

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

March, 1956

Dear Gang:

This is the first Newsletter since your new officers took over on January 1, and we all want to wish you a belated Happy New Year. We hope 1956 brings you all kinds of luck, happiness and prosperity, and that we will see all of you in Chicago in August. The contract with the Congress Hotel is all signed, sealed and delivered and they have promised to take care of us to everyone's complete satisfaction. Among other things, they have guaranteed that all rooms occupied by 2nd Air Division people will be air-conditioned. So we expect you to drop whatever you are doing, gather up your families and fly, ride or hitch-hike to Chicago! Some of the Groups will be having their first Reunion; others will be back for the second or third time. Each year the gathering gets larger, unless we have trouble with hurricanes, floods or other horrors. Chicago has always been a luck city for us and we expect 1956 to be no exception.

New Format

Fen Marsh, who was our President in 1955, has very generously consented to print our Newsletter for us again. He is doing it at a greatly reduced rate, and if it were not for his efforts, our costs to get out four issues a year would be practically prohibitive. However, in an attempt to reduce both his costs and ours still further, we decided to try this format for the year 1956. This will save both the expense of envelopes and the high cost of postage and we can still include the same information as always. We hope you will like it.

Committees:

Steve Posner has appointed the following Committees to serve during 1956:

Executive

Stephen M. Posner
Irene Noble
Past Presidents
Chester F. Schmidt - ex officio

Publicity

Dean Moyer, Chairman
549 East Main Street
Evans City, Pennsylvania
Group Vice Presidents

By-Laws

Percy C. Young, Chairman

Reunion

Howard Moore, Chairman
7641 N. Bosworth Avenue
Chicago, 26, Ill.
Committee to be selected by Chairman,
consisting of members from Chicago area

Membership

Earle Prather, Chairman
Greenwood, South Carolina
Elden Nedean 44th
John Eisenhower 93rd
Arlo Warn 389th
Robert Warn 445th
Thomas Melody 446th
Calvin C. Davis 458th
John Jay Taylor 467th

Nominating

Percy C. Young, Chairman
Commerce Title Building
Memphis, Tennessee
Irene Noble
Group Vice Presidents

Military Affairs

Richard W. Clough, Chairman
802 Philadelphia Pike
Wilmington, Delaware
Advisory Group - William E. Kepner
Milton W. Arnold
Robert L. Wright
Robert E. Warn

Dorothy McDonald Harrison (ARC-Hardwick) returned to England last summer for a vacation. While there, she drove to Hardwick and wrote a report for us, complete with pictures. We are including the report in this issue, just as she wrote it.

"When I returned to Hardwick this past summer I drove a small, hired, pale blue English Ford. I was alone. It was a warm and pleasant morning with small clouds in a bright blue sky. I drove through the lanes from Long Stratton past Morningthorpe and found the hedges dark with summer dress of green but here and there jeweled with gold of mustard, purple of thistle, and red of poppy. The roads were deserted and I met no one after I'd turned off the main highway. Skirting the south edge of the field I searched for something familiar and suddenly saw a hardstand almost completely obscured by crack-grown goldenrod and grass. Beyond grazed three cows. Close by was a cluster of old Nissen huts - for base defense, I think. There was a herd of ducks penned in between the shabby buildings which were broken-windowed and rusted - though one looked as though squatters might be inhabiting it! At the south end of the main runway I drove on to the field and then to the paving running behind the control tower. All the runways bristled with grass and I drove slowly to avoid the chuck holes. The control tower itself was ruined, its windows smashed as though someone had thrown rocks through them. The interior was gutted, the guard rails and stairs hanging in rusted shreds from the roof. I stood there quite a long time remembering how I'd waited beside it, twelve years before, watching for the return of the squadrons from Africa after the costly Ploesti raid. How short a time it seemed, really!

"Driving on, I saw the hangars were rusted, the camouflage only faintly visible and the surrounding buildings roofless or shattered. Headquarters building was a mess, even the window frames were gone and the interior was piled with debris. Two men weeding in the field of sugar beets across the road stared at me curiously as I photographed it. I drove past the motor pool where a small clump of trees is growing right in the middle of the pump area. Of the Red Cross Club nothing remains but two chimneys and three walls, and the EM's mess is gone entirely, as well as the PX. The Officer's Mess is roofless and crowded with weeds. I couldn't even walk in the front door. Across the fields in the direction of the living areas, a truck stood while men moved about in the building. It appeared that the ruins were being systematically despoiled of any further items of value.

"I left over the rutted, broken roads, past the WAAF site, which was still visible above the trees, and out past the guard's shelter on the road to Hemnall. The shelter still stood or, rather, leaned. Pasted to its aging sides were several white notices, one of a pig sale at Fritton, another of a furniture display at Harleston, and one of a farm auction near Shotesham St. Mary. Hemnall looked neat and quiet. There was a new filling station near the field end of town and I had the pretty girl attendant fill up my tank with 6½ gallons before I drove in the direction of Bungay. As I left, the vicar cycled by in his knee breeches and nodded to a farmer cycling in the opposite direction, carrying a coil of wire over his shoulder. Very high overhead I saw the geometry of jet vapor trails streaking the sky and heard, distantly, their high alien whines. If I felt a little sad as I drove away it's probably because I had lived again, in memory, with men, many of whom are dead, through experiences and times which one is proud to remember but hopes need never be repeated."

