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"The Mighty Eighth Reunion Group

385TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP REUNION ASSOCIATION GREAT ASHFIELD – SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

STATION 155

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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1977 HOST ARKEY HUBER

NEWSLETTER

Volume VI, No. 7 31 July 1976 Editor: John Ford

ENGLAND MEMORIAL IS

being distributed early to permit your is Editor more time to prepare for our trip to England. The PAN AM 707 departs on the eveing of 5 September, but at the time this aricle was written, the airlines Operational personnel could not give me the Flight Number, check-in time, take-off time, or estimated time of arrival at London's Heathrow Airport. Return information is also unknown. The real culprit in this problem are the number of people travelling to Europe The airlines are attempting to meet these this year. problems by maximum use of their equipment. It has been impressed on them that many of our members are travelling thousands of miles just to get to New York, and they need time for reservations, both to and from New York. As a result, Flynn Travels will make a special mailing of this information the moment it becomes available. The trip itinerary will be shared with all our members, to include Hotels and telephone numbers. A printed and far more detailed itinerary will be mailed the travellers within the next few The following procedure will be used during weeks. the entire trip: (1). Four coaches will be utilized for the trip and will be coded with our old Squadron colors of BLUE, YELLOW, RED and GREEN. Personnel are divided into three groups; namely "A", "B" and "C". Group "A" consists of those persons who did not take an Optional Trip and will be in the London (?) area the last eight days. The color code for this group is Group "B" has been divided into two coaches YELLOW.

and their color codes will be RED and GREEN. These coaches will transport personnel taking Optional Tour #2 to the Continent. Group "C" is color coded BLUE, and the personnel in the BLUE coach will be taking Optional Tour #1 around England, Southern Wales and Scotland. You are respectfully requested (damned near ordered) to stay with your assigned coach throughout the tour. Everyone who requested room or seats in the same coach have been accommodated, except when they are not on the same optional tours. Since there are only two instances on the entire trip when the various groups will not be housed in the same hotels, we should have very little problems about not being together. There is only one other item in connection with the coaches. When we land at London's Heathrow Airport and have passed through Immigration and

TRIP (Con'td from Page 1)

Customs, you will be greeted by David Wade Ltd. Couriers (and David Wade himself, who is making the tour with us), carrying large signs and wearing large lapel buttons. The driver of your color coded coach will attach a matching colored ribbon to the handle of your luggage, so that upon arrival at our hotel(s), the porter will need little instruction. (2) Backtracking to the landing at Heathrow Airport, I would like to explain the need for your full cooperation. Due to the number of International Airport bombings over the last few years, Security Officers at Heathrow are extremely careful about the "mass movement" of baggage, especially when the owner is not visibly responsible for it. For this reason, all persons are required to claim their own bags and escort them through Customs themselves. There are usually many trolleys and carts available (free of charge), or you can have individual porter service. NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DECLARE, I.E., NO GIFTS, LIQUOR, ETC., YOU SHOULD EXIT CUSTOMS THROUGH THE GREEN CHANNEL Follow your Courier's instructions and board the coaches immediately. You can all rearrange your seating after you are on the way. Once everyone is on board and accounted for (Please, Lord, don't let us lose anyone this early.), we'll depart for the drive through the City of London, into the Essex countryside, and on into the Ipswich area, stopping enroute for coffee. We will arrive at our hotels about lunchtime. Coaches "RED" and "GREEN" will proceed to the POST HOUSE HOTEL in Ipswich, while Coaches "YELLOW" and "BLUE" will continue on to the ORWELL MOAT HOUSE HOTEL in Felixstowe. about 12 miles southeast of Ipswich. There is not a hotel in Ipswich capable of taking a group as large as ours. All hotels and addresses, including telephone numbers are on a separate page of the Newsletter. The Commander of the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing at Bentwaters RAF Station has invited us for a tour of the base. We will arrive there about 1600 hour and return to our hotels at approximately 1930 hour. This is a great opportunity for our group to see

