

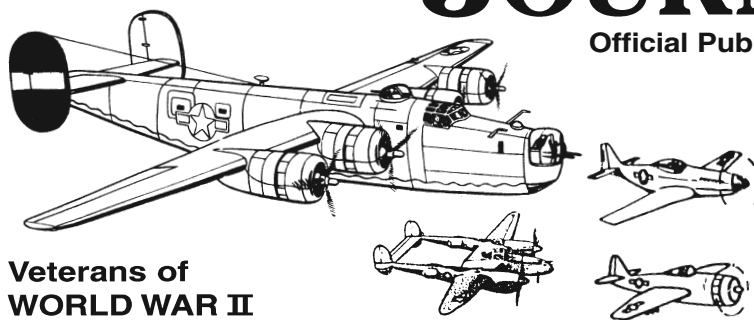
**Don't Miss The
63rd Annual
2ADA Convention**

**September 10-13
in New Orleans**

SEE PAGES 19-22.

THE JOURNAL

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**Veterans of
WORLD WAR II**



Volume 49 Number 1

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GOODBYE, JORDAN

2ADA Honorary President Jordan Uttal, 94, died November 15, 2009 in Dallas, Texas. Jordan was a co-founder of the 2nd Air Division Association in 1948 and played a central role in the affairs of the 2ADA and the Second Air Division Memorial Library over the ensuing 62 years.



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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL



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President's Message

BY RICHARD C. ROBERT (453RD)

In early November 2009, I spent a week in Norwich, England with ten other 2ADA and Heritage League members: Chuck & Dede Walker, John & Betty Lee and daughter Kim, Joe Dzenowagis, Joan Patterson, Carol Holliday, and Vicki & Kurt Warning. Our Memorial Trust Chairman, Matthew Martin, along with Vice Chairman Andrew Hawker and other Trust Governors, provided transport for our group during a busy week of planned activities: Remembrance Sunday Ceremonies at Norwich City Hall and Norwich Cathedral; Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Trust Board of Governors; Biennial Lecture by British General Sir Richard Dannatt; and Evensong Services at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Members of our group also visited their old wartime bases and other venues such as the Memorial Library; Commander Ken Wallis' extensive autogyro collection and flight demonstration; Maurice Hammond's fabulous "Warbirds Collection" of restored and flyable WWII military aircraft at Hardwick; Cambridge American Cemetery & Memorial near Madingley & Coton, where 1,758 USAAF airmen are buried and an additional 2,831 USAAF airmen are listed on the Wall of Missing; the 389th Base Chapel at Hethel for Remembrance Services conducted by our British friends, Fred Squires and Pat Ramm, in honor of the 2,054 airmen of the 93rd, 389th, 453rd and 466th Bomb Groups who were killed in action during the war.

On November 8, 2009, it was my great honor and privilege to represent the Second Air Division Association for Remembrance Sunday Services at Norwich City Hall and Norwich Cathedral, along with the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries in the Civic Procession. Also participating in the ceremonies was a large contingent of Royal Air Force personnel, British veterans' organizations, and other uniformed groups. Our American group watched from a balcony as Andrew Hawker escorted me to lay a wreath on the steps of City Hall in memory of the nearly 7,000 Second Air Division veterans who lost their lives in WWII. After this wreath-laying ceremony, Andrew and I joined the Civic Procession into Norwich Cathedral and were seated with the 2ADA/Heritage League group in the very front of the Cathedral for the Remembrance Services.

Sometime during our week in Norwich, I found time for a leisurely visit to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, and was greatly impressed with this vibrant living memorial. It is a well run and popular facility located in the Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library at The Forum in the center of Norwich. Our Trust Librarian, Libby Morgan, reports that the Memorial Library had an increase of almost 2,500 visitors over the previous year. In the near future, suitable memorials honoring founding members Evelyn Cohen and Jordan Uttal will be installed in the Memorial Library from donations by our members.

The 2ADA is a fantastic organization; we've had sixty-two annual conventions since the end of World War Two, eight of which were held in Norwich, England. We are now preparing for our 63rd Annual 2ADA Convention to be held September 10-13, 2010 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Convention Committee, in conjunction with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., has been working closely with the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel to make sure that our mobility-impaired members are properly accommodated in this beautiful and historic hotel in the French Quarter area of New Orleans. I strongly urge all 2ADA members to make every effort to attend this convention, which may very well be our last convention. Many important matters will be considered, including the possibility of dissolution and perhaps a change in the method of distributing remaining assets. Hotel meeting space will be available at no charge for those Bomb Groups with enough members present for a group meeting or to host a hospitality suite. You all come to New Orleans in September. *Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler*: Let The Good Times Roll! ■

YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE



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 is the official publication of the 2nd Air Division Association.

ATTENTION!! CONVENTION FLASH

It is time to mark your 2010 calendar for our next reunion!

We will meet at the beautiful AAA Four Diamond "Omni Royal Orleans" in the heart of the French Quarter of New Orleans. The dates are:

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2010

You will be just steps away from all the excitement of Bourbon Street, and the balconies are perfect for just watching the activities. The rooftop pool offers an amazing view of the Mississippi River and the city.

DETAILS ARE ON PAGES 19-22.

Please plan to come and
LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!!!

Betty Lee,
Convention Committee Chair

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

BY MATTHEW MARTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

GREETINGS FROM NORWICH!

I must start this report by paying tribute to two remarkable men who have folded their wings recently, namely Jordan Uttal and Tom Eaton. Both in their highly unique manner made huge contributions to the Memorial Library. Indeed without them I think it is no exaggeration to say that I doubt whether the Library would exist, certainly not in the form it is today. We salute them both for all they did over many years.

I am told that many of you veterans and others have made financial contributions to the memory of both Jordan and Evelyn Cohen. Some of these funds have reached us but I gather there is more to come. And so I wish to thank everyone for these gifts which are hugely appreciated. We have yet to decide what to do with the money, so watch this space. I promise to tell you of our decision in a future *Journal*.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Trust here in Norwich last November we welcomed a number of Americans to the meeting, including the president of the 2ADA, Dick Robert, his immediate predecessor, John Lee, and Chuck Walker. They and all the others who accompanied them received the warmest of welcomes here

in Norwich.

A couple of days after the meeting we held our Biennial Lecture. This one was delivered by General Sir Richard Dannatt, GCB, CBE, MC, the recently retired Head of the British Army. The lecture addressed the challenges facing US and UK defence in the coming decade. It was very well received. Our challenge as Governors is to find the next speaker to deliver such a stimulating lecture. It would be wonderful if this could be given by an American, but we are told they require such high fees!

Our Trust Librarian and her team are making huge strides to improve the service of your Library, most importantly the outreach work. The Governors remain committed to telling the local community here in East Anglia about your story when you were here in the Second World War. The relative peace that we enjoy today comes at a price that the younger generations find difficult to imagine. But unless we learn the lessons of history, there is always the risk that history, or at least some parts of it, will repeat itself. Therefore this outreach work is at the core of our activities.

The replacement of the Fulbright pro-

gram is working very well. As you may recall, we set up a scholarship with the University of East Anglia here in Norwich. It worked well in its first year and so now we have two American scholars spending time in your Library. This gives it its uniquely American flavour which is central to what we do. This year's Scholars are Lucien Giordano from Baltimore and Stephanie Leal from New Jersey. They are both worthy ambassadors of your country and are first rate team players.

We are much looking forward to the 63rd 2ADA Convention in New Orleans. Indeed it looks as if there will be a significant British contingent in attendance, including, for the very first time, my wife! I know it is not such an easy place to reach for some of you, but I do hope there will be a good turnout from amongst your ranks. After all, how many more conventions will there be?

We live in difficult times, militarily, economically and socially, but as you surviving veterans of the 2nd Air Division know only too well, life goes on. From everyone here in Norfolk we send you all our very best wishes. As Earl Zimmerman likes to say, keep taking the pills! ■

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

BY CHUCK WALKER (445TH)

Many things have happened since my last report, but unfortunately it is not all good news. The 2ADA and the Memorial Trust lost three of our foremost leaders. How can we ever replace Evelyn Cohen or Jordan Uttal? They played key roles in establishing and furthering our Memorial Library. Dick Butler, although he did not play as great a role with the Trust, he too devoted so much to the maintenance of the Memorial Library and certainly cared deeply for it. These were true leaders.

Recently we joined in the Remembrance Ceremonies in Norwich. The military parade and the laying of wreaths were extremely impressive. Dick Robert represented the 2ADA by placing a wreath at their war memorial. It is difficult to describe the Remembrance Ceremonies in Norwich. Everyone participates, and at the eleventh hour Norwich and all of England stops dead still for two minutes of silence. They do indeed remember those

who were lost.

At the November 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Trust, Chairman Matthew Martin introduced the following Americans in addition to my wife and myself: 2ADA President Dick Robert, Joan Patterson, and John & Betty Lee, plus Carol Holliday and Vicki & Kurt Warning of the Heritage League.

Governor Foster thanked the 2ADA for the \$20,000 donation received at the Chicago convention. It will be apportioned with \$15,000 going to the General Fund, \$3,000 to the cost of the Biennial Lecture, and \$2,000 towards a memorial to Evelyn Cohen. (Since the passing of Jordan Uttal, the memorial funds may be combined.)

James Hope of Brewin Dolphin gave a report on the Trust's financial portfolio. They have begun diversifying since taking it over in April of 2009 in an effort to both increase and stabilize the income it generates.

Vicki Warning presented a donation of \$1,500 from the Heritage League.

Governor Hawker, Library Chairman, reported on the excellent job Libby Morgan and the Library staff are doing. He listed the changes during the past year: the new reception desk, thanks to Terry Gregory in memory of Geoff; the successful implementation of the UEA Scholar Program; and the new Library leaflet.

Libby Morgan reported an increase in visitors numbers from 15,000 last year to 17,000 this year. Stephanie Leal and Lucien Giordano are the two UEA scholars to join the Library team.

As liaison to the "Friends of the Second Air Division," I can report their annual Thanksgiving Dinner was very successful. Several Governors attended this year. At their Annual General Meeting on 14 November, Colin Mann was elected president. Julian Ertz recently sent me an \$8 check

(continued on page 17)

YOUR HERITAGE LEAGUE

BY BRIAN H. MAHONEY
Heritage League President

This season's message can repeat one from a year ago. The first part, with only minor changes:

What is the Heritage League? It is a perpetual organization, established for 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 the 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 once again holding its 2010 annual meeting amongst you during your 63rd convention in New Orleans, over Labor Day. But no, 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, nephews, as 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 2AD in WWII. Membership VP 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 at <http://www.heritageleague.org/membership.htm>.

But the concluding part can be rewritten, reflecting that some transition has begun, in a way that comforts veterans and descendants alike, because it provides for our stewardship of your legacy. This rewrite of my appeal of a year ago, reflects what happened in Chicago:

Second, on behalf of your descendants and all in the future who will cherish and respect your great contributions to peace and justice, we are grateful for the official, final charge your organization gave us . . . We had indicated to the Trust Governors and the Executive Committee of the 2ADA 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. This became 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. We could only suggest,

but you made it happen, well before dissolution. It heartened us that you trust us and that Andrew Hawker and Matthew Martin received your request warmly for their colleague Governors.

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

Whether or not the 2ADA continues after September, we want you to know that your Heritage League is now planning for a convention in 2011 to which you would all be invited. It is time we hosted the party. We wanted you to know our thinking now, so that the 2ADA can have the option of going to New Orleans without the pressures of planning another convention.

The Heritage League Executive Committee met three nights ago, and we had Tom Eaton, Evelyn Cohen, and Jordan Uttal in mind as we considered this. We also discussed program contributions we will bring to the convention in September. (Follow evolving details at <http://www.heritageleague.org>.) We all wish you a healthy and enjoyable year, and look forward to New Orleans! ■

Destination: New Orleans!

CONVENTION UPDATE BY BETTY LEE

Have you noticed how time is flying by? Can it be possible that we are thinking about getting ready for our next convention? Well, actually we have been thinking about it since Chicago, but NOW is the time to begin your plans to attend.

We hope each and every reunion will be the best one yet, and so it is with this one. We want to renew old acquaintances and visit with old friends. We will remember all those who are no longer with us with great sadness, but also with tender, happy memories. We want to have some good food, some good music, some relaxing time, some sightseeing, some fun, and especially some time for telling (and listening to) stories.

As many of you know, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. will once again handle registration and we will make our own hotel reservations. We have chosen the beautiful Omni Royal Orleans in the heart of the French Quarter. This hotel has occupied the same spot for more than 150 years and has hosted many famous people. It was rebuilt in the late 1950s and some say it is the finest hotel in North America. One said, "Whether you agree or not doesn't much matter. The point is, it shows how good a hotel can be."

The hotel has a website where you can view the features and amenities. They also have a free frequent guest program, called the "Omni Select Guest Program," in which you may enroll online at <http://www.omniselectguest.com> or by requesting a form when you make your reservations.

Members of the Heritage League have volunteered to help with the planning of the convention. I believe you will find some new things to help you enjoy the experience. The meeting rooms are all very easy to access from the lobby elevators. Hospitality rooms are just off the main lobby near the front desk. The hospitality rooms, some with balconies, and the main dining rooms border the foyer, which is adjacent to the front desk. Not a lot of walking here.

The hotel is just moments from Bourbon Street and "all that jazz," and is only twelve miles from the Louis Armstrong International Airport. The dates are September 10th through breakfast on the 13th, 2010. Mark your calendars today, and see pages 19-22 of this *Journal* for all the details and the registration form. ■

The Editor's Contribution

BY RAY PYTEL (445TH)

THE SPORTS SCENE: NOW AND THEN

Well, it's Super Sunday, the last hurrah for the 2009 football season and the coming of a two-month dull spot (which I consider a breather) with no sports.

OK, you basketball aficionados. I don't consider basketball a sport. To me it is a bunch of skinny, overtail guys dressed in oversized underwear running and jumping back and forth and sometimes throwing a ball down into a basket for the first 46 minutes — a basket conveniently placed at the height of the tallest player's belt buckle. Only the last two minutes are taken seriously, the results of which determine the so-called "winner," or the "wiener" as our friends say south of the border.

While I was born in Green Bay (or so it says on my birth certificate), I have yet to attend a Packers football game — even if both of us started around 1920.

The next year the players finagled \$500 from a meat-packing plant for uniforms, hence the "Packers," and with the help of George Halas of the rival Decatur Staleys (later the Bears), pro football arrived in little Green Bay. (Really the Chicago Bears needed someone to beat.) Later that "need" spread to college football and the Big Ten especially, where before the games are scheduled, each coach is asked to name a half dozen small college "patsy" teams they think they can beat, so each team can appear to be victorious on opening day, alumni homecoming, and the myriad of Christmas–New Year's bowl games. (This despite the fact that they might have beaten only one or two of their league opponents.)

If I have to name a favorite "sport," it would probably be football. But I did attend a few baseball games while the Braves were in Milwaukee and winning. Then, of course, Coca-Cola soon replaced Schlitz and the "new" Milwaukee team has yet to find a solid winning season, much less being a winner in the World (U.S.) Series.

Becoming a hobo at the age of ten and a half years did not give me a chance to participate in the usual school sports, and that void caused some funny incidents later on in life.

Once while in the Air Force, the calisthenics were suddenly replaced by a baseball game. I have never played baseball, and I told the sergeant I knew nothing about the game. He didn't believe me, and probably as punishment, made me the umpire! To my relief, there were many guys around waiting their turn to play and they were yelling the results after each pitch. So I just repeated what appeared to be appropriate and got away with it.

The peculiar thing about baseball is the "negative" aspect of the game. Baseball aficionados claim that the less happens, the better the game, so if absolutely nothing happens in nine innings, no one even gets on base, it is considered a "perfect" game. (Harvey Haddix lost a 13 inning perfect game; go figure!)

I recall that before WWII, boxing and wrestling were the favorites. To me, wrestling is like watching an enlarged can of worms. Boxing became very popular immediately after WWII on TV and it appeared on Wednesday and Friday nights. Finally they had to beg anyone on the street to fill in the schedule. Some taverns advertised "We have no TV — but we have fights on every night." And, these were usually better than those on TV.

ANSWER TO THE FALL / WINTER QUIZ

The story behind the photo of Evelyn Cohen on page 6 of the last *Journal* is described below by Jim Reeves, who is the other person in the picture:

In case you didn't know (or had forgotten), Evelyn Cohen was properly promoted in Savannah, Georgia, in 1986 — the year I was president of the Second Air Division Association. Due to her outstanding record of achievement in the 2ADA, upon her visit to Georgia The Honorable Joe Frank Harris, then Governor of the State of Georgia, promoted her to Lieutenant Colonel. As a long-time friend of Evelyn, I appreciated the interest and action of Governor Harris. Here she is shown holding the proclamation signed by the Governor. The certificate reads, in part: "To the Honorable Evelyn Cohen . . . Whereas, reposing especial trust in your patriotism, valor and fidelity, I do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you . . . LIEUTENANT COLONEL, AIDE DE CAMP, GOVERNOR'S STAFF."

SPRING QUIZ

Can you describe the circumstances of the nose art on the B-24 pictured below? ■



SPRING QUIZ: Can you describe the circumstances of the nose art on this B-24?

Of Tibenham (445th BG)

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.

Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow.

They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,

They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall not grow old, as we that are left 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.

BY DAVID REED, A TIBENHAM RESIDENT



**GUEST ARTICLE
SUBMITTED BY CAROL HOLLIDAY**

From the official U.S. Air Force website comes the following biography of the original 445th Bombardment Group Commander, Robert H. Terrill.

**Lieutenant General
Robert H. Terrill**

Retired July 1, 1964 • Died April 3, 1992

Robert Haynes Terrill was born in Faneuil, Massachusetts, in 1910. He graduated from high school in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute for one year. In July 1928, he entered the U.S. Military Academy and upon graduation on June 10, 1932 was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry.

In July 1932, he was attached to the Air Corps and assigned to flying school at Kelly Field, Texas. In October 1933, he received his pilot's wings and in February 1934 was transferred to the Air Corps. Today he is a command pilot and is current in both jet and conventional aircraft. He also wears the Air Force Guided Missile Insignia awarded in March 1961 while commander, Air Proving Ground Center, Air Research and Development Command.

In October 1933, he was assigned to the 18th Pursuit Group at Wheeler Field, Hawaii, and in December 1935 returned to the U.S. for assignment to the 17th Attack Group at March Field, California. In January 1942, he became assistant operations officer of the Fourth Air Force at Hamilton Field, California, and later became its operations officer.

In November 1942, Lieutenant Colonel Terrill assumed command of a provisional group at Davis-Monthan Field, Arizona, and continued in command of the group when it moved to Alamogordo, NM and Topeka, Kansas; in March 1943, he took the group to Cairo, Egypt. He returned to the United States and, in April 1943, was placed in command of the 382nd Bomb Group at Pocatello, Idaho; later that year he formed, trained and took overseas the

445th Bomb Group. In July 1944, he was appointed assistant chief of staff for operations of the 2nd Air Division, and in May 1945, he became deputy chief of staff for operations of the Eighth Air Force. His World War II service, including participation in combat missions, earned him the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Air Medal, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm.

From September 1945 until June 1946, Colonel Terrill served as deputy chief of military studies for the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey in Tokyo, Japan, and Washington, D.C. In July 1946, he became an instructor in tactics at the Air War College, and in August 1947 became chief of staff for operations of the Air University.

From June 1948 until May 1951, he commanded the 93rd Bomb Wing at Castle Air Force Base, California. During this period, his wing won the 1949 SAC Bombing Competition and attained one of the highest ratings in SAC for its overall activities. With this wing, he pioneered and proved the efficacy of offset radar bombing, attained radar reliability with the Q-24 system and greatly improved the circular error in radar bombing. At the beginning of the Korean action, he took the wing, recently converted to B-50 aircraft, to bases in the United Kingdom, and despite meager support facilities and dispersal problems, maintained both its high state of training and an effective mission capability.

As commanding general of Far East Air Forces Bomber Command during the period May–September 1951, he flew combat missions and met an increasing fighter threat to bomber forces by the introduction of new tactics that reduced attrition without loss of bombing effectiveness. For service during this period, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

He was appointed deputy commander of the Fifteenth Air Force, March Air Force Base, California, in October 1951, and served briefly as its commander in July and August 1955. His service during this period earned him another oak leaf cluster to the Legion of Merit.

In August 1955, Major General Terrill became director of operations of the Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, and served in that capacity until July 1958. For this period of service, he was awarded another oak leaf cluster to the Legion of Merit for implementing new tactics and means for controlling and launching the entire SAC force that assured that its targets would be struck in the face of any predictable defensive systems.

From July 1958 until late August 1960,

he served as Air Force member of the Joint Strategic Survey Council, advisors to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on strategy and politico-military matters.

