

# SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION



March 16, 1954

Dear Gang:

Now that the Ides of March and our income tax worries are behind us, we can look forward to spring and to renewed activities on the part of the Second Air Division Association officers and all the various committees.

In just about five months - August 20-21-22, our Seventh Annual Reunion will be held in Washington, D. C. Our Reunion Committee, headed by Marilyn Fritz (Mrs. W. S. Snyder), contacted various hotels and selected the Hotel Shoreham as the place where our festivities will be held. We are assured that the Shoreham offers excellent facilities for all our business and social functions and that the accommodations are most reasonable.

The luck of the Second Air Division seems to still be in effect. We chose the dates of August 20-21-22, not knowing then that we picked a most fortunate time -- our reunion will be held on a comparatively quiet weekend, following a much larger meeting of another Army group and preceding the American Legion convention by just one week.

The Reunion Committee is working on scheduling some extra-curricular activities for us to make our stay in Washington more interesting and one that we will long remember. They are exploring the possibility of an extensive tour of the various historical memorials, as well as a visit to the White House. (Fritzie, too, comes from Abilene). We plan to schedule our business meeting so that everyone may participate in the tour and/or visit to the White House.

The response to our first announcement of the time and place of the 1954 Reunion indicates that we indeed made a lucky choice, and that we will have a very large attendance this year. So start planning now to be in Washington on Aug. 20-22, because this is going to be the best Reunion we've ever had.

All details and a complete program for the 1954 reunion will be forthcoming in our next Newsletter. However, we would appreciate any comments or suggestions that you might have for improving or making our wing-ding more interesting. Remember also that guests are cordially invited to participate in the festivities.

## Second Air Division Memorial Fund

In November, you received a complete report on the status of the Second Air Division Memorial Fund and a questionnaire on which you were to show your preference of the alternatives presented for the use of the annual income from the Trust. About 76% of the answers received were in favor of the three scholarship alternatives, and 60% of these favored Alternative No. 1 which was: "Use annual income from the fund to provide Second Air Division Memorial Scholarships for worthy East Anglian students to attend English schools." The Trustees of the Fund have been so advised.

Our hopes have alternatively risen and fallen with regard to the prospects of an early construction of the new Norwich Library. On November 15th, we received word that the Norwich City Council had discussed the matter and that there was a possibility that their government would sanction a loan for the new building. Quite a lengthy article appeared in the November 3, 1953, issue of the Norwich EASTERN DAILY PRESS, and the part of that news release pertaining to the Second Air Division is quoted:

..... "To these very strong reasons for building a new library there may be added the obligation under which the city lies to the Second Division of the United States Air Force. The Division was based on Norfolk during the war, and in 1945 its officers and men, wishing to commemorate their comrades who gave their lives in the assault on Germany, subscribed £20,000 to build for the new Norwich Library an entrance hall which would serve as an American memorial. The library was chosen as a building which would promote international friendship and learning, and moreover, it was then considered likely to be the first great civic project accomplished after the war. During the long postponement of the building the local governors of the fund have been sorely perplexed as to the proper fulfillment of their trust. Alternatives have been considered, but it would be far better if the original intention of the officers and men could now be carried out....."

More recently, we have been informed that the City Council of Norwich probably will not authorize the issuance of the bonds necessary to construct a library building. Our Ambassador Aldrich is to speak at Norwich on March 26th, and we understand he is keenly interested in the situation and is going to include some remarks on the subject in his speech.