We are eternally grateful to Dorothy Harrison for this description of Hardwick. If any of you should wend your way back to the UK, we would be delighted to have any first-hand information about your old base, especially with pictures. We promise to publish anything of that kind we can get.

HARDWICK TODAY

A

Headquarters



B

Control Tower



C

Red Cross



D

Motor Pool

PERSONNEL NEWS

HEADQUARTERS 2ND AIR DIVISION - Tony Aromando sends greetings to all his friends in the 2nd Air Division. Tony and Rose and their daughters, Camille 7 and Marie 5 live in New York City. Sally Allen is at the moment staying with her sister in South Dartmouth, Mass., recovering from a broken hip. Sally is now the proud grandma of four and wants somebody to start knitting her a shawl. Lida B. Cowan and her husband, Carroll L. Thompson (389th, 566th) are living on a farm in Indiana. They have three children: Jay 8, Bonnie 6 and Don 4. Pearl Ernst has been having a bout with sickness, but says she is all right now. She would like to hear from any and all refugees from 2 AD. Carol Everingham is with the Air Rescue Squadron at Orlando, Florida. Bonnie Paulhamus has also returned to the Z.I. after being with her husband in England. Puckie is still in Germany at Hq. Sq. Sec. 7030th Support Group, APO 12, New York. Eleanor Storms is in California, having returned from Germany last May and driven across the country. She said it was quite a ride; she had forgotten how big this country is. They had hoped to have time to take a trip to England and re-visit Norwich before returning, but couldn't make it. Vera Heard Summers has moved from Washington, D.C. to Dayton, Ohio.

44TH BOMB GROUP - General Leon Johnson has left Mitchel Field, where he was CG of CONAC, and has been assigned to NATO, replacing General Collins who is retiring. Kenneth J. Moore (68th) is a truck driver for the James I. Barnes Construction Company. He and his wife, Billie live at 875 West Side Drive, Porterville, California and would enjoy a visit from anyone in the 44th or any other Group. Ken has two children, Keith, 8 years old and Sherry, 9. Richard Skattie (66th) has moved to 2119 Suitland Terrace, S. E., Washington, D. C. He says he is sorry he had to miss the Reunion last year, but they were rather busy, daughter Sharon having arrived in July. She is their first child. Walter L. Sumney (66th) is a Master Sergeant in the Engineering Section at Carswell AFB, Texas. He is a flight chief on B-36's. Walt, his wife, Jewell and sons Robert 7 and Stephen 6 live at Carswell.

93RD BOMB GROUP - James W. Holliday (409th) is a Staff Sergeant in the 68th Field Maintenance Squadron, NCOIC of the Reciprocating Engine Teardown Section. He lives in Lake Charles, La. with his wife, Christine, and son George 9. Jim would like to get in touch with Ben Kuroki of Hersey, Nebraska, and anyone else who was in his crew. Jim was a gunner with the 93rd and also an aerial gunnery instructor in the 445th Bomb Group. Russell J. Karp (330th) lives in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife, Virginia and three children, Douglas 13, Kathrine 8 and Donald 3. Russell is a partner in a concern manufacturing commercial store fixtures. Harold W. McDonald (329th) lives in Concord, California with Alice and two children, Marilynne 9 and Michael 2. Harold is Assistant Civil Engineer in the Contra Costa County Public Works Department. Robert Sponga (329th) is a design draftsman in the General Electric Company in Philadelphia. He lives in Norwood, Pa.

389TH BOMB GROUP - Major B. B. Bilby (567th) is an aircraft commander on a B-36 with the 5th Bomb Wing, Travis AFB, California. He and Lowana have one daughter, Jill Ann. He is about to leave for Guam, where he is taking a staff operations job with Detachment 1, 7th Air Force, APO 156, San Francisco. Ben Casamassa (567th) is manager of the Circle Drive-In Theater in Moorestown, New Jersey. He and Edna have a daughter, Donna 6. John A. Dutka and Rose Marie live in Meriden, Conn. where John is Foreman with a tree surgery company. John was with the 448th Bomb Group as well as the 389th. W. T. Mahoney, Jr. (566th) is a garage and service station owner in Chattanooga, Tenn. He and Janet have one son, W. T., III, aged 18 months. Leo McBrien lives in Rinon, California with his wife, Betty, and two girls and a boy: Sharon 12, Bob 10, and Kathy 8. Leo is Production Manager for the Valley Tag and Label Company. He would like to get in touch with any of the crew who bailed out with him, and any of Jack Pruitt's crew. Joseph Snow (567th) is a building mechanic with the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania.

392ND BOMB GROUP - Rev. George W. Barger has moved from Ann Arbor, Michigan to a new pastorate in Maryville, Missouri. He is still trying to find out whether a 392nd Group history was ever published. Anybody know?