On August 26, 1960, he assumed command of the Air Proving Ground Center, Air Research and Development Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

One year later, on August 15, 1961, he became vice commander of the Air Defense Command, Ent Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.af.mil/information/bios/bio.asp?bioID=7363>. ■

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HALESWORTH 489TH NOTES

BY CHARLES FREUDENTHAL

Well, I'm back again, and wondering what to say. It's been a long time since I was faced with the task of producing a 489th column for the *Journal*. With the group newsletter, I set my own deadline, and it's a month long. February, for instance, might be the 10th, or maybe the 17th. It depends on research and what comes in the mail. I can handle that sort of arrangement. I'm happy to report that the 489th Newsletter is now in its 34th year, and will, hopefully, be around for a few more. It would help, dear readers, if those of you who have stories, diaries, photos, orders, etc. to donate or lend, would do so. I promise safe handling and return, if requested. Contributions would no doubt make our pages more interesting and readable. We're looking for the right place to send our records to (eventually, not tomorrow!) for permanent storage when we reach the point of no return. Please consider this, and future research-

ers will bless you.

We started the Group Association in 1976, with 19 members on board. I came in as number 20, and can remember only that Colonel Napier and Paul Surbaugh were on the roster. There was no Group Vice President until Bill Robertie, then 2nd Air Division Association president, appointed me to the slot. Maybe Paul can give us some more names from the original 19.

Jumping around to another thought: I've often wondered why so many of our members don't ever come to a reunion. Finances? Could be, but maybe every once in a while — like once every few years? The most common comment I've heard is, "I don't know anybody there," to which I would point out that most of us didn't know anyone either the first time, but the reason we were there, I believe, was to relive the days and experiences of '43 and '44. Talk, mingle — you will soon know a whole bunch of people who flew the same missions, worked on the same aircraft, went to the same pubs. It works like that!

Incidentally, I first met up with the B-24 in 1942, at Midland. All I could do was stand there and gape. We weren't allowed any closer than that. I did most of my bombardier cadet flying in a B-18A, which cranked along at about 120 mph, if memory serves. I had my first crash — a ground loop — in a B-18. The left main gear collapsed on touchdown. The maintenance people who responded were so concerned about the plane that they ig-

nored (forgot?) all of the flight crew except the pilot, and we had to hike back to Ops. I guess we didn't cost money and the airplane did.

"WHEELCHAIRS FIRST!"

And now, many years later, we are going to have another group reunion, another visit to Branson, Missouri, most likely in September. Who will be there? Look for photos in past issues of the newsletter, and you'll see the same faces again and again. When we load the bus for one of the sightseeing trips, the word is "Wheelchairs first!" No matter, spirits are high, appetites are good, and tall stories are all over the place. Hey — come and join us. We'll keep a light on and a place at the table!

One last item — if you are "computerized" at your house, remember that the Friends of the 489th website is <http://489th-bomb-group-museum.org>. The one that is operated by the Army and Air Corps Library and Museum (copyrighted) is <http://489bg.com>. Traffic is really picking up on the Friends site, and Marjorie has passed two projects along to me. Dan Davis is looking for information about his father and his time with the 489th (Keith T. Davis, gunner on Ray Beights crew in the 846th). The other search is for information about Robert Partridge (846th pilot) on behalf of nephew Gus Roehrig. Any help you might give will be most welcome. ■



HARDWICK

Open Letter to the 93rd

BY JOHN L. LEE

Dick Robert appointed me to serve as Chairman of the Group Relations Committee. I would like to have the name of the VP of each Bomb Group, Headquarters, and the Fighter Groups. We do not have a complete and updated list of those representing each unit making up the 2ADA. Please send me this information by e-mail to JLee1922@aol.com with no attachments. If there are attachments, send to Betbrown31@aol.com. If no e-mail capability, then send regular mail to 930 Preston Trail, Melbourne, FL 32940.

For the past few years, while serving as VP of the 93rd and as president of the 2ADA, my wife Betty and I have attended the Remembrance Day services in England. Last year I had the privilege of laying the wreath in Norwich on behalf of the 2ADA. This year we attended the service and watched as Dick Robert, the new president, laid the wreath.

We were also privileged to attend a Remembrance Service at the wartime chapel at Hethel Airfield on Saturday, November 7th. The service was conducted by Pat Ramm, the English liaison to the 453rd BG. What an outstanding service it was. Pat began by stating that we were gathered there to remember the young men killed in action flying from airfields in that area and North Africa. He then recited without notes, "668 from the 93rd, 700 from the 389th, 366 from the 453rd, and 320 from the 466th." He went on to say that all these young men volunteered, and along with 24,000 other aircrew of the Eighth Air Force who were also killed in action, helped to make it possible that we enjoy the privilege of living in a free country today. He gave a moving tribute to those young men who experienced the emotions of seeing their friends' planes go down in flames. He closed with the

words we heard so often during that weekend: **They shall not grow old as we that are left 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.** He then gave the order for the sounding of the Last Post by Derek Knights, the bugler. A short silence and then Derek sounded Reveille. Following the ceremony, Betty and I were invited to join others in laying wreaths. We felt very honored to lay a wreath at the flagpole in honor of the 93rd BG, followed by Andrew Hawker and Steve Mendham (389th BG), Dick Robert and Aggie Ramm (453rd BG), and Cathy Thompson and partner Les (466th BG). Andrew Hawker, who is a member of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, had arranged this visit and we all felt most grateful to him as it was a special day in our lives. Pat Ramm and all the others there made us feel most welcome, and we were served hot tea and goodies by the ladies of the group.

Last year's reunion of the 93rd BG was held in Shreveport, LA. We spent time at Barksdale Air Force Base where the 93rd

(continued on page 14)

Jordan R. Uttal, 1915-2009

BY MATTHEW MARTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

In 1947, six former 2nd Air Division USAAF officers who had been stationed at Headquarters in Norfolk during the Second World War, and who lived in the Chicago area in the United States, decided to meet at the apartment of one of them for a few drinks on a Friday evening to remember old times.

When their gathering broke up on Sunday afternoon, they agreed that it had been such a success that they should repeat the event the following year. The wife of the officer in whose apartment the get-together took place indicated that it would be a splendid idea that they meet again, but that under no circumstances was this to take place in her apartment.

From these small and inauspicious beginnings there started the 2nd Air Division Association, an organization which, at its peak, had a membership of nearly 9,000 Americans, all of whom had been stationed in Norfolk or northeast Suffolk during the war.

Jordan Uttal, who has died in Dallas, Texas at the age of 94, was one of those six officers. He played a central role in the Association's affairs over the ensuing 62 years, serving, since 1989, as its honorary president. One of the primary purposes of the Association was to support the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division and the Memorial Library in Norwich.

The Memorial Trust had been established as a UK charity in 1945 in memory of the nearly 7,000 American airmen of

that Division who had been killed in action. It received a significant endowment at the start from the departing Americans. Whilst it took some years for the Memorial Library to be constructed, in due course it opened in 1963 but was destroyed by fire on 1 August 1994 along with the remainder of the Norwich City Library. It was recreated, however, in an enlarged form, in a building called The Forum which was opened in November 2001. The Forum, a Millennium Commission funded landmark building, was one of three built in the last decade in the centre of Norwich, designed by the renowned architect Sir Michael Hopkins.

From the late 1940s to the present day, the Association has continued to send funds to the Memorial Trust in Norwich to support this unique war memorial which houses contemporary books about American life and culture, the 2nd Air Division's Roll of Honour, archive film and other material.

Jordan Uttal was born in New York in 1915. He attended New York University and subsequently Harvard Business School. He enlisted in the U.S. military three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and arrived in Norfolk in May 1943. He concluded his war service with the rank of Major and with overall responsibility for statistical data, especially bombing accuracy analysis.

During the war he met and married an English lady, Joyce. After the termination

of hostilities he and his GI bride returned to the United States and he resumed his career in the food industry. For a number of years he was a senior executive with the Kraft Corporation.

The 2nd Air Division Association has held annual conventions throughout the States and, on several occasions, in Norwich. The arrangements for all these conventions were made by Evelyn Cohen, the Association's Membership Vice President, who was one of a limited number of American women sent over to assist the military in the war. Uttal liked to refer to Cohen as the Association's "Mother Superior," which, given both their Jewish origins, caused a certain amount of mirth.

Uttal's larger-than-life character, combined with his oratorical skills and liking for risqué jokes in venerable company, gave these reunions an extra edge. They culminated in a convention in Norwich in November 2001 when the Forum and the Memorial Library were opened with much fanfare, and with many hundreds of veterans and family members attending from the States. At this convention the Association was awarded the Honorary Freedom of the City of Norwich, the only time in the City's long history that this honour was given to a foreign organisation.

Uttal, as at all previous conventions, played centre stage. Given the events of 11 September 2001 in the United States, this last convention on this side of the Atlantic held extra poignancy. ■

Folded Wings

HDQ

Jordan R. Uttal

44th BG

Robert J. Andres
Robert B. Bratzel
Richard D. Butler
O. Frank Hurst

93rd BG

Col. Harvey P. Barnard (Ret.)
William B. Ferraro
Michael S. Krok
Charles H. McKee

389th BG

Lloyd J. Gael
John Honatke

392nd BG

George E. Chenail
Murray Milrod
Col. Robert E. Vickers (Ret.)

445th BG

Henry G. Bender
LTC Lowell D. Harris
Lloyd N. Hodges
Henry A. Laforet
A.R. Meir
Manuel Moreno

446th BG

Warren A. Blower
William Robert Hosper
James E. MacDonald

448th BG

Leroy J. Engdahl
Edward J. Ondrasik

453rd BG

Lester Morris Naastad

458th BG

Leroy J. Fischer
Franklin A. Foutch
John J. Jones
Andrew Lubnick
John K. McCain
T.J. McQueen
John Miligan

466th BG

Hoytt Childress
Robert W. Harrington

467th BG

Frank H. Johnson
Edward Sanicki
Leonard E. Tomaski

489th BG

Kenneth L. Rogers

491st BG

Franklyn Bachman
Alfred P. Conner
Harry K. Mellinger

492nd BG

Ben Parnell

Fond Farewell to "Mr. Norwich"

BY MICHAEL POLLITT • REPRINTED FROM THE EASTERN DAILY PRESS, JANUARY 20, 2010

A tireless campaigner for his native city of Norwich, Tom Eaton, died yesterday, aged 91.

As a civic leader, he was the third youngest Lord Mayor, and was regarded as "Mr. Norwich" for his contribution to the life of the city and county over seven decades.

His family has been involved in the city for more than 200 years and he was also a hereditary Freeman of Norwich. It was no surprise when the young solicitor, who had spent more than three years as a prisoner of war of the Japanese in the notorious Changi Jail, joined the family firm of Overbury, Steward & Eaton.

He became a partner in the firm, which had been founded in 1788, on March 24, 1948, under his father, Frederick, who retired as senior partner in 1962. For almost 30 years, he was senior partner but was still coming into the office well into his 80s until finally retiring as a consultant in October 2005.

He had entered politics before his 30th birthday when he was elected to City Hall as a Conservative councillor in 1947, becoming a member of several committees including education and town planning. He played an influential role in planning a future for the war-damaged city in the post-war years.

He stood as an MP in 1951 and 1955 in Norwich North but was unsuccessful.

However, he became Lord Mayor in 1957 at the age of 39 and was the first lawyer to take the office since Dr. E.E. Blyth in 1909. His themes in his mayoral year included support for a centre for the physically handicapped and promoting Norwich by promoting travel grants for students.

In 1962, he was made an OBE; in the same year, as chairman of the libraries' committee, he had opened Norwich Central Library. He was also a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk.

As mayor, he had become involved with the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust, which had been established a decade earlier to maintain links between the people of East Anglia and U.S. servicemen and women. He served for almost 40 years, including more than 22 years as chairman of the governors until retiring in January 1997.

He was proud that the American Library was officially opened in 1963 by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. And he regarded the living library in the heart of the Central Library as a link with the past and an enduring legacy of sacrifice



CIVIC LEADER: Tom Eaton, wearing his Royal Norfolk Regiment tie, and his medals, including, from left, OBE, Burma Star, 1939-1945 star, Victory Medal with oak leaf (mentioned in dispatches), and Territorial Decoration.

by so many Americans during the war.

In 1972, the first annual convention in Norwich was staged by the sister organisation, the 2nd Air Division Association, which was to bring so many friends together again — from across the Atlantic.

He had become disheartened by politics when local government had been restructured by his own party. By 1974, he

was chairman of the Memorial Trust's Board of Governors and was about to stand down.

When fire destroyed the Central Library on August 1, 1994, he and fellow governor, former U.S. officer, Maj. Jordan Uttal, who died last November, pressed for a replacement. It was recreated in The Forum which was opened in November 2001, and houses the 2nd Air Division's Roll of Honor, archive film and other material.

His legacy also includes the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum. And his plan in 1998 to re-open the tunnel between Shirehall, once the Assizes Court, and the Castle Museum, the former jail, was also successful.

The regimental association's secretary, Lt. Col. Tony Slater, said: "He was the guiding light and driving force for moving the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum into the Shirehall and setting up the committee, which raised a huge sum of money for the collection to be moved. What is left is an enduring museum which not only reflects the history of the Royal Norfolk Regiment but is also a wonderful education facility and something enduring for the future."

"That is typical of Tom and his far-sightedness. He was also for many years the 'father figure' of the Territorial side of the Royal Norfolk Regiment."

Thomas Christopher Eaton, who was born in October 1918, went to Stowe, in
(continued on next page)

Tributes

Major General (retired) John Southerell, president of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Association and a former colonel of the Royal Anglian Regiment, said Mr. Eaton was a "remarkable man of great character, dedication, and drive." He added: "He was a Royal Norfolk veteran of the Second World War and the war in the Far East and a survivor of captivity at the hands of the Japanese. Tom Eaton was a founder member and the inspiration behind the creation of the museum of the Royal Norfolk Regiment and Royal Anglian Regiments in Norwich. This museum was a national pioneer of the concept of embedding regimental museums with the county museum service. Both the Royal Norfolk Regimental Association and the Royal Anglian Regiment have benefited immensely from his wisdom, foresight and commitment, and he will be greatly missed."

Richard Jewson, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and chairman of Archant, which publishes the EDP and sister paper the Evening News, said Mr. Eaton made a "great contribution" during his life. He said: "He was a man who loved Norfolk and Norwich and served them greatly throughout his life."

Steve Morphew, leader of Norwich City Council, said: "He was a well-respected figure who, in lots of ways, made a major contribution to the city and I think the city has reason to be grateful to him. It's very sad to see his passing."

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

BY OAK MACKEY (392ND), 2ADA VP MEMBERSHIP

Here is a 1993 photograph of Jordan Uttal, Maxine Mackey, and myself. In it, Jordan is 78 and I am 71. The location may be in the dining room of the Hotel Norwich. The Executive Committee of the 2ADA traveled to Norwich that year to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Second Air Division Memorial Library. Phyllis DuBois was librarian at the time, and the Library was located in the northeast corner of the Norfolk County Library then. The Library burned the following year, on August 1, 1994. Elsewhere in this *Journal* you will find Jordan's obituary written by Matthew Martin, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust (*see page 9*). You will find it both interesting and historical as well as a sincere tribute to an old friend whom we will miss so very much.

Well, let's get down to business about some membership matters. Today is January 18 and Ray Pytel, the *Journal* editor, wants my thoughts on his desk by January 30. The annual dues postcards were mailed out on December 22, 2009 and the results have been most gratifying. Your dues payment checks have been arriving in my mailbox in a veritable flood, sometimes as many as 100 in a single day. By the time this *Journal* is in your hands in March, almost all of you will have paid your dues. The Post Office has returned a few dues notices because you may have stopped your mail for any number of rea-



L-R: Jordan Uttal, Maxine Mackey, and Oak Mackey at the Hotel Norwich in 1993.

sons, perhaps because you have traveled south for a better climate. Those who have not paid their dues by April 1 will be sent a second dues notice. If you are in a financial bind and the \$20 dues is among those items you find difficult to pay, just return your dues postcard to me with a short note saying so, and the 2ADA will pick up the tab for your 2010 dues. A 2ADA member is a precious person, and we sure as hell don't want to lose you over a twenty dollar bill.

There are lines on the dues notice post-

cards for contributions to memorials for Evelyn Cohen and Jordan Uttal. Your contributions have been very generous. It is far too early to estimate the final tally with accuracy, but somewhere above \$20.00 each would be a good guess.

If you have not yet paid your 2010 dues, you can do so now by writing a check payable to "Second Air Division Association" in the amount of \$20.00 and mailing it to Oak Mackey, 6406 E. Presidio Street, Mesa, AZ 85215.

Adios for now. Be kind to each other. ■

"MR. NORWICH" (*cont. from page 10*)

Buckinghamshire. He joined the Territorial Army in 1936 and served with the 4th Batt Royal Norfolk Regiment during the Second World War. He was wounded and mentioned in dispatches and was demobbed with the rank of Major. He later received the Territorial Decoration.

His contribution to other good causes included the Theatre Royal and he was chairman of the Board of Governors at Wymondham College for many years.

He had been a trustee of the Norwich Town Close Estate Charity for 60 years when he stepped down in November 2008, aged 90. The charity has supported many arts venues over decades and devoted a significant part of its funds to supporting education.

He was married for more than 60 years and leaves a widow, Robin, son, David, and daughters, Kate and Mary. ■



Arriving at Norwich Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving and remembrance prior to the opening of the new 2nd Air Division Memorial Library on 7 November 2001, L-R: Paul King (then Memorial Trust Chairman), the late Jordan Uttal (2ADA Honorary President), and the late Tom Eaton (Memorial Trust Honorary President and former Trust Chairman).

A Tribute to Jordan by an Old Norfolk Friend

BY DAVID HASTINGS

The loss of Jordan Uttal was another bitter blow and the end of an era. Jean and I first had the privilege and pleasure of meeting Jordan in 1981 when the 2ADA Executive Committee visited Norwich and Tom Eaton, as Chairman of the Memorial Trust of which I had just become a Governor, gave them a dinner at the Hotel Nelson. He placed me beside David Patterson who was the 2ADA president at the time, and so began an amazing friendship that was to lead to 29,000 miles of flying together. Jean was seated next to Jordan and he insisted that we both attend the 2ADA convention in San Antonio later that year. We hesitated, as those were the days before cheap air travel, but Jordan told us not to argue and we planned what would be the first of our twenty-six conventions with that great 2ADA family.

We got to know Jordan and his lovely English wife Joyce so well, and enjoyed staying with them in Dallas on several occasions. Jordan as a Trust Governor was fully supportive of our plans to make a Trust film entitled *Remember Them*, and when we made the second one, *A Village Remembers*, he spoke the moving commentary at the end of the film. I flew the finished film out to show him and stayed with him for a few days, and it was a joy to see that he approved. On another occasion we stayed with him before driving down to Fort Worth to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the B-24 Liberator. To us at all the conventions it was Jordan as the



Jordan Uttal and wife Joyce (center) with Joan and David Patterson at the home of Jean and David Hastings.

MC at the banquet who made the candle-lighting ceremony and the entire evening so special. We must also never forget that it was Jordan who started the fund raising for the Fulbright Scholar as well as updating the Roll of Honor and the Benefactors Book. He will also be remembered here in England as he and Fred Thomas formally opened the new Industrial Estate at Rackheath and named Wendover

Road. He also enjoyed his visits to RAF Coltishall and the Bure Valley Railway. Jordan was loved by so many people in Norwich and Norfolk, and they showed their feelings in 2001 at the Freedom of the City evening in St. Andrews Hall.

We have also had the pleasure of having Jordan in our home on many occasions, and he was a really true friend whom we will miss terribly but never forget. ■

Unique role in forging links with Norfolk and the USA

REPRINTED FROM EDP24 (EASTERN DAILY PRESS ONLINE), 27 NOVEMBER 2009

A driving force of a uniquely special relationship between the United States and the people of East Anglia, Jordan Uttal, has died aged 94.

For 62 years, Major Uttal lived to foster the living memorial to almost 7,000 men who lost their lives in the Second World War serving with the U.S. 2nd Air Division.

He was deeply involved in what became the Memorial Library in Norwich, and was one of the six founders of the 2nd Air Division Association in 1947, which had a membership of more than 9,000 at its peak.

Major Uttal, who was the honorary president of the association, served as a Governor of the Memorial Trust from 1982

until he retired after 17 years and was made honorary life governor.

He served alongside the late Evelyn Cohen, who died early last summer, and also spent decades working on behalf of the former servicemen and their families. He gave her the affectionate title of "Mother Superior" for her leadership and energy in organizing the hugely popular reunions.

The Memorial Trust had been established as a charity in 1945 by three HQ officers and almost £20,000 was raised inside a month from the U.S. servicemen. In 1983, the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

When fire destroyed the library on Aug-

ust 1, 1994, it was men like Jordan Uttal who pressed, admittedly with the backing of the people of Norfolk, for a replacement. It was recreated, however, in an enlarged form in The Forum which was opened in November 2001, and now houses the 2nd Air Division's Roll of Honor, archive film and other material.

