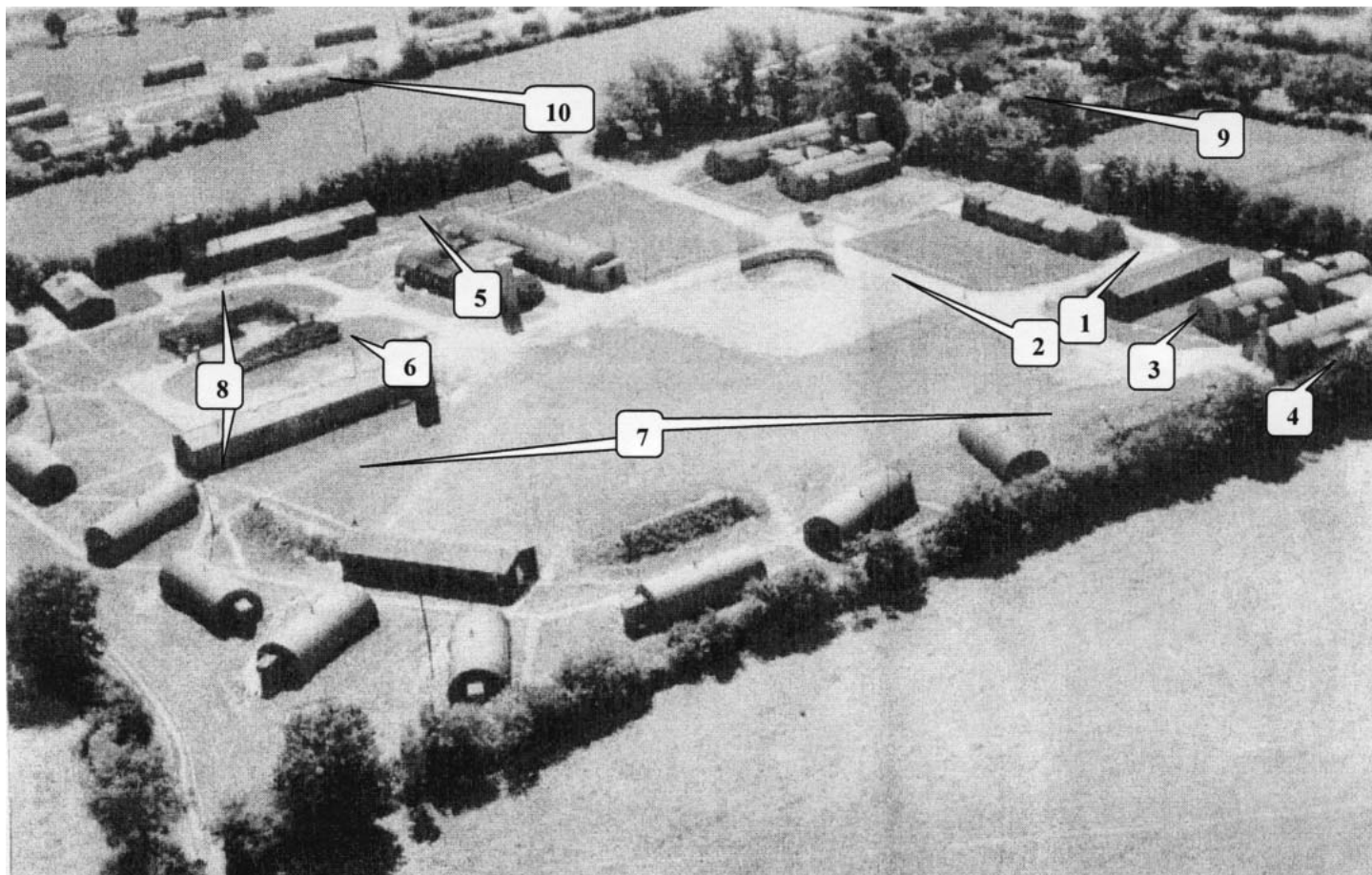
When the authors, Dr. Sam Edwards and Mr. Martin Bowman, and my escorts, Dr. Briggs, my son Robert, and hostess Brenda Basten arrived, Libby set up a PowerPoint display with my slides and I talked about flying in WWII.

Having heard my concern about Peter Scott not being listed at Duxford or Madingley, Libby showed me the Memorial Book and copied and gave me the page whereon Pete is listed.

I did not get to meet Jenny Christian, but just from the feel of the library, it is a place of kind and gracious welcome. I am proud to be a part of it.

men's quarters were located.

