



ISSUE NUMBER 31 PERIODICAL OF THE HERITAGE LEAGUE OF THE 2ND AIR DIVISION FALL 2002

Memorial Rededication: Trip of a Lifetime

-by Brian Mahoney

I was lucky to have the time to be among the 600 who went to England for the rededication of the Second Air Division Memorial Trust Library last fall. With over 200 of the vets among us, we were toasted, entertained, honored, shown about, and, as Jordan Uttal so aptly emphasized, thrilled. For many this will have been their 'last hurrah' in the heart of Little America, where they served close to 60 years ago, but what a fitting and satisfying one at that.

I was privileged to be accompanied by my younger sister Patty and her 10 year old son McKenna, and my older brother Jerry (recently retired as a judge in the Air Force) and his still-active duty wife, Karen. They joined us from Germany for the memorable week of activity.

This account has three goals: First, to encourage those who have not ever been to England to make the trip. (You are very sadly mistaken if you think that it is prohibitively expensive or complicated. I and other HL officers stand ready to 'talk you through it' if you have inhibitions about travelling abroad, and I in particular stand ready to tell you ways to make it as affordable as possible.)

Second, to make all who could have gone but did not make the effort, feel really envious. Third, to remind all who were privileged to make this 'once in a lifetime' pilgrimage, of just how spectacular it was! Reviewing my own journal, video, photos and



As in 1963, Roll of Honor is replacing original lost in 1994 fire is borne to Memorial Room from St. Peter Mancroft Church. (Jerry Mahoney)

mementos of the trip in preparing this article has been like enjoying it anew. It leaves me wondering how to say enough in less than a dozen chapters...

For those not attending the

2ADA executive and business meetings, the program began with a warm de facto reception, billed as a joint meeting of the League and the Friends of the Memorial, in a large but jamb-packed room at the Airport Hilton. It featured two David and Jean Hastings narrated widescreen slide show presentations; one re-

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Remains Found, Fliers Missing for 58 Years

German researcher Enrico Schwarz and his Russian born partner Svetlana Reimer founded the Missing Allied Air Crew Research Team (MAACRT) several years ago when they became intrigued, through a collegial contact, with the stories of some never-recovered WW II American airmen of the star-crossed original 492nd BG.

Enrico went to original German documentation of the crash sites and in the case of his first success, determined that an understandable language error had American recovery efforts at war's end, looking in the wrong place. He and Svetlana did rigorous research and systematically tested their theory, persuaded

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Your Heritage League

—President Irene Hurner

During the years that I have been a Heritage League member I have attended conventions in many areas of the United States and in Norwich, England. I generally travel with my parents and one or more of my sisters. When possible, my daughter and my husband have joined us. The whole experience has had a permanent effect on my family and me.

- Friendships and camaraderie have developed with attendees of various age groups.

- History has been learned from those who actually experienced what most people only read about.

- Pride has welled up, both in our country and in the accomplishments of ordinary men and women who became extraordinary heroes.

- I have seen places that I may otherwise never have visited.

- I have gained an appreciation for life and all that is good.

These and many more things come to mind as I review the results of my association with The Heritage League and with the Second Air Di-

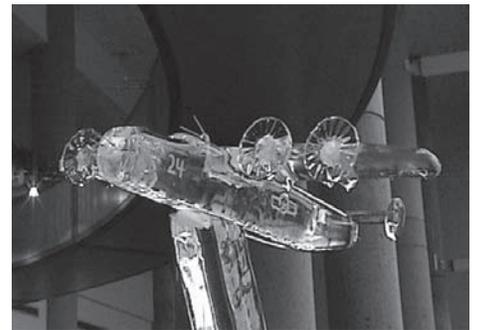
vision Association. My term as President has given me an even greater opportunity to meet people here and abroad who have worked toward the fulfillment of the veterans' goal of a living memorial. This past year I have received support and advice from 2ADA Past-President Walt Mundy and his wife Ruth, Chuck Walker, 2ADA Representative to the Board of Governors, Jim and Mary Lorenz, 2ADA Co-Liaisons to The Heritage League, David Hastings, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Ray Pytel, Editor of The Journal, Evelyn Cohen, 2ADA Membership Vice-president, and from many others. It was truly appreciated. As I begin a new term 2ADA President Richard Butler has been there for me with answers to my questions and with help in appointing our Heritage League Observers to the 2ADA.

The League was created to continue what the veterans have begun. The 2AD Memorial Library in The Forum is a unique tribute to the Second Air Division and one that everyone should visit at least once. David Hastings, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, reminded us at Baltimore that the library is the only one in Europe with a Fulbright scholar. This library, now listed in *Frommer's* guidebook, has become a well known facility for researchers, has become a gathering place and an ambassador of sorts for young people interested in learning about American life. Is even interactive, complete with its wonderful B-24 flight simulator. (What better way to learn to appreciate the skills that it took for those crews and maintenance staff to keep those girls in the air?)

Everyone should visit the Library at least once. The pictures that

have appeared in past issues of The Journal only give the barest glimpse of what one sees. Similarly, it is difficult to convey the true enthusiasm and friendship that is bestowed on us Yanks by the British. Maintenance of friendships is very important between our European allies, but it is also critical for us to develop a relationship between the spouses, descendants, and friends of the veterans. Our common bond will aid in our effort to continue supporting the memorials which the veterans have established. This realization guides the officers of The Heritage League in considering future activities.

I want to express my continuing thanks to the officers that have supported me and your organization during this past year as well as those



Ice can doom any plane, but this cool Liberator welcomed us to a warm banquet at the 2ADA/Heritage League convention in Baltimore.
(Craig Beasley)

who have agreed to serve as officers for this coming year. During our business meeting it was my pleasure to present certificates of appreciation to Ed Zobac for ten years of service to the League as Treasurer and Database manager, to Past-Membership VP Ruth Anderson for five years of service and to Past-Communications VP Kathy Jackson for five years of service as Editor of the Heritage Herald. Without their dedication in carrying out the duties of their office and help to our members, we would be a

lesser organization. I want to welcome Brian Mahoney, our new Communications Vice-President. Brian is taking over from Penny Kerr. He is ready, willing and able to keep our communications flowing among the membership. I am sure that you will soon appreciate Brian's efforts. If you have any information to contribute for our publication, please do send it to Brian. He will be glad to

her father, Jimmy Stewart, Mike Banarcik, and Andy Lowe. Linda's video demonstrates what children or grandchildren can do using a home computer and software to create something for the coming generations. Brian Mahoney also presented a documentary on the 492nd, incorporating period footage of his father's with contemporary stills. Each of these unique projects was enjoyed by

their 18th 2AD convention. David attended the Baltimore convention in his capacities as the Liaison from the Memorial Trust to both the 2ADA and the Heritage League. Highlights of his two official reports are presented together here.