Uttal was born in New York in 1915 and went to New York University and subsequently Harvard Business School. He enlisted three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and arrived in Norfolk in May 1943, serving at Horsham St Faiths and also the headquarters at Ketteringham.

(continued on next page)

The editor asked me to write an article about Jordan. Please excuse me if you find it too personal, but that was Jordan. All his friends were personal friends to him.

Jordan Uttal was my friend. He often invited me to have lunch with him in the very charming dining room at the fine facility to which he retired. Jordan was a very proud fellow. He would meet me at the front door but would never let me push his wheelchair, which he steered between tables, greeting each table he passed, calling everyone by name. I will miss those lunches.

Jordan and I both served in the 2nd Air Division of the 8th Air Force. I did not know Jordan during the war. I later learned he had enlisted soon after Pearl Harbor as a private, that the Air Force had sent him to Harvard to study statistics, and that he had been commissioned as an officer and rose to the rank of Major. I also learned he had been a heck of a cheese salesman. At his memorial service I learned he had been head of many cheese organizations and president of several cheese associations.

Jordan served in the headquarters of the 2nd Air Division. (I served in the 445th Bomb Group.) Among his responsibilities was the evaluation of bomb strike photos to determine the accuracy of our bombing of German and French targets. He kept careful records of each bomb group, including bomb loads carried, number of aircraft on target, and percent of target damaged.

Jordan married Joyce, a Red Cross lady, while serving in England. It was a very happy marriage, especially after he taught her to make a martini the way he liked them. Her loss was a devastating blow to Jordan. Their ashes are to be buried together at Horsham St. Faith in England.

A Memorial Trust was established as a charity in 1945 by three Headquarters officers. \$20,000 was raised within a month by U.S. airmen. The money was given to a British trust to create a memorial to the 7,000 men we lost. It became a Memorial Library that was officially opened in 1963 by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

I first met Jordan some 35 years ago when I joined the 2ADA. It was immediately apparent that he was the major domo of the organization along with the able assistance of Evelyn Cohen. They were the best of friends but often differed in how the organization should be run. I learned that he and six other Headquarters friends had met on a Friday night in Chicago in 1947 in the home of Howard Moore for a few drinks, and they didn't leave until the

The Jordan Uttal I Knew

BY CHUCK WALKER (445TH)

following Monday. They thought it was such a great outing that they planned another in 1948. Mrs. Moore said, "Fine, but not at my house."

Thus was the beginning of the 2ADA which Jordan spent the rest of his life nurturing. He was the driving force in fund raising (two million dollars) to assure our Memorial Library in Norwich, England was funded in perpetuity. He also fathered a specific book fund to assure there would always be money for books. He also helped raise one million which we gave to the Fulbright Foundation to provide an American Fulbright Scholar in our library, in recognition of the need for an American presence. Fulbright ultimately gave us back our million dollars which we transferred to the Trust. With these funds, the Trust established scholarships for two American students studying at East Anglia University, which provides an American presence equal to that provided by the Fulbright Scholar. He also encouraged members to make endowments to the Library.

Our Memorial Library is the 2ADA's monument to the nearly 7,000 men we lost during the war. There is no other like it in the world. The library contains about 5,000 books about America, American culture, and the American way of life. It contains the Roll of Honor listing the name, rank, and home of every man killed in action. Jordan took it upon himself to edit the KIA list provided by the Army, as there were many errors in it. Jordan also added many names to that list by searching through cemetery records, contacting each group, consulting foreign cemetery lists, etc. He was determined that only those killed in combat be on the list, not those killed on practice missions or run over by a truck, and certainly not the fellow who was shot by a jealous husband. Since the printing of the final edition, only a handful of additions have come to light and they are contained in an addendum. The Roll of Honor is the centerpiece in our Memorial Library, where the librarian turns a page each day.

The original library burned in 1994 and

was rebuilt on site. Our Memorial Library is now enclosed in the magnificent new Forum. Jordan made his 32nd and last trip back to Norwich in 2001 for the dedication of the new library. As usual, he presided with dignity to the delight of all who attended.

Jordan was very articulate, and he had a great sense of humor and a memory of names, places, and dates like no other. He did a masterful job as master of ceremonies of 2ADA conventions for decades, in spite of his jokes, some of which were a bit on the risqué side. He served as president twice, was the 2ADA Representative to the Memorial Trust for many years, was retired as Honorary Life President of the 2ADA, and was also made an Honorary Life Trust Governor.

People loved Jordan, as evidenced by the remarks of Dick Butler, another of our leaders, when he spoke for us all, "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Jordan. He always appeared to have just two things on his mind — our Board of Governors and our wonderful Memorial Library. I don't think we would have either of them without the dedication and hard work of Jordan. We loved the man personally and never will think of the Memorial Library without thinking of our dear friend, Jordan Uttal."

To this I say Amen. We will miss you, Jordan. ■

UNIQUE ROLE IN FORGING LINKS

(continued from page 12)

He married an English lady, Joyce, in Norwich, and after the war returned to the USA and resumed his career in the food industry. For a number of years, he was an executive with the Kraft Corporation.

When he returned for the 32nd time to Norfolk, it was for the opening of the 2nd Air Division Association's convention in Norwich in November 2001.

And it was also the only time in the city's history that a foreign organization was awarded the Honorary Freedom of the City of Norwich. Rightly, as one of the Association's most dedicated servants, Jordan Uttal, as at all previous conventions, played centre stage.

Given the events of 9/11 in 2001 in New York, this last convention on this side of the Atlantic held extra poignancy.

He died in Dallas, Texas. A memorial service will be held in Britain in 2010. For details, when known, contact the Memorial Library on 01603 774747 or e-mail 2admemorial.lib@norfolk.gov.uk. ■

Heavier explosive loads to be possible with Liberators

Soon will make appearance in European theater of conflict

BY WALTER CRONKITE • REPRINTED FROM THE LINCOLN (NEBRASKA) JOURNAL, AUGUST 26, 1943

LONDON (UP) — The new Consolidated Liberator, expected to make its appearance soon in the European theater, will add hundreds of tons of explosives to the daily potential to be delivered to Germany and will give the U.S. air force a bomber with defensive fire power as deadly as any in existence.

Naturally, no announcement is expected concerning the arrival of bomber reinforcements but stories from the United States report the B-24s in massive production.

The Liberators would be most welcome in the theater because the bulk of the old ones were shipped to Africa to undertake the long range bombing jobs at the Ploesti

oil fields in Rumania and at Vienna.

New armament on the four-engined planes answers critics of the earlier Liberators who complained that blind spots made them highly vulnerable.

The old Liberators had only two turrets — top and tail — the new ones have additional turrets in the nose and bottom.

Actually, the fire power in this number of guns has not increased, but instead of manually operated guns, the nose and bottom now have power-driven turrets with automatic computing sights enabling gunners to fire more accurately.

This means a heavy bomber in which power-driven turrets with twin guns in each command every angle of approach.

It will be the most heavily defended heavy bomber in the air.

The new Liberators' noses are similar to recently converted Halifax bombers which have a two-story compartment in which bombardier and navigator are on the first floor and the gunner perched above them. The nose floor can be removed easily.

Ten 50 caliber guns are now available on the new Liberator.

Ed. Note: We don't know where Mr. Cronkite has been, but Col. Halverson's Halpro B-24D's bombed Ploesti at high altitude on June 12, 1942 from Egypt, and the 93rd and 44th BG's started with bombing Europe in Fall 1942. ■

U.S. fliers defy storm to keep up offensive

BY WALTER CRONKITE, UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENT

REPRINTED FROM THE DAILY NEWS, HUNTINGDON, PA, MAY 6, 1944

LONDON, MAY 6 — American Liberators fought their way through the worst spring gales in years today to pound Germany's anti-invasion defenses in Northern France and sent the war's greatest air offensive into its 20th straight day.

Defying weather that grounded most Allied planes, the four-engined bombers of the 8th Air Force sent another cargo of block busters crashing down on "military installations" in the Pas De Calais area across the Straits of Dover from England, a USAAF communiqué announced.

Mustangs, Lightnings and Thunderbolts of both the 8th and 9th Air Forces escorted the Liberators. At least two formations of bombers and fighters roared over London at breakfast time and later were heard crossing the Channel above clouds.

It was the 8th Air Force's 15th operation in 15 days and 19th in 20 days.

In the Mediterranean theater, RAF Halifaxes and Wellingtons attacked railway yards and oil storage tanks at Campina, 19 miles northwest of Ploesti, Rumania, in the pre-dawn darkness today.

The raid, the first by RAF night bombers on the Rumanian oil fields, followed daylight attacks yesterday by American Flying Fortresses and Liberators on the Ploesti railway yards and the Danubian communications center of Turner Severin just below the Iron Gate.

Though American and British planes have been over Western Europe every day and night since April 17, the scale of their attacks has dwindled in the past week because of gradually-worsening weather.

Only a few hundred planes at most participated in yesterday's raids on France, while last night's RAF operations were confined to mine laying and a Mosquito patrol over southern France where three Junkers 88s were shot up on airfields at Mont-De-Marsan, 70 miles south of Bordeaux.

Coastal reports said winter conditions returned to the Dover Straits last night, with gales reaching an intensity of 60 miles an hour, rain squalls blotting out visibility, and the temperature dropping many degrees in a few hours.

The American and British Air Forces based in Britain barely managed to reach 10,000 sorties in the past week, less than the total recorded in three days of the previous week. American heavy bombers have not been out in large force since their raid on Berlin a week ago, though the RAF managed two large-scale attacks on anti-invasion targets in France.

Travelers returning to Spain from France were quoted by Radio Ankara as reporting that Allied air attacks already had reduced the mobility of German troops 50 percent. ■

OPEN LETTER TO THE 93RD

(continued from page 8)

was first organized. We were treated to a flight line tour, highlighted by a visit to the crew compartment of a B-52. What a plane! Later, all the veterans were invited into a briefing room where we were honored by some of the young men who fly and serve in the 93rd Bomb Group of today. We had dinner with the Commanding General of the air base and were made to feel most welcome on all counts.

I would like to encourage all Groups to put forth a special effort to help make the September convention of the 2ADA in New Orleans as successful as possible. And the 93rd BG will have its next reunion in Savannah, GA in October. The main reason for this location is to have the 93rd membership in as large numbers as possible for the dedication of the Stained Glass Memorial Project for the 8th AF Museum. There is hope that members and family will wish to participate in this very special dedication. Travel is becoming more and more difficult, and it may be impossible for some to attend both reunions, but if time and treasure do permit, it will be a good thing.

As head of the Group Relations Committee, I ask that you please advise me of any and all news of your Group's activities, and if you have questions, please let me hear from you. Hope to see each and every one of you in New Orleans and/or Savannah before the year is over. ■

Allowing No Respite

BY PETER MASEFIELD • REPRINTED FROM "PLANE TALK," NOVEMBER 1943

When American airpower first appeared over Europe, numerous British experts were critical. One of these was Peter Masefield, distinguished aviation analyst, whose critique hurt keenly, just because of his outstanding position and worldwide audience. Now, however, Mr. Masefield has watched our long-range heavy planes prove themselves for some two years in action, he has just completed a tour of the great American plants where they are built, and he generously writes here a mature judgement: "We in England did not realise the potentialities of American preciso-pattern bombing by day."



I shall never forget the first Liberator I saw, sitting in its now familiar pose on its tricycle gear — tail cocked up, nose down as though deep in thought — on one of London's fighter defense airfields, newly arrived from America. In those days of stern defensive struggle there in England, this great new airplane brought a thrill of hope to everyone who saw it. For here was a positive indication of America's determination to give powerful aid in the war against Germany.

It had been hailed as an airplane with the makings of something really great. Now it began to show itself in action.

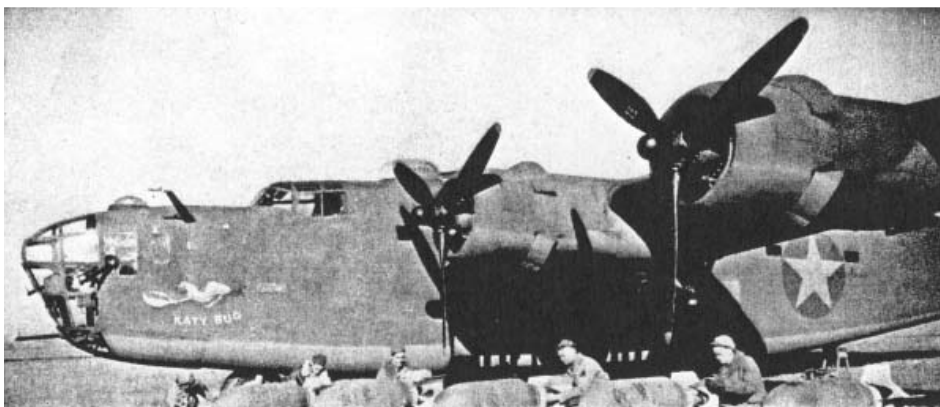
The first Liberators we received in England were some of those originally ordered by the French. They were fitted with French equipment which had to be replaced before they went into service. At that time the pressing need was for swift communication with the United States and Canada. Hence those early Liberators were set on the Atlantic run.



Peter Masefield at the controls of a B-24.

They were the only aircraft with sufficient range and load-carrying capacity to fly the Atlantic on regular schedules. And a magnificent job they did, carrying vital documents, official passengers travelling on state business, and hundreds of ferry-pilots returning to pick up the gradually increasing flow of American aircraft coming to Britain.

So well have these first Liberators served that some of them, including the very first, are still flying the same route. One became Mr. Churchill's famous "Commando." Most of them are still referred to as LB-30 or LB-30As, a curious and interesting relic of the original French order. Apparently the order was made from Consolidated blueprints of which the drawing numbers happened to be "LB-30." Taking this to be the name of the ship, the French ordered these new bombers under the title "LB-30." And so the number has remained ever since for these early versions of the machine.



Liberator crew in England loading the "Katy Bug" for a raid on the Continent.

The Liberator was of course designed for long-range land bombing in daylight. But before it had a chance to prove itself in the job for which it had been conceived, it showed its versatility on other work. By the time that Liberators began to flow across the Atlantic in some numbers from San Diego, the Battle of the Atlantic against the German submarine had begun to take a serious turn. The urgent need was for long-range aircraft capable of standing patrol for hours at a time over convoys far from land, and of doing so while carrying a lethal load of depth charges. Already the Consolidated PBY "Catalina" boats had done well at the task. But much more was wanted if Great Britain was to be supplied with all the weapons essential for war, and the food needed to maintain the people and the great armies quartered in the islands.

The Liberator came to the rescue. Not only had it exceptional range; but it also had speed to carry it to its mid-Atlantic assignments in the minimum of time; it had the capacity to carry a killing load of depth charges; it had space for the crew to rest during long hours over the sea. And, as important as any of these things, it had space for the many radio and radar devices which led to the tracking down of the U-boats.

Thus the RAF Coastal Command began to build up a fleet of Liberators which contributed more than any other aircraft to the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic. What this means is not easy to realize. The fact is that had the means not been available for keeping the German submarines at bay, the whole war might well have been lost on the waters of the Atlantic.

The reply of the submarine to long-range air attack was to surface and shoot back with an increased number of anti-aircraft guns. The reply of the Liberator to these tactics was the mounting of a "tray" containing four 20 mm cannon under the belly. Numerous successes have been scored with this offensive armament. The result of all this was that the submarines moved out further into the Atlantic and concentrated their attacks in mid-ocean, where they believed they would be out of range of air interference. Again the Liberators came back with extra-long-range fuel tanks. And so the Very-Long-Range Liberator, the "V.L.R.," came into being,

(continued on page 30)

In 2008, just months before he passed on, Herb Schwartz donated his hand-written diary to the Kassel Mission Historical Society. Here are a few excerpts:

19 JULY 1944

1st Mission: Yes, today was my first mission. It has been a long, exciting and nerve-racking day. Awaken at 12:45, chowing at 1:30 and attending briefing at 1:45. Our target was deep into German territory (airfield in Leipheim, 50 miles NW of Munich). 2750 gallons meant a long and rough mission. I was scared and nervous but after reaching the air, I got over it. I volunteered to fly it. I did not fly with my old crew but with Lt. Smith, a damn good pilot and his crew had all the way from 30-34 missions and this was the last combat mission for two of the men. Our co-pilot was Lt. Peters [*writing not clear*]. And our navigator, Lt. Abraham. Glass was the radio man and I was to fly the tail turret for the first time in the air. I knew how to operate it but still was not too familiar with the turret as I was the ball. I got out to the ship early, checked her over and made sure everything was all right. We took off at 4:45. I was quite excited. Got acquainted with the crew and we were on our way. I was so excited that I forgot to securely [*hook*] the jacket of my heated suit to my heated pants so I got no heat on the entire mission in my pants or in my heated shoes as the circuit was broken. I had to keep my feet in constant motion to keep from getting frostbitten. I was lucky that the mission was not flown at high altitude. Flew at 18,000 and bombed at 16,000. We spent about 2 hrs. forming and then crossed the Channel into enemy territory. This took only a few minutes. We were to pick up P-38 and P-51 escorts about 150 miles after we reached the enemy coast. Holland and Germany are both beautiful countries. It is too bad that we are all not at peace so people could enjoy same. We reached our target at about 9:40 and though we met only light inaccurate flak on the target, heavy concentrations of accurate flak was encountered to and from the target. We threw out a bunch of "chaff" to throw the guns by radar off. Having those escorts is like someone handing you a million dollars. They keep pursuits away from the bombers. I was in the tail turret and thus in a position to see a great deal which I report to the navigator and he in turn gives it to S-2. I could see our escorts at 5:00 high and I felt a little safer but I reported two unidentified pursuits at 6:00 level about 1200 yards off. They were following our

A LIBERATOR'S DIARY

FROM THE DIARY OF
S/SGT. HERBERT R. SCHWARTZ
(445TH BG)

formations and we never knew what kind of ships they were. However believed it was part of the Luftwaffe, which we have not encountered in some time. They never came into range, and if they did, there were at least 20 guns trained on them. I thought them to be FW-189. I was really loaded down. Had on my Mae West, a parachute harness on top of it and a 35 lb. flak suit on top of the harness. I was on oxygen, had a flying helmet on & a flak helmet on top of it. The sight was high & quite hard to see. Didn't have much room to move around & it was quite inconvenient & damn cold. I didn't even close the door on the turret. I saw my target & we really banged the hell out of it. We spotted 9 aircraft on the field. It was believed to be a mfg. place for jet-propelled planes. Flak before we reached the target was accurate & was about 5:30 level about 50 yards from us. It scared me but I got over it. Was in the form of black puffs. Also saw white puffs of flak at other places as well as several barrage balloons, a military camp and mfg. district. All this was reported to S-2. There were hundreds of bombers & they really looked good after forming with the aid of red & green flares. We were flying next to Heitz's ship and our targets were the same. We lost no ships out of our group but I saw the group behind us fly right thru a bunch of concentrated flak. I test-fired my guns over the Channel but didn't use it.

Harrison was the victim of a freak accident during the mission. Tail gunner in ship in front of him charged a live round out of his gun. It penetrated Homer's turret & hit him in his head — knocked him out. Scared the hell out of him. I always said that I would take a change of pants on my first mission but forgot them today.

✈ ✈ ✈ ✈

S/Sgt. Herbert R. Schwartz flew his 22nd mission to Rhine, Germany on October 5, 1944. It was his first since returning from the Kassel Mission of 27 September 1944, during which his crew, ably piloted by Lt. John French, crash-landed in France. Here is more from Herb's diary:

5 OCTOBER 1944

Fighter escort (Mustangs) was very good. Guess they learned their mistakes at a big loss to our ships. Escorts stayed with us all the time today. Although we had an easy mission, I really sweated it out. I note my nervousness when flying now. Every fighter looks like an enemy fighter to me. I am on edge & hope I can overcome this. We came so close to a collision [the 445th flew in the slip stream] in the air today and if it hadn't been for sudden action of control wheel, we would [have] never returned. Our wing men flew too close and I was grumpy all day. Because ships were all making run at target at same time, we delayed dropping our bombs as another ship was right beneath us . . . Every mission completed makes me closer to completion. How I look forward to that day.

6 OCTOBER 1944

. . . briefed at 5:15 by Col. Jimmy Stewart, former Hollywood star, and proceeded to ship for a 7:45 takeoff. We had a rough target today [*Hamburg*] and I am on edge. I was nervous and scared all today. We met some very accurate flak at the coast . . . I nearly jumped thru my turret when I heard the first burst . . . At the target there were heavy barrages of flak. Our target was well hit as I saw entire dump on fire. Could also see the incendiaries stored there blowing through the air. We led the division in and caught less flak than groups behind. Escort was good, thank God, and we bombed visually. All ships returned, many hit, few hit badly but only one wounded boy . . . Learned that Les is now in Germany. Mack and I want very much to get 7 day leave. Don't ever remember when I have been so nervous. We are scheduled to fly tomorrow, so our appointment with the flight surgeon will have to wait.