We drove down Barondale Lane to a gate near the south end of the airfield and met Paul Thrower. Shortly, John West arrived and took us in his pickup through the gate and onto the south-east end of the NW-SE runway. This runway is still mostly paved and used for farm purposes, drying hay, storing equipment, etc. We drove across the main N-S runway, which was very hard to visualize from this location. We drove on to the intersection with the old NE-SW runway and turned right, NE, again crossing the old main runway. From here it is easier to visualize the main runway. There is a line of trees paralleling the NE-SW runway and



Approximate, from W.F. Hughes' memory: (1) 330 SQ Pilots Hut, (2) Playing Field, (3) Flying Officers Club, (4) Flying Officers Mess, (5) Ablutions, (6) Coke Yard, (7) 409 SQ Flying Officers Quarters – Lower WAAF Site, (8) 93rd Flying Officers Quarters, (9) Small Dairy Farm, (10) 328 SQ – 329 SQ Flying Officers Quarters – Upper WAAF Site. Not shown in upper left corner, parallel to Ablutions building, “Den of Iniquity” quarters for 330 SQ flying officers including Peter Scott, Ralph Hendershot, and Louis Windsor of Hughes crew and others, 1944-1945.

HARDWICK AIRFIELD

The way to get to former Hardwick Airfield from Norwich is to go south on A 145 to Hempnall – Bungay Road B 1527, go east about two miles through Hempnall to Alburgh Road, turn right through Hempnall Green where the road becomes Spring Lane. After a couple of right angle turns it becomes Barondale Lane. Barondale Lane is the road parallel to the main runway, along the old flight line. The first road left is Barford Road which runs past the lower and upper WAAF sites on out to the right turn into the 93rd museum site, the old 329th enlisted men's quarters.

I had arranged with Paul Thrower, the owner of the 93rd museum, and his brother in law, Maurice Hammond, to visit the old airfield. There are two farms that comprise the old air base. John West and his brother own the landing field itself and David Woodrow owns the other side of the road where headquarters, hospital, ground officers mess and living quarters, and all enlisted

across where the main runway was. At this point, by looking left through the trees, one can see the outline of the woods where the bomb dump was and the shape of the trees at the north end of the main runway. The soil is poorer where the runway was taken out and the growth of the crop of grain is somewhat shorter, which helped in the visualization. We continued on the NE runway to the perimeter taxiway, turned right, and drove down through the old flight line site. There are no buildings left, tower, hangars, briefing room, ready room, bombsight room, no roads, foundations, nothing. Further down the taxiway were farm buildings.

I told John that I remembered pigs being driven down the road in front of the hangars. He said that the man driving them was his uncle.

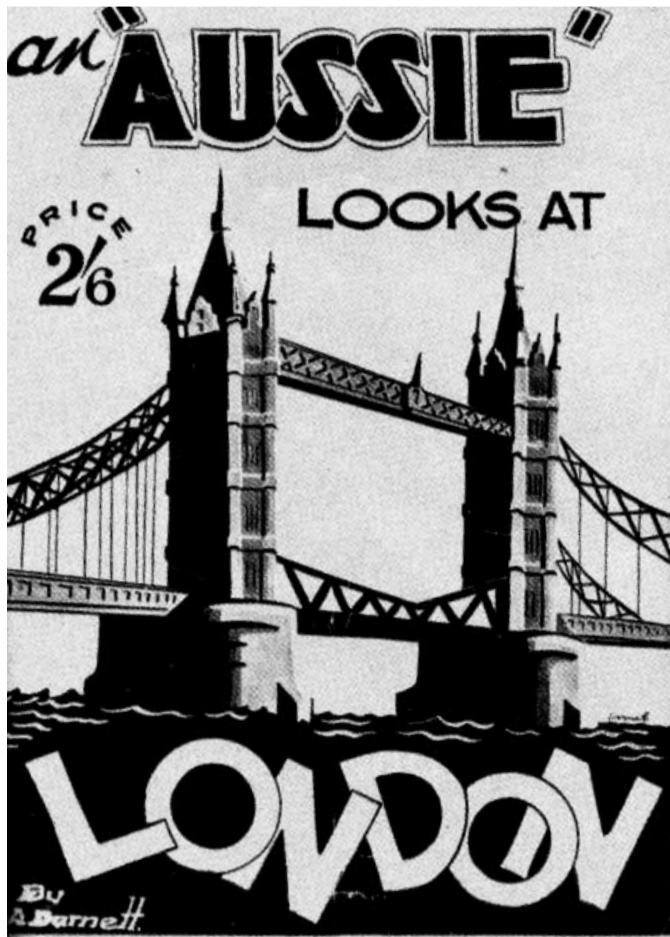
We continued down the taxiway to the point of entry, where we bid John West a fond farewell after an hour of wonderful nos-

(continued on next page)

Empire Echoes in WWII

REPRINTED FROM "FLY PAST"

Right and below: A tongue-in-cheek guide to London, and by default, the rest of the UK! The Yanks were not far behind.



"MET." REPORT ON LONDON



VISIT TO EAST ANGLIA (continued from page 25)

talgia and talk of another time and place.