All of our Trust Fund is intact and is invested in long-term securities. From the annual income received, the return on investment is about 3%. For your information, a brief financial statement as of November 30, 1953, follows:

MEMORIAL TRUST FUND OF THE SECOND DIVISION

Capital Account	£ 20,660. 5.11
Income to Nov. 30, 1952	3,920. 8. 1
1953 Income Capitalized	684. 9. 5
Cash on Hand 11-30-53	79. 3. 1
	<u>£25,344. 6. 6</u>

1953 Receipts

Beginning Balance, Cash on Hand	£ 30. 4. 8
Interest Received from Investments	791. 4. -
	<u>£ 821. 8. 8</u>

1953 Disbursements

B. Cozens-Hardy ( 50, salary, 2 petty cash)	£ 52. - -
Barclays Bank (postage)	4. 2
Rental of Rooms at Assembly House	5. 5. -
Insurance on furniture at Assembly House	7. -
Income Capitalized	684. 9. 5
Cash on Hand 11-30-53	79. 3. 1
	<u>£ 821. 8. 8</u>

Our newly formed Military Affairs Committee has been investigating several items which concern our expressed aim "To advocate and support an adequate, effective and efficient Air Force, Army and Navy". The curtailment of commissaries and post exchanges, statehood for Alaska, and the proposed Air Academy are among those items being considered.

Along this line, we just recently received a request for the Military Affairs Committee to investigate and take the proper action to allow WACs to receive credit for the time spent in service as WAACs. However, before we had a chance to put in our two cents worth, a bill was introduced in the Senate, passed and sent to the House where it now awaits action, to give those women who were in the WAAC credit for active duty, provided they did not leave military service in 1943 when the WAC came into being. The bill, written by Senator Saltonstall (R., Mass.) at the request of the Defense Department, will enable former WAACs on active duty or in the reserves now to qualify for increased longevity pay and retirement credit.

Our Publicity Committee is going strong, and news releases have been popping up in many large newspapers across the country. So far, the publicity has been mostly concerned with the Memorial Fund, and we are receiving inquiries from former associates who did not know that such an organization as the Second Air Division Association existed. The West Coast newspapers (influenced by our G. Newlon) have given us quite a bit of publicity. As the result of all this publicity, we have been able to add quite a few names to our roster. An announcement will be made of our forthcoming Reunion in the April issue of the AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

The Membership Committee, Chester Schmidt, chairman, will shift into high gear very soon. We have a roster of the 445th Bomb Group and an attempt is being made to contact each one listed on that roster. Fritzie reports that she has been promised a roster of the 389th Bomb Group, and they, too, will be contacted as soon as possible.

#### Dues

If you have not already done so, please send in your dues as soon as possible. Dues are \$2.00 per year, or you may wish to take advantage of our "special bargain rates for 1954 only" and pay \$5.00 for 3 years, \$10.00 for 7 years, or obtain a life membership for only \$25.00. Please send your dues to Irene Noble, 1536 Pleasant Street, Indianapolis 3, Indiana.

#### SPECIAL NEWS ITEMS

On December 3, 1953, Pope Pius XII named Father Edward J. Seward a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

In January, Percy C. Young, our President, announced the opening of his law offices with practice limited to Federal Taxation, Wills, Estates, Trusts and Related Matters. His new address is 747-49 Commerce Title Building, Memphis, Tennessee - Telephone 37-7317.

Announcement is made of the marriage of Marilyn Fritz to Wallace Staten Snyder, Major, United States Air Force, on Saturday, February 20, 1954, at Arlington, Va. After March 15th, their address will be 1034 South Frederick Street, Apartment 842, Arlington, Virginia.



This is a picture of a portrait of Lt. Gen. William E. Kepner and was painted by Major George C. Bales, USAF, 3234 Wellington Road, Arlington, Virginia. It is the property of the U.S.A.F. and is hung at present in the Pentagon. Eventually, it will be placed in a special gallery which will commemorate all the air heroes of the United States, both civilian and military. We all are very proud that our own General "Bill" is included in this illustrious group and know that he is well deserving this honor.

Inasmuch as our Newsletter is to be confined to four pages, all the news about our former associates will be published in the next Newsletter which is scheduled for publication in about 3 months.

Sincerely yours,

PERCY C. YOUNG, President

IRENE NOBLE, Secretary