7 OCTOBER 1944

Mission 24: This is my 3rd trip to Kassel. Soon they will know me by my first name. It was here where our group was hit so hard just over a week ago. Today, 2000 bombers went over Germany & 1500 escorts, largest number ever sent, and at 2:30, 800 Lancasters and Halifaxes went over. Germany has had it today.

Our escort was good, but to me, every fighter looks like a German fighter & my heart jumps to my throat when I see these fighters. Flak . . . was . . . very accurate. We got 4 holes in our Bombay [*sic*], one large hole in the exhaust, one in the rear, one in the flight deck and 3 large holes in

the nose turret . . . [Fabian] Mack got grounded & will go to rest home . . . I really hate to think of flying tomorrow.

9 OCTOBER 1944

Mission 25: Coblenz . . . We had Mustangs for escorts and today was the best I have ever seen. We and one other group had about 100 as a private escort. They come in groups of four, where Germans come in groups of 25. I thought to myself, what would have happened if we had this wonderful escort the day we were hit. Might have been a different story, as our fighters are respected . . . Leavy and Vadera had only one more. Heitz & Drake only two if they finish them with 30 missions.

11 OCTOBER 1944

We flew a practice mission . . . first since in the ETO. Got to witness dogfights between Mustangs & Thunderbolts against our new fast jet-propelled twin engine Bell "Aircomet" . . . we now know how these jet-propelled jobs attack. Germans have them and they are using them. Very fast but life in the air is very short.

Had a squadron meeting last night. Due to 9/27 mission to Kassel, each gunner is now responsible for cleaning and caring of his guns.

13 OCTOBER 1944

2 buzz bombs came about 100 yards over our barracks last night and shook the ground. Germans lodge them about 4 times during the day in numbers of three.

15 OCTOBER 1944

We are scheduled to fly tomorrow — Heitz's last mission; also Drake, Leary and Vadera. Lt. French & Cochran & Greenly are still here. Monohan, O'Kelley, Winand & Havard have left for the States. Today was a rough mission [26th mission — Dusseldorf] & I am getting more nervous by the day. Every time I hear flak, I jump two feet in the air. I sure look forward to the completion of this job.

17 OCTOBER 1944

27th Mission: Cologne . . . This was a big important mission. All our officers were flying their last one. We had a rough target and were trying our new radar equipment to throw off the flak guns. At altitude, we could see contrails, and this made it harder flying. We had Mustangs as our escorts and it was very good. Everyone was quite nervous, but we came thru with only slight battle damage . . . Radar equipment really worked for us, but groups

preceding us caught flak pretty badly. We saw enemy jet-propelled craft in the air, but they never made an attack on us . . . Flak was intense over the target but all our ships returned safely.

Every mission seems much longer now. They are continually on my mind and I don't believe I will return to normal until that last one is completed. Ray Heitz and the boys were so happy. I really envied them. We landed at 12:30, was [*sic*] interrogated and cleaned the guns. I got ready for a big drunk I promised myself at the Sgt. Club. I had a good time — a cute date from div [*presumably, Division*] HQ . . . I did get drunk and together with Homer Harrison and Geo. Davis, we had a real party.

I learned today that Gene is in K.C. [*Kansas City*]. News like this makes me more homesick than ever.

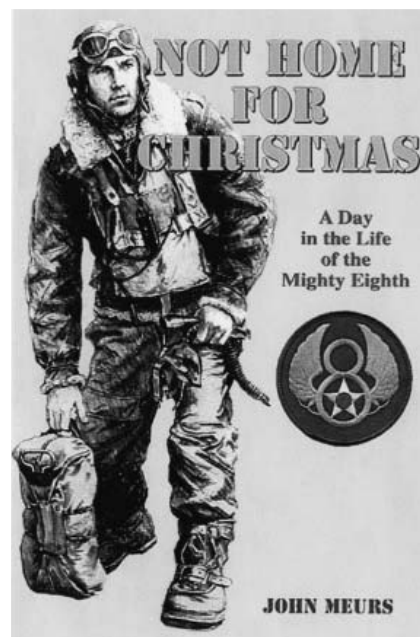
10 NOVEMBER 1944

I did it!!! Today I flew my last mission, at least I don't believe I will ever fly again in the E.T.O. It was certainly a hard one [*Frankfurt*] for a last one, taking 8 hours, 7 hrs. at high altitude. I flew with Lt. Lumby, a new pilot and a good one, thank God. We had an airfield for our target. This field had about 20 transports on it as well as ground strafing planes, which are giving General Patton's 3rd army quite a time. Our bombing was a success, and as a result, Patton advanced thru the Met area 32 miles without too stiff a resistance. We had a very good escort consisting of 5 groups of Mustangs. Heavy flak . . . over the target and enemy craft were in the vicinity but never harmed us. I was quite ill in the area because of this. I passed out over enemy territory and was very ill the whole mission. Was perspiring so much that I didn't even use my heated suit. I managed to get 4 extra flak suits and I wallpapered the fuselage with them, as today I flew waist position for the first time. Wearing a black chute, a flak suit and throwing out chaf about got the best of me. We returned with very little trouble . . . Everyone congratulated me on my finish but it really seems hard to believe that I have finished and never will I ever be so thankful to God for bringing me through. I am very nervous and shakey [*sic*] but they say time is the best care for this. I plan to take a leave and hope I will be on my way soon with Mack, Callahan & the rest of the boys. This will be my last write-up in this book for some time, but it is a day I have looked forward to since the first day I started to fly. ■

NOT HOME FOR CHRISTMAS:

A Day in the Life of the Mighty Eighth by John Meurs of Holland

Long after a B-17 crashes behind the home of a Dutch schoolboy on November 26, 1944, the former schoolboy — now a retired businessman — compiles first-hand narratives he gathers from the survivors and next-of-kin into this 34-chapter book — one for each of the B-17 and B-24 crews lost that day, including five from the 445th Bomb Group, and the Boykin crew of doomed Kassel Mission survivors.



REPORT OF THE 2ADA REP ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

(continued from page 4)

for his dues to the Friends. I combined it with my check and mailed them to Pearl Neale, the treasurer. I strongly urge you all to support the Friends and to join the organization if for no other reason than to receive their newsletter, "Second Thoughts."

The American contingency, along with four Governors, attended a very impressive memorial service in the American Chapel at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on the 12th of November.

It is my present plan to attend the April 2010 Governors meeting. You are all welcome to join me.

Stay well!!! ■



WENDLING 392nd BY OAK MACKEY

As you already know, the 2010 Second Air Division Association convention will be in New Orleans. The hotel is the Omni Royal Orleans located in the French Quarter so all of downtown New Orleans is within walking distance. AAA rates it as a Four Diamond hotel; you can expect it to have all the desirable features such as comfortable rooms and excellent restaurants. Convention dates are September 10-13, 2010. There will be more detailed information about the convention elsewhere in this *Journal*.

You may have already read all that follows in the 392nd BG NEWS. The 8th Air Force Historical Society is holding a special meeting in Detroit August 8-11, 2010 to attend an air show called "Thunder over Michigan" sponsored by the Yankee Air Force located at the Willow Run Airport. The 392nd BG Memorial Association will be having their annual meeting there in conjunction with these events. The hotel is the Airport Crown Plaza. Room rates are a very reasonable \$89, and there will be a hospitality suite provided for the 392nd.

It was a long time ago (1991) that the 2ADA convention was in Dearborn, Michigan and one of the featured tours was a visit to the Yankee Air Force Museum on the east side of the Willow Run Airport. Lunch was served in the hangar, the museum exhibits were on display there, and the airplanes were outside which included a B-24 available for an interior inspection for free. Another major attraction was a Boeing B-52 recently acquired by YAF. It was not in flying condition then, so we can assume it is still there. An added attraction which was not really part of the tour was a North American AT-6 owned by Howard Ebersole who lived in the Detroit area. "Eb" as he was usually called, was a pilot in the 392nd BG, and he was giving rides to some of the 392nd people whom he knew, including Col. Gilbert. I don't recall who else went for a ride with him. He is gone now; we won't see him there this year. You may have seen the YAF B-17 at the 8AFHS Convention in 2007 at Kalamazoo. It was there on display and available for rides (\$400), except the weather didn't cooperate. It will be on the scene in August for sure, and many other airplanes including two B-24s. So

make your plans and buy your tickets — this will be one of the best 392nd conventions for awhile. God willing and the creek don't rise, Maxine and I will see you there. We missed the past three, but we won't miss this one.

B24.NET CATCHES ON WITH AVIATION HISTORY BUFFS

*by Bill McGuire, author of
"The Last of the Liberators"*

World War II research and historical preservation takes many forms, but today it's particularly hale and hardy on the Internet. The Web is the happening place to find facts and engage in cross-generational discussions about the war. I recently had the opportunity to talk about some of the reasons for this popularity with one of its most skillful advocates and practitioners, Bob Books.

Bob is the webmaster and one of the founders of B24.net, a fairly recent yet heavily trafficked site that contains the records of the 392nd BG, and many other features of broad interest including the most extensive archive on the web of Stalag Luft POW material. Bob Books' own father, Lt. Dallas Books, a 392nd BG, 579th Squadron pilot, was killed on a mission to Germany, March 18, 1944. Bob is also a volunteer consultant on website matters to the 8th AF Historical Society and to the Second Air Division Heritage League. (See 8thAFHS.org and HeritageLeague.org).

McGuire: What do you see as the most popular features of your website and other sites, and is there more of this kind of thing going on now?

Books: My perception is that since the movies "Saving Private Ryan" and "Hart's War" there has been considerably more interest in WWII. The History Channel has certainly helped with various WWII programs. Of course, this was the BIG ONE and many people have grandparents, uncles, and old friends who once served and they are now interested in what WWII was all about. Other books and movies like "Hart's War" have also added to the interest. Most of our inquiries are from people asking questions about the service of loved ones. After that, the POW section is visited more than any other; then aircraft photos and stories are most frequently accessed.

McGuire: The 392nd BG website, B-24.net, has grown substantially since its start in May 1999 as a memorial to the Books crew. There's an encyclopedic collection of still growing 392nd material, including missing aircrew reports and mission dates, loading lists, personal

stories, illustrations, a research service and the extensive POW section. How did all this come about?

Books: Well, I had the technical ability and together with me, Jim Marsteller, whose uncle was also killed on my dad's B-24, shared a great interest in the history of this mission and of their bombardment group. We both enjoyed great relationships with members of the 392nd BG Memorial Association, which officially endorsed the site in late 1999. It is a group, I'm happy to say, that is seriously committed to passing the torch along to the next generation. Gradually, we acquired a good mix of vets and second generation researchers and volunteers. Ben Jones in England then brought us a good working knowledge of the group's base at Wendling in East Anglia. Bob Vickers allowed us to put up material from his published histories. Carsten Kohlmann does research for us in Germany. Greg Hatton, another second generation member whose late dad was a POW, brought us his expertise in the Stalag Luft area and a wealth of information. I believe this is now the Internet's largest and most complete body of research for the American POWs in Europe. Researcher Annette Tison heads up a team that runs down all queries through our resources link and really helps make the site interactive rather than static. Jim Goar and the entire 392nd community have been very supportive, and have also provided us with the financing we need to keep growing and getting better.

McGuire: How do you measure the success of a website?

Books: We're one of the most popular WWII aviation sites, generating around thirty thousand visits a month. That's pretty good. Altogether the site contains over 470 million bytes of material. It is one of the largest historical sites. And we're still growing. I have a present backlog of about four years of additional material, at our present rate of building on. We have a lively guest book, and that is a solid indicator or feedback mechanism. Ninety-eight percent of what we hear is positive, and we get compliments and suggestions from all over the world. And we're not selling anything except history.

McGuire: Where do you see the future leading in the field?

Books: More technical innovation, and I think toward more cooperation and sharing of information. Organizations like the 8th Air Force Historical Society have terrific potential to not only serve as a central resource and clearing-house but also to act as a unifying force

(continued on page 26)

WHY COME TO NEW ORLEANS SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2010?

Why **NOT** come to New Orleans?

We have the best food, nicest people, unique culture, World War II Museum, as well as plans for a great convention. We want to show you a bit of Southern hospitality and a bit of our entertainment. We intend to wine and dine you, and share the flavor of the Cajun French for a week-end of memories. You will surely leave here with a return visit in your future plans. *Like we always say "Let The Good Times Roll". –Gwen Robert, Convention Co-Chair*

63rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2010 OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL 621 ST. LOUIS STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70140

Wednesday, September 8

Early Convention Arrivals

Hospitality Room Open for Duration of Convention. Informal games available throughout the convention.

Thursday, September 9

2:00pm - 6:00pm **Convention Registration Open**

A Group Welcome Desk with local attraction information will be available throughout the convention.

Evening on own.

Friday, September 10

8:30am - 9:30am **Convention Registration Open**

10:00am - 3:00pm CITY TOUR (description follows)

3:30pm - 5:30pm **Convention Registration Open.**

Additional hours will be posted at the convention, if necessary.

6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party- Cash Bar

7:00pm - 9:00pm Dinner

Saturday, September 11

7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast

9:30am - 11:00am Business Meeting

11:15am - 12:15pm Heritage League Meeting

2:00pm - 4:15pm Informal Heritage League Round Table Discussion

6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party- Cash Bar

7:00pm - 9:00pm Cajun Dinner Buffet with Entertainment and Dancing

Sunday, September 12

7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast

10:00am - 3:00pm NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM (description follows)

6:00pm - 7:00pm Cocktail Party- Cash Bar

7:00pm - 9:00pm Banquet Dinner with Entertainment and Dancing

Monday, September 13

7:00am - 9:00am Buffet Breakfast

Farewells and Departures

REGISTER ONLINE AND PAY BY CREDIT CARD!

www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir

OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL – NEW ORLEANS, LA
800-843-6664 504-529-5333

The Omni Royal Orleans Hotel is located at 621 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70140. The hotel is just 15 miles away from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY). The hotel is located on the most fashionable corner, St. Louis at Royal. Many attractions like Bourbon St, Louisiana Superdome, and Emerils Cooking Empire are only a couple of miles away. Contact the hotel for accurate driving directions.

The hotel has 346 accommodating guestrooms and suites. Handicapped rooms and smoking rooms are subject to availability. Please request this special accommodation when making your hotel reservations. Each room features wireless high speed internet for \$9.95/day, hairdryer, iron/ironing board, coffeemaker, umbrella, in-room safe and complimentary USA Today delivered to your room daily. Guests may also enjoy access to the rooftop outdoor heated pool and observation deck (seasonal), and rooftop fitness center featuring state-of-the-art equipment. Overnight valet parking with unlimited in and out privileges is available for registered Second Air Division attendees at 50% off of current parking rate (Currently, \$32 + tax per vehicle). Check-in is at 4:00pm and check-out is at 12 noon.

Guests that choose to join the hotel's industry-leading loyalty program, Omni Select Guest Membership, will receive complimentary wireless internet, bottled water upon arrival, and a complimentary in-room hot + cold beverage every morning of their stay. Enroll at www.omniselectguest.com.

Winner of the prestigious Zagat Award, the **Rib Room** serves prime rib, beef specialties, fowl and seafood prepared on giant French rotisseries and mesquite grills. Serving breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner, the Rib Room is open 6:30am-10:00pm daily. **Touche Bar**, open from 11:00am-midnight Sunday-Thursday & 11:00am-1:00am Friday-Saturday, is a popular French Quarter bar serving the "locals" of New Orleans. Salads, sandwiches and light entrees are also available. **La Riviera** is a delightful oasis of poolside refreshments. Continental breakfast, light lunches and delectable frozen daiquiris are served from 11:30am – 2:00pm daily; cocktails served until dusk.

The Omni Royal Orleans Hotel does not provide a complimentary shuttle to and from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY). The hotel suggests using Airport Shuttle New Orleans. Currently, their rates are \$38.00 Round Trip per person or \$20.00 One-Way per person. For more information, reservations, or questions, please contact them at 504-522-3500. Upon arrival, proceed to the baggage claim area on the ground level. After you have retrieved your luggage, proceed to the Airport Shuttle Ticket Desk, located across from baggage claim areas 3, 6 & 12. These desks are staffed for sales by cash or credit card daily from 8:00am-11:00pm. Following 11:00pm daily you can purchase a one-way cash ticket from any driver on the loading dock outside of baggage claim area 6 & the driver will provide you with a cash receipt, if needed. The hotel has parking for guests staying at the hotel with RV's about 10 blocks away from the hotel. Should electrical hookups be required, please call New Orleans West at 800-562-5110 or 504-467-1792. The park is located at 11129 Jefferson Highway, River Ridge, LA 70123, which is approximately 12 miles away from the hotel. Call the park for information, directions, and reservations.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the convention, 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 -----

63rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION - HOTEL RESERVATIONS
CONVENTION: SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2010

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NUMBER (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

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: \$119 + tax (currently 13% + \$2 occupancy tax) Rate will be offered 3 days before and after convention dates.

CUT OFF DATE: 08/05/2010. 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. To avoid an early departure fee of 1 night room + tax, please advise hotel when checking in. You will not be charged the fee if departure is due to family or medical emergency.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

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

NAME ON CREDIT CARD AS IT APPEARS _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL * 621 ST. LOUIS STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70140 *
FAX: 847-698-5483 * ATTN: RESERVATIONS

63rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the convention. 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 August 5, 2010. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. All new registrations accepted at the convention 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 _____

<i>CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/5/2010</i>	Price Per Person	# of People	Total
<u>REGISTRATION PACKAGE</u> Includes Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, Sunday and Monday; Dinner on Friday, Cajun Dinner Buffet on Saturday and Banquet on Sunday; Hospitality Room, Entertainment, Administrative and additional convention expenses including a \$10 AFR registration fee. <i>Please indicate the total number of people/packages</i>	Package Price		
	\$310		\$
<i>Please select your entrée choice(s) below:</i> FRIDAY DINNER:			
Herb Panko Crusted Redfish			
Lemon Rosemary Chicken Breast			
Vegetarian			
SATURDAY: CAJUN DINNER BUFFET <i>Indicate number of people attending</i>			
SUNDAY BANQUET:			
Prime Rib			
Roasted Sea Bass			
Vegetarian			
<u>TOURS</u>			
FRIDAY: CITY TOUR	\$ 35		\$
SUNDAY: NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM	\$ 39		\$
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

Please write your name as you would like it to appear on your nametag.

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 convention program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel convention activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after convention.

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

63rd ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Tour Descriptions

CITY TOUR

Friday, September 10

Your tour of the Crescent City will include a drive through the Central Business District, the Garden District, and the Warehouse/Arts District. A trip down historical St. Charles Avenue is complete with universities, parks, old oaks, stately charm, and an operational streetcar line. View the lovely antebellum homes and Lake Pontchartrain, where some of New Orleans' finest newer homes are located, and stop at one of the city's unique above-ground cemeteries. Learn the history of the city's famous French Quarter (the "Vieux Carre"), where a blend of French and Spanish cultures intermingles with a modern lifestyle. Also witness the bustling seaport activities, which are such an important aspect of the city's economy. Enjoy free time at Jackson Square, the focal point of activity in the French Quarter. Explore the area with its gracious iron balconies and lovely courtyards. Lunch is on your own in Jax Brewery, an old landmark transformed into a modern complex of shops and eateries, or at one of the many fine restaurants in the Quarter. The bus will provide a shuttle back to the hotel. Shuttle schedule TBD.

10:00am board bus, 3:00pm back at hotel

\$35/Person includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM

Sunday, September 12

Dedicated in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official WWII Museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era. From the Normandy invasion to the sands of the Pacific Islands and the Home Front, you will see the courage, teamwork and sacrifice of the men and women who won *the war that changed the world*. Explore moving personal stories and powerful interactive displays. Dining options include P.J.'s Coffee Shop as well as The American Sector, a full-service restaurant. The museum suggests making a lunch reservation with the hostess upon arrival for a time that best suits your needs. For an additional cost view the powerfully authentic 4-D cinematic experience, *Beyond All Boundaries*, narrated and executively produced by Tom Hanks, in the Solomon Victory Theater. The Bus will do shuttles back to the hotel. Shuttle schedule TBD.

10:00am board bus, 3:00pm back at hotel

\$39/Person includes bus, escort, and admission. Movies and Lunch are 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 trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling convention 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 convention 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 convention activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after convention. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your convention activities.

