



ISSUE NUMBER 33 PERIODICAL OF THE HERITAGE LEAGUE OF THE 2ND AIR DIVISION NOVEMBER 2003

Fitting Acclaim

"Just-past Chair of The Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust of the Second Air Division, USAAF" is only one of a dozen telling ways to refer to our beloved long term member and friend, David J. Hastings. He now sports a new one: Member of the British Empire ('MBE'). This high honorific was bestowed in June by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, notifying the public in her annual Birthday Honours List. Prominent citizens who have served worthy causes with distinction are named to a range of honors annually; later this year a formal Investiture will

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Momentous Reunion

The 56th Second Air Division Association (2ADA) Convention was held in Oak Brook, IL, June 5-8, 2003. Per formula, the Heritage League had a business meeting for its members and guests, as well as a few working sessions of our Executive Committee ('Ex Com'). Notable decisions from the ExCom included making the commitment to offer our members a 'stand alone' convention for the first time, in 2004. (At the Ex Com meeting in October in Colorado Springs, we will pick from three proposals in development and let you know in the next Herald.) A figurative 'hat' was passed for the Memorial Library among the ExCom, with guests David Hastings and his able follow-on Chair of the Board of Governors of the Second Air Division Memorial Trust, Matthew Martin, witnessing firsthand the depth of our commitment. The substantial combined pledge was officially presented by Irene to Matthew at the Saturday banquet (see photo). The Nominations Committee report was endorsed (and later accepted by the membership in the business meeting) with the result that your current slate of officers continues for another year.

At our well attended business meeting on the afternoon of June 6th, we made note of the fact that many in the room could recall *precisely* where they were 59 years prior. Irene made moving presentations to David and Jean Hastings, who, for all the titles describing their service to our shared cause of honoring and remembering, have been,

first and foremost over the 18 years they have attended 2ADA Conventions, *our friends*. A lovely illustrated book, "Light Perpetual," describing stained glass windows throughout England dedicated to various USAAF/USAF and RFC/RAF combat organizations in two world wars, bore the following inscription:

"Given to David and Jean Hastings, with abiding and deep affection for your leadership, inspiration, and friendship in our shared work: keeping alive the memories of The Second Air Division of the United States' Eighth Army Air Force, operating in East Anglia during WW II.

As Liaison, Governor, and fellow 2ADA and League members, your steadfast and substantial contributions to 'never forgetting' the services of 100,000 and the supreme sacrifice of 7,000 has kept alive for appreciative following generations the warmth and

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HL President Irene Hurner, for her Executive Committee colleagues, presents 2AD Memorial Trust Chair Matthew Martin with \$2100.



Jim Lorenz holds 2ADA Distinguished Service Award presented to him and Mary. Text cites service as Liaison Officers to the Heritage League and their outstanding contribution to the continuation of the 2ADA Legacy. True to form, Jim wears both League pins, the American flag, and the Library Rededication medallion.

Editorial

Candle going out, or Torch being Passed?

-by Brian Mahoney

I am between planes on my way home from the wonderful reunion of the 467th Bomb Group Association in San Antonio. It was a remarkably warm gathering, with the felt presence of an increasing number of absent old stalwarts of this group, regular reunion attendees who have either died or become infirm in recent years. While the numerical strength is undeniably down, the collective energy, even youthful vitality of the gathering, struck this writer and several others in 'both generations,' as the highest in recent years.

What is undeniably on the minds of 'young' boomers and 'oldsters' of the veteran generation alike, though not discussed much (and not very often, outside the formal business meetings of this and other bomb groups) is the matter of transition, of carrying on traditions and continuing stewardship of an exciting, priceless legacy.

Formal and informal conversations about all of this are hard to frame and harder to hold, for a variety of obvious reasons. At the personal level, all know that as our remaining WW II veterans 'fly their last mission,' we lose forever any chance to get their stories into the record right from the source. Even now as more of us are comfortable getting past the euphemisms for the dying off of 'the greatest generation,' scores of my friends are scrambling to interview their vets, to have them identify mementos and photos, while the 'paddlefeet' and 'flyboys' themselves, so conscious of each passing mortal day, scramble to finish the album and memoir or arrange the thoughtful donation of their libraries, historical records and personal effects. Nobody is 'in denial.'

Many in my generation are working on schemes to harvest data, in what always feels like a rushed 'too little, too late' effort. In our urgent labors we are increasingly resigned to the reality that 'the perfect is the enemy of the good,' but also consoled to arrive at the realization that capturing the *quality* of a veteran's story is still more important than the *quantity* of information we know we are missing, forever.

At the institutional level, those sensitive to the 'last-man-out' sensibility in the veteran groups want assurance that chartered 'follow on' organizations (the Heritage League being a unique and prime example) not be some maudlin mimic of the authentic veteran organizations. Us telling their 'war stories' as if they were our own would profane the hardships and hazards they braved. We who would continue in the commemorating and honoring of sacrifices substantial and ultimate are at pains to assure the remaining vets that 'we get it' that we can only do this as admirers and relatives, not surviving colleagues, of the fallen.

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Corrections

Thanks to eagle-eyed Jordan Uttal, Honorary President and Historian of the Second Air Division Association (and others) for catching some imprecise titles and such in Herald #32. Jordan has kindly offered to set your editors up with a 'style sheet' of the formal and acceptable shortened names and titles of entities and personages we frequently cover. Even then, though, we will still take credit for—and apologize for—all errors. We happily receive all corrections.

•The Memorial Library is situated in the Norfolk-Norwich Millennium Library (p.1).

•Vicki Brooks Warning is Observer to the Board of Governors (caption, p.3).

•President Hurner's sister who joined the Ex Com for our outing to the George Ranch while in Houston is Barbara Mello. (Caption, p. 3)

•The 'Board of Governors, Memo-

(Continued on page 15)

President's Update**Heritage League On The Move**

—by Irene Hurner, President

I want to welcome you to this issue of *The Heritage Herald*. Our Co-editors Brian Mahoney and Lindy Galbraith have been working to compile a most interesting issue for our members. I hope that you enjoy the fruits of their efforts.

During the last several months I have had the opportunity to visit with members at two wonderful get-togethers: our convention at Oak Brook, IL near Chicago in June and the 453rd Bomb Group reunion in New Orleans the first week of September. Each time I spent about a week attending planned activities, visiting with veterans, their families and friends in some of the hospitality rooms, and sightseeing. What a wonderful time we all had!

Perhaps my biggest surprise of the year came at the 2ADA banquet during the Oak Brook convention. After Jordan presented Jim and Mary Lorenz with a distinguished service award for their work as Liaisons to The Heritage League, Mr. Uttal called me to the speakers' table. He presented me with a distinguished service award for my part in bringing our group and the 2ADA closer together. I am still overwhelmed by this honor and know that it could not have been given without the support of the officers and members of The League in cooperation with members of The Second Air Division Association. Thank you again.

I look forward to these reunions as a time to meet members, strengthen friendships, develop new friends, and to learn history from those who lived it. There is something very special that occurs when we meet and find the common bond that lies between us. For me, that bond includes the stories of the veterans and their spouses. The camaraderie and enthusiasm cannot be described. One must attend to see and feel the pure joy of listening and learning from the vets and their spouses. Not only did our veterans go off to war, but those who stayed at home, generally the spouse or sweetheart, did without goods and services so that the war effort would be successful and over in the shortest amount of time.

My parents, Albert and Claire Biel, sister Rosemary Biel-Lighty, daughter Gretchen Hurner, nephew Michael Argentieri and my daughter's friend Becky Bulls and I attended the 453rd BG reunion and visited the D-Day Museum. At the mention of recycling, Mom

offered an enumeration of the many items that were saved and recycled during World War II. Posters were printed proclaiming the pounds of empty metal toothpaste tubes, razor blades, used tin foil, silk stockings, old paper bags, and newspapers collected. She said that one could not even consider purchasing a metal pot or pan. Glass pots were the only thing available. This brought home



League President Hurner thanks 2ADA for her award.

the fact that we have had such a long relatively peaceful period with so much available that most in the younger generations cannot imagine saving something like an empty tube.