With Paul we drove back to Barondale Lane and turned right on Barford Road, past the lower and upper WAAF sites. We did not drive into the lower WAAF site, home of the 330 and 409 Squadron flying officers, because it was obviously an in-use residence without any original buildings, but I have a great picture of it as of 1944. I did not get a picture of the upper site where 328 and 329 Squadron flying officers were housed . . . Two very dilapidated buildings remain among shaggy trees . . . Further along Barford Lane we turned right into the 93rd museum site that is housed in Quonset huts formerly occupied by flying enlisted men of the 329th Squadron . . . Paul opened the two Quonset huts and showed us the many artifacts that he has collected. He has an amazing collection of memorabilia and pieces of B-24s from wrecks and worn-out planes around the area. It includes plane parts and crew artifacts from Bob Mark's plane which crashed at the south end of the runway while I was there.

We then drove on ranch roads to the 93rd memorial plaque near the ground officers mess and Col. Timberlake's residence. Several buildings remain, some used for farming purposes such

as the enlisted men's mess.

The farm is owned by Mr. David Woodrow. He was waiting for us at a nearby hangar used by Maurice Hammond and his associate, Robin. All three welcomed us to the airfield farm.

Inside were Mr. Hammond's two restored and flying P-51s, a Stearman, and several other flying aircraft. In one corner was an exhibit of Floyd Mabee's memorabilia with an audio presentation. It was excellent.

Mr. Woodrow said he bought the farm in 1953 and had to fight hard to save the few buildings that were left because the contract with the original landowners specified that they had to be returned as close to original as possible.

Mr. Woodrow leases a lot with the hangar to Maurice Hammond who keeps his planes there. Mr. Hammond flies his planes for benefits and other personal and civic events. We spent three most pleasant and nostalgic hours rehashing the 93rd and the war and farming in the modern era, including climbing into one of the P-51s for a photo session. Included in the hangar was a kitchen with refreshments to accompany the hours of nostalgia.

Eventually, the hour was late and we reluctantly bid our airfield farm hosts farewell at 7:30 p.m. on December 22, 2008. ■



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

BY FIELDER NEWTON

Received a letter from the Executive Committee stating that all the past presidents of the 2ADA will be honored at the convention banquet in September. There are 18 living past presidents, and it really would be great if all could attend. Betty Lee, convention chair, is working very hard to make this convention a special one, as it could be our last. It is not an easy task to chair a convention, and we support Betty for her great efforts and hope there will be a large attendance.

Our friends, Cliff and Ros Robinson, will no longer be able to place the wreath for the 389th BG on Remembrance Day at Madingley as they have done for many years. They have also served us well in providing transportation to our visiting members and plan to continue this kindness. Our sincere gratitude for all they have done and will continue to do for the 389th BG.

It has been a long journey since 1947 when a few Second Air Division veterans got together in Chicago and had such a good time that they decided to meet again the following year. From that beginning the 2ADA was born and nurtured to become a great and outstanding veterans organization. Through the years of growth and strength the 2ADA was able to support our Memorial Library in Norwich so that it will be there in perpetuity. The founding President, Jordan Uttal, along with the help of Evelyn Cohen, Membership VP, planning the conference, have guided the success of this Association to be among the best. We appreciate what they have done, as well as all the presidents past, and do thank them.

For many years I had searched for a 389th BG Association but to no avail. Since finally finding the 2ADA in the early nineties, I have enjoyed and feel honored to be a part of the group and to be identified with the 389th BG. The warm reception that Marge and I received and the many friendships we have made have enriched our lives and will never be forgotten.

Don't let this great organization fade away. Please put all your strength and courage together and come to Chicago!!!

"FlyPast" Editor Visits Hethel

Reprinted from Britain's "FlyPast," March 2009

BY KEN ELLIS

Britain is so fortunate with the diversity of its aviation heritage. Museums large and small can be found in almost every corner of these islands. The bigger sites — the Duxfords, Hendons, Newark and the like — tend to stick in the mind. But, a little extra "homework" will reveal places off the beaten track that are perhaps open only a few times a year, but are well worth looking into. Recently, I had the pleasure of "discovering" one of these, the 389th Bomb Group Memorial Exhibition at Hethel, near Norwich.

Since the mid-1960s Hethel has been the headquarters of a world-beater; it is the home of Lotus Cars, pioneers of Formula 1 racing and creators of such icons as the Elan to the present-day Elise and Evora sports cars. The charismatic and pioneering Anthony Colin Bruce Chapman — his co-joined initials are

at the top of the famous Lotus badge — built his first car in 1948 and founded Lotus Engineering in 1952.

In 1964 Colin moved development and production to the former airfield at Hethel. Today an extensive complex occupies what was the technical site on the eastern edge of USAAF Station 114.

Parts of what were Runway 06/24 and 17/35 are used as test tracks. The control tower remains and two of the hangars still have a useful role at the factory. (Please note, as part of a secure facility, ad hoc visits are not possible to the Lotus complex.)