The Cambridge American Cemetery

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SUBMITTED BY DICK ROBERT, 2ADA PRESIDENT, AND CAC SUPERINTENDENT DAVID BEDFORD

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), established by law in 1923, is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government. The Commission is responsible for commemorating the services and achievements of United States Armed Forces where they have served since April 6, 1917 (the date of U.S. entry into World War I) through the erection of suitable memorial shrines; for designing, constructing, operating and maintaining permanent U.S. military cemeteries and memorials in foreign countries; for controlling the design and construction of U.S. military monuments and markers in foreign countries by other U.S. citizens and organizations, both public and private; and encouraging the maintenance of such monuments and markers by their sponsors.

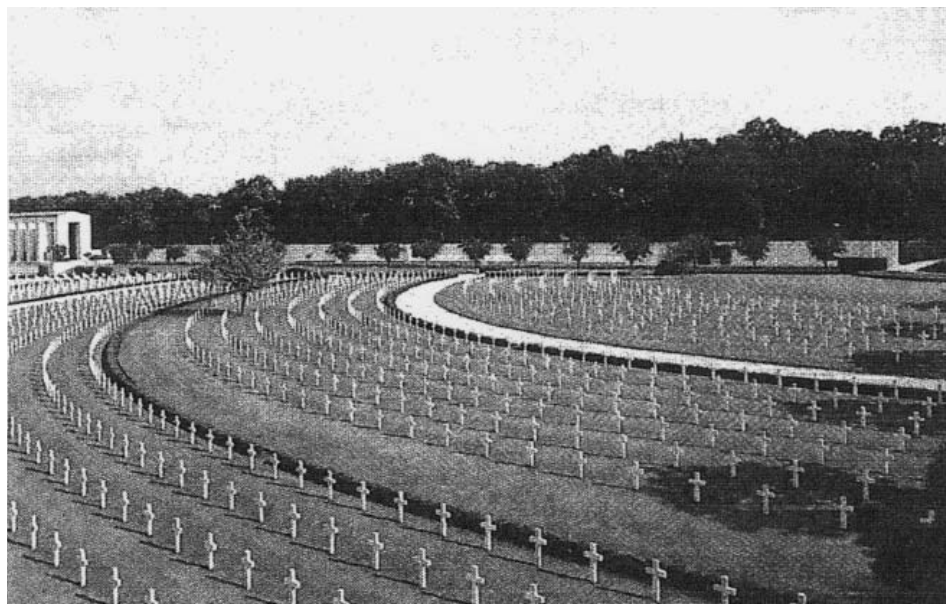
The Cambridge American Cemetery, 30.5 acres in extent, was constructed on the site of a temporary cemetery established in 1944 on land donated by the University of Cambridge. After the war, it was selected as the only World War II cemetery in the British Isles. A high portion of those buried here were temporarily interred in England and Northern Ireland and represent American servicemen and women who served as crew members of British-based American aircraft. Most of the others died in the invasions of North Africa and France as well as the training areas of the United Kingdom and the waters of the Atlantic.

The cemetery is situated on the north slope of a hill from which Ely Cathedral, 14 miles distant, can be seen on clear days. It is framed by woodlands on the west and south. The road to Madingley runs along the cemetery's northern boundary.

The memorial chapel is of Portland stone, as are St. Paul's Cathedral and many other monumental buildings in London. On the north face of the memorial are five pylons, each inscribed with one of the years from 1941 through 1945.

The entrance of the memorial at the west end is framed by two pylons. On the pediment above them is the dedication: "To the Glory of God and In Memory of Those Who Died for Their Country 1941-1945."

The main entrance doors are of teakwood. They bear bronze models of various military items and naval vessels. On the south exterior wall of the memorial



is a great map which depicts each location in the United Kingdom where an American unit of battalion or larger size was stationed during WWII. The places where units of brigade-size or larger were stationed are indicated by name. The map also shows the principal air and sea approach routes to Great Britain from the United States. It is embellished with the sculptured coat of arms of the United States and the United Kingdom. The significance of the colors and signs used is explained in the legend.

Inside the memorial, the impressive map, "The Mastery of the Atlantic – The Great Air Assault," is the outstanding feature of the museum room. The wall bearing the map is of Portland stone. On the map, the lower land elevations are indicated in polished Portland stone, while the higher elevations are in polished Hauteville, Lunel Clair, and Lunel Fonce marble, respectively.

Below the map are seven plates, six of which contain key maps recording the development of the war against Germany and Japan. The seventh, a bronze plaque in the center, bears a description of the operations portrayed by the great map.

The seal of the War and Navy Departments as well as the principal decorations awarded our Armed Services are depicted in glass panels beside and above the main door to the memorial. They include the Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross,

Medal of Honor – Army, Distinguished Service Medal – Army, Soldier's Medal, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Navy Cross, Medal of Honor – Navy, Distinguished Service Medal – Navy, and Navy and Marine Corps Medal.

The other windows of the memorial contain individual prayers for each service.

REPATRIATION

The Repatriation Program started in 1947 in the European Theater. Lisnabreeny was the first cemetery in the UK where all bodies were exhumed. This finished on 22 October 1947, the next, Brookwood, was complete 28 May 1948, and finally Cambridge was completely exhumed on 2 June 1948. An elaborate and impressive ceremony was conducted in Cardiff, attended by over 4,000 visitors, on the 18th of June with the shipment home of the first bodies from the United Kingdom. The first permanent interment in the Cambridge American Cemetery took place on 30 August 1948.

Of those buried here, 46% are Army, 46% are Army Air Force, 5% Navy, 2.4% United States Merchant Marines, and less than 1% others such as the U.S. Coast Guard or civilians working for the military, etc.

Burials in the cemetery are said to be at random. Even though some individuals of an air crew might be buried here, they are probably not buried side by side

(continued on next page)

THE HONORARY COMMANDERS GO TO WAR

BY DAVID J. HASTINGS, MBE

HONORARY COMMANDER, 100TH MAINTENANCE GROUP, RAF MILDENHALL

The 100th Air Refuelling Wing of the United States Air Force based at RAF Mildenhall recently gave their Honorary Commanders, including David and Jean Hastings, a unique experience when they were told to report to the main terminal building at RAF Mildenhall at 0930 hrs in casual clothing. You can imagine our surprise when on arrival we were told that we were going to take part in a practice deployment to Afghanistan.

After the initial welcome with all our own squadron commanders with us, we were taken to a large hangar next to the terminal to be issued all our winter clothing plus chemical warfare suits and masks, and then our very heavy kitbags were loaded onto a pallet ready to go in

the aircraft. Next we were fitted with the very heavy body armour and then joined the departure line which included the chaplain, legal, medical and families officers before the final security and ID check where we were issued with our dog tags and collected our own RME (ready to eat meal) plastic pack from a choice of various menus. By now we were all very excited, it seemed so real.

Then back to the terminal building, which is one of the main U.S. transit bases for personnel coming to Europe or the Middle East, and then into the briefing room for a whole series of briefings. The first was on Afghanistan, the history, the current situation, security and Afghan words and customs we would need to

know. Then came the medical briefing, covering all aspects including treatment of injuries which was followed by a talk on the legalities of war and self defence. Finally we met one of the base commanders at Kabul who with the use of slides gave us a full rundown on the base, where we would live and what the conditions were like. As he ended we heard the noise of a C130 Hercules arriving and he told us that this was our aircraft for the eleven hour flight downrange and that we could start boarding. Out on the apron we all entered the Hercules through the aft ramp with the engines running and then strapped in. Soon the ramp closed and we realised that we were on the move.

(continued on next page)

CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN CEMETERY

(continued from page 23)

except in two cases, both at the request of family members.

The Cambridge American Cemetery has the largest Wall of the Missing in the European Theater, listing 5,127 names. On the Wall are listed 2,831 aviators and 1,370 sailors. Others listed are the U.S. Marines, 30, and of the U.S. Coast Guard 234 are remembered.

Statistics do not tell the entire story of those we commemorate, but there are special groups that do figure into the total Second World War story: We have 32 civilians that are buried here, who worked for the U.S. military and their families were given the option of burial in a military cemetery. There are 24 foreign nationals interred here as well (like today, it was not necessary to be an American citizen to serve in the U.S. armed forces.) We commemorate 18 women, 17 buried and one on the Wall of the Missing. Catherine Price was a nurse on the flight that went missing carrying our only Medal of Honor recipient, Lieutenant Colonel Vance. From what we find in our local records, there are 108 African Americans interred in the cemetery as well as 80 Stars of David in the plots acknowledging those of the Hebrew faith.



All of our American cemeteries outside the United States started as temporary burial sites. In the European Theater there were 37 temporary cemeteries run by the

American Graves Registration Service as part of the U.S. Army at the end of World War II. In the United Kingdom there were three cemeteries: one in Brookwood, Surrey, England established 18 July 1942; one in Northern Ireland at Lisnabreeny established 2 December 1943; and the last and the one that would become permanent, Cambridge, England, established 7 December 1943.

Those who were buried in the aforementioned temporary cemeteries had died while serving in the United Kingdom. Causes of death were routine accidents and sickness which is frequent to a population of 1.6 million military personnel. Some of those buried here had suffered injuries or sickness on the continent and were evacuated to the U.K. for hospitalization dying later of wounds; in the two months after the invasion there were over 65,000 medical evacuations to England. But most of those interred here, over half, are from the U.S. Army Air Forces, who died in flight over the British Isles. From our records, 9,639 Americans were temporarily interred in the three temporary burial sites pending the end of the war: 3,635 in Brookwood, 148 in Lisnabreeny, and 5,856 in Cambridge.

Upon confirmation of death the next of kin was notified, but it would not be until 1946 when their requests for permanent interment was solicited by the military. Families were given the choice of where to have their loved ones buried. But in this, only one family member was the legal decision-maker. If the deceased

were married then the spouse, if not remarried at the time of the petition, made the decision regarding permanent burial. Otherwise the father and afterwards the mother chose the burial site, followed by siblings and then if these did not exist, other next of kin. The process to solicit the desires of loved ones took several years throughout the world. Once the vast majority of families responded, all of the bodies in a temporary cemetery were disinterred for either shipment to the U.S. or for re-burial overseas.

The policy of repatriation of the body as per the family's wishes started after the First World War. At the time there were two schools of thought regarding permanent interment: one, supported by the former President Teddy Roosevelt, was that those fallen on the field of battle should be kept and honored there following the Commonwealth War Graves Commission model; the other was a proponent against overseas burial, the American Funeral Directors' Association. This organization took out ads in the major newspapers supporting the repatriation of a fallen soldier's body. The ads stated that it was a dishonor to leave a son in a foreign country so far from home and loved ones. The funeral directors of course would profit greatly in this venture, charging the government for the permanent burial. With these opposing views, Americans were given the option of burial. Americans after both World Wars I and II would repatriate 61% of their war dead to the United States. ■

Lest We Forget: Armistice Day, Norwich 2009

BY CAROL HOLLIDAY, SECRETARY, HERITAGE LEAGUE

It is the 91st annual Remembrance Sunday on the steps of the Norwich City Hall as the Memorial Garden is being revamped and is closed off by barricades. 2009 is especially poignant as the war rages on in Afghanistan with about two thirds of Britons feeling the war cannot be won, plus the untold number of Americans feeling the same sentiments.

This year we are especially blessed to have three WWII veterans, Dick Robert, Chuck Walker, and John Lee in our midst. Other Americans attending are Dede Casad, Betty Lee, Kimberly Moore (Betty's daughter), Joan Patterson, Vicki & Kurt Warning, and Carol Holliday. After the wreath-laying ceremony at City Hall we will go to the Norwich Cathedral for a special service given by the Reverend Peter Nokes, Vicar, St. Peter Mancroft Church. I will never forget the first time I came to Norwich in 1990 when we had over 1,000 American visitors that year. How fortunate I have been to participate over the years.

We give thanks to God for those who are willing to preserve freedom and we pray for those families who have lost a loved one or friend. To quote General Sir Richard Dannatt in his speech given during the third Biennial Lecture (a series of lectures on Anglo-American relations), and in response to the unpopularity of British troops being in Afghanistan, *"We lost the last three wars in Afghanistan. Why do we think we can win a fourth? The problem is the language of our question We are not trying to win a fourth war in Afghanistan. We are in Afghanistan at the request of the people of Afghanistan. It gets back to what I've said several times about it being a model of the people, about the people and for the people. It's critically about the people."* Suffice to say this is not about defeat or winning. It's about helping people understand they can lead a better life away from violence and oppression and with economic policies that exclude the ever-increasing opium drug trade. War is expensive and tragic. While few of us wish our countries to be involved, there are things which are sometimes unavoidable. If we ever forget what happened to the UK and the European allies in the first two World Wars, then we are in deep trouble. It is something that must never be repeated. As a matter of interest, at this time, my nephew is serving with the USAF in Iraq and my cousin is serving as an officer with the



Norwich Cathedral, November 8, 2009.

PHOTO COURTESY: CAROL HOLLIDAY

British Forces in Afghanistan.

2009 also marks a historical moment here in Great Britain. It is believed the last three (British) First World War veterans have now passed away. Harry Patch was 111, Bill Stone was 109, and Henry Allingham was 113. Amazingly enough, these

If we ever forget what happened to the UK and the European allies in the first two World Wars, then we are in deep trouble. It is something that must never be repeated.

three "super-centenarians" laid wreaths at the Cenotaph memorial wall in London during the 2008 Remembrance Day ceremony. This year they were memorialized by Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey. Addendum: On January 22, 2010 a British ancestral gerontological researcher discovered another living survivor from WWI, Mrs. Florence Green, now 108 years old, who joined the Women's Royal Air Force in September 1918 and who worked as a waitress for the officers' mess at RAF Marham and Narborough, both in East Anglia, UK. She now resides with her 88-year-old daughter in Kings Lynn.

As usual the week will fly by but will leave special memories in our hearts and minds. We are especially indebted to our American veterans for all of their sacrifices during WWII and the British governors and wives for their hospitality and warmth who've always treated us to a special time in an effort to honor the American presence in Britain. ■

THE HONORARY COMMANDERS GO TO WAR (continued from page 24)

After about fifteen minutes of taxiing including a run down the main runway, we came to a stop and as the ramp was lowered we saw that we were in a wilderness on the far side of the field with a row of tents. As we left the Hercules, with the engines still running, we were greeted by an officer saying "Welcome to Kabul." Next came a series of briefings on the situation, how to take care of ourselves, the head to toe sleeping arrangements and general security before we then entered our tent to start on our lunch packs. These are impressive and with the addition of a tiny amount of water, the main course was soon heated up and ready to eat. The breakfast cereal was just the same: add some water and it was all ready. As briefed, all our water came from bottles and the drinks came out of packets.

After the meal we cleared our tents and then had four very detailed lectures. The first was on the IED's and we saw a huge range of all very these nasty weapons. Then came a talk on our superb first aid packs and we learnt how to deal with injuries including the loss of a limb. Next came the fire drill and how careful we needed to be in the tents, and finally we saw the U.S. Air Force guard dogs checking items for explosives as well as their ability to stop a suspect terrorist, which was impressive. The attention to detail and the realism made the whole day come alive, and we were quite sad when a coach arrived to take us back to the terminal building for our final briefing and to receive a copy of the group photograph taken outside our tents "in Afghanistan."

We can never thank the U.S. Air Force and Team Mildenhall enough for giving us this wonderful insight into what it is actually like for the U.S. servicemen who deploy to the Middle East and a small idea as to the conditions they live in. ■



NEWS OF THE 453RD FROM FLAME LEAP

BY LLOYD W. PRANG

I just bought a calendar for the year 2010, and it comes to me that I have been doing this job for eleven years now. That's a long time for anything. When I started, it seemed like fun — new people to meet, new things to do, etc. Lately, it comes to me that it isn't fun anymore. It's hardly fun reporting on the disabilities and other things that are coming at our age. For example: **Evelyn Cohen** and **Jordan Uttal** have died. And recently I received word that **Dick Butler**, VP of the 44th BG, had died. I reported earlier that **Paul Pfenninger**, the waist gunner on our crew, had died; now, a few weeks ago I learned that the navigator of our crew, **Lou Stern**, had fallen, hit his head, had to have his skull drilled to relieve the pressure, then while in rehab he fell and broke his leg. And our top turret gunner, **Mel Baldus**, has had two strokes. There are only three of our crew still alive. Irene and I are doing pretty good, but our legs don't work very well. There's more bad news about other people, but I'll save it for another paragraph.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our thanks to the following people who took the time to send them. Sorry I couldn't get to doing it this year. "Stuff" just keeps getting in the way. Anyway, a special thank you to **Wib and Diana Clingan**, who wrote "Hi, and as to be expected, we are dwindling. (*I imagine Wib meant the 453rd and 2ADA people.*) It has been good, however, to know and associate with the fine people we have. We count that as a blessing." (It certainly is a blessing.) I heard from **Walter Morris**, and **Peggy and Don Parcells**, who wrote "Had seriously thought we might make the reunion in Chicago, but Peggy's ailments were a little too much at the time. If they don't worsen during the coming year, we might be able to travel again." Then there came a card from **Tom Raiser**, son of that famous pilot, **Jack Raiser**, who recently sold his home and is having a ball in a retirement home in Pensacola, Florida. One from **Jeane Stites**, and **Marcine Thomas**, who sent a long letter about her activities in 2009. Marcine is the wife of **Cliff Thomas**, who was the radio operator on the **Joe Meintel** crew, 735th Squadron. Cliff passed away in 2007. Finally there was a card from **Phil and Brenda**

Tudek. Brenda is the daughter of **Linda Wittig**, who is the daughter of **Charlie Allen**, a pilot with the 735th Squadron.

We also received cards from the staff at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, from **Oak and Maxine Mackey**, and a Christmas letter from **Chuck and Dede Walker**.

MORE BAD NEWS

Dick Robert, the 453rd BG Secretary and current President of the 2nd Air Division Association, recently sent an e-mail telling of the death of **Lester Naastad**, who had been the top turret gunner on Dick's crew. Dick said that Lester's death comes as somewhat of a shock because it meant that Dick was now the only surviving member of the **Andrew Fleckenstein** crew.

June Reis, wife of **Herb Reis**, who was the navigator on the **Jim Reidy** crew of the 735th Squadron, wrote that she had a knee replacement, therefore no Christmas cards this year, because among other things she had been Herb's caregiver since he had fallen and broken his neck several years ago. Now she had had to put him in a nursing home for thirteen days while she was recovering. She was able to get Herb home on November 11th but on the 24th he fell against the closet doors while going to the bathroom and hit his back and head and ended up in the hospital. Next, on December 1st he was back in the hospital again because his diabetes was out of control. Four days later he went back to the rehab hospital. The good news is he is feeding himself now and she is hoping to get him home if he is able to use a walker. They are looking forward to having their 64th wedding anniversary on December 29th.

Then on December 18th, **Marcy Nase** wrote that **Earle** was not doing well against his battle with cancer. I called him, but he was taking a nap and wasn't able to talk. Earle and Mary were always at every 453rd reunion. FYI: Earle was the co-pilot on the **Bud Fischer** crew, 733rd Squadron.

NOW FOR SOME GOOD NEWS!

Jack Raiser, who recently sold his home and moved into a retirement home, says he is having a real good time there.

Also, he intends to be in New Orleans when the 2ADA gets there next September. If all goes well, Irene and I intend to be there also. I hope all you guys will be there too.

Finally: I would guess many of you would think we should be about ready to hang it up. However, comes now **Robert P. Everett**, who was a gunner on the **Glenn Campbell** crew, 733rd Squadron. He'll be sending \$10.00 to Mo for his membership dues. He's from Waltham, MA. I hope he and his brother, Herb, can get to the 2ADA convention in New Orleans in September at the Royal Orleans Hotel. ■

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and model for historical research and presentation, including the electronic kind. All the aviation history sites have their dedicated interests, and presently do a fairly good job of electronic linking. We ourselves are always willing to share material as long as we are properly credited as the source. But there is room for umbrella organizations to look at the bigger picture as well, and for making resources more fully accessible over time.

McGuire: Tell us what motivates you, Bob, in this continuing work.

Books: One of the greatest motivators is the guestbook. Seeing all the interest and the help being given to vets, friends and family members keeps us all going, people like ourselves, who want to know about loved ones who served in WWII. No history book will contain the depth and breadth that this site covers. Future generations need to know what a world war is all about and the sacrifice our warriors made for worldwide freedom. Also, in the future, all our material should be put on hard media, like a CD ROM, and distributed to libraries, museums and surviving generations of WWII vets.