I cherish a "Home Card" that belonged to my husband's grandmother. In small letters is the admonition, "Hang

this in your kitchen." And so it does, reminding me of the sacrifices everyone made. Part of the headline written in bold black letters says, "What you can do to help with this war." Suggestions include eating less meat, wasting less, using all foodstuffs, for example day-old bread as French toast, double the use of vegetables, burn fewer fires, use wood, use as little fat and sugar as possible in cooking. The amounts saved were shipped to our armed forces and allies overseas. The last paragraph begins "Let us remember." It says in part, "There can only be food enough if America provides it. And America can only provide it by the personal service and patriotic co-operation of all of us."

In the spirit of cooperation but specifically working for the benefit of our Heritage League, Ludie Morris spent two months crocheting an afghan. Ludie then sold raffle tickets in the Hospitality Room during the 453rd BG reunion. The proceeds were donated by the 453rd to The Heritage League. How can we say, "Thank you" in a way that expresses the appreciation of the officers and members for the support?

The Heritage League Secretary Linda Wittig and her daughter Associate Secretary Brenda Tudyk drove from near Houston. Many Heritage League

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ExCom at Oak Brook, at Heritage League business meeting. Standing: 2ADA Liaisons Mary and Jim Lorenz, Treasurer Ed Zobac, Communications VP Brian Mahoney. Seated: Membership VP Ann Phillips, President Irene Hurner; Secretary Linda Wittig.

-Photo by Mary Lorenz

Oakbrook Reunion

(Continued from page 1)

friendship between our countrymen and stands as a beacon for freedom loving people everywhere. *We shall never forget you.*"

It is signed for The Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) with a list of the full Executive Committee. A colorful silk scarf was also given to Jean.

Brian Mahoney, Liaison to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, reported that their CEO, CJ Roberts, and Director of Interpretation and Research, Michael Telzrow, were keen on exploring di-

verse ways the League could support various programmatic areas. We got an up-close look at the 'Curriculum Guide' they developed in concert with an academic publisher. (See "Telling It Well" in this issue.) Matthew Martin addressed the gathering and reported on progress and programs at the Memorial Library, and expressed support for our intention of working with other entities sharing our goal of appropriately honoring and remembering, and being stewards of the legacy of the 2nd Air Division.

The 2ADA departed from its usual nomination practice, resulting in a very different slate than expected by most, though still adopted by acclamation at their membership meeting. Dick Butler (44th) continues for another year as President, Geoff Gregory (467th) accepted nomination as Executive VP, Bill Nothstein (466th) is Treasurer and David Patterson (445th) is Secretary. Indomitable Evelyn Cohen and Jordan Uttal (both HQ) continue as VP of Membership and Honorary President respectively, while Chuck Walker (445th) continues as Representative to the Board of Governors.

On the evening of the Group dinners, each gathering was addressed by one of your ExCom members to promote Heritage League membership in all genera-



Trust Chair Matthew Martin addresses the Heritage League in Oak Brook.



2ADA Honorary President Jordan Uttal, left, beams our affection as President Dick Butler presents mantle clock to Jean and David Hastings.



492nd's Assistant Group VP, Howard Heckman, left, and fellow prisoner of war Bob Cash peruse list of barracks mates Howard took with him on the long forced march these two endured from Stalag Luft IV across Northern Germany. Norma Beasley looks on.

tions. We are aware that many who have been sponsored by parents and grandparents need to make the step now for themselves and actively take up their own support of our ongoing activities.

Following the Friday buffet, we were treated to the latest 'director's cut' of the Dzenowagis documentary of the rededication week in Norwich in 2001, "The Roll of Honor." As has been noted by others, no one left the room during the showing, which still needs to be 'cut down' for distribution. All who made it to Norfolk shortly after 9-11 were brought right back; all who missed it were appropriately envious.

While there were no arranged excursions, various parties were formed for interesting regional outings. Howard Heckmann and his daughters, proud burghers of the Windy City, led several of us to a tour of architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Oak Park home. Fair weather beckoned runners outdoors, some in better shape than others. The upscale mall across the street also did well by our group.

The Saturday banquet featured Distinguished Service Award presentations from the 2ADA to Jim and Mary Lorenz for their Liaison work to the Heritage League, and to Irene Hurner for her continuing leadership. The 2ADA followed our suit by making a wonderfully heartfelt presentation of a mantle clock to David and Jean.

From Your 2ADA Fulbright Librarian

—by Tahitia Orr

Here at the Memorial Library we are gearing up for a busy fall season. We've got lots of special projects happening and coordinating and managing these is keeping us on the go.

Over the summer, we were involved with a pilot run of a new website that the BBC has launched called 'The People's War.' On this interactive site the user registers and then can enter their (or their family's) memories of WW II. It is searchable, features bulletin boards for users to communicate with one another, and even offers an editorial board to help those unsure of their writing ability.

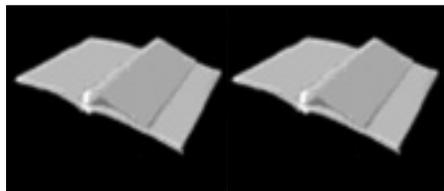
During the pilot project, we invited folks to the library to try out the website and see what type of help they might need. Here in the UK, the number of people using the Internet and/or computers is smaller than in the US. This is especially true of people over the age of 60. There are many great things about the People's War website but one of the best, in my opinion, is the interest it is generating in the wartime generation regarding computers. People who had never handled a mouse before sat down and had a great time exploring. It's so wonderful to see faces light up and confidence build!

The main launch of the People's War website happens in early November to coincide with Remembrance Day on the 11th. We've teamed up with the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library (in which we are housed) and they are going to offer basic Internet classes using the People's War website as an example. The Memorial Library is holding several open days when the public computers will be reserved for People's War use. Extra staff will help out at the terminals and lots of folks will be invited for tea, biscuits and a walk down memory lane.

The BBC is really keen to have memories of all types entered into the database and we are encouraging our American veterans to register and log their wartime stories. The website is up and running now so please let the veterans in your life know about this opportunity or enter your family's stories on your own. We here at the library are very excited about the possibility of passing those precious wartime tales on to the next generation in yet another format.

Also in November, the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division U.S.A.A.F. is holding the first of what will become a biennial lecture series. This will be held on the local university campus and will be given by The Right Honourable The Lord Carrington who will be speaking on his personal experiences of Anglo-American relations. Lord Carrington is a highly respected former member of the government and we hear great things about his speaking ability. During the week of the lecture, the Trust's Board of Governors Annual General Meeting will be held and we are lucky enough to have several of our American veterans coming over to join us. They will also tour the new Norfolk Records Office and the Memorial Library. It all feels a bit like a mini-reunion!

Regular business at the library continues apace as well. We've been acquiring specific titles to add to our art collection. Students of the well respected art college here will be a good target audience for our augmented collection. Of course, regular book buying goes on as well. We are constantly assessing the book stock in order to remove outdated books and identify



Honoring Our Own

Mrs. Fleetwood, Library and Information Assistant for the Memorial Trust Library, wrote Heritage League President Hurner in May to acknowledge donation of books honoring past and president League officers. "The First Heroes: the Extraordinary Story of the Doolittle Raid—America's First WW II Victory" by Craig Nelson, bears a bookplate honoring long serving **Treasurer Ed Zobac**. Services of **former Communications VP Kathy Jackson** are honored by "American Visionaries: Selections from the Whitney Museum of American Art." Services of **Ruth Anderson, onetime Membership VP**, are acknowledged with our donation of "Wealth and Democracy: a Political History of the American Rich," by Kevin Phillips.

places where we should be stronger. I am constantly amazed by the fascination with the U.S. Civil War in particular. Lots of people I've talked to have been on battlefield tours and trips up and down the east coast of the U.S., retracing paths taken by the Northern and Southern armies. In response to this interest, we have a large selection of books on the topic.