SAVED FROM THE BULLDOZER

In 1997, Potash Farm on the base's former communal site was acquired by the current owner, Anne Howlett, and her late husband Tim. On the land was the main wartime building surviving in this area; it was derelict and did not look like it was long for this world.

Well aware of the area's heritage, Tim Howlett opened discussions with founder-trustees Jonathan Smith and Fred Squires, and the following year a huge project was started to bring the former base chapel and gymnasium back to its former glory. And so the 389th Bomb Group Memorial Exhibition was born. Preferring to stay in the background, the contribution made by the Howlett family cannot be understated.

The 389th Bomb Group Memorial Exhibition at Hethel displays an incredible number of donated artifacts. All the exhibits are skillfully and tastefully presented, and there is much to absorb visitors of every ilk.

From 1998, volunteers took on the gargantuan task of restoring the structure. Every window frame was rotten and needed to be replaced, a new roof was put on, and electric and water services were connected.

With the structural work completed, murals within needed conserving, exhibitions had to be created and countless other chores completed before all was ready. The exhibition's website has a section showing what was required to go from hulk back to chapel. In 1999 the doors were opened to the public.

It was a grey and dank December 1 when *FlyPast* visited Hethel. Providing a warm welcome were three members from the small group of enthusiasts who make things tick.

Penny Daynes is the group's secretary and she has taken on responsibility for the Green Dragons Association support organisation and spreading the word about the 389th and its exhibition. After a couple of visits, she "just fell in love with the place" and decided she had to get involved.

Always interested in aviation and World War Two in general, Steve Mendham describes himself as a "willing do-it-all" and he has charge of the buildings team and has laboured long and hard on the metamorphosis of the site.

Chairman is the irrepressible Fred Squires, whose dedication is infectious. A schoolboy during the war years, Fred feels that the sacrifices made from bases like Hethel must be remembered: "We also need to provide a place of pilgrimage for veterans and their families."

Fred spent a lot of time watching activity at Station 114: "Every time we had a chance, me and my friends would be off to Hethel." Because they took place in the very early hours, Fred explained that he saw only a few mass takeoffs, but he well remembers the powerful image of the Consolidated B-24 Liberators.

"We would stand around the perimeter and come out with the
(continued on next page)

Folded Wings

HDQ

Mark A. Eaton, Jr.
Harold L. McCormick

44th BG

Mike Fusano
William F. Hawkins
Edwin Rosenberg

93rd BG

Edgar J. Allen
Charles McKee
Paul M. Stroich

389th BG

Lester D. Comer
Arthur I. Cooper
Carman Cunningham
Victor E. Englert
Sol Greenberg
Arthur Kroecker, Jr.
Hearol R. Veteto

392nd BG

Max Desonne
Robert S. Gardner
Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert
Richard H. Hoffman
Donald E. LaChance
Alfred P. Rinke

445th BG

Homer P. Harrison
Charles B. Kenning
Jacob Klein

448th BG

Walter Farmer
Harry G. Hailbert
J.R. Moore
John W. Snyder

453rd BG

John W. Delury
Wilbur Stites

458th BG

Harold E. Brice
Cobern W. Peterson

467th BG

Floyd J. Pugh

489th BG

George E. Oldright
Mel Pontillo

491st BG

Finis L. Brandon
Harley L. Hogstrom
William C. Koon
Anton C. Krasovec

492nd BG

Bill Beasley
William A. Williams

389TH GREEN DRAGON FLARES (*continued from page 27*)
classic request to the ground crew: ‘Got any gum, chum?’ They would reply in the time-honoured way: ‘Sure, you got any sisters?’”

SCORPIONS BECOME DRAGONS

The B-24Ds of the 389th Bomb Group, comprising the 564th, 565th, 566th, and 567th Bomb Squadrons, arrived at Hethel on June 11, 1943. They formed part of the 2nd Combat Bomb Wing with the Norfolk-based 445th BG at Tibenham and the 453rd at Old Buckenham.

The Liberators’ stay was fleeting: they flew off to Benghazi in Libya on July 3 and undertook raids against targets in Austria, Crete, Italy and Sicily. Their desert-like base gave rise to the unit’s nickname — “The Sky Scorpions.”

On August 1, 1943, they took part in the daring, low-level attack on the oil refinery complex at Ploesti, Romania. For their part in this, the 389th received a Distinguished Unit Citation, and 2nd Lt. Lloyd H. Hughes was awarded a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor.

The B-24s were back at Station 114 on August 25 and their first mission from their Norfolk bases came a fortnight later. But the 389th was off again on September 17, this time destined for Massicault in Tunisia for more trans-Mediterranean raids.

The “Scorpions” settled into Hethel for the duration on October 3. Conversion from B-24Ds to the much more capable B-24Hs and Js started, and the tempo of operations increased.