It is a shared passion too. The people doing this work with me all enjoy a wonderful fellowship. Finally, those of us who lost a loved one are so grateful for those who have helped us put the pieces of history together about our loved ones' involvement in the war. Simply put, we have an obligation to do the same for others. And, because of the cost to us of losing a loved one, we want future generations to better understand the price of war to keep the freedom we enjoy. This is work that needs to be done now, while it is still possible to listen to and learn from those who served. ■

Germans Confront the Nazi Past

BOOK REVIEW BY BRITISH HISTORIAN MAX HASTINGS • REPRINTED FROM THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

Germany and the Second World War, Volume IX/I: German Wartime Society, 1939-1945: Politicization, Disintegration, and the Struggle for Survival

edited for the Research Institute for Military History, Potsdam, Germany, by Jörg Echternkamp, translated from the German by Derry Cook-Radmore and others. Clarendon Press/Oxford University Press, 1,035 pp., \$330.00

It became a twentieth-century custom for nations to produce, under the auspices of government, official histories of their roles in great conflicts. The U.S. and British studies of World War II are voluminous and uneven. Some contributions, like Samuel Eliot Morrison's chronicle of the U.S. Navy's operations and Michael Howard's and John Ehrman's examinations of British strategy, are outstanding. Anglo-American campaign narratives suffer, however, from the fact that most were written within a decade of the war's conclusion, and were subject to the exercise of varying degrees of influence and interference by former senior commanders who were still very much alive and holding high positions in government and in the armed forces.

Even more important, those histories were published while Allied code-breaking activities remained highly classified. As a result, American and British chronicles omit or obscure the critical part played by decrypted enemy signals in determining strategy and battlefield decisions. For example, the official history of the Royal Navy's role in the Battle of the Atlantic by Captain Stephen Roskill, in many ways admirable, is fundamentally flawed because it ascribes successful U-boat detection to radar, sonar, and high-frequency direction-finding. It says nothing of the fact that throughout the war, the numbers of Allied merchant ships sunk fluctuated in remarkably exact inverse correlation with Bletchley Park's successes in breaking German naval ciphers.

In a world conducted for the benefit of scholars, the U.S. and British governments would today provide funding to revise the official histories in the light of modern research and revelations. As it is, of course, we must be content with what we have got: Fifties-vintage volumes that provide indispensable information about which regiments went where, and when.

Some nations' official records are much less reliable than those of Britain and the U.S. Even in the twenty-first century, a depressingly small number of societies



Ruins of houses destroyed during World War II, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1946.

WERNER BISCHOF/MAGNUM PHOTOS

seek honestly to examine their own pasts, in war or peace. The Russian official histories of 1941-1945 are farragoes of nonsense, their version of events dominated by the propaganda requirements prevailing in Moscow when they were written. The French have never attempted to produce an officially sponsored account of their wartime occupation, because there would be no possibility of achieving acquiescence in, never mind consensus about, a version of what took place.

The Germans, however, are more fortunate. Over the past twenty years, the Research Institute for Military History in Potsdam has produced a succession of mighty volumes under the title *Germany and the Second World War*. These are not in the strictest sense official histories. They do not carry the formal imprimatur of the Berlin government. But they come near enough to amount to the same thing. The merits of the Potsdam chronicles are acknowledged by every student of the conflict. They profit immensely from being compiled so late in the day, when a huge weight of modern research is available to scholars. Those of us with specialist interest keenly anticipate the translations of each massive new volume by Oxford University Press.

The quality of contributions and campaign narratives varies, since each volume

is multiauthored. Some recent studies in the series suffer from overdependence on Allied sources. They devote excessive space to — for instance — the conduct of the Anglo-American strategic bombing offensive. It seems otiose for German authors to rehearse a mass of detail about Allied activities that are already familiar to historians.

The importance of the Potsdam works derives from their meticulous examination of German documentary sources, which enables their authors to tell the story from a German perspective. They go to extraordinary lengths to display objectivity and detachment. Few, if any, readers of other nationalities could convincingly argue that this account attempts to mitigate, far less deny, the enormities of the Nazi era. Sometimes, indeed, the writers express themselves as if they were men and women without nationality, determined to blame others for nothing. In the latest volume, consider the circumlocution employed to note the fact that the Red Army frequently massacred German prisoners:

In the context of the brutal fighting in which the German invaders often came up against defenders whose fury had been further heightened by propaganda there is also evidence of treatment of German prisoners

(continued on next page)

NAZI PAST (continued from page 27)
of war in contravention of international law.

The tone of the book is ponderous, bloodless, passionless, almost obsessive in its anxiety to acknowledge German guilt and eschew judgmentalism. Far from displaying any hint of partisan animosity toward the Allies, the authors write of “the growing number of enemies combating German aggression.” They note the belief of some German army officers in the summer of 1944 that the Führer should be told the truth about the plight of Germany. They contrast this with Claus von Stauffenberg’s view that Hitler must be killed, and comment with extravagant caution: “This uncompromising stand was most probably justified.” But it seems mistaken to tease about an issue of such gravity. It is unsurprising, indeed admirable, that German historians chronicling the era of Germany’s deepest shame approach their task as if sorting eggshells.

The latest volume comprises a series of essays on aspects of wartime German society. Its authors consider shifts of public mood and morale; contemporary awareness of the persecution and murder of Jews; the social makeup and battlefield fate of a typical Wehrmacht division; the experience of being bombed; the influence of the National Socialist Party and its propaganda machinery on day-to-day life and thought; and the role of domestic resistance.

In the autumn of 1939, in contrast to 1914, there was little popular appetite for war. General Ritter von Leeb wrote to the army’s commander in chief on October 3, describing a “bad mood among the population, no kind of enthusiasm, no flags flying on the houses, everyone looking for peace. The people feel war is unnecessary.” The Nazi leadership, aware of the uneasy torpor, identified the party’s foremost task as the mobilization of popular spirit. Hermann Göring addressed German workers a few days after the attack on Poland: “I call on you every man, every woman, young men and young women. We are all of us fighting in the front line.”

At the outset, however, not only did such appeals strike no chord, but there was a widespread delusion that the Führer himself wanted to halt the fighting. The authors write: “Most Germans were quite sure that Hitler would soon end the war that had been forced on them, since in the end what mattered to him was ensuring peace.” All this changed in 1940. Germany’s triumph over France roused national euphoria, which ebbed only slowly

ly during the years that followed, amid the invasion of Russia and the rising tempo of Allied air raids. Stalingrad marked a turning point, of course, after which most Germans were acutely fearful for the future of their nation. If few suffered any sense of guilt — they placed overwhelming blame for Europe’s plight on the Allies — they knew that crimes had been committed, for which a terrible retribution would be exacted.

Yet opposition to Hitler or even criticism of him remained extraordinarily muted. Most people were willing to believe that he was indeed “the greatest general of all time,” as Berlin’s propaganda asserted. As late as September 1944, an NCO wrote home from the front: “Once the Führer lets his new weapons say their piece, then final victory will come as well.” The National Socialist Party’s membership rose from 5.3 million in 1939 to around nine million in early 1945. A decade of social and educational indoctrination had been overwhelmingly successful in convincing younger Germans of the virtues of ruthlessness, cruelty to lesser races, and the rectitude of any course of action adopted by Germany’s ruler.

The party appropriated responsibility for many measures that displayed its concern for public well-being, above all the relief of air-raid victims. Huge quantities of furniture were shipped from Jewish homes all over Europe, whose occupants had been dispossessed and murdered, to replace German household goods destroyed by bombing. Between March 1942 and July 1943, for instance, the contents of 22,623 Dutch dwellings were transferred to German ownership, along with those of 47,569 French and Belgian homes. Between 1941 and 1945, the property of 30,000 Jewish families was sold at public auction in Hamburg. Most of the 100,000 successful bidders were well aware of the goods’ provenance, but took them anyway.

Even for those tempted to criticize Germany’s leadership, fear of the consequences was strong. The authors note that the impression of ubiquitous surveillance was more potent than its reality. Small towns possessed only one Gestapo agent apiece. But it was well understood that anyone who voiced dissent would pay a price. An administrative officer in Braunschweig who decided that the war was lost and slashed his wrists was saved by medical assistance obtained by the city’s Kreisleiter, who then had the man shot for defeatism. Two days before U.S. troops arrived in Wetzlar in March 1945, the town’s Kreisleiter was hanged for defeatism after he put up a sign proclaiming “Welcome to our liberators.”

According to the findings of the research institute, almost every German

was aware of the existence of concentration camps, and most believed that their inmates, whether Jews or mere dissenters, deserved their fate. The authors write that collective tolerance of the camps was founded in social rejection of the categories of people assumed to be imprisoned there. Many such institutions were located on the outskirts of urban areas. The authorities in Dachau welcomed the creation of the camp there, believing that it would stimulate the local economy. Prisoners were widely employed on public works in full sight of the population, especially to clear air-raid damage. In Bremen, their striped garb caused them to be known as “zebras.”

Amid a desperate shortage of labor for rubble removal, authorities in Cologne arranged for hundreds of prisoners to be quartered on a ship anchored on the Rhine, to ensure that they were readily available once the bombers departed. Prisoners were not, of course, admitted to air-raid shelters, and thus they perished in large numbers during Allied attacks. German civilian doctors displayed no reluctance to sign death certificates for concentration camp inmates who died while working in the cities, even when it was plain that these were victims of their guards’ brutality or casual shooting. The mayor of Düsseldorf urged that more effort should be extracted from prisoners: “if these people were pushed harder, we could get many hundreds more work hours out of them, or even more,” he wrote in November 1943.

The authors consider the German people’s indifference to the fate of concentration camp victims to be part of the vast deceit in which the entire nation colluded:

The lie of Auschwitz became the lie of German society, whereby secret knowledge of secret evil was passed off as ignorance . . . Living a lie was normality in German war society . . . Only a few beacons of truth . . . rose above the sea of liars.

As the war advanced, Allied bombing increasingly dominated the lives of the urban population. Munster, for instance, experienced 75 day and 134 night alerts in 1943, which rose the following year to 231 and 98. It is interesting that some 50 million Germans — the rural population — never experienced air attack. But city dwellers learned to spend many hours of daylight as well as darkness in public shelters, which became focal points of gossip and social exchange as well as refuges from bombs.

The police chief of Bochum reported local anger when Nazi Party officials and their friends were found to have estab-

lished squatting rights in a big air-raid shelter, their ordeal mitigated by several cases of beer. German civilians' faith in their Führer might have suffered somewhat had they known that 28,000 workers — as many as were employed on constructing all of Germany's public shelters — were occupied in building Hitler's headquarters complexes and Berlin bunker.

The Nazis strove to arouse in their people a lust for revenge toward the Allies for the sufferings imposed upon them by bombing. When the RAF raided the Ruhr dams in May 1943, one newspaper headline announced: "Attack on dams the work of Jews." In January 1944, General Erhard Milch of the Luftwaffe reported that while British bomber crews were mostly drawn from the nobility,

in contrast, the American flyers come almost exclusively from the lower classes. Every one of the pilots sent out on raids signs up for 30 missions; and for each of those he gets five to six hundred dollars.

The book documents lynchings of Allied aircrew by enraged local officials and citizens. After a heavy raid on Essen on December 13, 1944, an angry crowd killed three RAF men. Four more were beaten to death in a succession of incidents around Bochum on March 24, 1944. Such practices were actively incited by such orders as one from a Nazi official in February 1945, which demanded that "all fighter-bomber pilots who are shot down are on principle not to be protected from the indignation of the people." The authors estimate that "at least 350 murders of Allied aircrew are possible." By contrast, a local policeman from Siegen was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment because in November 1943 he invited a shot-down American pilot to eat lunch with his family. Two farmers from Dorsten were imprisoned for giving bread and coffee to downed Allied airmen.

One section of the book analyzes the composition and statistical history of a Wehrmacht infantry division, and also considers attitudes toward the army and the Waffen SS, the SS combat forces. Among 27,000 men who served at some time in the 253rd Infantry, 9,073 were recorded as dead or missing. Eighteen were executed, seven by guillotine, for acts of self-mutilation, desertion, or cowardice. In 1944 the average Wehrmacht formation spent 85 percent of its time in action. Wounds seldom promised a permanent escape from the battlefield. Some 70 percent of all those who were injured were returned to duty.

The authors assess the role of propaganda in sustaining fighting spirit, and note

that by 1943 SS officials were expressing envy of the skill and success of the Red Army's commissars in motivating Stalin's people. A German general wrote during the same year:

The 1943 warrior is a different man from the one of 1939! He has long ago realized how bitterly serious the struggle for our nation's existence is. He hates clichés and whitewashing, and wants to be given the facts, and given them "in his own language." Anything that looks like propaganda he instinctively rejects.

A remarkable number of true believers, reared and educated through a decade of National Socialism, sustained their belief in final victory. But the relentless expansion of the Waffen SS to a strength of 600,000 men in 1944 reflected the Nazi leadership's continuing dissatisfaction with the ideological commitment of the army. "The formation of the Waffen SS," write the authors,

was not born of military necessity . . . It was essentially a reaction to the army's failure to adapt quickly enough to the general social thrust of the National Socialist system.

Probably the most interesting section of this volume considers the issue of domestic resistance to Hitler. Its most striking characteristic, of course, was feebleness. "The National Socialist regime," write the authors,

was not primarily the product of a fiendishly cunning policy devised by Hitler. It arose in at least equal measure from a fundamental aberration on the part of large sections of German society.

It is extraordinary that such a tiny proportion of one of the most educated societies on earth possessed the perception, as well as the courage, of Hans and Sophie Scholl of the White Rose student group, who wrote in their last pamphlet before their conviction and execution in 1943:

Three hundred and thirty thousand German men have been senselessly and irresponsibly driven to death and destruction by the inspired strategy of our World War I Private First Class. Führer, we thank you!

The authors perceive a reality which still escapes many Germans: most of those who joined the July 1944 bomb plot against Hitler did so not because they recognized that he was evil, but because they were

dismayed that he was losing the war: "Not all the conspirators were equally quick to see that the whole of the war conducted by the Wehrmacht was serving criminal ends." Some German cavalry officers, for instance, saw no contradiction in plotting against Hitler while continuing to participate in murderous anti-partisan operations in Russia: "On the national-conservative scale of values, a war against 'Bolshevism' was, it seemed, morally acceptable." Most of the anti-Hitler conspirators were motivated by dismay about the carnage that Nazism was inflicting upon Germany, rather than by sensitivity to the plight of millions of innocents massacred by Germans.

Many of the July plotters aspired not only to an undemocratic future German polity, but also to absurdly unrealistic frontiers for the nation. They supposed that the *Anschluss* with Austria might be maintained, and that Alsace-Lorraine might be independent rather than restored to France. They shared unfounded delusions about the scope for making common cause with the Western Allies against the Soviet Union. The authors argue that the overwhelmingly aristocratic nature of the resistance doomed it to failure, for it lacked any roots in popular sentiment. Many of the military plotters were equivocal in their attitudes. Some wished merely to confront their Führer and to expound to him the reality of Germany's predicament. Others were haunted by scruples about breaking their oath of loyalty to him. Major-General Hellmuth Stieff, head of the organizational section of the army general staff, displayed notable self-indulgence when he said that he was unwilling to kill Hitler because he did not wish to "sully his soul."

The Allies were delighted by the July plot, as clear evidence of fissures in the German war machine. But they were also relieved by its failure. The prospect of having to negotiate with an army clique willing to make peace would open up all manner of ghastly difficulties with Stalin, while raising problems with the American and British publics, who would surely be tempted by a chance of ending the carnage.

Beyond the ranks of the July plotters, the book's roll call of individuals who brought honor to Germany by opposing its barbaric leadership is moving, because it is so short. There was reserve Captain Wilm Hosenfeld, for instance, who saved the Polish Jewish pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman in Warsaw in 1944, and Austrian sergeant Anton Schmid, who was executed for giving help to the Jews in Vilnius in 1942. There was General Dietrich von Choltitz, who defied Hitler's orders to

(continued on next page)

NAZI PAST (continued from page 29)

destroy Paris before the German withdrawal in August 1944, and a few more. But an overwhelming majority even of educated and sensitive people allowed their sense of patriotism to dictate a continuing loyalty to Hitler's cause, even if some came to abhor the man himself.

Henning von Tresckow, one of the most committed and impressive anti-Nazis, wrote before his own execution: "Just as God once promised Abraham that he would spare Sodom if only ten just men could be found in the city, I also have reason to hope that, for our sake, he will not destroy Germany." The authors conclude: "The German national-conservatives bore some of the responsibility for the rise of Nazi rule . . . but they also produced the only resistance that presented any real threat." By 1944, most thoughtful Germans knew that the war was lost. They continued to fight and to acquiesce in Nazi hegemony, because they knew the consequences if they did not. Some 9,732 formal death sentences were carried out in 1944, 8,000 of these in the army. Many more people were summarily killed.

Beyond repression, most Germans retained a profound sense of personal obligation to Hitler, whom they excepted from the mounting tide of criticism leveled against the rest of the national leadership. Finally, and overwhelmingly most important, Germans correctly anticipated the revenge that Stalin's people would exact if the Red Army was able to break through into Germany. They perceived no alternative save to resist the Russians to the bitter end, even if some people would have happily laid down their arms to the Western Allies.

The portrait of German wartime society presented by this book is somber, meticulously documented, cool, reasoned. The authors of a work like this can scarcely fail to be conscious of their heavy responsibility, writing as Germans about a period in which their entire nation, as they readily acknowledge, was complicit in some of the most dreadful deeds in human history. They write, for example, of ways by which, after 1945, in both parts of the divided Germany most of the population coluded to protect former Nazis intimately engaged in the crimes of the Third Reich:

The "collective silence" that took root in the two German societies did not cover just the crimes of the Nazi state; it took in as well the perpetrators of them, those who profited from them, and their minor accomplices. Perhaps this was because everyone had, before 1945, themselves benefited from the Nazi regime in one way or another.

There was also a widespread belief, which it seems to me persists in some circles in Germany to this day, that the nation's sufferings and huge loss of life from Allied air attacks paid in full the moral invoice for German crimes committed under Nazism. The huge success of such authors as Jörg Friedrich, who has written extensively about the bombing of Germany, testifies to the number of Germans who wish to perceive a moral equivalence between the "war crime" of Allied bombing and the mass murder of Jews.

The Potsdam authors subscribe to no such pernicious doctrine. It represents a notable tribute to a new generation of Germans — for most of the Potsdam history's authors were born long after the war — that they pass judgment on their own parents' society with a merciless rigor

which few other nations' official war historians have aspired to. For instance, neither the British nor American official chronicles have anything to say about Allied war crimes — shootings of Axis prisoners among them. In the era in which those volumes were written, it would have been thought almost treasonable, as well as libelous, to expose Allied dirty linen.

It is ironic and admirable that it should be Germany that, more than sixty years after the event, has produced the frankest narrative and analysis of its part in the war for which Germans were overwhelmingly responsible. Russia might be in a less parlous state today if its scholars had written such works as the Potsdam histories about the Soviet Union's awful past, and if such men as Vladimir Putin had read them and acknowledged their veracity. ■

ALLOWING NO RESPITE (continued from page 15)

capable of sweeping the whole width of the Atlantic in one non-stop operation.

Meanwhile other Liberator bombers for the RAF had been sent to the vital war front in Egypt, to help to stop another dangerous gap — the role of the Liberator has always seemed to be that of an assuager of desperate situations, thanks largely to its versatility. This time in Egypt, in Libya, in Tripolitania, in Tunisia and then in Sicily, the Liberator helped greatly in the rout of Rommel, in the clearing of the Axis from Africa, and in the final collapse of Italy.



By now the United States was fully in the war, and Consolidated B-24s of the U.S. Army Air Forces and Consolidated Liberators of the Royal Air Force were flying together on missions against the common enemy. In England, the United States Army Eighth Air Force under General Ira C. Eaker received Liberator bombers, although the greater number still continued to flow to the Mediterranean area and to the Pacific fronts for the sake of standardization, particularly in maintenance and servicing.

Even so, the comparatively small numbers of Liberators with the Eighth Air Force have done magnificent work in daylight raids which dovetail completely with the great night bombing raids by the RAF. In the future — the near future — much larger numbers of Liberators are scheduled to be sent to England. Naturally they will be of the latest type now rolling out from the American plants in such numbers.

Having had the privilege, the pleasure and the encouragement of watching these newest Liberators with their greatly increased armament flowing from the factories at San Diego, Fort Worth, Dallas and Willow Run, I am convinced that they represent the most powerful combination of day-bombing qualities yet concentrated in any day bomber which has yet reached the stage of active service against the enemy.

Liberators of the earlier types in England had had their standard armament reinforced by guns in all sorts of surprising places. Now, in the new Liberators, the four power-operated twin-50 caliber turrets and the additional waist guns cover with precision every angle of attack. When flying in numbers in close formation, the new nose turret combines with the ball turret to ensure that deeper penetrations than ever before can be made over enemy territory with lighter losses.

These facts, together with the Liberator's internal capacity for more than four tons of bombs at operation speed, together with its quantity production, should ensure that its part in the future course of the war will be momentous.

At one time we in England did not realize the potentialities of American precision-pattern bombing by day, just as many people in America had not realized what could be achieved by night area-bombing as practiced by the RAF.