Every week we are pleased to have veterans and/or their families walking through our door. It's such a joy to help rediscover old bases, reconnect friends and listen to war stories, after all that's what we're here for! As always, we appreciate getting a 'heads up' if folks are coming over, especially if you want to tour a wartime base.

Personally, I've been doing more traveling around the country. Went hiking in Scotland over the summer and took in some culture at the Edinburgh Festival. My allotment garden is full of weeds and potatoes and I've started a furniture restoration class through the local adult education scheme. Guess I'm just not happy unless my schedule is full! (Hmmm... 'allotment' garden, 'scheme,' and overall busy-ness... the anglicization of Tahitia is evident! -Ed.)

2002-2003

Book Endowment Program

Trust Librarian Derek Hills reported to Irene in June that our portion of the endowment allowed purchase of four titles. Their 'stock development policy' is under continual refinement to support the mission of the Memorial and the needs of their patrons. One aspect of the mix, supporting the American Studies curricula of local colleges, will be supported by these newly purchased titles: "American Skin: Pop Culture, Bib Business and the End of White America," by Leon Wynter; "the Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island," by Linda Greenlaw; "The Spirit of Family," by Al and Tipper Gore; and "Bringing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six M. I. T. Students who Took Vegas For Millions," by Ben Mezrich. Bookplates in all instances read: "Presented by the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF)."

Candle going out, or Torch being Passed?

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There are not any great models out there for what most of us ('young' and old) want to happen; we will have to improvise while we keep our eyes on the prize. Young and old have little time left to hand over the torch of perpetuating and commemorating, and trust and communication between leaders of the respective organizations should be the first order of business until all of the issues are resolved to mutual satisfaction. Your Heritage League leaders are ready to play this role, with open minds and hearts, ears and mouths.

In the last *Herald*, we presented new mission and vision statements reflecting thoughtful embrace of our challenge. In the next *Herald*, we will be inviting you to our first 'stand alone' convention. Whether you are veteran, second or third generation, if you share our goal of keeping alive the memory of the Second Air Division, we want you to know about our vision and goals. We ask you to hold leaders of the 'parent' and 'offspring' organizations responsible for having a thorough, honest and effective dialogue, *right now*, on *all* of the transition issues.

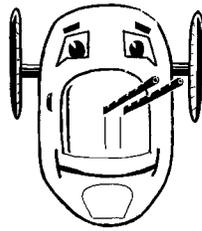
The Heritage League is determined to receive and carry the torch. Any who hesitate to pass it must articulate their concerns openly and constructively *now*. Withholding this *active support* would be like blowing out our candle of remembrance, instead of passing the torch.

Telling it Well

Any readers, whether in the 'vet' or second generation, if called upon to present to a school or civic group, might want to make use of the specially developed "8th Air Force Curriculum Guide Kit," produced as a joint venture of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and Prentice Hall. Many of us in attendance at Oak Brook had an opportunity to peruse this excellent distillation of the role and history of the air arm in the struggle in the European war. 124 pages of clear text, targeted at middle schoolers and up, 20 transparencies for overhead projectors, and a 25 minute video round out the package.

The complete Kit may be obtained from the M8AFHM for \$24.95. Text only for \$16.95. POBox 1992, Savannah, GA 31402

Answers to Your Technical Questions



Pitch
it to
PETE!

-by Pete O'Tube, Expert

Dear Pete,

That early 'Liberator type' that went to the UK in Lend-Lease days, the PB-30... does that designation mean 'land bomber'?

L. B. Dreissig

Dear Elbie,

A retired Convair (formerly Consolidated-Vultee Aircraft Corporation) employee rang in on this subject to the Heritage League Website Guestbook. He thought that yours was an intuitive guess, especially since there was in-company nomenclature in the early 1940s which included the phrase 'land bomber.' But he found in his papers a memo from just after Pearl Harbor, referring to "Liberator British type-30" which sounds like the winner.

Interestingly, the originator of the Liberator referred to it and all derivatives as "Model 32." (Tip of the hat to Gordon Jackson!)

Pete

Dear Pete,

There's an urban legend running around about the origin of the phrase 'The whole nine yards' which links it to WW II combat planes... any comment?

Morris Osborne Belt

Dear M. O. Belt,

I understand that the assembled ammo belts for the waist gunners in the early B-17 groups were 27 feet long... and that this length was often used in the .50 cal. machine guns in the wings of the P-47 and later the P-51. An aerial gunner that came back having shot all of his ammo would thus have used "the whole nine yards." Any gunners or fighter pilots out there want to ring in on this one?

Pete

Dear Pete,

I have heard many references to 'Tokyo tanks' in 4-engined USAAF bombers. What's the scoop?

Xavier Trafuel

Dear X. Trafuel,

The name seems to say it all: designers wanted to squeeze extra range out of our bombers. Some say that these range extenders (supplemental tanks fitted inside each wing, out near the tip) first went into B-17s. 300 gallons on each side, bringing B-17 capacity up to that of the B-24, 2750 gallons. Then the D model B-24 debuted its Tokyos. Later there were also 400 gallon bomb bay tanks made for the Liberator, 2 of which could be accommodated without displacing any of the standard 4,000 lb. bomb load, so it seems that in the end the Lib was always one step ahead of the Fort on range.

Pete does not know it all! I confess my own confusion, because it seems that the first plane to have this range extending feature would have been the one deployed against Japan in the Pacific... the already-longer-range Liberator.

It was the job of the engineer on either bomber to keep the plane balanced, to know when to do pumped fuel transfers from Tokyos to main tanks, and what to do in a host of situations where different tanks leaked, pumps went out, and engines were lost. It did not help that the glass tube fuel gauges for the mains on the Liberator were universally acclaimed to be considerably worse than useless. No fuelin.

Pete

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Pitch it to Pete

(Continued from page 6)

Dear Pete,

Some photos of the B-24 show wires running back and out, from the fuselage above and forward of the waist windows, to the each of the vertical stabilizers.

Were they control wires?

Elisabeth Raiter

Dear Libby Raiter,

The one to the left stabilizer was the antenna for the 'command' radio, short-range communication between commanders within a formation. That to the right was for 'liaison' radio sets, sending longer range transmissions back to base on mission progress and calling for air/sea rescue (A/SR) and such. Later planes had a short forward pointing antenna near the top of each vertical stabilizer. I am not sure that the latter fully displaced the former on 'command' ships—ones doing squadron, group, wing or division lead, or their respective deputies. I wonder how waist gunners managed to not shoot them into bits!

Before going overseas, many of the planes had retractable trailing wire antennae, often hundreds of feet long and weighted for stability. There are comical stories of these snagging things when doing buzz jobs or in formation, or when they landed without remembering to reel it in.

Most trailing antennae went out from the back of the plane on the bottom midline of the fuselage, although there was some sort of flexible antenna that went up and out from a hole midway between the navigator's dome and the windscreen on a few aircraft—possibly for shortwave communication while on long overseas flights.

Knowledgeable readers are asked to ring in on this interesting subject!

An elaborate system of pulleys, bearing control cables, ran fully inside the fuselage and horizontal tailplane to operate rudders, elevators and their trim tabs. As the thermal expansion coefficients for steel (used in the cables) and aluminum (the airframe) were not identical, many pilots reported that there was perceptible 'slop' in the controls at altitude. While the cables pulled positively in each movement direction for every control surface, and most surfaces tended to default to a neutral position, there was no redundancy. A cable shot out by flak or fighters meant a control surface lost, and often a plane and crew with it.

Pete

(Thanks to Kelsey McMillan for some 'Q & A' support! -Ed.)