When off duty, London was a strong draw — with Norwich providing another major source of “diversions.” Closer to base was Wymondham (the locals pronounce it “Windham”) and crews found the charms of the “Green Dragon” pub hard to resist. Before long, the 389th had adopted another nickname — “The Green Dragons” — and patches started to appear on flight suits.

The crews were not to know it, but as the B-24s touched down on April 21, 1945, the 389th had flown its last operational mission. They had completed 307 missions from their Norfolk home out of the group’s total of 351 and had lost 153 Liberators in combat. On May 30, the B-24s left, leaving behind silent, vacant runways.

From September 1945, Hethel was a flying base again, with the Supermarine Spitfires of 65 Squadron and North American Mustangs of 126 Squadron taking up residence. They moved on

in February and March 1946, respectively.

From March 1946 two Polish Mustang squadrons — 303 and 316 — arrived for a tense time while the government decided on the fate of many Polish airmen — whether they should return to their homeland, or be adopted as British citizens. Both units disbanded in December of that year and Hethel’s buildings took on the role of a Personnel Transit Centre. (*The team would like more information on Hethel’s Polish era.*)

TIME TO REFLECT

The 389th Bomb Group Memorial Exhibition displays an incredible number of artifacts that have been largely donated by local people and returning veterans. All the exhibits are skillfully and tastefully presented, and there is much to absorb visitors of every ilk.

It is the chapel that most draws the eye and stirs the emotions. Dominating the restored room is the carefully conserved mural of Christ on the cross that was painted by Charles “Bud” Doyle in 1944. Hundreds of station personnel must have come here for a service or for time to reflect alone.

Alongside the mural is the *original* organ that was played during those wartime ceremonies. As the 389th left, the instrument was presented to the church at Hethel. Then when the team members were setting up, they were quietly asked, “Would you like your organ back?” Needless to say, the kind offer was snapped up!

Next door is the chaplain’s office and on a wall are the remains of another mural, a map of Europe. This room was the base of operations for the tireless Father “Pappy” Beck as he tended to his “flock” spread across the small city that was Station 114.

The exhibition has planning permission for two Nissen huts and is aiming to use the extra space to improve facilities for school parties. These Nissens will have original frames and new “outers.” Fundraising is actively under way and a “Sponsor-a-Brick” scheme has been started.

Quietly and diligently, a group of dedicated and visionary enthusiasts have expended time, boundless energy, and a lot of cash to create a very special and poignant tribute to the men and machines that took off from a corner of Norfolk to go into battle in the skies over Europe. All involved at the 389th richly deserve your support. ■



Dallas — Ready, Camera, Action!

An Oral History of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF) in East Anglia During World War Two

BY LIBBY MORGAN, TRUST LIBRARIAN, 2ND AIR DIVISION MEMORIAL LIBRARY

TAKE TWO: MEMORIES RECORDED

The 2nd Air Division Memorial Library and the Norwich University College of the Arts (NUCA) were delighted to receive funding from the U.S. Embassy in London to send two students to the 2nd Air Division Association convention in Dallas, Texas, to record interviews with 2nd Air Division veterans.

It was with great excitement and anticipation that two students, Rory McVicar and Elliot Mulhall, and two staff members, Liam Wells and Suzie Hanna, from NUCA set off from Norwich to Dallas — not knowing quite what to expect, but looking forward to meeting some very interesting people.

The welcome they received from everyone at the 2ADA convention was fantastic, and they really enjoyed listening to and learning about the experiences of the 2nd Air Division veterans they met.

Amongst those who kindly volunteered to be interviewed by Elliot and Rory were Betty Berry, James McLain, Oak Mackey (392nd), Herb Schwarz (445th), Robert and Frank Birmingham (458th), Robert Lee Swofford (445th), Dale Dyer (458th), Jack Dyson (445th), Jack Kingsley (389th), Ray Lemons (445th), and Bud Koorndyk (389th).

In addition to our brave interviewees, thanks must go to Joe Dzenowagis and Dave Shafer for their offers of professional help and support over the weekend.



Students and staff from the Norwich University College of the Arts, at the 2ADA convention in Dallas: Elliot Mulhall, Liam Wells, and Suzie Hanna (standing), and Rory McVicar in front.

