

## SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

November 7, 1953

Dear Gang:

The 6th Annual Reunion is now history -- and already we are planning next year's wing-ding. To those of you who were unable to attend this year, there's always next year to look forward to. Primarily, this is not a newsletter, but a report to the membership regarding the many decisions reached at the 1953 reunion. We will sincerely appreciate your comments, suggestions, and prompt replies.

We approach this visit with you with a pretty darned good feeling for a variety of reasons. First, we believe we're setting some kind of a record getting a report out so soon after a reunion. Second, we have a lot to tell you. Third, we are mighty enthusiastic about a number of progressive decisions that were made affecting the administration of this outfit. Fourth, we believe we are making good progress in the direction of the basic aims and objectives of the Second Air Division Association. Fifth, we were delighted with the great time everyone had at the 6th Annual Reunion held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, October 23-24-25.

Before going into detail, we call your attention to the fact that this communication contains an extensive write up of our Memorial Fund and a questionnaire which is of great importance to the outcome of that Fund. It is imperative that we hear from you immediately regarding your ideas on this Fund, so get an envelope and pen right now so that you can cast your important vote without delay.

### 1953 Reunion - Social Activities

There just aren't any two ways about it, our reunions are just about the most enjoyable parties we've ever attended. In addition to having an excellent program, provided by the Convention Committee, under the chairmanship of Clem Kowalczyk, there was something about seeing part of the old gang again -- meeting their spouses -- and recalling old memories and experiences that provided an edge not ordinarily found in parties at home.

On Friday, the 23rd, from 5:00 PM until after 10:00 PM, the reception and cocktail party took place. Several of the committee members and their wives took turns serving as hosts and hostesses, and there was a most friendly, relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere prevailing. The liquid refreshments were excellent and plentiful, and quite mysteriously, a wheel of good old Wisconsin cheese turned up.

On Saturday, a new innovation in our reunion activities took place - a luncheon and fashion show for the wives. From all reports, it was a most enjoyable party. We did hear one of the wives tell the chairlady of that event that, as far as she was concerned, it was an excellent way to bring the wives closer together and to get better acquainted. We will try to plan another event just for the wives at next year's reunion.

Saturday night, our traditional banquet took place, preceded by a cocktail hour and followed by dancing and a continuing supply of liquid refreshments. The meal was excellent, and immediately following dinner, a drawing was held for a door prize which was (believe it or not) a gallon of Hiram Walker Canadian Club. It was won by Nancy Cody. (What a lucky guy that Harry is.)

The speaking program was opened by the outgoing president, Jordan Uttal, who officially welcomed to the reunion all those present. It was particularly pointed out that, at this date, there were eleven people present who were attending their first reunion and six people who were attending their sixth! It was not pointed out at that time, but

we think it is worthy of special mention, that Harry Sears who was discharged from a hospital just two days before the reunion managed to make it, coming in from Cleveland with Elsie.

The meeting was turned over to the toastmaster, our very popular Chaplain, Rev. Father Edward J. Seward, who did an outstanding job. Chappie introduced your new president, a man who was in at the start of our Association and one who has done much to help it grow, our esteemed legal eagle, Percy Young. After a delightful bit of banter between Chappie and Percy, the program arrived at its awaited highlight and climax -- the introduction of our former Commander, Lt. Gen. William E. Kepner. It was indeed a treat to welcome back into our physical presence, one who has always been with us in spirit, whether he was out in the Pacific on atom bomb tests or up in Alaska as Commander in Chief of all armed forces in that delicate and strategic area. General Kepner, now retired from active duty, is Executive Vice President of Bell Aircraft Corporation, Buffalo, New York.

In his address to us, the General recounted many interesting personal experiences and observations. He left no doubt in anyone's mind that he loved Alaska. From a military point of view, the General assured us that considerable progress had been made in building up a much needed continental defense system in Alaska. He pointed out that any major enemy air attack would utilize the jet flow of air currents, and that an adequate interceptor and warning system in Alaska could prove a deterrent to any aggressor. The General feels that the native Alaskans consider themselves loyal Americans and that they should be granted Statehood.