Bud Chamberlain and his amazing relic reunite after 58 years.

Tiger's Revenge

Bill Nemchock, a 489th BG ground crewman living in Elmhurst, IL, drove over to the Second Air Division Association Convention to make a few interesting presentations. Former 2ADA President Bud Chamberlain, in his second crew assignment, flew a plane named for the previous pilot's brother, fighter pilot 'Tiger' Michell, who was KIA in the ETO. Bud's second crew flew as a lead crew in the 846th BS.

Bud is seen holding up a numberplate from that a/c, enjoying his token reunion with the plane he last saw 58 years ago. Your inquisitive reporter did not press for the details of this souvenir's 'liberation,' lest the Inspector General take interest. (Thanks to Charlie Freudenthal for help with the details. -Ed.)



New pin, above, and limited edition commemorative pin from Norwich, below. Proceeds support the Memorial Library.

Heritage League Pins: New and 'Classic'

A wonderful new design by our own talented Caron Veynar made it's debut in Oak Brook and sold well among our supporters in the 2ADA. It is a quality cloisonné stud-backed pin of bright brass and enameled red, white and blue, and features our logo fittingly supported by 'wings of friendship' in the form of the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes.

We have a few remaining *special edition* pins commemorating the Rededication of the Memorial Room in November 2001, also by Caron and featuring a variant of the wing and flag motif. Like the new pin, it is about 1.5" (37 mm) across.

Wear either with pride and help us support the Memorial Library with the proceeds. Both will be available in Colorado Springs, and either can be ordered, check payable to the Heritage League, c/o Caron Veynar, 4919 Bristow Drive, Annandale, VA 22003-5457. \$5 for the Rededication pin, \$7 for the new pin. Include \$1.00 for shipping and handling for up to three pins, \$1.50 S & H for 4-6 pins.

WW II Heritage Festival

Bill Beasley Jr., son of the 467th BG's Group VP Willis Beasley, and brother of Heritage League Past President Craig Beasley, is Executive Director of the Northland Chapter of the American Red Cross, in Duluth, MN. He worked recently with the staff of the newly opened 'Richard I. Bong WW II Heritage Center' in Superior, Wisconsin, to tell the story of the Red Cross Girls in improving the morale of servicemen far from home in England, Europe, the Pacific, and the Zone of the Interior ('ZI,' or good ole US of A). The Museum celebrated the 59th Anniversary of D-Day with a rich program of old and new fighter flyovers, a

Tuskegee Airman speaker, and a presentation by a Holocaust survivor.

The Center is named for the American 'Ace of Aces,' Medal of Honor recipient Richard I. Bong, who downed a record 40 enemy aircraft while piloting a P-38 Lightning in the Pacific Theatre. Unfortunately, he was killed testing an early Lockheed jet (after his combat tour) at age 24, on the very day the first A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Bill Beasley Jr. and Brian Mahoney, Heritage Liaison to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, are in early discussion with that institution's Director

of Research and Interpretation, Mr. Michael Telzrow. All three are hoping that a program might be developed which presents there the crucial supportive role played by the Red Cross for fliers, ground crew, and prisoners of war. The Heritage Museum currently is preparing a show on the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), which is outlined prominently on their website. (See 'Webpages We Wike' for URLs of both museums. -Ed.)

Debut of *Heritage Heritones* Looking for SONGS and SINGERS

—by Brian Mahoney

The early October Reunion of the 44th BG Association in Arlington, VA was excuse enough for Hollywood film score writer Beth Ertz, her singer sister (and natural health practitioner) Bera Dordoni, and Brian Mahoney to pull together a handful of 'second gens' to regale the vets and their brides with a few 'period' selections, audience assisting on some, and a few very moving solos by Bera. All was well received, and Bera and Beth's version of "Wing Beneath My Wings" left not a dry eye in the house.

Beth and Brian have a green light from the Ex Com to collect original songs from the units within the 2nd Air Division and make a book as a fundraiser. They hope to revitalize some of their findings at reunions of the Heritage League, the 2ADA and various bomb groups.

Do you know of a song, original to one of the groups or assigned units of the 2nd Air Division? We are interested in knowing the tune, authorship, and any background for the ditty as well. Do not worry if it is a bit bawdy... we will deal with the hot potatoes as they are tossed our way, and want to work from the original, 'unexpurgated' versions. maybe we will have to issue a 'sanitized edition' alongside the authentic item.

Are you interested in being on our list of singers? The qualifications are

simple: be willing to get up in front of a crowd, enjoy good accompaniment, and follow a songsheet and (hopefully) one or two voices in relative pitch, all in the name of fun. Contact Brian (info on back panel of this *Herald*) and you will be warned of planned performances in your area. You do not have to be particularly good (again, reference Brian! -Ed.), just able to carry a tune in a bucket. Heck, the 'Heritones' even supply the bucket!

Bera's Emmy nominated CD "I Have a Choice!," produced by Beth and featuring father Julian Ertz (44th BG) as backup, was released in 2002. Contact Bera at bastis@bastis.org to acquire yours!



Backstage glee. HL Communications VP Mahoney models his late father's 'Class A' uniform, flanked by heroines of the 'Heritones,' sisters Bera Dordoni (left) and Beth Ertz. Brian squeezing his 32" waist into 60 year old 29" trousers was less of a reach than 'singing' with these beautiful pros.

Fitting Acclaim

(Continued from page 1)

follow at Buckingham Palace.

Previously, David's predecessor 'in the Chair,' the long serving and most personable Paul King, our host for the Rededication in 2001, was distinguished with the Order of the British Empire, or OBE. (See 'Webpages We Wike' for URL of the Royal Family website explaining these distinctions.)

A June 14, 2003 article in the Evening News (Norfolk, England) features a great mug shot of a beaming David and this excerpt: "Mr. Hastings, 71, has clocked up 24 years in the Scouting movement, 17 years as a Broadland Councilor, 33 years as a volunteer in the Royal Observer Corps, and 23 years as a governor of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd US Air Division Museum." [sic] It goes on to quote him: "I'm still very shocked at the news, which came out of the blue... I've been lucky to work as part of some wonderful teams."

Lucky and shocked, indeed. Those who have had the pleasure of getting to know Jean and David know that the wonders—and names of causes they have served with great effect—go on and on. Their wake is full of hundreds like us, amazed at their vigor, competence and vision. They remind us daily of what has now been officially and royally recognized: service is the highest station. Our heartfelt congratulations and continuing gratitude go out to David and Jean!

Executive Committee in Colorado

Heritage League executives held their mid-term meeting alongside the 8th Air Force Historical Society's Annual Reunion in Colorado Springs, October 14-19. While socializing and outreaching to new friends in the veteran and 'second' generation, we set preliminary plans for the coming year, made great friends, enjoyed great sights and weather, and enjoyed an excellent program which included a



Early HL officer Teddy Egan (392nd BGA) visits with President Hurner in Colorado Springs. -Photo by Brian Mahoney

veteran's panel moderated by author Roger Freeman, a stirring presentation on the continuing "American Experiment" by the personable Gen. Jim Graves, and Gala Banquet speaker, CO of the present day Eighth Air Force, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson.

Ex Com topics included a comprehensive look at program ideas we will implement in furtherance of our goals, establishing a committee to work with the Second Air Division Association and other 'last man out' organizations on issues of continuity, a variety of regional social initiatives and gatherings in concert with the 2ADA and various bomb group associations in the coming year, and ways we can support 'living missions' of other institutions.