First, David reports that he is heading a great team. Their first year in their new home has been busy and successful; the Central Library had just eclipsed the 1.2 million visitor mark, and the Memorial Library had from 500-1,000 visitors per week. They are already feeling a bit crowded, and will reduce the computer stations in the Memorial Room to 4 from 6 in order to accommodate the growing collection—now over 4000 books— and the Dzenowagis video collection. BBC will soon have a broadcast studio in the Forum space immediately adjoining the Memorial Library.

A presentation of the 'Diamond Lil' 'wide screen' show to a packed house in the *Origins* theatre was one of many ways the Library participated in the Forum's "Norfolk Aviation History Week" in May. They are encouraged by the response and plan to present the Dzenowagis series of videos this winter.

In addition to the items the new Fulbright Librarian reports (in her article elsewhere in this newsletter), David mentions that her predecessor Andrea Hough has worked with the National Dairy Council in a way that will assure strong promotion of the Annual Essay competition. Last year it attracted 50+ entries and resulted in five prizes. David outlined the incipient welcome for new librarian Tahitia Orr.

His report on the Royal Opening of the Forum was rich and 'pure David' especially in the way he bent

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Executive Committee Members. Back: Craig Beasley, Brian Mahoney, Ann Phillips, Linda Wittig, Mary and Jim Lorenz. Front: Ed Zobac, Irene Hurner, Vicki Brooks Warning.

(via Ann Phillips)

incorporate it into a current or future issue. On the back panel of this newsletter you will find the current officers, elected at our business meeting in Baltimore August 31st.

Our convention meeting was a success. As President, I was satisfied to look out over the full house of attendees at our business meeting on Saturday and at our more social meeting on Monday September 1. If I gush, it is because I feel overwhelmed. We adjourned to the 492nd's hospitality suite for the showing of two videos, highlights of the informal get-together. The first, produced by Linda Wittig and her family, celebrates four very special veterans in her life; "Moose" Allen,

everyone.

We are growing as an organization both in membership and in activities. Bob Books, the Heritage League web master reported that hits to the Heritage League web site in July hit an all-time high. It is with enthusiasm that we look toward the future. As I suggested to the current officers.... Hang on to your hats, here we go... watch our progress in the Heritage Herald!

Reports from the Memorial Trust Chair

Chair of our 2AD Memorial Trust Board of Governors, David Hastings, and his wife Jean, attended

Rededication Trip ...cont'd from page 1

counting the 1992 transatlantic flight of the Commemorative Air Force's "Diamond Lil" B-24, and a new special show whetting our appetite for the opening of the new Library facility in the spectacular 'Forum' on the "Millenium Plain," or Norwich's marketplace, the largest in northern Europe. We were billeted at 4 differnt hotels, and the level of organization and security throughout the week was fantastic. Very high marks go to the Hastings, to Evelyn Cohen, and all who helped them. My



2ADA Membership VP Evelyn Cohen defying 9-11 terrorists as Memorial Trust VP David Hastings beams his strong support.

(Jerry Mahoney)

head spins when I contemplate how much they managed to make happen, precisely on cue, from airport greeting to sendoff—we did not lose a soul or suffer a dull moment, and they have won our unending appreciation. The tone for the coming week, under the still smouldering shadow of 9-11, was well set by Evelyn, who told of the collective decision to press on with this important bit of commemoration of freedom, sacrifice and civilization. She quoted some of the vets she polled. When asked if they still wanted to go, they put it very compellingly and plainly: "We've flown under worse circumstances." This was the first of many times over the next several days that

I found myself laughing and crying at the same time, freshly mindful of the timeless relevance of the 'can do' attitude we Yanks share with our British friends and allies.

Monday the 5th we all boarded busses for the Cambridge American Cemetery (Madingly), where the program was very much abbreviated because many of us had been caught on the motorway behind a serious truck and car accident. From there, most opted to go to lunch at the Officers' Mess of Duxford then tour the Imperial War Museum, especially the American Air Museum, and the then-incomplete restoration of their 'new' B-24. Others went to a different lunch and toured Wyonham (pronounced 'Windum') College, site of the 2nd Division's 65th Field Hospital during WW II and now a prominent secondary school, quite conscious of it's historical link to 'us.' Most people made great use of the unstructured time this evening and during the day Tuesday to catch up with American and British friends and tour the new facillity and city. The weather was exceptionally mild and clear for all of this, only showing its seasonal and regional character on the day (Thursday) that we went out to the 14 different base areas.

This was the evening that 'the Mahoney Kids' (and grandchild) joined one of our Dad's great 467th friends, Capers Holmes, for a wonderful dinner at the lovely Rackheath Park home of John and Annabelle Gowing Howe. Counting Annabelle's father, who was a Royal Flying Corps aviator in 'the first war' and the RAF Liaison Officer to the 467th in 1944-45, and our mothers (who became fast friends in post-war visits) we had four generations of strong, personal Anglo-

American friendship to toast, and we did not fail in our duty!

Tuesday the 6th many went on offered tours of a craft center or of the Broads (beautiful recreational lakes region in the countryside to the north of the city, *not* your old man's girlfriends in the Forties!). We convened that evening in medieval St. Andrews Hall for the impressive presentation to The Second Air Division Association of the Freedom of the City of Norwich. This high honor had never been bestowed on a group previously, and entailed much fanfare, including a memorable performance by the Town Crier. If you are prepared to document your membership in the 2ADA, perhaps by sporting the marvelous ribbon-hung medallion we all recieved in our



492nd/467th vet Blackie Dunnam and former Fulbright Librarian Carson Holloway at the 'Friends-Heritage League' reception Sunday. *(Jerry Mahoney)*

packets, you may now legally drive cattle through the streets of the City or marched with fixed bayonets. (Please do let me know how that works out. —Ed.)