a United States Air Force first line of defense unit overseas. You might also meet someone from your own town or state, and be able to carry a message back home to his or her family. On Tuesday, 7 September, Groups "A" and "C" depart their hotel at 0830, while Group "B" coaches depart the Post House a 0900. Driving via Needham Market, Elmswell and Great Ashfield, we arrive at All Saints Church for a Memorial Service presided over by the Vicar, the Reverend Christopher Leffler. The new flag will be blessed and the old flag returned. This flag will be presented the following night to the "Friends of the Eighth" (FOTE) to be placed in the 8th AAF Museum that will be opened the following week at Duxford Airfield, a short distance from Cambridge. As a 385th Bomb Group flag that has flown continuously since 1945 in England, it will be presented to FOTE in honour of our present Vice President, Frank P. Marano, who, in 1945, arranged for our Memorial Alter in All Saints Church. Frank's lovely wife, Kathleen, is an Ipswich girl. Following the ceremony at the church, a coach tour will be made of the old base. The two new owners of the property have given us permission. Following that, a Civic Reception is being held for us at the superbly renovated Corn Exchange in Ipswich. The Mayor of Ipswich, The Mayor of Stowmarket and The Mayor of St. Edmondsbury and their wives/husband have been invited to attend. Incidently, BBC television and the news media will cover most of our trip. During this month, your Editor received a telephone call from Miss Margaret Hall, a top feature reporter for the London Daily Mirror, which has the largest circulation in England. She stated that she and a photographer have been assigned to this occasion. Mr. Peter Cole, from the East Anglian Daily Times, also wrote me, requesting the name of old friends around Great Ashfield. That paper will cover the trip, but will also do several feature articles on our old friends before we arrive. He stated that a reporter and photographer will also cover the Civic Reception. Following the reception, (Next page)

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TRIP (Cont'd)

we will take a short tour of the "olde this occasion. Since this Newsletter 'orlde" villages of Suffolk, including Kersey and Lavenham. The Bar at the Swan may not be open to see the portrait of General Frederick Castle, but David Wade is trying to arrange for a few of our party to get inside and see have a wonderful evening of friendit. Failing that, we might arrange a pub crawl for the evening and go back to Lavenham. (3). On Wednesday morning the coaches will be loaded with our baggage. Group "A" and "C" will depart Felixstowe at 0900, while Group "B" coaches will depart Ipswich at 0930 for the trip to Bury St. Edmunds. We should arrive around 1030 hour. The day is perfect for the ladies, since it is Market Day. There will be time to visit the Abbey Gardens and also the Cathedral (where one of the kneelers has an embroidered insignia of the 385th. (Not too many people know that). After lunch we will take-off for the horse racing center of Newmarket for a short visit before proceeding on to Cambridge. Since we have taken over the entire hotel, it will be late in .he afternoon before we will get into the place. It's possible we will walk around the college and university area for awhile. In the meantime, the coaches will proceed to the hotel and baggage unloaded in our pre-registered rooms. There is an indoor heated pool and a golf course at the hotel. The hotel can provide the clubs. But in the evening starting at 1930 hour, the bar will be opened on a cash bar basis for about an hour before dinner. This is the dinner where we will entertain members of FOTE, who incidently, will also have exhibits in the lobby and lounge. The cost per person for this five course dinner, including a glass of white wine for the first course and two glasses of fine red wine with the main course, is \$13.00 per person. The price includes costs for our guests. LADIES, PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The men will be in informal dress, but your choice of dress should include the following considerations. (a) You re limited to 44 pounds of baggage each. (b) Many of the finer restaurants require rather formal attire. (c) It is your Editors opinion that either

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semi-formal dress or short or long evening dress will be appropriate for also goes to our 385th Associate FOTE members overseas, I am sure their wives understand the problems involved with travelling and clothing. Since the entire hotel is booked to us, we should making, food fellowship and rough hangovers. Save some energy for the repacking of your luggage for another start the next morning. (4). Thursday morning, 9 September, we will travel to Madingly, the site of the Cambridge American Military Cemetary. At 1000 hour, USAF Chaplains from Alconbury and Lakenheath RAF Stations, will conduct Memorial Services at the base of the Flagpole. Mr. Joseph Cetola, the Superintendent of the Cemetary, has stated he will do everything within his power to assure a successful ceremony and visit. The services will last approximately 30 minutes, following which you can visit the buildings and graves located on and in this most serene and beautiful 30½ acres of USA, donated to our country by Cambridge University. The long wall of remembrance contains the names of 5,125 men, mostly Army Air Force, but also those men who lost their lives in the battle of the Atlantic, or in preparatory training in the United Kingdom, and even some from the Battle of Normandy. The hallowed ground holds 3,811 fallen comrades. Every Memorial Day, the Royal Air Force flies over this area and drops 3,811 flowers one for each hero resting below. We will then return to Cambridge for lunch or sight-seeing, but we will depart Cambridge for Stratford-Upon-Avon. For the Stratford tour, David Wade is providing a professional Stratford-Upon-Avon Guide, but since entry fees here have been inflated (an all entry ticket now costs about \$2 per person) it is best if each Courier explains the overall tour. The Royal Shakespeare Theatre claims there is such a heavy booking for the next few evenings, about the only seats available will be in the five pound (\$9.00) class. The theatre is presenting "Much Ado About Nothing", and our Drama Critic, in the shortest