PHOTO: CAROL HOLLIDAY

INTENDED USE OF MATERIAL

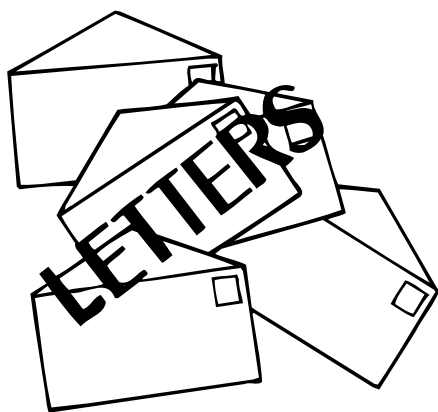
Copies of the filmed interviews will be added to the film archive of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, and will also be offered to interested partner organisations in the UK and USA such as the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, GA and the Imperial War Museum at Duxford

where they will be made available for research purposes. In addition, a short film created by each of the students will be distributed more widely to local schools and other interested organisations. We aim to give copies of both the filmed interviews and the students' films to all project participants and interviewees. ■

Wymondham College honors Abraham Lincoln and the USA

BY DAVID HASTINGS, FORMER MEMORIAL TRUST GOVERNOR

Wymondham College, which is built on the site of the old USAAF wartime Morley Base Hospital, has always enjoyed close links with the 2nd Air Division Association and houses the 2nd Air Division Memorial Garden as well as the superb wall mural in the wartime chapel which the 2ADA presented in 2001. This outstanding college with over 1200 students on campus has recently completed a \$9.8 million building programme including a superb new Lincoln Six Form Centre and a 106 single bedroom complex in the Enid Ralphs building. To celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, after whom the Hall is named, and to strengthen still further the links with the United States, the College recently held the first "Lincoln Lecture" which will become an annual event. The guests, including an original 2AD Memorial Trust Governor, Colonel Bill Wuest, were welcomed by the students at a reception in the new Lincoln building, which looked beautiful at night, before then going to the wartime chapel to listen to an enthralling lecture by the well-known Professor Richard Carwardine on Abraham Lincoln. This was followed by an "American Dinner" in the new College Refectory with speeches by Lady Enid Ralphs, the widow of Sir Lincoln Ralphs who founded the College, and the Principal Melvyn Roffe. The evening ended with a moving toast "to Abraham Lincoln." The original Lincoln Hall was officially opened in 1958 by then United States Secretary of State Dean Acheson. ■



To the Editor:

I have a request from the 2ADA Group Relations Committee:

All 2ADA Group members, please send me the name of your aircraft during WWII. Thank you very much,

James H. Reeves (HDQ)
P.O. Box 98
Moultrie, GA 31768

✈ ✈ ✈ ✈

To the Editor:

With regards to page 23 of the Winter 2008 *Journal*:

Below is my diary account of my April 1, 1944 mission with the 93rd BG. Seems a little different from "The 448th Speaks" report. He'd know target more than I, so my target stands corrected.

No report of the Swiss declaration. Recall it because date was April Fools Day!

As to the mission count, my crew came from Italy to lead shuttle missions to German/Austrian border sites (no escort area), land in Italy and shuttle back to England. New P-51 escort arrived about end of April-May and shuttles were no longer needed, so the plan was dropped. 22 Mediterranean missions (from Libya to Italy – 376th BG) were balanced (30 vs 50) or three 8th AAF missions granted for five Med Theatres missions. Was caught by Invasion's "all tours cancelled until beachhead secured" so flew an extra on on June 12th for a 40 mission total.

April 1, 1944

Ludwigshafen, Germany – Chemical factory

Fighters: 4 FW-190, 2 ME-109 (seen but no problems due to weather)

Escort: None

Load: 8 – 1,000 lb. demos

Time: 7 hrs

Flak: on route in: twice – moderate – inaccurate; at target: barrage type, inaccurate; on route out: at Brussels – moderate / accurate – at Abbeville (?): moderate but best flak ever flew into – too damn accurate and close – the AA bat-

teries tracked us since we were alone.

We ran into bad weather on the way home – had to leave formation when we went into heavy mist – flight indicator was out. Capt. Serafin had vertigo (dizzy) – went into sharp bank heading for low right group – Lt. McFall, co-pilot, pulled us out – shot up badly at Abbeville (?) – 16 holes – large one along right waist window – position unknown all the way home – radio compass was also out – recall went out but we failed to receive – bombed a large factory at unknown location – target covered with mist – turned out to be Swiss territory – Swiss say that from now on, all bombers over Switzerland, without wheels and flaps down, will be shot down!

(28th mission total – 19th for 8th AAF)

Joe Taddonio (93rd)
9 Broadway, Unit 211
Saugus, MA 01906

✈ ✈ ✈ ✈

To Libby Morgan, Trust Librarian:

As a military aviation historian and a wartime evacuee from the blitzed East End of London, I have devoted most of my seventy-three years to researching and appreciating the heroism of our air combat crews in WWII over the skies of Europe. They will always remain my heroes. God bless them.

My aviation interests have also been directed to the very earliest days of flying and the struggles of the early pioneers attempting to fly. Inevitably I suppose this has led me to earlier heroes of the air, namely the Wright brothers, Orville and Wilbur, and some of the excellent research material held at the Memorial Library.

I can't tell you how very much I appreciate the many generous donations to the library, which have made available to me such excellent and rare resources, and I hope you can find some way to get my message of appreciation passed to appropriate circles. What a wonderful way to keep alive and record the sacrifices of so many in those terrible years.