Wednesday the 7th was indeed the Big Day. The Service of Dedication in the magnificent Norman cathedral was powerfully reminiscent of the service on 9-14-01 in our own National Cathedral, in its sense of purpose, commemoration, and resolute rededication. A new Roll of Honor, listing those from the Second Air Division who paid the ultimate

price in freedom's cause, and replacing that destroyed in the 1994 Library fire, was dedicated by the Lord Bishop. His compelling sermon gave voice to all of our strong emotions. If there was a dry eye in the packed Norwich Cathedral after we sang both National Anthems and "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," it was certainly moistened by our full-voiced rendition of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" as the recessional. Once again, our comfortable busses were at the ready to take us to the Forum through the narrow ways which have



'Hatting it off.' McKenna Dempsey with newfound friends on opening day.

(Jerry Mahoney)

seen Roman, Norman and American invasion. The Roll had been solemnly marched to St. Peter Mancroft Church, and at noon was borne between flying standards and Honor Guards from there into the Forum itself, as it had been originally in 1963. The weather allowed a low ceiling flypast of two RAF Coltishall Jaguar fighters then a USAF KC-135 from Mildenhall. We were formally honored at the Forum entrance by a unit of the British high school ROTC equivillant, by reenactors in WW II British and American uniforms, by



Amazing Space. Wymondham musicians silhouetted by prospect of St. Peter Mancroft from Atrium of the Forum.

(Jerry Mahoney)

Coltishall Honor Guard and band, and hundreds of 'bobbies' providing friendly and palpably tight security.

Inside the atrium of the Forum building, we were regaled by the youngsters of the Wymondham College Band playing their beloved "Second Air Division Fanfare" among other wonderful pieces. This wondrously warm space, postmodern and made of very finely finished stone, glass and stainless, was also acoustically excellent, and from virtually every vantage one had a very strong sense of place and connection—as if the ancient market square and the fine English gothic church, reflected by the inner and outer glass curtain walls, extended right into this very inviting space.

The formal dedication program included remarks by 2ADA stalwart and cofounder Jordan Uttal. He recounted the history of the Memorial as a concept and read messages from those who had initially put the idea to a most receptive Genreal Kepner in 1945. Our master of ceremonies

was then-Chair of the Trust Board of Governors, Paul King, who asked both Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk, Sir Timothy Coleman, and the highest ranking American official present, to officially open the Library. In their turn, each read messages to us from Queen Elizabeth and President Bush.

2ADA President Felix Leeton asked the Lord Bishop, Rev. Graham James, to dedicate the Memorial Library (prominently located right off the atrium) as the Roll of Honor was borne in there by the official party. Books of Condolence (for September 11th) were presented to Maj. General Kenneth Hess, CO of the 3rd AF and based at Mildenhall, who also received for our country the generous contributions of Fire Fighters from RAF Coltishall and Neatishead to the NYFD Appeal Fund. Hess introduced himself apologetically as a 'stand-in' for the American Ambassador to the Court

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the rehearsed protocol, with an enthusiastic accomplice in HRH Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, and resulting in the Prince receiving a medallion from 2ADA President Walt Mundy, meeting with library staff, and signing the guest book!

Outgoing Chair Paul King was elected and Honorary Life governor, in recognition of his 32 years of service to the Trust, and his wonderful work during the year of the rededication. The Governor from the University of East Anglia has resigned for health reasons, and Andrew Hawker has been seated.

A biannual "2nd AD Memorial Lecture" is proposed, beginning with a November 2003 presentation hoping to feature Lord Carington as the main speaker, although sponsorship is still sought.

David was one of 14 Norfolk leading citizens honored to be in the first class of 'Honorary Commanders' of USAF units in England; as the only pilot among them, Commander Hastings is with the 351st Air Refueling Squadron at Mildenhall for one year.

Finance Committee Sub-Chair Nick Cooper proposed a reduction in opening hours and letting two part-time library staffers go in November, so that there will be a projected deficit of £2,000 for this year and a balanced budget for the two years following. The new 9-5 Monday-Saturday hours of operation reflect the reality that little of the heavy visitation has been during evening hours. Happily, in light of the flat performance of investment portfolios in the present economy, Friends of the Memorial are pledged to provide £1,000 of support in each of the next three years.

In the category of asking for

things, Chair Hastings continues to be both bold and successful. He asked for placement of an appeal in the program for the Royal International Air Tattoo, which is expressly 'not done,' whereupon they gave the Memorial a full spread, seen by 250,000! But even better, a grant proposal written to the Norwich 'Town Close Charities' (somewhat akin to regional United Way campaigns here in the States) was awarded in the highest amount they give; £50,000! This is the first part of an appeal to fully endow the Memorial, about which we will hear more soon.

He mentioned governor terms being renewed and ended, and acknowledged the regular support and attendance of 2ADA Archive Oversight Committee Chair Chuck Walker and Heritage League Observer Vicki Warning at Trust Governor meetings.

David mentioned, under 'public relations,' that the BBC showed (and has since repeated) a 1 hour feature, "The Liberators." Poignantly, it aired during the recent Jubilee Weekend marking the 50th anniversary of the coronation of Elizabeth II. An updated Memorial Library Brochure is being designed by David with fellow governor Roger Freeman, for which £2,000 of support is being sought. (David will fill out his 25th year as a governor next year, when Matthew Martin takes over as Chair, but after that, some mighty big shoes will need to be filled in the 'PR' department! -Ed.)

At the Banquet, David listed several items over the years for which he and his Jean feel great gratitude—starting with the veterans, their service and sacrifice, and running through years of conventions and building the Memorial, and all

the attendant strong friendships. (This editor would be remiss if he did not say, for all of us lucky Yanks, that we have been so blessed in countless ways to have David and Jean Hastings' terrific energy, vision, acumen, unending respect for Second Air Division veterans, and through it all, *friendship*.)

'Herald' by e-mail

Starting right now, all who are inclined to receive the Herald as an e-mail attachment, saving the League a fair piece of change in printing and mailing costs, please let Communications VP Brian Mahoney know. From the e-dress where you wish to receive it, send him an e-mail with "e-HERALD" as the subject line. Brian's e-dress: BriCamera@MindSpring.com. If you change your e-mail address, you will need to let us know!

The HERALD will also be published to our webpage as a .pdf file. If you do not have Acrobat software on your computer, Bob will be putting a link on our webpage for you to download it quickly from Adobe; it is free. The attached e-mail editions of the HERALD will also be in this format, which is easy to view on-screen, save electronically, and print out.