In this last category, HL Liaison to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, Brian Mahoney, was able to report an excellent 'meeting of the minds' on the topic of veteran interviews and histories. Dr. Vivian Rogers-Price heads the oral history project in Savannah and actually came to Colorado Springs hoping to recruit the help we wanted to offer: finding and interviewing vets, or at least commending

them as subjects for their program. *Herald* readers who know of a vet who has not been well interviewed on video or audio tape, or at least made a clear written record of their wartime experience, are encouraged to go to our

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Luftwaffe Kadett Markus Balleis, finishing engineering studies at the US Air Force Academy, is flanked at left by sponsors and 2ADA Liaisons Mary and Jim Lorenz (466th BG) and Heritage League President Irene Hurner. Charming guest at the HL table, Markus was one of a score of USAFA cadets (mostly American!) in attendance for excellent meal, company, program during the Gala Banquet. -Photo by Brian Mahoney

Heritage League Meetings in 2004

The Heritage League, per tradition, will hold a 'business meeting' for its members in attendance with us at the 57th 2nd Air Division Association Convention, over Memorial Day, in Philadelphia. Our meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, May 28th.

The Ex Com has selected a city for our 2004 convention... be looking for all details and registration forms in the next *Herald*, which will be in your mailbox in the first week of February.

Shiny Copper Stars at Margraten

In the extremely rare instances where someone memorialized on a Wall of the Mission at one of the American Battle Monument Commission (ABMC) Cemeteries, is later found and positively identified, a copper star is affixed to the Wall after their name. What great work and closure is signified by this simple yet weighty device!

In September, Missing Allied Air Crew Research Team (MAACRT) founder Enrico Schwartz attended a ceremony at the Netherlands American Cemetery (Margraten) Wall of the Missing, unveiling the shiny new copper stars behind the names of these members of the 492nd BG/858th BS's Herbert Crew: Pilot 2nd Lt. Lloyd H. Herbert, Co Pilot 2nd Lt. William L. Covington, Bombardier 2nd Lt. Harold M. Bachman, Navigator 2nd Lt. Timothy N. Tarpey, and Radio Operator S/Sgt. Laurence H. Nursall.

Partial remains of five other members of that fated crew, which went down over Germany on May 19, 1944, were properly identified and interred after the crash, but positively identified remains of *all* members were co-interred at Arlington National Cemetery last November, culminating years of painstaking and reverent work by Enrico and the MAACRT and giving cathartic closure to families of all. The five given partial remains burials in the '40s were Radio Operator Joseph Powell and Gunners Marshal Johnson, Vincent Kalata, George Guy and Louis Brooks.

Readers are referred to the article 'Long Time Coming Home' in *Herald* #32 for more on this remarkable story. Don't have that number? Visit our website to see recent editions in .pdf format. (See: Websites We Wike for this and other useful URLs.)

WWW.Web Pages We Wike

BY
SIWWY
WABBIT

As before, I would remind you that the tradition of academic citation and listing of sources all the way back to the origin, is very rare on the internet. Take things with a very large grain of salt, but also try to do your part, in making citations or maintaining your own web page, to succinctly state where you got something from, well enough that an interested viewer would be able to find your source with ease and confidence, should they want to take it further. Part of our legacy is history, and part of our stewardship should be defending it against 'truth creep,' or a slide toward fiction. The stories of the 2nd Air Division are exciting enough as they happened and need no embellishment, but rather will reward us for being disciplined in recording and relating them for the future.

To the extent there is a 'theme' to featured sites in this edition, it would be 'other organizations' who honor the our vets, or those who made their work more bearable. Most of these are mentioned in articles in this *Herald*. But first, a few 'standards.'

 **Heritage League** Back issues of the *Herald* are viewable and downloadable from our site, our new 'purpose/goals/vision' statements are posted, current application forms can be printed out from there as well. Messages from your officers are rotated periodically, and interesting postings to our Guest book provoke research and reply, even inspire 'Pitch it to Pete!' topics on occasion. Webmaster extraordinaire Bob Books does it all gratis and makes it look easy while he is at it. <http://www.heritageleague.org/>

 **Second Air Division Memorial Library** Our principal supported cause, brilliantly housed in the Norfolk-Norfolk Millennium Library which is a must-see in its own right. Check out the Freedom Shrine, for a welcome brush-up on your civics class. <http://www.2ndair.org.uk>

 **Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum** Tour this must-see virtually, whether you have been to Savannah or not. See how the

WASPs are to be honored in an upcoming exhibit.

<http://www.mighty8thmuseum.com/>

 **8th Air Force Historical Society** Organization comprising members of outfits in all three divisions of the 'Mighty Eighth.' Your ExCom will rub elbows with them October 13th through 19th looking for new members and contemplating possible cooperations into the future. <http://www.8thafhs.org/>

 **American Battle Monuments Commission** Stewards of the domestic and overseas official burial grounds of our war dead. Shows you how to find these moving memorial grounds as well as those interred in them or memorialized as Missing in Action or Buried at Sea. <http://www.abmc.gov/>

 **'People's War'** The BBC is engaging the citizenry of the UK and the US to share their experiences on home and battle fronts. See 2ADA Fulbright Librarian Tahitia Orr's article. www.bbc.co.uk/dna/ww2/

 **Sculptor Robert Henderson** created the 1/6 scale model Liberator at the Air Force Academy. A bit about his studio and it's attractive commemorative projects. See "'Liberating' the National Air and Space Museum" story in this edition. <http://www.warbirdcentral.com>

 **B-24 Memorial in San Diego** Siting a 'sister' of the USAF Academy Liberator on the grounds of the developing San Diego Veterans memorial Center is the goal of a worthy effort whose advisors include such notables as the 466th's Dick Baynes and the 489th's 'Bud' Chamberlain. <http://www.b24memorial.org>

 **Internet B-24 Veterans Group** Links and bulletin boards of interest to the men who worked on or in the Liberator. <http://www.b24.mach3ww.com/>

 **Richard I. Bong WW II Heritage Center** See story "WW II Heritage Festival Held." Excellent regional museum dedicated to our American Ace of Aces just one year ago. Press releases (small downloads) give a good idea of their commitment to telling the history well. <http://www.bongheritagecenter.org/>

 **Yankee Air Force Heritage Museum** This regional warbird collection, right at Michigan's Willow Run Airport, has an active restoration and maintenance program and a strong volunteer base. Given the location near Ford's Willow Run Plant, birthplace of the most B-24s, it is all the more ironic that they do not have 'our' plane, but they can accommodate flying parties on a vintage C-47 or one of those 'other' bombers. <http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org/>

 **Control Towers In the UK in WW II** Rich resource for finding old and new images and present status of RAF and USAAF control towers around southern and eastern wartime England. they could use help with some pictures; see if your group is well represented at <http://www.controltowers.co.uk/>

 **The Monarchy Today** Official Royal website tells us about honors bestowed and such. See 'Fitting Acclaim' in this issue. <http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/Page498.asp>

 **Women in Military Service for America Memorial** Dignified center in Arlington National Cemetery for records of previously 'unmilitarized' women who truly served. <http://www.womensmemorial.org/>

 **'Red Cross Girl' Account** An example of under heralded service by non military women during WW II can be found here, and the site can be searched for similar. <http://www.redcross.org/news/af/pearlharbor/020104ravenburg.html>

Heritage League on The Move

(Continued from page 3)

members attended the 453rd reunion. Some there for the first time included Betty Eskew, daughter of Lloyd and Irene Prang, and John and Tom Raiser, sons of Jack Raiser. By the end of the week we were looking forward to the next time we meet again.

Our Communications Vice-President Brian Mahoney is planning to attend the 44th Bomb Group reunion October 9th through 12th. A number of Heritage League members are planning to attend the Washington D.C. meeting. I am sure that all who attend will enjoy the time spent together.

Heritage League members get acquainted attending 2ADA conventions, bomb group reunions, and other less formal gatherings. Our officers are making an effort to foster and join in as many of

these activities as possible. Face to face is our preferred way to get to know and enjoy each other, so always anticipate the next gathering.