When I visited the Memorial Library yesterday (2nd March) as a birthday present, I saw the Book of Remembrance open at the initial "D" and found my surname shared with S/Sgt. Robert Driver.

How's that for an eerie coincidence?

Mr T Driver
87 Villarome
West Caister
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk NR30 5TQ
ENGLAND

✈ ✈ ✈ ✈

To the Editor:

Thank you to the 2nd Air Division Association!

Jean and I have just received the amazing "Retirement Present" from the 2ADA which is a beautiful 32" x 24" full colour collage superbly designed and printed by Kelsey McMillan, the 389th Bomb Group Historian. She has captured so many of the things that happened during our 66 years of friendship that we and our family can never thank her enough for all her hard work and outstanding design. As always, the 2nd Air Division Association has spoilt us with a gift that we and our family will treasure for the rest of our lives. We look forward to July when Earl Zimmerman will formally present it to us and it will have pride of place in our dining room so you will always be with us. Bless you all for this truly wonderful gift which contains so many happy memories.

David and Jean Hastings
(and all the family)
"Westering"
32 Thieves Lane
Salhouse
Norwich, NR13 6RQ
ENGLAND

✈ ✈ ✈ ✈

To the Editor:

Below is some research I have done about RAF losses during missions to Kassel. As I am going to have yet another hip replacement in April or May, I will probably have plenty of time to do a more in-depth study.

Harry Shinkfield, the editor of the 77 Squadron Association magazine, *Nickel Leaflet*, sent me a couple of copies of their publication. In one of them was a letter from one of their members who mentioned he had flown in B-24s during WWII. I am therefore going to write to Harry to see if he can put me in touch with this man. If he can, I may be able to get some material from him that would be of interest to you. Fingers crossed.

Regarding RAF losses during missions to Kassel:

While reading Patrick Otter's book, *Yorkshire Airfields in the Second World War*, I came across several references to the raids on Kassel. This sparked off my curiosity to see how 4 Group RAF and 6 Group RCAF had fared against this target.

Being an "armchair researcher," it is always necessary to use other people's work to find the answers I seek. Therefore, I am very grateful to the following people for all the help they gave me: John Larder from the Yorkshire Air Museum,

Elvington; Wing Commander A.J. Mawby OBE RAF (Ret.), The Memorial Room, RAF Linton-on-Ouse; and Harry Shinkfield, author of *A History of 77 Squadron* and editor of their association magazine, *Nickel Leaflet*.

That Kassel was a highly defended town was made obvious by the comments of a Lancaster pilot who said, "Whenever flying to Kassel by the northern route, we always seemed to lose many aircraft." This was due to the night fighters and concentrated flak batteries. Their defences had intensified as the war had progressed.

As early as 8th/9th September 1941, 4 Group had carried out a raid on Kassel. They had used Whitley bombers, which had all returned safely. Unfortunately this was not the case on the nights of 3rd/4th and 22nd/23rd of October 1943. For these two missions 4 Group were joined by aircraft from 6 Group, which consisted of squadrons from the Royal Canadian Air Force. The losses sustained by them during these two missions were 44 aircraft and 153 aircrew KIA.

As 4 and 6 Groups flew from some forty bases, I will mention just two of the squadrons concerned. 77 Squadron RAF had converted from Whitleys to Halifaxes by 1943 and they were based at Elvington. They lost four aircraft and twenty-two aircrew KIA during the two missions.

At the beginning of 1943, 408 (Goose) Squadron of 6 Group RCAF was flying Halifaxes from RAF Leeming. In August of that year, they transferred to RAF Linton-on-Ouse and converted to Lancasters. They suffered their first Lancaster loss in operations on the night of October 22nd/23rd along with seven aircrew KIA.

I came across this very moving example of the camaraderie shared between flyers even when they are adversaries:

During very bad weather conditions in June 1941, a Whitley bomber of 10 Squadron RAF Leeming was forced to ditch in the North Sea. The crew were clinging to their upturned life raft when they were spotted by the crew of a German HE III. The crew of the HE III flew away from the ditched airmen and sought out an air-sea rescue launch. This they directed back to the stricken Whitley crew. I wonder if the five Heinkel aircrew took into account the danger they placed themselves in from patrolling Allied fighters.

Your RAF friend,
John Threlfall
ENGLAND

✈ ✈ ✈ ✈

Britons raise a pint to keeping the familiar beer glass



British beer drinkers have a measure of good news amid a flood of economic downers: The fabled pint won't have to be renamed.

After a long debate over whether the European Union would force pubs to serve beer by the half-liter, the European Parliament decided to let Britain keep the pint, the mile, and other imperial measurements.

The bill scraps a 2009 deadline to end the use of imperial measurements alongside metric units.

Minister for Europe Caroline Flint said the agreement will save British companies additional labeling costs during troubled economic times.