League's Web Site is a Real 'Hit'

Webmaster Bob Books reports that we are averaging 700 'hits' on our site in a typical month, and reached our all-time high of 859 in July, with the UK, Japan, Canada, Belgium, Australia, Spain and a dozen other countries represented. Bob is to be thanked for his valuable volunteerism, which promises to in-

crease as we add things to this 'club resource.' In the future, we will be delayed-publishing the Herald to the web page, but if you want it 'fresh,' you will still have to be a member! Two tie-ins here: look for the 'Websites We Like' panel (page 12) for the Heritage League's site and several others of interest.

Memorial Rededication Trip

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of St. James, who was unable to attend for security concerns, but was very warmly received when he let it be known that his old man, alive and well in Texas, was a veteran of the 93rd! At that point, Jordan found his feet briefly to let the General know that associate dues were only \$20 a year, and handed him a form! Vicar Peter Nokes of St. Peter Mancroft welcomed us and the Wymondham



Charmed, we are certain. One of the lovely Rothschild daughters and Sir Edward Trafford at 467th's Group Dinner, Salhouse Lodge on Thursday. (Jerry Mahoney)

youngsters treated us to their original "Acclamation."

After lunch was served in the atrium and City Hall, the library was open to 2ADA members for inspection

That evening was the 2ADA Banquet at the Norwich Sports Village, with seating by groups, candle lighting ceremony, and music courtesy of Matthews Norfolk Brass. We applauded David, Jean and Evelyn,



Huge fun! Only on Banquet night did we get an unimpeded view of all of the 2nd Air Division Association attendees in one place at one time; like the 'Candles for Remembrance' were were awaiting here, it was impressive. (Karen Mayberry)

then delightfully stunned the Trust Governors with large contributions totalling \$200,000. What a fine sight we made, all sharing an incredible emotional 'high' together, 'over there.'

Thursday the 8th was "Base Day." Once again, prodigious logistical work made it look effortless as parties went out to a dozen USAAF Air Station remnants around Norfolk for their tours, lunches, memorial services, and group dinners. This was the day that the weather consulted the calendar and the map— we had some bits of sun, a fair amount of driving cold rain, and most groups were also sleeted and snowed upon. Even hail was reported—but some-

how this seemed to be 'on cue' and made our nostalgia trip all the more authentic.

Friday the 9th all went their separate ways, warmed by friendships new and renewed, grateful for so much shared, and very proud of the stunningly spectacular 'living memorial,' born out of a great impulse 57 years ago and reborn gloriously out of the tragic fire. There is an apt saying, applicable to our Memorial in Norwich, to our Walls of The Missing and gravesites in Holland, Belgium, France and Germany, and Cambridge, and to this amazing, special week: "Once you have been to England, you never go completely home."

Heritage League Roster Growing

A warm welcome to the following 38 who have joined our Heritage League ranks since we last went to press. They are listed here by affiliation, if given. (Thanks to database manager Ed Z. and Membership VP Ann P. for the statistics. -Ed.) from **Headquarters:** Linda Norris. **44th:** Dick Butler. **93rd:** Richard Comingore, Rebecca Estes, Brett Johnson, Julie Mathews, William Sargent, and Michael Sellers. **389th:** Myrtis Howell, Tim Howlett. **389th/491st:** Roberta Dorsey, Bruce Little. **392nd:** John Murka, Dennis Rogers, Michael Sassman, Howell Watkins II. **445th:** Brian Cool, Robert Mead. **453rd:** Leroy Berg, Debora Bently-English, John Raiser. **458th:** John Henson, Richard Schultz. **466th:** Lindy Galbraith, Sara Saltarelli. **467th:** Robin Dahlberg, Tim Heikkinen, Fred Johnsen, Jini

Roster Growth*Continued from page 7*

Mortensen, Ruth Mundy, Walter Mundy, Glen Schecter, Charlotte Shower. **467th/492nd:** McKenna Dempsey, Jeremiah Mahoney. **489th:** Marilyn Tobash. **491st:** Bernice Bennett, (see also: 389th). **492nd:** (see 467th). No affiliation: John Fernandes.

Remains Found*Continued from page 1*

a host of others to help them do an archaeological 'dig,' and found the actual crash site, with many identifiable human remains, of the 856th Bomb Squadron's Lloyd Herbert crew, near Nienberg, Germany. They went down on the May 19, 1944 Brunswick mission. A granddaughter of the crew's radio operator participated in the August, 1998 'dig,' under guidance of a forensic anthropologist, which confirmed

will others from the 492nd BG Assn. to honor the dead.

Very recent excavation at the David McMurray crash site, near Westeregeln, Germany, has unearthed identifying personal artifacts and remains. McMurray's entire crew was KIA on the notorious Bernburg raid of July 7, 1944. The crew is listed on the Wall of the Missing at the Henri-Chappelle American Battle Monuments Cemetery.



492nd BG Assn. base contacts and researchers Russell Ives, Brian Mahoney, Norm Winterbottom, Enrico Schwartz, Allan Sirrell in N. Pickenham 11-9-01. (J. Mahoney)

presence there of human remains.

Some of those remains will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery on November 18th, with more than a score of family members to attend as guests of the government. Some of these grateful family survivors have arranged for the Schwartzes to be in attendance, as

MAACRT diligence and careful work paid off in both instances, and upon discovery of remains, when the deeply spiritual Enrico considered the nature of the search sites to have fundamentally changed, US Army Mortuary Affairs officials took over for exhumation, identification, next-of-kin-contact, and burial.

Heritage League Observers Aid a Smooth Transition

The leadership of both the Heritage League and our parent organization, the 2nd Air Division Association, in order to have good communication and understanding of transition issues in the coming years and to transfer skills and share experience, have encouraged committee heads in the 2ADA to appoint capable people from our membership to liaise between the organizations. They sit in on those meetings and reporting to our Executive Committee. The observers are to be acknowledged for the service they perform for both organizations. Listings are of the 2ADA committee, the Heritage League Observer, and their affiliation (in parentheses). Advisory Committee: Irene Hurner (453). Audit Committee: Ed Zobac (445). Awards Committee: Gretchen Hurner (453). Bequest Committee: Carol Kendrick (466). Croup Relations Committee: Caron Veynar (HQ). 2ADA/Fulbright Library Memorial Award Oversight Committee: Vicki Brooks Warning (445). Memorial Library Archive Oversight Committee: Billy Sheely Johnson (492). Roll of Honor Oversight Committee: Ed Wells (389/453).