Now that we have had experience with each, in combination side-by-side, we realize that the two dovetail as though originally designed to go together, and that each is far more effective in its total achievements because of the other. The one requisite is a large and continuous scale of attack, allowing no respite to the enemy. That is planned and that is now in progress. ■

458th BOMB GROUP

HORSHAM ST. FAITH



BY RICK ROKICKI

PASSING OF ANOTHER 2ADA ICON

As you will note by the cover of this *Journal*, Jordan Uttal has passed on. His passion and unlimited contributions to the 2ADA and the Memorial Library are his legacy. Jordan was one of the original founders of the Association in 1948 and the first 2ADA member to serve on the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust. He will be missed by all, especially by Ceil and myself.

When Jordan decided to have both knees replaced at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Ceil and I picked him up at the airport and brought him to our home. The following day we went to the hospital for his prep work and the operation the following day. When I visited him two days later, his only complaint was the hospital food (no surprise here!) The next day I went to "Jack's" on Corn Beef Row for the first of several kosher corn beef sandwiches with kosher pickles. Afterwards and during the 30-day recovery period at the rehab center, I gathered enough information to make a service plaque showing the Bronze Star (first ribbon) and the Legion of Merit (last ribbon). Also found that while in CCNY he was an excellent fencer and defeated the

current champion at the Naval Academy in Annapolis. Shortly afterwards he enlisted as a private in the Army on December 29, 1941 and received his commission on December 5, 1942 as the Statistical Control and Photo Officer. He reached the rank of Major before he left the service to make entry into the Wisconsin cheese industry. Afterwards, in keeping in touch with many Headquarters people, he helped to organize what later became the Second Air Division Association. Jordan, we all will miss you and your very many talents.



PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE 458TH BG

When the new pamphlet-sized (approximately 6 x 8 inch) book of the 458th was advertised for sale, I sent my check for \$15.00 to Adam Smith, 2398 S. Cannon Dr. #303, Mount Prospect, IL 60056 (phone 847-357-8821). If you have no pictorial book of the 458th, then this is a "must-have." Peter Bodle and Mike Bailey have been working on this series of Second Air Division Bomb Group booklets since 2007 and have just two groups left to complete. Price includes postage and packing, and \$2.00 will be

donated to the Memorial Trust for the Memorial Library. It's a "can't miss," so don't wait until it is sold out.

AND FINALLY —

The first week of December found us in the San Diego area visiting our daughter and her family for the holidays. The warmth, sunshine, and mid 70's made our stay that much more enjoyable through the winter holidays. However, we came back in mid-January to reality!

Take your pills and stay well. ■

Nutrition Facts

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like. SPEAKING ENGLISH is apparently what kills you.

Bragging Rights Earned



**Another record set —
the entire group landed in five minutes.**



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

BY FIELDER NEWTON

The winter in central Pennsylvania has been true to its name and gives us many scenes of snow with colder than normal temperatures. We "oldsters" are enjoying it from the inside looking out.

We have all been saddened by the death of our founders Jordan Uttal and Evelyn Cohen, whose lives were dedicated to the 2ADA and the Memorial Library in Norwich as they worked diligently for the betterment of both. It was fitting in our dues notice to request contributions to their memorials. As members of the 389th we are reminded that our existence is owed to them. If you have not sent a donation, I urge you to do so.

Recently I learned of the death of a good friend and 2ADA past president and leader, Dick Butler, and send condolences to his family from all of us in the 389th. Dick's guidance and service to the 2ADA will never be forgotten.

Many of you know of my involvement in the 8th Air Force Archives at the Penn State Paterno Library and the association with the fine librarians there working in our behalf. I thought it would be of interest to report to you the varied services being used. The following is a copy of a write-up by archivist Paul Dzyak regarding some of the patrons who have used the collection this last year:

**Eighth Air Force Patrons
at the Penn State Libraries**

BY PAUL DZYAK

The Eighth Air Force Archive at Penn State University has seen an increase in researchers as word has gotten out about the collection. We had a patron from England spend a couple of days in the archives conducting research on the social history of base life and interaction with the local population. The patron emailed Jim Quigel to thank him for his assistance during their visit. Here are a couple of quotes:

"Thank you very much for allowing me to access your lovely archive collection a couple of weeks ago."

"I photocopied some documents which are quite thrilling and educational."

The archives assisted several organizations in creating exhibits. We scanned and sent a CD of twenty photos to an Air Force base in Germany for their new wall exhibit featuring the Eighth Air Force. Another researcher was an archivist/collections manager for the Missing Airmen Memorial Foundation in Leeuwarden (The Netherlands) and desired a photocopy of the memoir of airman and POW Robert Owen. They wanted access and a photocopy of the memoir (about 48 pages) to incorporate in a forthcoming exhibition for their organization and membership. In addition, we had other individuals from European countries, especially England, request information regarding individuals and bomber and fighter groups. Most requests from across the U.S. were genealogists and family members looking for information on their fathers and grandfathers and the groups that they served with. We received half a dozen interlibrary loan requests each week from libraries across the country. More undergraduates used the collection as they are accessing the book collection along with the papers and photographs for their research projects.

The biggest accomplishment which just occurred was the loading of the inventory onto the Penn State Libraries' website. The list consists of papers and materials of individuals, bomb groups, and veterans' groups. Here are the instructions on how to locate the inventory.

**How to Find the Special Collections Collection Guides
and Inventories Webpage:**

1. Open the Penn State Libraries' website at <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul.html>.
2. Click on Departments (left side of the screen).
3. Click on Special Collections Library.
4. Click on Search Collections (left side of the screen under Special Collections Information).
5. To find a particular collection, click on the letter that it begins with.
6. Scroll down the collection and click the link to the inventory.

This is documentation of the libraries' work in keeping our history alive, and if any of you have materials you would like to contribute, please send them to Paul Dzyak, Sports Archivist, 125 Paterno Library, University Park, PA 16802, phone 814-865-2123, fax 814-863-5318, e-mail: pjd106@psu.edu.



Also note that in this issue of the *Journal* you will find a lot of information on the upcoming 2ADA convention in New Orleans, where we will have the opportunity to visit the recently expanded WWII Museum. We should all make every effort to attend this meeting, as input is needed on the decisions concerning our future. ■

Boston Tea

December 16, 1773

Sixteen sips from Chinese porcelain
espy the arbitrary day, the decisive act.

History began mohawking the bay:
vulcanizing sand dunes

cracking into champagned water,
bumbling with stamped-out Liberty,

the smuggling thief; a unanimous
continental conspiracy

to remember the misrepresentation,
remember the gunpowder;

convulsing welkin
obscures feathered headdress.

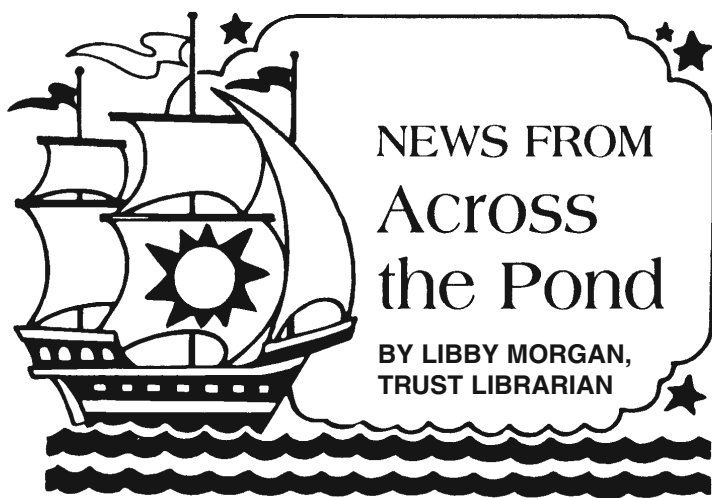
The tea still washes up
on the shores of Boston;

nothing was damaged or stolen
except a padlock

that was accidentally broken,
but anonymously replaced one week after.

by Stephanie Leal

UEA American Scholar, 2nd Air Division Memorial Library



Introducing Our 2009-2010 UEA American Scholars at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, Norwich

Since joining us in September 2009, Stephanie Leal and Lucien Giordano have become established members of our Memorial Library staffing team, and are building on the good foundations laid by Meghan Purvis to make the UEA American Schol-

arship an ongoing success.

Stephanie is a PhD student in Philosophy at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich. She is a published poet and has experience teaching poetry and philosophy to students aged 14-22. She also has experience as a private tutor in all areas of humanities for students aged 3-12. Stephanie is able to contribute to the following discussions and lessons within the classroom: creative writing, poetry, philosophy, travel, American studies, English literature, and cooking.

Lucien is a PhD student in Creative and Critical Writing at the UEA. He has worked as an English and history teacher in America and Egypt. He is currently in his second year of teaching undergraduate American literature seminars. Lucien has worked with students between the ages of twelve and twenty-five. He can contribute to the following discussions and lessons within the classroom: expository essay writing, American and modern literature studies, creative writing, travel, and American athletics.

They have both submitted contributions to this issue of the *Journal*. Stephanie has kindly offered her poem entitled "Boston Tea." (see page 32). Lucien has written an account (*below*) of a film presentation evening he organised at UEA on behalf of the Memorial Library, "Over Here, The Yanks Are Coming."

If you'd like to get in touch with Stephanie or Lucien, they'd be delighted to hear from you. You can e-mail or write to them here at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW, UNITED KINGDOM. E-mail: 2admemoial.lib@norfolk.gov.uk. ■

"Over Here, The Yanks Are Coming"

Collection of Films Donated to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library

BY LUCIEN GIORDANO, UEA AMERICAN SCHOLAR, 2ND AIR DIVISION MEMORIAL LIBRARY, NORWICH

On December 11, 2009, in conjunction with the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, Dr. Vernon Williams presented his new film collection, "Over Here, The Yanks Are Coming," to a modest but appreciative audience at the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

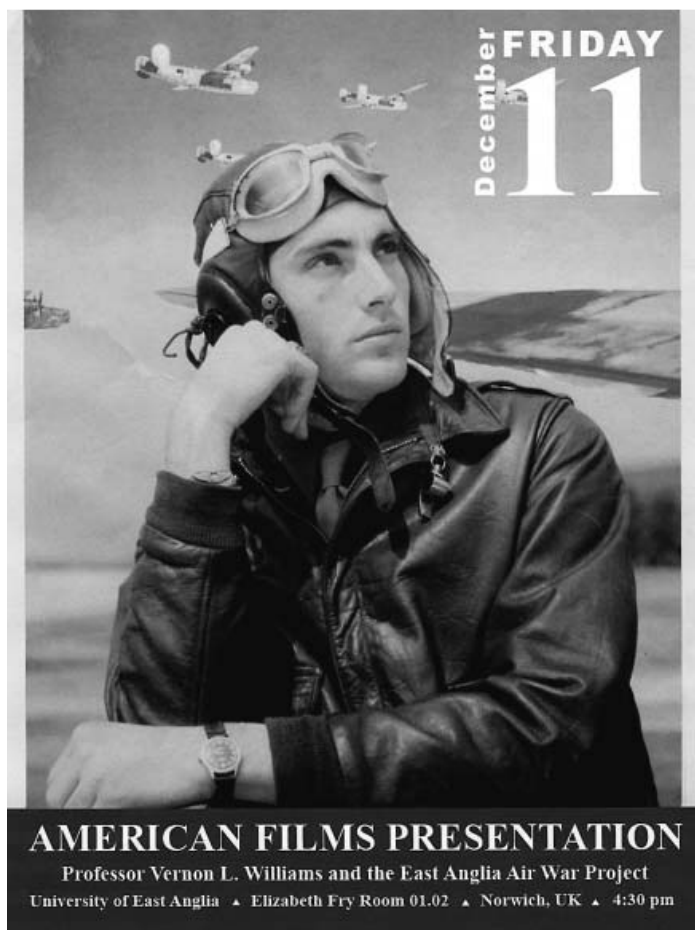
Dr. Williams is professor of military history at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. He specializes in the Second World War and over the years has developed a keen interest in the USAAF in East Anglia, the 8th Air Force, and most recently the 2nd Air Division.

Dr. Williams is set to release two feature length documentaries in 2010; however, this collection of short films is rather unique as they are all co-produced with aspiring historians and documentary film makers. Of these six films, one in particular spoke to the hearts and minds of all on hand.

Land Girls, co-produced with Sandra Amstutz, focuses on the role that many young women played in the war effort. The Land Girls volunteered to carry out farm labour. This ensured that essential crops and livestock continued to be cultivated and reared. In a time of rationing, their collective impact cannot be underestimated. And while this was inspiring, what was especially moving were their recollections of the U.S. airmen. The documentary does a fantastic job of explaining the social scenes and atmospheres that might have surrounded the 2nd Air Division's bases. Furthermore, the interviewees, a collection of garrulous retired Farm Girls, detail the dynamics between English women and American men that led to so many "War Brides" taking the trip home with GI's.

Other films in the collection focus on Glenn Miller, Clark Gable, the USO, Jimmy Stewart (another fine film with particular relevance to the 2nd Air Division), and B-17 bombers.

(continued on next page)



15TH NORWICH AIR SCOUTS VISIT B-24 CAMP

BY DARREN BUTLER, 15TH NORWICH AIR SCOUTS

In October 2009, 15th Norwich Air Scouts visited the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library housed at the Forum in Norwich. The group gathered to learn about the U.S. Army Air Forces based locally during World War II. With the help of Libby Morgan of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, the Scouts centered their research on the B-24 bomber and the bases it flew out of and learnt a little about the young men of the 2nd Air Division who were stationed in the region during the conflict. The following weekend the troop held a camp themed around the U.S. Army Air Forces based locally. More specifically the group was interested in the 467th Bombardment Group based at Rackheath, as geographically this is the most local to the group's HQ at Thorpe St. Andrew. On the Friday evening of the camp the group entertained Mr. Perry Watts, the author of *The 467th Bombardment Group in World War II*. Mr. Watts gave the Scouts a very interesting insight into the Rackheath base during the war.

On the Saturday of the camp a group of fourteen scouts from 15th Norwich visited IWM Duxford where a curator at the museum gave them a talk on the B-24 Liberator bombers which flew out of a lot of the region's bases including Rackheath.



The Scouts had a terrific time during their visit to Duxford, exploring many of the exhibits at the museum.



Following his visit to the group, Mr. Watts agreed to meet with the Scouts at the 467th Bombardment Group Memorial on Rackheath Industrial Estate on the final day of camp. As is tradition in Scouting, at the end of a camp the group held a moment of reflection called "Scouts Own." The Scouts held a minute's silence in memory of the young men who tragically lost their lives during the conflict and reflected on what they had learnt over the past few weeks. A couple of the Scouts took the opportunity to read out a project they had researched at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library about the life of the Rackheath base commander Colonel Albert J. Shower.



In a follow up e-mail to Libby Morgan at the Memorial Library, Darren writes:

"As a group, 15th Norwich Air Scouts have over the past couple of weeks decided to change the colour of our scout group neckerchiefs. Following our recent project as a scout section we have been so inspired by the lives of the men based in this region during the war and by the stories given by Perry Watts to our young people that we have as a whole group decided to adopt as way of dedication the red and white colours of the 467th Bomb Group stationed at Rackheath. We are hoping through Perry to forge some links with 467th Bomb Group veterans and over the coming months will see what becomes of it. Thanks again for your time and help with our project, and we hope in the future that we may be able to visit you again." ■

"OVER HERE, THE YANKS ARE COMING"

(continued from page 33)

In attendance were 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Governors Matthew Martin, Andrew Hawker, Professor Chris Bigsby, and Mike Longe. Additionally, our Trust Librarian, Libby Morgan, and Colin Mann of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Friends were on hand. We were pleased to see that a few UEA students and professors made it to the event along with a family of Americans who are temporarily living in Norwich.

At the conclusion of the evening, once Dr. Williams had screened and discussed his films, he generously donated copies of the new collection to the Memorial Library. This is the second set of student documentary films that Vernon Williams has donated to our film collection. ■



SEETHING

The 448th Speaks

SUBMITTED BY KING SCHULTZ

Patricia's enduring mission

BY ANGI KENNEDY

Reprinted from *EDP Sunday*, November 10, 2007

The wind rattled the doors of the empty buildings, as Patricia Everson stood silently staring down the distance of the airstrip. Where the B-24 Liberators of the USAAF had once thundered to their take-offs, now tufts of grass and weeds were insolently breaking a way through. Natural decay was slowly but surely reclaiming this deserted airbase at Seething, southeast of Norwich.

The village teenager had gone there in search of wild cowslips, but instead found herself pledging a promise that, many years later, would set her on a remarkable, life-changing mission.

Patricia remembers that April day clearly. "Everything was so charged up with what had happened there. There and then, I swore that I would never forget the men who had been based there."

Life and the years rolled on. Soon there would be little clue to the airbase's story left to catch the eye of anyone passing through Seething. Only the older people of the communities around the former base would share the frisson of excitement whenever a trans-Atlantic accent was heard from a rare American visitor to the villages.

It was the early 1980s, and moves were afoot to create a memorial in the village and at the airfield to the 400-plus men based at Seething who had lost their lives in the Second World War. Patricia Everson, by then in her mid-40s, offered her help, raising funds for the event at which some of the former airmen and their families would be present.

For her, this would be a chance to fulfill a secret longing that had been burning away at her since childhood.

Patricia was a five-year-old schoolgirl when war was declared. She was one of the generation who can even now summon up the smell of the claustrophobic gas mask and the dank, stale air of the shelter in the garden.

She grew up in days of rationing, of course; of cod liver oil and malt supplements for undernourished youngsters; of sanctioned days off when she and her fellow schoolchildren would pick soft fruit, rose hips to be made into syrup, acorns to feed the pigs, and to collect aluminum foil and metal scrap to help the war effort.

Her father, Fred Knights, had joined up as a driver with the RAF. Patricia and her young brother, Reggie, did their best to help their mother, Jean, grow vegetables for their meals and collect water from the well.

Although she has no memory of hunger in those days of hardship, Patricia certainly recalls a sense of drabness. But that was to change in 1943. America had entered the war, and East Anglia was ideally placed to become its "airbase." Airstrips were being carved into the landscape, accompanied by mess halls, billets and control towers.

A mile outside the little village of Seething, the 58th Station

Complement Squadron turned acre after acre of open field into a new airbase, ready for the arrival of the aircraft and flight crews of the 448th Bomb Group of the USAAF.

"I was nine years old when they came," Patricia said. "Suddenly we went from the 300 to 400 people in the village to having 3,000 young Americans down the road with these huge four-engined B-24 Liberator bombers.

"We had been at war for quite a few years by then and, to some extent, we were still living under that sort of Victorian thing of us children being seen and not heard.

"But now the Americans treated us like equals, and they really endeared themselves to us children, happy to spend a lot of time talking to us. They were so friendly to everyone . . . and they made quite an impression on the older girls too!

"They would cycle through the villages, and because all the road signs had been removed to confuse the enemy, they were forever asking where the nearest pub was and if we had got a big sister at home.

"You must remember, many of them were only young boys themselves. Their average age was 19 — anyone in their mid-20s was called the old man of the crew!"

Many were astonished by the tough conditions that the English had been living in. "U.S. airmen wrote begging letters home, asking for things to give to the English children," said Patricia. "They were extremely generous. When they heard that the Jenny Lind Children's Hospital was running short of supplies, they took things there, and they had a choir that would go singing round the wards.

"One of the Americans said he never realised how bad things had been here. He had an orange in his pocket and decided he would give it to the first child he came across. He gave it to this little boy who'd never seen one before, and he bit into it — he didn't know you had to peel it first.

"Most of the children wanted chewing gum, they called them 'the gum chummers,' but I loved the comic strips out of their newspapers the most."

The highpoint was the Thanksgiving and Christmas parties though, when the children of the surrounding villages, homes and evacuees were invited to the base. "For the Thanksgiving party in 1943, they came down to the school in their trucks and I can remember even now the excitement of being lifted over that tailboard.

"When we got there it was the first time I had heard live music outside church, and the food was so different to ours — even the gravy was a different colour.

"I wanted to ask a lot of questions because I
(continued on next page)



Patricia as a young girl. She was five years old when war was declared, and nine when the 448th BG aircraft and crews arrived at Seething.

PATRICIA'S ENDURING MISSION *(continued from page 35)*

didn't know much about America. But I was seated at a long table with all the young Americans and they were firing questions at me. Suddenly I was too shy to ask anything and I just said yes and no and thank you."

The regret at this missed chance stayed with Patricia, and resurfaced all those years later in 1984 as the preparations took shape for the memorial service. This time, she told herself, she would have the courage to talk to the Americans about their lives.

"I was so looking forward to it," she said. "But two and a half weeks before the service, my brother and mother were killed outright in a car crash at Kirkstead."

For the tight-knit family, who had lived just doors apart at Seething, it was a terrible blow, and a shock for the community too which had been so focused on the memorial that it was about to see put in place for the U.S. airmen of four decades earlier.