#### Report on Norwich

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Spencer (Dorothy Llewellyn-Red Cross at Horsham and Hethel, and Bob from Horsham) timed their vacation in England so that they could take in the reunion on their way back to California. Dorothy and Bob gave some most interesting information about Norwich and vicinity. Norwich is very quiet now -- being off-limits for American troops! The hotels, Bell, Castle, Royal and Maid's Head, are much the same. The Castle has been completely renovated, while the Bell is very run down. The pubs are still operating and there are a few new ones. Most things are off ration now and returned to pre-war status, with only a few things such as butter and fats to come off ration. Horsham St. Faith is now a RAF base, but there are a few American jets there. Hethel field is closed, but the permanent buildings and a housing unit are occupied by quite a few people. Ketteringham Hall has been returned to pre-war basis. Lots of the bomb damage in Norwich has been cleared away, but Yarmouth is still badly crippled. The Theatre Royal and the Haymarket are still in operation, and the Lido is going strong. We were all happy to hear that the Samson has been rebuilt. Oh yes, the stalls in the market place have bright new awnings and are doing business as usual. Our warmest thanks to Bob and Dorothy from the briefing -- we enjoyed it immensely.

#### Attendance

Among those present at the 6th Annual Reunion were former 2AD personnel from 12 states, from New York to California. A very nice picture was taken at the banquet, and copies are available from the Rialto Service Co., Room 320, 127 N. Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois, for the small sum of \$2.00.

#### Business

Your past administration, your new officers, and all members present put in a lot of time, thought and effort examining ways and means to utilize past experience, both good and bad, for the continued growth and progress of the Second Air Division Association. Members of the outgoing executive board assembled early on Friday and were in session from 10:00 AM until after 5:00 PM, with the avowed purpose of recommending desirable standard operating procedures for future administration. It was the feeling of your outgoing administration that future changes in Association officers and functions would

be accomplished more smoothly and with less loss of time if a definite established program could be handed over from one year to the next. Many of the recommendations that were made were accepted at the business meeting.

Briefly, these innovations include: Established publication dates of four newsletters per year, the responsibility for the first newsletter following a reunion to be in the hands of the outgoing administration, and the date for publication was set for 3 weeks following a reunion. Further decisions involve the conducting of the entire business meeting by the outgoing administration, election of officers to be the last item of business; committee appointments to be announced immediately following the business meeting or at the banquet; and the assignment of designated responsibilities for the four vice presidents.

Considerable attention was devoted to the aims and objectives of our Association. To refresh your memory, they are, as stated in our Bylaws:

1. To advocate and support an adequate, effective and efficient Air Force, Army and Navy.
2. To perpetuate the friendships and memories of our service together in the Second Air Division, 8th Air Force, in England.
3. To undertake such other activities as may, from time to time, be deemed appropriate by the membership.

We proposed to work with continued diligence in these directions. Our program includes the preparation and submission, to proper authority, expressions of opinion with reference to maintaining adequate military establishment as stated in 1 above; to conduct a regular and frequent publication of newsletters; to publish an up to date roster which is now ready for mailing to members; to try to publicize our activities to the best of our ability; to try to locate as many former 2AD personnel as possible through our membership committee; to increase our membership and attendance at reunions; and, to obtain definite and constructive action with reference to the Second Air Division Memorial.

THE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION WILL BE TO NO AVAIL WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR INTEREST, YOUR DUES, YOUR REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRES, YOUR SUGGESTIONS, AND YOUR CRITICISM. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

#### Election of Officers

We are pleased to announce the election of your new officers for the 1953-54 fiscal year as follows:

President	- Percy Young
Vice Presidents	- Marilyn Fritz, Chester Schmidt, Harry Cody and Howard Moore
Secretary & Treasurer	- Irene Noble

The duty assignments of the 4 vice presidents and the committee assignments will be announced in the November newsletter.

#### Dues

ALL DUES, both Charter and Annual, become due and payable as of January 1, 1954. At the business meeting, Article 3 of our Bylaws were amended and changed as follows: Dues shall be \$2.00 per annum, and 3 year, 7 year, and life memberships shall be available at \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$25.00, respectively, through December 31, 1954.

We extend to Fen Marsh and his company our thanks for volunteering to print membership cards for our Association. These new membership cards will be sent to you on receipt

receipt of your 1954 annual dues or term membership dues the case may be.