Post Exchange!

Alan Senior of the 446th BG is offering a beautiful 10" x 16" horizontal poster commemorating the 11-7-01 rededication of the Memorial Library, for \$6.00 postpaid; three for \$16.00 Net proceeds will go to the 2AD Memorial Trust. Make checks payable to him and send your order to 610 Salerno Street, Sugarland, TX

77478

The Heritage League offers two items for which proceeds go to the Memorial Library. Our own Caron Veynar came up with a distinctive pin commemorating the rededication. Stars and Stripes festoon one wing, Union Jack the other, with the 'Winged 8' at the heart and "Second Air Division Memorial Room Rededication 2001" inscribed around. \$5 + \$1 shipping, which will cover up to three pins to the same address.

The other item is our blue and white Heritage League Logo button, \$2 each.

In each case, checks to the Heritage League, orders to 45414 San Antonio Valley Road, Livermore, CA 45415

Our New Fulbright Librarian Writes...

-Tahitia Orr

Greetings from the Memorial Library! I've been asked to tell you a bit about myself and my plans for the year in this article. In later articles, I'll give you some details about day-to-day happenings in the Library and what I've been up to.

I arrived in late August from the great state of Alaska, my home for over nine years. It's a fabulous place, full of great people and amazing scenery; which grows on you and (I'm afraid) never lets you go. I got my start in librarianship while working at the Juneau Public Library, mainly sending boxes of books to

folks living in the 'bush.' After receiving my master's degree in library science from Syracuse University in 2000, I began working for the Alaska State Library. While there, I was head of the web team and liaison to the Education Department and fielded many questions about Alaska from around the world.

Packing up my life in Alaska and moving to a new country and new job has been a major challenge, but the fascination Norwich holds for me has made up for any temporary hardships! The Library here in the Forum is truly a remarkable place. People come in every day to ask questions about the U.S., check out books from our unique collection or to share stories about the 'time the Americans invaded Norfolk.'

One of my projects for the coming year is to take a creative writing workshop around to the primary schools in the area. I hope to feature some of the writing that comes out of those sessions in the Herald. The secondary schools study American Literature as part of their curriculum and I'll be giving short talks on American culture and history in those classes. I really appreciate the chance to show the kids that there is more to America than what they see on television and the movies. They clearly get a kick out of talking to a 'real live' American.

I'll also be working on our web page. As well as bringing the underlying coding up to date, I'll be adding more information and resources to the page—local teachers have been giving me ideas, so keep an eye on www.2ndair.org.uk!

The Memorial Library here in Norwich is truly a unique living library. We honor those who served here during the war as well as offering current information about

America and the world around us. It's a winning combination!

Reminiscing



Bill Nothstein and Joe Saltarelli look back in time... at the Baltimore convention.

(Lindy Galbraith)

Herald Wish List

Regular Contributions Please let the acting editor know if you are willing to produce a regular column (up to 4x/year) in the 'Herald.' What follows is an open ended ideas list; you may have some ideas for the list, too!

- Comic strip.* Present an historically accurate story of the 2nd Air Division on about a half a page, geared toward making it vivid for the younger readers. Looking for a skilled artist and possibly a researcher to work with them. We could justify going to 'two color' or more, in time.

- Reviews.* Coordinate the review of old and new books, DVDs and videos which tell stories related to the airwar in Europe or its military and technology contexts; looking for a knowledgeable person, well organized, a voracious reader. This could be a team effort, too...

Easier Stuff Individual articles will always be the bulk of our interesting material; you editor will make you look good, so please do not hesitate to contribute to your Herald.

- Travelogues.* Have you visited an interesting WW II or aviation mu-

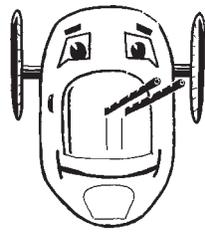
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seum? Even better, have you explored the remnants of your 2AD vet's base in England? Tell the rest of the membership about it objectively, and share practical travel and accommodations tips that will help them have a good trip.

•Interviews/Oral History Projects. Many of us or our children have had occasion to do an interview of one of the 2AD vets; perhaps yours could be turned into a compelling story for the Herald. Maybe, under the ruse of an 'assignment' from the Editor, you can finally get them to agree to a 'debriefing' for the record; we have some information and examples to coach you in this effort.

•News Items. If you think it might be of interest to our general readership, submit! "Small world" stories are usually of interest, as well as reports of planned or accidental meetings of League members and our friends... we also will run a 'Folded Wings' listing of Heritage League members who have died; please pass information to the Membership VP.

•Self Introductions. If you have an area of special interest or competence related to the 2AD, and are interested in sharing this with other members, give us a brief statement we can run. Think of this a little bit of networking 'on topic.' Not required that you be a serious researcher, just state your interest area and level, or 'nominate' other members who you think we should briefly introduce to the membership this way. We are interested in doing this with new members and old.



Pitch
it to
PETE!

Answers to Your Technical Questions

-Pete O'Tube, Expert

Dear Pete,

Some folks may think this letter is some sort of a 'put-up job,' just because your column is brand new and you are *already* getting question letters like this. But I guess we need to start somewhere, and maybe if other readers are clever enough to wonder about that, then we will get them to keep you busy with even *more* interesting questions!

So, here's mine: where'd ya get the unusual name from?

-Konfuzed in Kankakee

Dear Konnie,

Well, the flattering picture of me above does not show those strange stalks you have noticed coming out of the 'cheeks' of the front end of a Lib- I had 'em surgically removed by a clever guy with an artistic license. (Couldn't get him to pin back the ears, but that is another story...) Back in my flying days, though, my pilots needed to know their air speed. Those two prongs were my pitot tubes—rhymes with my name! Holes at their leading points admitted air from way out in the airstream, where it was not yet disturbed by the bow wave from my, er, um, BLUNT nose. Indicated air speed is only the same as ground speed when there are NO winds moving the airmass I am flying in, but I can tell you of plenty of times when we were in such a strong headwind that our ground speed was very slow, and the German flak gun-

ners had lots of time to perfect their aim. And taking off or landing I always wanted to be heading into the wind, so that my indicated air speed was above my stall speed. My lifting and control surfaces are no good without enough air passing over them. When my air speed indicator, connected to the pitot tubes, showed I had achieved the correct calculated airspeed, the pilot could 'rotate,' which is fancy for point me up in the sky and take off. This was usually just about as we were runing out of runway and starting to sweat a bit.