In that vein, the Executive Committee of The Heritage League will meet in Colorado Springs October 16th through the 19th to set the agenda for our annual business in Philadelphia with the 2ADA over Memorial Day Weekend 2004, and also to begin planning our own reunion. This is something that your officers and members have looked forward to for several years. It will be one step toward accomplishing the goals of supporting our veterans, of educating the public, and of creating lasting bonds of friendship.

We invite any League members who are able, to join the Executive Committee on Saturday, October 18 at the Sheraton in Colorado Springs for lunch

at 12:30 p.m. (No need to register, but it would be appreciated if you contacted the Communications VP to say you are coming so we order enough 'free lunch.')

Films created by Linda Wittig, Secretary and Brenda Tudyk, Associate Secretary and families, and Brian Mahoney, Communications Vice-President will be shown.

Hope to see you there!



8th AF Historical Society President Craig Harris, despite being a Flying Fortress pilot, was a warm and enthusiastically received guest and ambassador to both the Heritage League and 2ADA; seen here with Irene Hurner after HL business meeting.

Now THAT'S a Reunion!

Three generations of the clan of 453rd's Richard Robert made quite a stir at Oak Brook. They modeled an excellent 'family Tee' honoring his service during WW II. He was a tail gunner on Fleckenstein's "Hollywood and Vine" crew, and spent 7 months overseas from 8 April 1944 to 2 November 1944 with the 734th Bomb Squadron of the 453rd Bomb Group. Dick's 35 missions at "Old Buck" ran from 24 May 1944 to 5 September 1944. His wartime service in the U.S. Army Air Forces was from 30 May

1942 to 5 October 1945, and decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters.

Dick is currently Secretary of the 453rd Bomb Group Association, and served as coordinator for the group's just-concluded, wildly successful New Orleans reunion. A retired civil engineer and land surveyor, he is married to Heloise Chauvin Robert, who was unfortunately ill and unable to attend the 2ADA Convention.



(Left to Right): Roslyn R. Dugan (daughter / Houston, TX), Glenn Johnson (son-in-law / Baton Rouge, LA), Mary Anne R. Johnson (daughter / Baton Rouge, LA), Richard C. "Dick" Robert (the vet! / Baton Rouge, LA), Kyle Dugan, age 7 (grandson / Houston, TX), Dr. Paulette R. Hebert (daughter / Lafayette, LA), Cynthia R. Nassauer (daughter / Covington, LA), Leonard Hebert (son-in-law / Lafayette, LA), Christine Nassauer, age 16 (granddaughter / Covington, LA), Bridgette Hebert, age 19 (granddaughter / Lafayette, LA).

Fundraising Sweetheart

At the 453rd BG Association Reunion in New Orleans in September, 'Ludie' Morris endeared herself to us by raffling off her crocheted blanket for \$315, all donated to the Heritage League. The Ex Com decided in Colorado Springs that this was noteworthy, and is presenting her a certificate of appreciation which names her our "Sweetheart of the Year."



Raffle winner Peter Flemming and creator Ludie Morris. -Photo by Dick Roberts

The New Air Force Memorial

-by Jim Lorenz (466th BG)

(This article is a synopsis of the article "A Memorial on the High Ground," by Peter Grier, published in the April 2003 Air Force Magazine. We quote it here extensively with their kind permission. -Ed.)

A campaign to establish a memorial to the sacrifices of the men and women of the Air Force and its predecessor organizations has gained substantial momentum with the unveiling of a new design and move to a prominent new site in the national capital area. More than 10 years of hard work by the Air Force Memorial Foundation now appears to be paying off. The new site is in Virginia, just west of the Potomac River and close to the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery. It is called the Navy Annex grounds. At present federal buildings occupy part of the site, but they will be removed and the grounds cleared.

The goal: break ground in fall of 2004 and complete construction of the memorial by the Air Force's 59th anniversary, September 18, 2006. "We've got tremendous support for this memorial," said Ross Perot, Jr, of Dallas, Chairman of the Air Force Foundation. Original plans called for building the memorial on a site known as Arlington Ridge, a stretch of low, rolling ground in Virginia just down a slope from the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial. The foundation's board made it clear to the design firm Pei Cobb Freed, that the memorial should be "soaring." The most visible aspect of the new design is its collection of three arched spires, which taper at the top and appear to trail off in the sky, reminiscent of three aircraft or missiles streaking upward, or soaring aspirations. "We do not try to articulate what this represents; we only suggest some possibilities, because it can represent different things to different people," said Maj. Gen. Edward F. Grillo, Jr. USAAF (Ret). "It's truly a memorial for everybody in the Air Force and our predecessor organizations."

The design would set into the ground—between the bases of three spires—a large five-pointed star. Circumscribing the star and rising nine feet into the air will be an Air Force Memorial Chamber of glass, bearing inscriptions and images. Off to one side will be a 2-foot-tall Contemplation Chamber, also of cast glass, with inscriptions. To the other side will be statues representing an honor guard. Overall height to the tip of its tallest spire

is 270 feet. The Federal Aviation Administration approved this aspect of the design on Feb. 17, 2003. (At issue is what other memorials, if any, will be allowed to coexist with the Air Force Memorial. The government of Arlington County, VA, has expressed a desire to construct nearby a tribute to the victims of the September 11 terror attack on the Pentagon. The Air Force Foundation does not oppose this and believes the two memorials would complement each other.)

At this point the foundation has raised \$33 million and believes it is only \$5 million short of its goal. Numerous corporations have contributed some \$14 million. The need for a monument honoring millions of Americans who have served in the Air Force, Army Air Corps and the Army Air Forces has been clear for years. The Air Force is the only US military branch that does not have a memorial in the nation's capital, yet the air arm has suffered more than 55,000 combat deaths from World War II to the Gulf War, second only to the Army among the four US armed services.

Organized efforts to erect such a memorial date back to the 1992 incorporation of the Air Force Memorial Foundation. In 1993, President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the Foundation to

raise funds and pursue a building permit for a Washington, DC site. After surveying at least 18 sites, the foundation decided on the Arlington Ridge site, just down a slope from the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial, for a five point star design only 50 feet tall. The Friends of Iwo Jima objected to their loss of green space. The Foundation had done everything "by the books" and won several court cases, yet opponents continued to delay the project via Congressional action. Rep. Gerald Solomon, a marine Veteran, joined the fight against the memorial in Congress and the courts. By 2000, Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Deputy Secretary of Defense Rudy de Leon were deeply involved. By fall 2001, it was clear that further delay was in no one's interest. That December congress directed the foundation to move the Air Force Memorial to a new location: the promontory of the Navy Annex property. Under the terms of the legislation that set up the move to the Navy annex site, up to three acres will be set aside for the Air Force Memorial. The land will include ground currently under a wing of the federal office building nearest the promontory. In September 2002 the Foundation notified the Secretary of Defense

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Memorial Wreaths

Each Memorial Day, the Heritage League has a wreath placed on the Wall of the Missing at the Madingly Cemetery outside Cambridge, England. Many of our 2nd Air Division fallen are represented there and on the other American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries in Northern Europe.

Our officers are honored when able to represent us in person, but also grateful in years, such as this, when we need to rely on our friends in the UK to perform this solemn ceremonial duty in our behalf. Thanks to Pearl and David Neale for doing this on May 26th, 2003.

The ceremony, featuring remarks by HM Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and Lt. Gen. Arthur Litche, Vice Commander of USAF Europe, included an impressive missing man formation by F-15Es from the 494th FS, Lakenheath, and three circuits by the Duxford based B-17, 'Sally B.'

No less than 15 veterans organiza-

tions of the 2AD and 10 active duty and veteran organizations of the RAF were among the 119 presenting wreaths.



Our May 26th presentation in Madingly Cemetery, by David and Pearl Neale of The Friends, was one of nearly 120 made on Memorial Day 2003.