"It's a victory for common sense," she said. "It shows that the EU is listening to the concerns of businesses and consumers and is not intent on imposing a one-size-fits-all regime where unnecessary." — *Associated Press*

And Just in Passing...

It's Officially the World's Longest Pub Crawl

They started in 1984 and have entered the *Guinness Book of Records* for drinking in every English county and every pub in 11 counties. A fearless foursome of mates from West Bromwich have called at their 14,000th pub — the Stags Leap, Rugeley — and remain determined to have a pint in every pub in Britain. — *"British Heritage"*

A "Lifetime" of Credit . . . or close to it

SO, HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO REPAY A CREDIT CARD BALANCE OF \$1,000?

If the APR on the credit card is:	10.99%	15.99%	19.99%	21.99%
The balance will be fully repaid in:	10.7 years	15 years	24.2 years	38.8 years
The total amount of interest paid is:	\$570.33	\$1,250.05	\$2,756.70	\$5,165.05

NOTE: This table assumes: (1) No new purchases are charged on the card. (2) Minimum payment is 2% of the balance or \$10, whichever is larger. (3) The APR does not change during the time the balance is repaid. (4) All payments are made on time so that there are no late fees.

Humor in the U.K.

Three guys, one Irish, one English, and one Scottish, are out walking along the beach together one day. They come across a lantern and a Genie pops out of it. "I will give you each one wish, that's three wishes in total," says the Genie.

The Scottish guy says, "I am a fisherman, my Dad's a fisherman, his Dad was a fisherman, and my son will be one too. I want all the oceans full of fish for all eternity."

So, with a blink of the Genie's eye, FOOM! The oceans were teeming with fish.

The Englishman was amazed, so he said, "I want a wall around England, protecting her, so that no one will get in for all eternity." Again, with a blink of the Genie's eye, POOF! There was a huge wall around England.

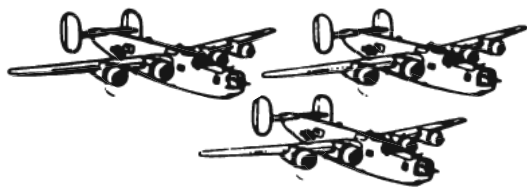
The Irishman asks, "I'm very curious. Please tell me more about this wall." The Genie explains, "Well, it's about 150 feet high, 50 feet thick, protecting England so that nothing can get in or out." The Irishman says, "Fill it up with water."

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

EIGHTH AIR FORCE

RAY PYTEL, JOURNAL EDITOR

P.O. BOX 484, ELKHORN, WI 53121-0484



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AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

BY CAROL HOLLIDAY, SECRETARY, HERITAGE LEAGUE

It is once again Armistice Day in Norwich, England. The soggy wet rains ceased and the dawn arrived with a bright, sunny, yet very crisp blue sky day. We once again pay tribute to our fallen heroes. The trumpets play their eerie tones and we remember with reverence.

Assembled in the lobby of the Norwich Nelson Hotel in our best outfits, we attach the symbolic poppies to our lapels and head out towards the city centre with our British Governors and friends. Started at the end of World War I, Remembrance Sunday brings a fellowship of people together for the ceremonies. In the United Kingdom and places well beyond, dignitaries will lay a wreath and hold a two-minute silence. This ceremony for November 11, 2008 is now in its 90th year. It is a solemn day, but with a break in the clouds for the morning and the forecast clear with a deep blue sky and crisp temperatures, this group is quite upbeat and lively. We are lucky to have such brilliant weather, because the day before we had sleeting rain and high winds.

In attendance this year we have John and Betty Lee, Richard and Gwen Robert, Chuck and Charlie Walker, Joan Patterson, Earl Zimmerman, and me, Carol Holliday. Last Post is sounded and the two-minute silence begins at precisely 11 a.m.; the military personnel stand at attention, the crowds are hushed, and we remember. My mind wanders back to the video images viewed on the military history channels. The image of my grandfather standing at attention during World War I; images of



Remembrance Day Procession, 11 November 2008: 2ADA President John Lee leaving with David Hastings after laying the 2ADA poppy wreath. PHOTO: CAROL HOLLIDAY

young flyers in B-24 bombers freezing while on bombing raids in Europe. I try to imagine what it is like over in the Middle East for our newest military heroes. How tragedy can strike terror in the hearts of everyone in any war and how so many did not or will not return to their families in the forthcoming days. That we are amid four U.S. Army Air Forces veterans, John, Richard, Earl and Chuck, in their eighties and nineties still making this long journey amazes me. I am thankful and grateful because *this is the providential price*

of democracy. Two minutes simply is not long enough for me to pray for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Reveille is sounded and the lonely trumpeter delivers us back to the here and now. The Reverend Peter Nokes, Vicar of St. Peter Mancroft Church, ends with:

“They shall not grow old as we are left to grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.” ■