Dear Pete,

What's the deal with that drip-shaped thing along the top of Liberator, and under the chin of a B-17, and seen on a host of WW II era planes?

-Ima Taken

Dear Ms. Taken,

Some guys called it 'the football'; it contained a circular wire loop antenna which could be freely rotated inside that aerodynamic housing without being damaged by the wind. Once the radio operator turned that loop for strongest reception of a certain radio signal, it would be pointing at the beacon, the location of which was shown on the maps. By repeating the exercise while stongly tuning the signal from a beacon at a different location, he could plot the two lines and have a pretty accurate indication of his position. It was called the Automatic Direction Finder, or ADF. (Thanks to M/Sgt James Peters, an internet friend who flew as top-turret gunner/radio operator on a B-17, for help on this one.)

—Got a question about an acronym or a procedure? Pete will try

his darndest if you e-mail him at BriCamera@MindSpring.com. Use the subject line "Question4Pete."

Renewal Notice

It is that time again! Please check your mailing label for the date of your membership expiration. In the center of this HERALD is a renewal/application form, which you should feel free to copy for friends and family who you can encourage to join our ranks.

Dues are still \$8 per year, but sure to go up *soon*, so you may want to lock in a savings by renewing for up to three years of Heritage League membership at this time.

We are hoping we will not have to send out a separate renewal letters to you or any of our current members—so if you will kindly use your stamp on (the supplied envelope) before mid January, you will save your Heritage League money and precious volunteer labor. Thanks for your membership and your help in recruiting others who share our interests!

Another Memorable Trip—Rededication at Duxford, Visits with Norfolk Friends

-Irene Hurner

I was honored by my invitation to attend the rededication of the American Air Museum at Duxford on Friday September 27. My family encouraged me to attend, and my daughter-in-law Diane Hurner accompanied me on my trip to England. While we were there, I visited the

Second Air Division Memorial Library and met with Trust Librarian Derek Hills and Tahitia Orr, 2ADA-Fulbright Librarian. Derek took time from his busy schedule to give me an in-depth tour. My previous visit to Norwich for the re-dedication (November 2001) was limited, and the Memorial Room had been very full will interested 2ADA and Heritage League members.

This visit was leisurely. I could truly appreciate all of the wonderful improvements and amenities that have been incorporated into this new facility. Seeing it in all of its week-day activity, we knew what a truly a wonderful contribution it represents to the people of Norwich. There was a continuous stream of people who came in to use the computers, browse through the books, and to just look. The staff was courteous, knowledgeable and busy, so Diane and I appreciated the time that they took to answer our questions. As luck would have it, retired Chairman of the Board of Governors Paul King stopped by to say hello and posed for a picture with Diane.

The day at Duxford was splendid. David and Jean Hastings were kind enough to take us along on the ride over from Norwich. We arrived about 11:00 a.m., allowing time to visit the Land War building with its collection of tanks and stories of the ground war. We walked through the various exhibits and had a bite of lunch in a hangar prepared for the rededication guests. Former President George Bush graciously visited with and signed his autograph for many people. After a fly-over and mini-air show, President Bush and Prince Charles, our featured speakers, reminded us of the bonds between the British and Americans. Each referred to the museum as a 'living memo-

rial.' It gave me pause to hear those words used to describe a memorial other than our Library. The weather was glorious and the entire day delightful.

On the way back David and Jean gave us a small tour of the countryside and the wonderful Wymondham College grounds and memorial, before stopping by the memorial to the 467th. The Hastings then treated us to a dinner of fish and chips with. How Jean found the time to pick the apples at a neighbor's, then bake a delicious pie for desert, I will never know.

Saturday Pat Ramm picked Diane and me up at the hotel in Norwich and escorted us to Little

President Bush and Prince Charles, our featured speakers, reminded us of the bonds between the British and Americans. Each referred to the museum as a 'living memorial.'

Effingham near Attleboro for tea at the church. We picked up his Agnes at their home to join us for lunch at the village hall. The shepherd's pie, fresh vegetables, rolls, and apple desert were all delicious. Afterward Pat took us to the 453rd memorial and airport at Old Buckenham, where a Stearman was flying and sport parachutists were making their jumps. My thanks are extended to Pat and 'Aggie' for taking time to be our guides.

I was also fortunate to be in England for a scheduled meeting of the base contacts of the Friends. (The base contacts are gracious and very knowledgeable persons living near to

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various of our 14 old USAAF stations. -Ed.) David and Pearl Neale made arrangements for June Savill to pick me up at The Beeches Hotel and we had lunch on the way at a very nice pub.

I appreciated the chance to visit and to meet those who do so much in the memory of the veterans. I had only met some of the base contacts previously, in November 2001. I really did not realize how dedicated they all are and how much they do. David Woodrow and his family have preserved many of the buildings of Hardwick, wartime home of the 93rd Bomb Group. One building is preserved as the 'Mess Hall,' available for group meetings, where we had tea and treats while the base contacts gave reports on the happenings of the previous few months. David showed me the memorial to the 93rd and then gave a quick tour of his farm and air-planes. On the way back to Norwich, June showed me to the control tower at Seething, on land now owned by the family of Mrs. Pat Everson. Tea is served on several Sunday afternoons a month to raise funds for the care of this memorial to veterans the 448th Bomb Group.

That Sunday evening on the train to London I thought about the many memorials to our veterans, and the dedication of the British in preserving them. I had never had the experience of visiting bases other than "Old Buck," where Dad was stationed. I do not know if we all can say thank you enough to our British friends (not just the ones I have named) for all that they do. This was a most enjoyable trip, an enlightening one which has left me eager to start planning for my next!

http://www Webpages We Wike

-Siwvy Wabbit

One of the areas where the world wide web ("www") is working at its best for a wide audience is in enthusiast areas—individuals with varying specialty knowledge and computer skills come together through the medium from around the globe, around the clock, to exchange information. You can join in the fun, and accomplish some serious research as well. It should be borne in mind, however, that much of what is out there, presented as factual, is de-

rived from uncited sources, making formal, scholarly citation rarely possible and 100% confidence seldom justified. Just seeing the same information 2 or more times does not change this unless one can determine that each report comes through reliable sources all the way back to the historical fact of the matter. In practice, especially in our interest area, much of what is presented in many places and many forms comes from the same source. Have a healthy skepticism when perusing or researching, and don't believe everything you read. If you are participating in information dissemination, do all a favor by taking the