Air Force Memorial

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that it had sufficient funds to start construction, marking the start of a 24 month period in which the DOD must demolish that wing and prepare the site. Plans call for the demolition of the remaining Navy buildings by 2010, at which time the site becomes a part of Arlington Cemetery. Grillo said many audiences have been briefed, but so far he has received no negative comments on the design. This is important, he said, because the finished product will be a memorial to many people, from those who flew the first fragile military biplanes to today's more diverse and technologically oriented force.

Boeing has contributed \$5 million; Lockheed Martin \$4 million; Raytheon \$2 million; Northrop Grumman \$15 million; United Technologies (through Pratt & Whitney, Hamilton Standard, and Sikorsky) \$1 million; and General Electric and TRW \$0.5 million each. Foundation officials have more fundraising to conduct; they say the enthusiasm generated by the design unveiling should quickly put them over the top. "We hope that by summer or fall we'll have a general contractor on board," said Pete Lindquist, the Foundation's vice president of operations.

For more information, go to <http://www.airforcememorial.org/about/index.htm>

'Liberating' the National Air and Space Museum

As of mid March this year, the NASM has begun moving artifacts into its Steven Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles Airport, in anticipation of its public opening late this year. It has long been a sore bone of contention among men who worked with and flew in the Liberator in all theatres during WW II that the Smithsonian never adequately prioritized acquiring their own exemplar of the most widely produced American aircraft (over 18,000 counting all variants).

There is a beginning effort underway to donate a Liberator—albeit a model. 93rd BG Vice President Al Asch and the 489th's Neal Sorensen are among the enthusiastic endorsers of the scheme. Most readers will be familiar with the 1/6 scale model bronze by Robert Henderson which was dedicated in the Honor Court of the US Air Force Academy in 1998. The wooden 'maquette' for the molds was later donated to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah after a fundraising campaign by Walter Mundy, where it hangs prominently in the central Combat Gallery, decorated as the 467th BG's venerable *Witchcraft*. A well organized and slightly older initiative will soon see

a well subscribed effort placing the second casting of the Henderson sculpture in San Diego.

With luck, the end of 2005 might see two 'sister' castings of the 18 foot wingspan Liberator at the USAF Academy, one in the birthplace city of the 'bigassed boid,' and one at our nation's preeminent aviation museum. (See 'Webpages We Wike' for the URLs of webpages for the B-24 Memorial in San Diego, and for sculptor Robert Henderson.)

The Air and Space Museum project is being coordinated through Groups Memorial, Inc., of the AAF, 816 Water Street, Canon City, CO 81212. They are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, ready to receive appreciated notes and securities as tax exempt contributions. Founder donors pledge \$25,000, Leadership donors pledge \$10,000, Patrons \$5,000, and Friends \$1,000. The kickoff pledge of \$25,000 by a group of 'second gens' is being held in escrow. \$150,000 is needed. Hopes to place the gift at the Udvar-Hazy site in the coming year will depend on fundraising success, but we are assured the Museum stands ready to receive the gift at a later date if need be.



The proud warriors of Baker Company, part of the only Infantry Battalion left in Iraq, wanted to find an apt way to express their feelings on the 2nd anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Marine Sgt. Dave Jobe, aka 'Baker 8,'

sent this picture around for wide dissemination, with the statement that "...We have not forgotten, and are proud to serve our country." (Thank you Ralph Davis of the 467th for bringing this to our attention. -Ed.)

Fastest Production Ford

(Edited by Jim Lorenz, 466th BGA. Reprint permission courtesy of Autoweek.)

This story by William Jeanes appeared in the June 16, 2003 issue of AUTOWEEK; a magazine published out of Detroit. You all have undoubtedly heard of the famous Collings Foundation's restored B-24 and B-17, which they fly and exhibit around the country—here's the rest of the story!

"Imagine that you are a handsome, hazel-eyed, 28-year-old-single male, six feet tall with a beautiful Swedish girlfriend. What's more, you can drive any one of six dozen classic and racing cars anytime you want. Could life get any better?



Well, yes, but only if you are Rob Collings. Because you also would have driven endurance races at Daytona and Sebring, and you would be a licensed pilot who soloed a Stearman biplane at age 16. And got your Citation jet certificate at 17. It doesn't stop there. Young Mr. Collings also has access to a number of aircraft, mostly ex-military planes. Some are based at the Collings Foundation's own grass airstrip in Stowe, Massachusetts. Others are based elsewhere in the U.S., but he gets to fly most of those as well.

A graduate of Boston College, Collings has more seat time than just about anyone—1800 hours—in what can be called the last of the fastest Fords! That would be a four engine World War II bomber called the B-24 Liberator, vast numbers of which were built 61 years ago at Ford's aircraft factory at Willow Run, Michigan. For good measure, Collings has 900 hours in B-17s.

The Liberator, all the other planes and automobiles are owned by the Collings Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) educational foundation chartered by

Collings' parents in 1979 with money earned in the electronics industry. The organization is dedicated to the presentation of living history; its early efforts took the form of public reenactments of such bygone activities as ice cutting and sleigh rides.

In 1975, the Collings began to acquire automobiles with a goal of assembling representative cars of each important automobile era. The foundation defined these periods as the Brass Era, the Roaring 20s and the Classic Era. To that they added Indianapolis 500 cars, road racing and midgets and sprint cars, 56 autos in all. For the celebrity-minded, there's an unrestored 1940 Cadillac V-16 limousine that mobster Al Capone ordered in 1939 following his island vacation at Alcatraz. Here endeth the text on cars. The time has come to discuss the fastest Ford!

When one tried to quantify the impact Ford Motor Company made on 20th Century America, it would be wrong to limit that judgement to cars and trucks. Ford built planes as well, among them the Ford Tri-motor of the 1920s and



1930s. In the mid 1920s Henry Ford even experimented with a one person aerial runabout intended to be a Model T of the skies. It wasn't. Only 3 were built, one of which killed a test pilot. In the 1930s, as the world drew ever closer to a second world war, governments on both sides of the Atlantic began to seek designs for long-range bombers.

More than 60 years after these bombers flew in WW II, the best known designs are the B-17 Flying Fortress and

Ex Com in Colorado

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website [www.heritageleague.org] in mid November for more information on how they can assist in widening the reach of this vital project while we still have these esteemed 'witnesses' in our midst.

Thursday's dinner was followed by the moving "I was Young... Now I'm Wonderful," a musical by the Senior Repertory of Ohio ("SRO") which was all about the poignancy of aging gracefully. It featured Birdie Schmidt Larrick, a WW II Red Cross volunteer and 8th AF Historical Society member, as most senior of its charming and talented 'all senior' cast.

Organized outings included 'old west' towns and landscapes, a working ranch, the recent winter Olympics site, a spectacular train ride, and of course the Air Force Academy with its renown chapel and memorial garden.

Outgoing 8th AF Historical Society President Craig Harris, who made such a splash with us and the 2ADA in Oak Brook earlier this year, is to be commended for hosting a 'real fine clambake' and introducing

us to 300 veterans and friends of the Eighth—and its 2nd Air Division—who we would not otherwise have gotten to know. New friendships and dialogue about common goals between the Heritage League and groups with 2AD veterans have reenergized us in our work of honoring, remembering, and keeping the story alive.



On the Saturday afternoon, HL operated a hospitality suite and met several new 'kindred souls.' Our Treasurer and Database manager Ed Zobac surfs the web with 447thBGA webmaster David Warren. Videos by Linda Wittig and Brian Mahoney were shown several times and pizza and salad helped lure 'em in.

--Photo by Brian Mahoney

the B-25 Mitchell. The twin engine B-25 etched itself in American memory because of Brig. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle's raid on Tokyo. The Boeing-designed B-17 remains top-of-mind largely because of the 1944 documentary, *The Memphis Belle*, the 1990 feature movie, "Memphis Belle," and other movies dealing with the 8th Air Force in England.