### 1954 Reunion

It was pointed out by a number of interested people during the past year that it would be possible to increase reunion attendance if we were to hold it at a time when our members were taking vacations, and if we announced it long enough in advance so that the old piggy banks could be put to work. Accordingly, we are pleased to announce that THE 1954 REUNION WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., ON AUGUST 20-21-22, 1954. How about an extra large turn out, you guys and gals? Washington is a great place to visit with the kids, and we promise that you will have a great time. We also promise to have an air-conditioned hotel. Details of the specific hotel and the program will be announced in later newsletters.

### SECOND AIR DIVISION MEMORIAL FUND

Your outgoing administration has been ordered to conduct a poll on this subject. It was specifically requested that, in presenting this information, we would review for your information the original purpose of the Fund, give its present status, and the reasons for taking this action, as well as to call to your attention the first alternative choice of the members who attended the 1952 and 1953 reunions. You are, therefore, urgently requested to help us stimulate definite action on the part of the Trustees of the Fund.

The original stated purpose of the fund was to establish a Memorial to the Fallen of the Second Air Division. This Memorial was to be in the form of an entrance hall to the new Norwich Library, and the establishment of an American Room therein. In addition, there was to be compiled and displayed a book of names of the deceased. An implied, though not stated purpose, was to create, in addition to the physical and spiritual Memorial, something of use to the city of Norwich which would perpetuate the advancement of Anglo-American relations so well established there by the Second Air Division.

Due to building restrictions in England, there is no immediate likelihood that the construction of the new library can be accomplished. The original fund, £20,000, is still intact and, in fact, the fund has grown due to the addition of the unexpended interest income.

Clause 23 of the original Trust Deed provides that if it be found that it is not feasible to establish the Memorial as originally stated, the Board of Governors are empowered to establish another suitable memorial, or the funds may be turned over to the U.S.A.F. Relief Fund. The Board of Governors have decided that it is not feasible to carry out the Trust as originally stated, and they have urgently requested an expression from our Association as to an alternate suitable Memorial. Due to a number of reasons, there has been some delay in getting this poll organized. In the meantime, the U.S.A.F. Relief Fund has, on several occasions, expressed interest in this fund.

At the October, 1952, reunion and again at the 1953 reunion, our Memorial Committee was asked to notify the Board of Governors that our Association, in conventions assembled, recommended that the Trust be continued in its present form, without exercising the alternates contained in Clause 23, until such a time as a more definite expression of opinion could be obtained from as many former 2AD personnel as possible.

Our Memorial Committee, in its October, 1952 report, pointed out that several alternatives had been suggested as follows: Purchase of a site in Norwich for construction of a separate monument or memorial; creation of a memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral in London; a memorial in Norwich with suitable books or plaques listing the dead; creation of a memorial in London under the direction of the U. S. Ambassador; creation of recreation facilities for U. S. personnel in England.

It was felt by those in attendance at the 1952 reunion, also pointed out by the Memorial Committee, that none of the above carried out the original and implied purpose and intent. The matter was thoroughly discussed at the 1952 reunion and many alternatives were considered. The alternative adopted at the 1952 reunion was that, as FIRST choice of those assembled, the £20,000 be kept intact and that the annual income be used to provide a useful, living memorial in the form of 2nd Air Division Memorial Scholarships to be awarded annually to worthy East Anglian students to attend English schools.

It was the feeling that this idea could be publicized annually in England, and that the memory of our fallen comrades would constantly be revived by this worthwhile gift of higher education to coming generations of children. In addition, the book listing the names of the fallen was to be on display at all times in a place in Norwich where it could be seen by visitors from the U. S. or from anyplace in the world.

At the October, 1953, reunion these discussions were reaffirmed, and it was ordered that this poll be conducted at once with the publication of this report.

The alternatives proposed include some of those in the original committee report, those recently proposed by Milton Arnold (Brig. Gen. Ret'd), a member of the Board of Governors, and all of those proposed and reaffirmed at the 1952 and 1953 reunions, with the first choice of those present listed first on the attached questionnaire. Please vote for each alternative in order of preference, placing the figure 1 next to your first choice, 2 next to your second choice, and so on.

PLEASE HELP US BY GETTING YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE MAIL TODAY.

Since this report has been so lengthy, it was decided to publish all the news in a separate letter, so you can look forward to receiving all the latest news shortly after November 15th.

Sincerely yours,

Jordan R. Uttal, Past President

Irene Noble, Secretary

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