URL

description

www.2ndair.org.uk	2nd Air Division Memorial Library In Norwich
www.mighty8thmuseum.com/	Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum
www.aviation-history.com/	On-line aviation museum, facts & pix
www.b24bestweb.com/	Great gallery of Liberator pix, data
cheshire-cat.mach3ww.com	Chat; general B-24 interest
www.confederateairforce.org/	We are now to call it the Commemorative Air Force; they field lots of 'warbirds' around the country annually
www.collingsfoundation.org/menu.htm	They keep the All American in tip-top shape and on tour throughout the East
www.heritageleague.org/	Our Heritage League homepage
www.kasselmission.com/	Tells of one of the 8th's worst days
www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/	USAF Museum in Dayton
www.armyairforces.com/default.asp	Excellent; chats by WW II group
www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/ac/index.html	Current USAF inventory is well described; basic a/c terminology and flight theory shown
www.ghostwings.com	Hot fresh aviation glossy & webpage matches



extra time to clearly cite your source(s) so others may check them should they have need to rely on the claim as factual.

Future columns will present pages related to our individual bomb groups and attached organizations. Another theme could be veteran and other ‘second generation’ organizations. Your help is hereby solicited! Please send your suggestions to

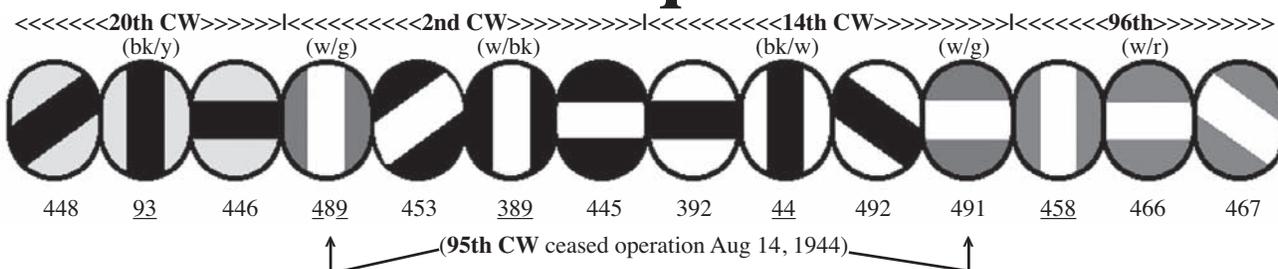
BriCamera@MindSpring.com. Use ‘Heritage Herald’ as the subject line. Thanks!

60 Years Ago... in 1942

Jan 28: 8th AF activated, Savannah, GA, Col. Asa Duncan commander. Feb: Advance party to England includes several ‘greats’: Ira Eaker, Beirne Lay, Frank Armstrong, Fred Castle. June 29: First USAAF crew

into a combat zone, by unofficial invitation of RAF Sqn. 226. Marshalling yards in Belgium hit in low level attack using Brit Bostons. July 4: First official sortie a bit chaotic, but results in first of 8th’s 226 DSCs going to Capt. Chas. Kegelman. Aug 17: Paul Tibbetts is CP to Frank Armstrong, leading first US bombers (11 B-17Es) into combat over Rouen—97th BG out of Polebrook.

Second Division’s Unique Modern Heraldry



By the spring of 1944, the system of uniquely identifying heavy bomb groups in England by a letter within a geometric shape, on the top of the right wing and bottom of the left wing, was no longer adequate for sorting out hundreds (or even a thousand) of bombers assembling over England or regrouping after their bomb drops and combat confusion over the continent.

Up to that time, the 2nd Bombardment Division (*Air Division* after January 1, 1945) had assigned letters to the groups in roughly the order they came into theatre. (See table.) The letters were placed against a solid colored *circle* background. Planes of the First Bombardment Division used a *square* as the background to their group letters; the 3rd Division used a *triangle*. By the end of the war in Europe, all of the 8th AF B-24s were assigned to the 2nd Air Division, but there were a few groups in the two ‘B-17 divisions’ which actually went to England with Liberators and transitioned

to Fortresses.

The colorful scheme used from spring 1944 to the end, made excellent graphic use of the outsides of the vertical stabilizers (tails) of the Liberator, and to this day we have stunningly strong, instantly recognizable ‘shields’ by which we recognize one another’s affiliation with a particular group. Those ‘poor’ Fortress types may have had a conventionally more ‘pretty’ plane, but the unique twin rudder Liberator walks away with both the ‘identifiability prize’ and ‘durable insignia’ award. I would be curious to know who should get the credit for this scheme, which still serves well today and looks great. Anyone out there know?

I became interested in these modern bits of heraldry for their power to tell interested parties—at a glance and over a very great distance—which combat wing (*bombardment wing*, after January 1, 1945) a plane was in, and which group, if you remembered the orientation (vertical, diagonal or horizon-

tal) of the crossing band. The graphic accompanying this article appears in gray tones, but these identifiers are much more forceful (hence easily memorized) in color.

At its peak of 14 groups on combat in early August of 1944, the di-

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<i>bomb group</i>	<i>date on station</i>	<i>code letter</i>
44	9-11-42	A
93	9-6-42	B
389	6-11-43	C
392	8-1-43	D
445	11-4-43	F
446	11-4-43	H
448	11-30-43	I
453	12-23-44	J
458	1-29-44	K
466	3-7-44	L
467	3-12-44	P
492	4-14-44	U
491	4-25-44	Z
489	5-1-44	W

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vision was organized into five combat wings; 4 of these had three groups each. Thus the 'shields' have five different background colors. Between August 10 and 14th, 1944, substantial reorganizations within the 2nd Bombardment Division resulted in elimination of the smallest wing, the 95th. Its 489th BG, which would be dissolved before the end of the year, was given to the 20th CW, headquartered at Hardwick. Note that the bands for each of these groups are *vertical*. The 489th had been the home to the headquarters of the 95th CW, just as the 93rd BG at Hardwick hosted the headquarters of the 20th CW. With the understanding that the 489th *had been* the seat of a combat wing, the rule is that vertical stripes indicate groups which host their wing—thus also: the 44th, 389th, and 458th.