445TH BOMB GROUP - Ted Climer, who was also in the 467th Group and the 96th Combat Wing, is a member of the Tennessee National Guard, holding the rank of Lt. Colonel and

commanding the 118th Maintenance Squadron at Berry field, Nashville, Tennessee. He would like his friends to know that his address is: P.O. Box 223, Union City, Tenn. Gerard D. Cullen (700th) is a storekeeper at the Westchester County Home, Hawthorne, N.Y. Jerry commutes from Ossining, N.Y. where he lives with Edith and son Gerard, Jr., 6. Jerry was also in the 492nd Bomb Group and the 406th Bomb Squadron (NL), part of the First Air Division. Bob and Doris Warn are the parents of a new daughter, Graceann, born December 30, 1955.

446TH BOMB GROUP - Emanuel Fuchs is married with two children, Randy Lee 12 and Larry E. 7. He and Maxine and the children live in Oklahoma where he is a farmer and a Nutrilite distributor and key agent. Morris Gorbis, his wife, Selma, and children Sheila 10 and Howard, 6, live in Bayonne, N.J. Morris is a pharmacist and owns his own store. James O. Hay (704th) is an ice cream manufacturer in Dixon, Illinois. Jim and Roxy have four children: JoAnne 10, James 8, Ward 5 and Martin 4. Jim's Illinois license plate number is 704-446, so he will never forget it or his old outfit. Antonio Lavoie (705th) is with the U.S. Air Force at Otis AFB, Mass. He and Kathleen have one son, Thomas H., 7. Vere A. McCarty writes that after being discharged he and his wife, Marie, and daughter Kathleen, now 13 years old, returned to the family ranch in Eastern Oregon. In 1946 he became involved in veterans' politics and in 1949 became State Commander of the VFW. He found service to veterans so rewarding that in 1950 he sold the ranch and took a job with the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs as a Service Officer. Later he was transferred to the Salem Headquarters where he is now State Service Officer for the Department. He lives in the suburbs of Salem on 1/3 acre of berries, fruit and lawn which he cares for with the help of his sons: Tommy 9, Doug 8, Dave 6 and Paul 2. Vere would like to hear from any of his buddies from the 446th Bomb Group or 20th Wing. Martin M. VanNess, Jr. is a Master Sergeant with the U.S. Air Force. His present address is Det. 1, 7407th Suppron, APO 132, New York. Martin and Audrey have three children, Patricia 16, Pamela 6 and Bill 16 months.

466TH BOMB GROUP - James R. Carey, Jr. has a service station on Highway 52 in northeastern Iowa. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and children Clifford 5 and Dorothy 21 months, live in Ossian. If anyone is passing that way, he would like to see you at Carey's West-Side Service. He says be sure to identify yourself as a member of the 2nd Air Division. Jim is also a member and supervisor in the Ground Observer Corps. He would like to know if there was a history of the 466th Bomb Group published.

467TH BOMB GROUP - Paul L. Brady is a Master Sergeant with the 147th Field Artillery Battalion, National Guard of South Dakota as Administrative Assistant and Sergeant Major. Paul and Ileen have two children, Karen Sue 14, and Beverly Ann 11. Paul used to live in Illinois. He was with the 147th Field Artillery Battalion during the Korean War, stationed in Alaska as Sfc. Chief of Radio Section, and now has 10 years service. Thomas W. Redick (791st) lives in Bergenfield, N.J. with his wife Mildred and two children, Daniel 11 and Patricia 9. Tom has been a Presbyterian minister since 1951. Until August of last year he was pastor of the Greenfield Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., but is now Associate Director of the Office of Finance of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. He would like to get in touch with Richard Bond, Navigator, and Fred Hoffhaus, Radio Operator, in his crew.

OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret that we announce the deaths of two of our members. Francis Rebiejo, 44th Bomb Group, 506th Squadron and 392nd Bomb Group, 579th Squadron, died on October 12, 1955 after being ill for twenty months. He joined the Association in July, 1955.

Col. Wilbur J. Simons, Hq., 2nd Air Division, died suddenly on November 18. Col. Simons had been in the Air Force for 30 years prior to his retirement in 1948. He was also a member of the Reserve Officers Association.

HELP WANTED

Two of our members have written asking for help. Bill Mayer (389th, 566th) wants to get in touch with Sgt. Edward A. Champagne. Will anyone who knows anything about him please

write Bill at Box 5, North Branch Station, New Jersey.

Leonard Broussard (Luth, 67th) has written us for the names of some of the men who were with him when he aggravated a back condition. He needs some affidavits from people who knew about it when it happened. We sent him the names of all the members of the Association whom we knew to have been in the 67th Squadron. However, we may have missed some and Leonard would appreciate hearing from any of you who could help him out. His address is: 506 South Jefferson Street, Abbeville, La.

Roster - Many of you have asked about a roster of the 2nd Air Division Association. Our good friend, Fen Marsh, is doing that for us too, and he reports that it is now having its final checking and will be ready very soon. It will be as up to date as possible when it is finished and we will add to it from time to time, either by mail or through the pages of the Newsletter.



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