"I went to the service, but I wasn't emotionally able to do what I wanted to," said Patricia. "After the Americans had gone home, I really felt I had failed myself for a second time.

"So I managed to get the names of the people in America who had sent contributions for the memorial. I wanted to write to them to ask them about their experiences.

"There was no one more badly equipped than myself. I couldn't type or write letters, but there was a drive inside me pushing me to carry on.

"First in my letters I had to clear the air so that they knew I wasn't an illegitimate child or an ex-girlfriend trying to track them down. Sometimes I would send out fifty letters and not get back a reply.

"Some of the men just weren't ready to look back. But the first time I got a letter with some black and white photos of when that man was at the base, I thought 'Yes, I can do this.'"

And gradually the letters began to arrive through the post, some just a few notes or names, others pouring out remarkable wartime memories.

Today she has some fifty albums of their writings and hundreds of photographs, from official poses to relaxed off-duty shots of the Americans on and around the base.

Over the past twenty years, Patricia has gradually pieced together the jigsaw of names, numbers, memories and missions to build a comprehensive picture of life at Seething airbase from November 1943 to June 1945, when the Americans left. And in the process she has brought about reunions of old crewmates, friends, colleagues and, of course, people from the villages around the base.

"I was able to reunite a whole crew of ten and to put them in touch with the young boy from the village whom they sort of adopted while they were here."

For her too there have been many revelations. Although she lived through the war, she saw it with a child's eyes; it was not until many years later that she was able to comprehend the true toll on the men who were based at Seething.

"As a child it was exciting. It is only when you are older that you realise how many people had died. There was one particular night when we lost two whole crews, twenty men, including one man who had been shot down just two days earlier and saved by the air-sea rescue.

"How brave they had to be. They were so young and I am sure a lot of them never thought it would happen to them."

Since hearing from Patricia, many of the old airmen have visited Seething to see the base once more and to pay their respects

at the memorials to their fallen colleagues. And she has also gone over to America to take part in the large reunions there as the historian of the 448th Bomb Group collection.

Her husband, Ron, has also played an important part in the Seething airbase story. He was part of a small group that restored the base's near-derelict control tower which is now a "living memorial," home to a collection of memorabilia, donated uniforms and equipment from its wartime days, as well as being a focus for those making their pilgrimage to the airfield.

Opening the latest letter to arrive at Stanmare, her home on The Street at Seething, Patricia never knows what to expect, although more often these days they are the requests of grandchildren and great-grandchildren eager to discover information about their elderly or late relatives' wartime experiences.

"Some of the families say they didn't even know he was in the forces in the war," she said. "I think that quite a lot of the men buried it inside themselves when they returned home. Because so many of them were still quite young, a lot had to go back to education and then get themselves a job so that they could start paying for their house and to get their children through their education.

"When they stand on the runway and think of their friends who didn't make it, yes, it is very emotional," she said.

"I have worked hard to get as many records as I can, but I can't get the personal details unless the men tell me them. But they do talk to me because although I was a child then, I knew what it was like for them in some ways.

"Sometimes their families will stand there with their mouths open because they have never heard him tell these stories before. They say, 'Why didn't you ever say anything?' and the men say, 'You never asked.'"

"It's hard now because so many of them have become personal friends and we are losing them fast," she added, "but I feel I was able to share their golden years with them and put them in touch with each other when they hadn't been in contact since they finished their missions." ■

California License Plate



SUBMITTED BY DAVID YATSKO

Here is my B-24 license plate. This is to honor my dad, John Yatsko. He was a flight engineer on a B-24, 448th Bomb Group, 715th Bomb Squadron. He was shot down during "Big Week," February 21, 1944. He was a POW until liberated on April 29, 1945. At the time of his passing in 2006, we believe he was very close to being the oldest living POW, about 2 months shy of 95 years of age.

DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS OF WWII

REPRINTED FROM THE BADGER NEWS

Wooden Bombs



There have been stories around for decades about the USAAF and the RAF dropping wooden bombs on German decoy airfields in Brittany, Normandy and Nord-pas-de-Calais. Now there is a book on this very topic. Pierre-Antoine Courouble's latest book, *The Riddle of the Wooden Bombs*, has been available in book shops since 6 June 2009. The story is told in 264 pages containing 161 testimonies of ex-servicemen and elderly people from France, Belgium, Holland, Britain and Germany.

A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned

Mindful of the strain on the Exchequer, during WWII the British Army managed to save 20 pounds per soldier by the simple expedient of not issuing reserve parachutes to its airborne troops. A useful side effect of this was that the British paratroopers could carry more equipment into battle.

On the other hand, the British did supply their airborne forces with an item that was useful during the rough flights to their drop zones. The troops were given special grease-proof bags that were called "BAGS, VOMIT, FOR USE OF." So at least the aircraft could return from their missions relatively clean and the brave lads could go into action with unsoiled uniforms — or at least those who made it to the ground in one piece.

Dirty Dealing by the Brits

This is from our English correspondent Alan Cater:

The Jerries used to try to undermine the confidence of captured Allied airmen seemingly to know all about their bases, even down to minor details like, "Is the clock still two minutes slow in the officers' mess?" Well, most of this stuff was a lot of bull being fed to the Jerries mainly by British Intelligence through captured German spies who were under the threat of, "Work for us, or it's good night Vienna!" It was tough on our guys to think that German spies were everywhere in England, but it was all part of the brutal practice of war.

The department that ran this branch of intelligence was known as Department Twenty or XX or "Double Cross." Sometimes methods were used that sacrificed lives in order to save many

more lives later on. In order to keep alive the myth that the German spies were doing a good job, now and again they were ordered to send important and accurate information.

On the 31st of March 1944, just a few weeks before D-Day, the RAF was sent to bomb Nuremburg under appalling conditions. German intelligence had been sent the correct information and the Luftwaffe and the German flak batteries were waiting. Bomber Command lost 100 aircraft on the Continent and many more by crash landings back at the bases. Seven hundred crewmen were lost in just one night.

With D-Day approaching, the "spies" had to send the correct information in order to convince the Germans that all the other information they were receiving was genuine.

There it is, one more example of how one million years of evolution has not eradicated man's inhumanity to man. ■

page turners

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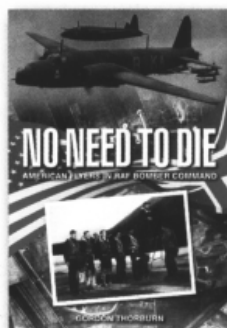


We're Here To Win The War For You - The US Eighth Air Force at War, Martin W Bowman, Amberley, 350pp, illus, sbk, £18.99 - The ultimate 'social' history of the USAAF's 'Mighty Eighth' is Donald L Miller's *Eighth Air Force - American Bomber Crews in Britain* (Aurum Press, 2007) but here is a complementary volume. This is a bargain-priced, highly-readable, compendium of first-hand accounts of all aspects of the affluent, arrogant American 'invasion'. An index of units would have helped researchers find 'their' base. The illustrations

are well chosen, for example: wartime Thetford and a 'western rodeo' staged at the Norwich City football ground in August 1944.

Bomber Command's 'Yanks'

01963 442030 www.haynes.co.uk



No Need to Die - American Flyers in RAF Bomber Command, Gordon Thorburn, Haynes, 246pp, illus, hbk, £19.99 - Gordon has penned *Bombers - First and Last* and several features within *FlyPast*. His style is firmly slanted towards people and experiences, with nuts and bolts coming much further down the pecking order. Here is a well-paced narrative profiling the surprising number of Americans who found their way into British bombers, from a gunner from New Jersey killed on his first 'op', through to Henry Melvyn Young - with a Los Angeles-born mother and Stateside childhood - who flew with the 'Dam Busters'.



To the Editor:

After years of civilian life, I became a member of the Second Air Division Association in the late seventies. I read in the *Journal* back then of the upcoming reunion (1980) to be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts and decided to take a chance on having a good time.

With my wife at my side, we checked in at the hotel, unpacked, and went to the hotel pub for a drink at happy hour. We had only been there a few minutes when we were approached by a gentleman who inquired about our visit. When we said it was for the reunion, he introduced himself: "I am Jordan Uttal. Welcome aboard." This was our introduction to the 2ADA.

Bill Nothstein (466th)
1359 Harwood Lane
Macedon, NY 14502



To the Editor:

If the many veterans and friends of the United States Eighth Air Force have not seen the 8th AF monument that together we installed at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, I encourage you to make this a "must do" for 2010. I believe you will be impressed by the cemetery and proud of your monument.

The cemetery is easy to find: State Street is behind the Statehouse in Boise; go west on State Street to old Horseshoe Bend Road. Take the latter north 1.5 miles to the cemetery entrance on the east side. Follow the entry road for 3/4 mile and the Veterans Cemetery is on your left. You will come to the administration building first and the gated entry to the cemetery proper is just beyond.

Should you entertain the idea of being interred at the cemetery, this can be accommodated for the \$300 burial allowance you will receive from the Veterans Administration upon your demise. Military burial rites are available on-call by an honor detachment from Mountain Home AFB. Your spouse can be interred with you for an out-of-pocket payment of \$300. You can

pre-register for interment without commitment or payment by providing evidence of veteran status; this will ease responsibility of survivors. And, the flag will fly 24/7 for you together with commemorative services on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Our monument is the second such on the west side of the roadway leading to the Missing in Action flag pole, visible from the cemetery entrance. Thus far, your 8th AF is the only numbered Air Force represented at the cemetery. You deserve to be proud of that.

Jack Wendling (466th)
Filer, Idaho



To the Editor:

I have had one hell of a year. I am still not fully recovered from the hip replacement I had in March, and I managed to get a couple of chest infections which took a long while to clear up. In addition to them, at the moment my arthritis has decided to have a flare-up. Apart from all that I am doing fine.

Since the sad demise of Evelyn Cohen, I do not know where to send my dues for 2010. Will you please pass the \$25 to the new treasurer?

From the mention I saw of you in the KMHS Newsletter, it seems you are doing pretty well at the moment. I hope this is the case.

Maureen and I are going up to Scotland for a short holiday before Christmas, to recharge our batteries to be ready for the festive season. For this reason I am sending you an early Christmas card.

I have recently joined the Bomber Command Association. It is a very similar organisation to the 2ADA. Also to keep myself occupied during the winter months, I am putting together a collection of photographs of all the bombers flown by the RAF in WWII.

John Threlfall
30 Lower West Avenue
Barnoldswick
Lancs BB18 6 DW
ENGLAND



To the Editor:

I had your Second Air Division Association *Journal* sent to me. I am 71 years old, and this year I'll be 72 years of age.

I have fond memories of the G.I. airmen coming to Buxton, from an air base not far from Buxton (near Manchester). These airmen were so good to me as I asked, "Have you any gum, chum?" This one G.I. picked me up and told me he was from Jessup, Texas. He gave me a lot of gum and lots of chocolates. I had never had these things in my life. I had

never even seen gum, and I had never been given any chocolate. I'll never at all forget those days of kindness to me. I do hope that man survived, and returned home O.K. from the Second World War.

Could you please mail me a copy of your *Journal*? How much would it cost me to get a subscription? It would mean a lot to me. Thank you for your kindness.

Robert Bonsall
74 Sherwood Road
Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9ES
ENGLAND



To the Editor:

It is December 7, 2009, and sixty-eight years ago today is when we were attacked by Japan. Our local newspaper has several interesting articles about local people remembering that day. A lady living in Baton Rouge who was in Hawaii on that fateful day gave her story. Her father was in the Navy and stationed there and the family lived in Hawaii. She still has a piece of shrapnel. Another article gave the story of an 89-year-old Harvey, LA resident and his experiences on December 7, 1941. Another article told of Ed Johann from Oregon and his returning to Hawaii for the first time. This is the most our local newspaper has written on this day which took the USA into war.

This year has been difficult for me. I finished my chemo at the end of January and my radiation on Good Friday. It seems like I am going to a medical doctor all the time. Everything looks good at this time, and I pray that it stays that way.

At the end of May, I was able to go to Vincent, AL to visit my daughter, which was the first time in about two years. She took me on to Nashville to visit her son and family. This was the first time I had seen my great-grandson, and he turned one year old the next week. I also visited with her other son and his wife and they gave me the news of another great-grandson due December 22. My son's son and his wife are expecting another little boy on January 8, and this will make my ninth great-grandson and only one great-granddaughter. Do you think she may be spoiled?

A local Vietnam veteran, Gerald Reid, has received \$151 million in grants to build a veterans' museum. It will cover all the wars the U.S. has been in, and I hear it will be the only one in our country. This museum will be within five miles of my home. I talked with Mr. Reid, and he already has many artifacts for the museum.

Earline Noble
(wife of Wiley Noble, 3dSAD)
15656 Blackwater Road
Zachary, LA 70791



To the Editor:

Your Fall 2009 edition of the *Journal* included two letters from Mrs. Homer Harrison, a name I recognized immediately. In my work on a book about the Kassel Mission, I have run across Sgt. Harrison's name on several occasions, since he flew with the Heitz crew and was on the plane the day of the Kassel Mission.

I've been transcribing the diary of the original tail gunner on the Heitz crew, S/Sgt. Herbert R. Schwartz, who passed away last year. His diary, written with a fountain pen on 355 pages of stationery, describes in vivid detail what it was like to be in a bomb group from training through the last mission. After he finished training, Schwartz was injured and fell behind his crew. He finally caught up with them a few weeks later at Tibenham, only to find he had been replaced by another gunner. Depressed, he bunked with the crew, watching them go on their missions while his own were delayed indefinitely. Later, he would fly with experienced crews and see each crew through to the end of its missions, only to be put back in the "pool" with all the other crewless gunners. Finally, after weathering the Kassel Mission with the French crew, he would become the "old man" on a brand new crew for his last mission.

Herb mentions Homer Harrison a few times in his diary — they went out together or played cards together. The most detail about Sgt. Harrison is at the end of the entry for Schwartz's first mission. I thought it most appropriate to send it along. (Ed. Note: Excerpts from Schwartz's diary appear on page 16-17.)

Linda A. Dewey
President, Kassel Mission
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Glen Arbor, MI 49636

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To the Editor:

I was very pleased to see the photo of Hannah and Arnold Piskin and friends in the Fall/Winter 2009 *Journal*, page 22. Arnold was the pilot of our B-24 crew, flying the "Howling Banshee" out of Horsham St. Faith, Norwich. His superb piloting skill throughout our 36 missions over France, Germany, and the Netherlands brought us through without injuries. He is responsible for saving our lives during several near mid-air collisions, dead engines, German fighters, and heavy flak (we counted 151 holes after our worst mission). Our great ground crew kept our plane in top shape.

My wife and I have remained fast friends with Arnold and Hannah over the years. Their daughter established a web-

site, Howlingbanshee.com, about our crew, plane, and combat diary.

Don Shannon
23874-140th Lane S.E.
Kent, WA 98042

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To the Editor:

My dad, Lloyd J. Gael (389th BG) died January 28, 2009. Here's a "memento" in tribute to him:



The following is a list of the bombing missions which this "Lucky Bastard" completed with honors to his country, comrades, and himself, over enemy territory.

25 Feb. 1944	Furth	Germany
9 March 1944	Brandenburg	Germany
13 March 1944	Tillecourt	France
15 March 1944	Brunswick	Germany
18 March 1944	Friedrichshafen	Germany
1 April 1944	Ludwigshafen	Germany
11 April 1944	Oscherleben	Germany
18 April 1944	Gapel	Germany
19 April 1944	Paderborn	Germany
20 April 1944	St. Omer	France
24 April 1944	Gablingen	Germany
28 April 1944	Pas de Calais	France
1 May 1944	Pas de Calais	France
2 May 1944	Siracourt	France
8 May 1944	Brunswick	Germany
9 May 1944	Florennes	Belgium
12 May 1944	Zeitz	Germany
13 May 1944	Tutow	Germany
19 May 1944	Brunswick	Germany
20 May 1944	Reims	France
31 May 1944	Lumes	France
2 June 1944	Berck-Sur-Mer	France
3 June 1944	Berck-Sur-Mer	France
6 June 1944	Invasion Coast	France
8 June 1944	St. Lo	France
11 June 1944	Cormeilles	France
12 June 1944	Montfort	France
14 June 1944	Chateaudun	France
18 June 1944	Hamburg	Germany
20 June 1944	Autheux	France
21 June 1944	St. Martin L'Hortier	France
23 June 1944	Juvincourt	France
24 June 1944	Belle Croix	France

Mary Culbertson
901 Duesenberg Drive
Auburn, IN 46706

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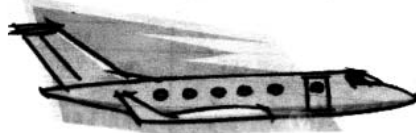
Liberator Memorial

REPRINTED FROM "FLYPAST,"
FEBRUARY 2010

A memorial to crew members who lost their lives in a World War Two Consolidated B-24 Liberator accident was unveiled at Ford End Farm, near Cheddington, Bucks on November 15. Exactly 65 years earlier, B-24H 42-51219 piloted by 1st Lt. Norman Landberg experienced a mechanical failure and crashed just after taking off from Cheddington. Navigator 2nd Lt. Walter S. Lamson and gunner Pfc. Leonard L. Smith both perished. To attend the service, 89-year-old Norman Landberg made his first flight for 65 years. Having survived 56 wartime missions he had once vowed never to fly again. Before attending the unveiling he was also reunited with S/Sgt. George Eberwine, once his tail gunner and a friend he had not seen since the end of the war. A crowd of 300 witnessed the emotional ceremony at the farm. Local dignitaries and a full honour guard from RAF Alconbury, Cambs, were also present. The event concluded when Norman and George laid wreaths, and a letter from HRH the Prince of Wales was read out.

— CHAS JELLIS

Note: Cheddington was a 8AF B-24 combat crew replacement and training center.

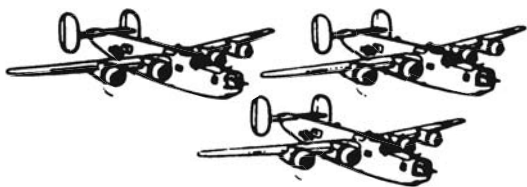


A passenger jet was being buffeted by a severe thunderstorm. As the passengers were being bounced around by the turbulence, a young woman turned to a young minister sitting next to her and, with a nervous laugh, asked, "You're a man of God. Can't you do something about this storm?"

To which he replied, "Lady, I'm in sales, not management."

**SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION
EIGHTH AIR FORCE**

RAY PYTEL, JOURNAL EDITOR
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Farewell to 2ADA Past President Dick Butler



RIVERSIDE, CA — Richard David “Dick” Butler (44th BG) went to be with our Lord, Jesus Christ, on December 29, 2009, in Riverside, California. Born March 18, 1921 in San Diego, CA, to Charles and Flora Butler, he had an early interest in flying. His college career at USC was interrupted by WWII when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces. The day after receiving his pilot’s wings, he married Ardith, his high school sweetheart, and shortly thereafter was assigned to the 44th Bomb Group of the 2nd Air Division, flying B-24s out of Shipdham, England. Dick flew combat missions in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He flew in the 1 August 1943 low level attack (Tidal Wave) on Ploesti, Romania oil refineries and later earned a Meritorious Service Commendation. He received the Presidential Unit Decoration for the bombing attack against Kiel, Germany on 14 May 1943 and another for the Ploesti, Romania oil refineries. Dick earned the DFC in WWII plus the Air Medal. Later he also earned the Legion of Merit with two OLC’s. He became a member of Strategic Air Command when it was activated and spent the rest of his active duty time in SAC. Among other assignments, Dick served as Wing Commander of the 320th Bomb Wing at Mather Air Force Base, CA. He served as Base Commander at March Air Force Base and later as Chief of Staff of the 15th Air Force at March AFB.

Dick served his beloved country in the United States Air Force for over 30 years. Upon his retirement from the Air Force, Dick served as Business Manager from 1971-2007 at Olivewood Memorial Park, Riverside, CA. He later accepted the position of President of the Board of Directors and then fully retired in 2007 after a dedicated 35 years. He is survived by his devoted wife of 67 years, Ardith L. Butler, and their children: Emmy Lou, Richard, Kay Ardith, David, Charles, and Daniel, as well as eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Dick is also survived by his two sisters, Emily Webber of Seattle,

WA, and Mary Tatro of San Diego, CA. He was preceded in death by his brothers Jack and Charles. Dick was an avid golfer, fisherman, and volunteer. Some of his greatest contributions outside family and work concerned his work on the Second Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich, England, a living memorial to the airmen who gave their lives protecting England during WWII. At March Air Force Base, he helped to raise funds and provide leadership for the March Field Museum. He also worked diligently to raise funds and then build the Memorial Chapel at Air Force Village West. ■



Dick and Ardith Butler (right), with daughter Kay Butler (left) at the 2ADA Chicago convention, September 5, 2009.
PHOTO COURTESY: CAROL HOLLIDAY