The same reorganizations effectively disbanded the original 492nd, based at North Pickenham, although the numeric designation continued with a very different, if equally unique and distinguished outfit, the *Carpetbaggers*, who used black planes and night flying to deliver secret agents and materiel to the underground organizations in occupied Europe. They had come into existence in May of 1944 in preparation for the invasion. They were formed out of some 'donated' squadrons and were initially called the 801st BG. Nominally based at Harrington, they were stealthy, dispersed, and ever on the move. On the charts they were under the operational command of the 1st BD, but Gen. 'Wild Bill' Donovan, chief of OSS (precursor to the CIA) was calling the shots, and then, as now, nobody asked questions.

So, between August 10 and No-

vember 14, 1944, there were 13 heavy bomb groups on operations in the 2nd BD. Thereafter, until V-E, it was 12.

I have reduced the graphic for use as a 'separator' in the Herald, and hope readers will agree that it is a graphically attractive condensation of a very large and interesting story, reminding us of what we strive to keep alive in our collective memory.

-Editor

Hello from your New Acting Editor

I am a relative newcomer to the Heritage League, so let me introduce myself. I am a son of a vet of two groups, the original hard-luck 492nd from North Pickenham, and the 467th, to which my late father was transferred upon the breakup of the 492nd. I have long been interested in WW II and the airwar over Europe especially, but not until early 1999 did I join the Heritage League, the two BG associations, and the 2ADA as an associate

I was on a journey occasioned by my decision to publish my Dad's compelling war memoirs, and decided it was time to meet some of the men and women with whom he served. I thought I would be just doing a few interviews, not making scores of strong friendships in his generation and mine. I thought I might need a few months to make the necessary contacts, and that would be that. Instead, I find myself drawn into a circle of very diverse Americans and Brits who share some core values and the conviction that the important story of the Second Air Division deserves to be kept alive.

The Executive Committee are

always looking for new blood, whether as officers or individuals willing to take on special projects or ongoing tasks, so I found myself approached to lend some of my energies and vision to the important work of the League. When I asked whether my 'agenda' of juicing things up a lot, of clarifying several of our transition issues with our parent Second Air Division Association, and of attracting more members in mine and the following generation, would be supported, I was answered in the affirmative, strongly! While it is true that I do have a problem saying 'no' to causes I support, the reality in this case was that several key people, who have carried the banner well and long in all of these organizations, made it hard for me to not say 'yes.' It is a privilege to honor their work and to perpetuate the great story of the 2nd Air Division.

We in the Executive Committee are agreed to take on a lot of new work in the near term. We will redefine our mission, mostly by addition of elements describing a living mission, an educational and social one, inspired by the living mission of the Memorial Library in England and the teaching mission of the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum in Pooler, Georgia. We know that we will not attract more than sentimental wistfulness if we are only about laying wreaths and the ceremonial and solemn aspects of honoring the sacrifices of our fathers. We appreciate the large scale of program we must implement to become the appropriate successor to 2ADA and stewards of their important, priceless legacy.

We solicit your ideas and your energies, and will ask your support as we lead the League in this exciting growth. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can. (I guess

I am a natural for this Communications VP mantle!)

As for the 'Herald' itself, I am hoping to get our communication organ out to you at least two times a year and ask you, the membership, to set me up with interesting material so that we can go to four issues without any 'fluff.' I would very much like to *delegate* the Editor position, much as the Webmaster position has been long delegated to the capable Bob Books. But if you are willing to bite off something a bit smaller—say a regular column in the Herald—I would ask you to please get in touch! This edition has a few of my experimental ideas in it, and if this gets your creative juices flowing, I want to hear them!

-Brian Mahoney

Heritage League Observers Serving Both Us and 2ADA

The leadership of both the Heritage League and our parent organization, the 2nd Air Division Association, in order to have good communication and understanding of transition issues in the coming years and to transfer skills and share experience, have encouraged committee heads in the 2ADA to appoint capable people from our membership to liaise between the organizations. They sit in on those meetings and reporting to our Executive Committee. The observers are to be acknowledged for the service they perform for both organizations. Listings are of the 2ADA committee, the Heritage League Observer, and their affiliation (in parentheses). Advisory Committee: Irene Hurner (453). Audit Committee: Ed Zobac (445).

Awards: Gretchen Hurner (453). Bequest: Richard Comingore (93). Convention Committee: Carol Kendrick (466). Croup Relations Committee: Caron Veynar (HQ). 2ADA/Fulbright Library Memorial Award Oversight Committee: Vicki Brooks Warning (445). Memorial Library Archive Oversight Committee: Billy Sheely Johnson (492). Roll of Honor Oversight Committee: Ed Wells (389/453).

Our Rep to Governors of Memorial Trust

The Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors for The Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division U.S.A.A.F. was held in Norwich, Norfolk, England in the Edwards Room of the County Council on

Thursday October 24. I attend these as your Heritage League representative. Chairman David Hastings and Vice Chairman Hilary Hammond presided.

A report was given by the Auditors, Messrs. Lovewell Blake and the auditors were appointed for the ensuing year. The Annual General Meeting is followed by the quarterly Governors Meeting, in which reports are received from each of the sub-committees. I will report the annual meeting in more detail in the next newsletter.

While in Norwich, I had an opportunity to spend some time with Tahitia Orr, our new Fulbright Librarian. Our library will be in good hands with Tahitia. We look forward to Tahitia's articles in the Herald.

-Vicki Brooks Warning

Open Letter to Members

Thank you for your support during the past two years while I have served as your President. There have been several 'firsts' for the organization during that time which have made the officers very proud. Some of them are (I may miss one or two): The Executive Committee meeting mid-year in addition to convention, the 2ADA President joining our ExCom mid-year meeting, a member appointed as Representative to the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, our Representative traveling to Norwich to attend the annual business meeting of the Governors, our Liaison to the Friends attending and participating in the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Madingley, Cambridge, England, and your President visiting the Memorial Library and attending a meeting of The Friends, both other than during a convention.

I believe that the most special times for me have been when our meeting room has been filled to capacity and even overflowing. This happened at Norwich 2001 and again at our meetings in Baltimore. We had a business meeting on Saturday, August 31 then an informal 'get acquainted' time on Monday, September 2, followed by videos (see my longer article.)

Your officers continue to plan for the future and anticipate activities that will give us more time to become acquainted. To me, this is one of the most important items on my agenda. With the bond of friendship comes the desire to continue our association and to work toward the fulfillment of The Heritage League's goals. Again, Thank you for everything.

-Sincerely, Irene Hurner