All but ignored is the B-24 Liberator, arguably the mightiest Allied bomber of the war. In 1940, Consolidated Aircraft of San Diego, which designed the B-24, envisioned building one bomber per month. Even armchair militarists can see that this output would not have qualified as a drop in the needed sea of bombers.

Enter Ford Motor Company! Ford built the tri-motor airplane, from 1925 to 1933, but never built mass produced aircraft. That changed with the new 2.5 million square-foot Willow Run plant west of Detroit. Production of sub assemblies for use by other Consolidated factories began in early 1942 and the first completely Ford-built B-24 flew in September of that year. According to Ford's Charles Sorenson in "My Forty Years With Ford," Willow Run produced some 2184 B-24s in 1943. Ford's goal of building one per hour seemed remote. Even so, in 1944, Ford built far more B-24s than did any other of the five plants assigned to the task. In 1944, Ford came into its own, building 4611 Liberators. (*My crew, on July 9, 1944, signed off—bought for the Army—a brand new B-24J assembled from Ford parts at Topeka, KS. It cost \$325,000 and we flew it to England. -JL*) At times at Willow Run, a B-24 rolled out onto the adjacent airport every 55 minutes! The B-24 Liberator could not climb as high as a B-17 (*Remember, these are Jeanes' words, not mine -JL*), but it outdid the workhorse of the European bombing runs in almost every other way. It carried a larger payload faster and further than the Flying Fortress and it was safer. A pilot or crewman in a B-24 did not stand quite the statistical chance of being killed or wounded as a B-17 airman.

B-24 production outdid the B-17 18,500 to 12,000, and the Liberator dropped more tons of bombs—and sank more submarines—than any other World War II aircraft. Parked beside the graceful B-17, however, the B-24 looks ungainly, and like it or not, aesthetics count where the public's affection is concerned. The Collings Foundation B-24J Liberator was built by

Consolidated's plant in Texas, but it has the distinction of being the only fully restored and flying Liberator in the world. This seems sad in view of the B-24 having been flown in virtually every theater of the war, most notably in the Pacific, where its 3,000 mile range made it a useful weapon. Its virtual disappearance seems even sadder when one considers that more than 8600 Liberators were built at Willow Run and more than 10,000 in other locations. Though not historically correct, the two steering wheels each bear the Ford oval and words "Built by Ford."

Collings has made appearances at airports throughout North America with the Foundation's B-24 and companion B-17. These warbirds fly as "Wings of Freedom Tour" and give the rapidly disappearing World War II veteran population what is often a last look at bombers that helped subdue the Axis powers. The foundation charges \$8 for a walk through and \$400 for a 30 minute flight in one of the bombers. (The \$400 is a deductible contribution, as the Foundation is registered as an IRS 501 (c)(3) educational group. -JL) "The planes give the veteran's families a look at what Dad or Granddad did in the war," said Collings. "One bomber crew who had a stroke that left him just about unable to speak, started to speak clearly after he had crawled into the plane and into his old crew position." The planes also create a reaction among surviving family members. "I had no idea that he did that."

All told, the Collins Foundation owns and maintains 20 military aircraft, ranging from a 1909 Bleriot to an F4D Phantom from the Vietnam era. Only two of these are static displays; the rest fly. The foundation also restores planes, and over the past 11 years has restored more aircraft than the Smithsonian Institution's vaunted Garber Facility. Collings has a choice of Fords to drive: the WWI Model -T ambulance, a 1913 and a 1924 Model -T, the Ford powered sprint cars, the midgets with Ford engines and Michael Andretti's Lola-Ford from the 1985 CART circuit. "But I'll take the B-24 every time" says Collings. And with four 1200 horsepower Pratt & Whitney engines and a top speed of 291 m.p.h., who can blame him?

The 2nd Air Division Association and 2AD vets have given monetary support to "The All American," as it was originally named. The Collings family has arranged for their B-24 to be at several 2ADA meetings, where veterans and their families were allowed to climb into

the plane at no charge. Both of their bombers have up-to date radio and electronics required by the FAA, but they are discretely hidden for the walk through visits. Many current airline pilots serve as pilots to fly the planes on tour—they like to fly "low & slow" (versus airline jets) and see the country. They stop at some 125 small airports all across the U. S. every year. For schedules and other information, go to www.collingsfoundation.org.

Corrections

(Continued from Page 2)

rial Trust,' are correctly referred to formally as 'The Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust of the Second Air Division, USAAF' (bottom center, p.3)

•*The role being held for a second year by Tahitia Orr is more correctly called 2ADA Fulbright Librarian (pp. 5, 7, 12).*

•*Location of WAC Key is within the shrine area, not in the Memorial Garden lying outside, as stated in 'Inside the Memorial Library' (p.8).*

•*Clarification: the B-24 flight simulator in the same story was a donation secured by David Hastings (p.8).*

•*Dues for Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial were incorrectly reported. Those interested in supporting our 'British Cousins' should make out a check to Jordan Uttal for \$6/year for individual and \$10/year for couple memberships. Jordan forwards your information and uses his English account to convert your \$ funds to £ sterling for Friends Treasurer Pearl Neale. Mail payments to:*

Mr. Jordan Uttal
7824 Meadow Park Drive,
Apartment 101
Dallas, TX 75230-4939

(A continuing thank you to our 2ADA Honorary President for this facilitation. -Ed.)

•*Dues for us, the Heritage League, were also reported incorrectly. Dues for those under 18 years of age are at the lower rate of \$8/year. Apologies to any who were inconvenienced by this error.*

2003-04 Heritage League Executive Committee

President Irene Hurner (453rd)
45415 San Antonio Rd. Livermore CA 94550-8417
(408) 897-3029 Irene@getgoin.net

Executive VP Carol Kendrick (466th)
4234 E. Desert Cove, Phoenix, AZ 85028
(602) 996-5182 cakendrick@aol.com

Treasurer Ed Zobac (445th)
2211 Foxboro Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46818
(260) 497-0029 ezobac@aol.com

Secretary Linda Wittig (453rd)
POB 296, Boiling TX 77420
(979) 657-4503 lawittig@intertex.net

Associate Secretary Brenda Tudyk (453rd)
2919 Sandpiper, Humble TX 77396
(281) 441-8657 prissy992@aol.com

Membership VP Ann Phillips (392nd)
3701 Chiswell Court, Greensboro NC 27410
(336) 851-0865 annfromnc@aol.com

Communications VP and Editor Brian Mahoney (492nd, 467th)
1817 T. Street, NW, Washington DC 20009
(202) 232-1423 BriCamera@MindSpring.com

Associate Communications VP Lindy Galbraith (466th)
POB 56, Mt. Victoria MD 20661
(301) 259-2263 swampcritter@att.net

Past Pres. Craig Beasley (492nd)
3459 S. Celebration Drive, West Valley City UT 84120
(801) 250-8565 BEASL961@cs.com

Past Pres. Billy Sheely Johnson (492nd)
1526 Mound Pleasant Drive, Colonial Heights VA 23834
(804) 526-1624 bjohnson@pgs.k12.va.us

Past Pres. Jeane M. Stites (453rd)
9334 Kahl Road, Black Earth WI 53515
(608) 767-2625 jeane@mail.tds.net

Rep. to Bd. of Governors Vicki Brooks Warning (466th)
2736A North Dayton, Chicago, IL 60614
(793) 549-3546 vkwarning@attbi.com

2ADA Liaisons Jim & Mary Lorenz (466th)
5331 E. Poinsettia Drive, Scottsdale AZ 85254-4716
(480) 951-0343 jhlorenz@az.rmci.net



Second Air Division Association President
Richard Butler (44th)
16828 Mitchell Circle
Air Force Village West, Riverside CA 92518

Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF)
Ann Phillips, Membership VP
3701 Chiswell Court
Greensboro, NC 27410

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2ADA Memorial Trust Liaison To Heritage League
David J. Hastings
'Westering,' Salhouse, Norwich
Norfolk, NR13 6RQ, England

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