(Page 4)

			HOTE	LS					
DATE	<u>s</u>	GROUP "A" (YELLOW)	(RED) GROUP	"B" (GREEN)	GROUP "C" (BLUE)				
6 & 7 Sep		Orwell Moat House Hotel Hamilton Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, England. TEL:(03942) 5511	London Roa Ipswich, S England.	The Post House Hotel London Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, England. TEL: (0473) 212313					
8 S I	ep	The Cambridgeshire Hotel	TEL: (0954) 80555.						
9 &	10 Sep	The Stratford-Upon-Avon Hilton, Bridgefoot, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England. TEL: (0789) 67511.							
11 &	12 Sep	The Piccadilly Hotel, Piccadilly St., Piccadilly, London, WIV OBN, England. TEL: (01) 734 8000							
13 S	ep	The Piccadilly Hotel Piccadilly, London, W1V OBN, England TEL: (01) 734 8000	The Alpha Hotel Europa Boulevard 10, Amsterdam, 1011 Holland TEL: (20) 44 28 51	(Adda) Park Hotel 25 Stadhouderskade Amsterdam, Holland TEL: (20) 71 74 74	Bristol, BS1 3AD, England				
14 S	ep	(SAME)	Brussels-S Place Rogi 1000 Bruss Belgium TEL: (02)	els,	Braithwaite Hotel Braithwaite, Keswick Cumbria, England TEL: (059682) 444				
15 S	ep	(SAME)			The Post House Hotel Corstophine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 6UA, Scotland TEL: (031) 334 8221				
16 S	ep	(SAME)	(SAME)		Royal Station Hotel Station Road, York, YO2 2AA, England TEL: (0904) 53681				
17 S	ер	The Piccadilly Hotel, Piccadilly Street, Piccadilly, London W1V OBN, England. TEL: (01) 734 8000.							
18 S	ep	Depart for Heathrow Airport and the USA.							

Λ

revue ever written, stated, "That's Right"! If you don't want to make the payment in advance, perhaps we can get all the requests on the first day of the tour and get personnel to check on seat availability during the first 3 days of the week. (5). We will depart Stratford-Upon-Avon about 0800 hour on Saturday and drive directly to Windsor Castle. You may also stroll over the Thames footbridge to see Eton, the famed English school. From there we travel to Runnymede, where we will see the Kennedy Memorial and the Monument commemorating the Magna Carta. We will arrive in London in the early afternoon, since this will be the only time some people will have to shop. And now we have a great surprise. Since we will have stopped at all contemporary hotels throughout the week, David Wade thought you should be introduced into the traditional English hotel and he succeeded in getting us into the impressive Piccadilly Hotel, right in the heart of the West End. Just a two minute walk to Piccadilly Circus, 10 minutes to Soho, and 15 minutes to Buckinham Palace. If one would turn right on leaving the hotel, it is only a few minutes walk to Burlington Arcade or New Bond Street. There are few tours that ever find

lodgings in the very heart of London. The afternoon and evening are free and I hope to have a few of the shows th will be running in London at that time, so that we can request some advanced bookings. Sunday morning at 0930, a tour of London will start. Coaches should be back at the hotel by 1300. Meanwhile, since this is the last day of the world famous Farnborough Air Show, I have asked David Wade to try to arrange an Optional Trip to that If you have never seen an Air Show. Show at Farnborough, this is an opportunity to see showmanship at its best. If you have been there, it's chance to see the latest of everything in the field of aviation. (6). This is the end of the Memorial part of our trip. On the morning of the 13th of September, Group "A" will be on its own in London and will continue staying at the Piccadilly Hotel. or taking off on your own. Group "B" coaches will depart early for Felixstowe to board the Ferry Vessel for the five (5) hour crossing to Bel-From there they will proceed gium. to Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Normandy, Picardy and on to Calais, where, on 17 September, they will board the Ferry for the Channel Cross-(Page 5)

TRIP (Cont'd)

ing to Dover, England. The ferry departs at 1915 hours, but because of the time difference between France and England, you will arrive at Dover at 1945 hour after being on the vessel for 1½ hours. There is time on board to have dinner, relax at the bar, or watch the famous cliffs of Dover come into view. At our request, two great optional trips and an option activity has been arranged for this Group. On Tuesday morning in Amsterdam, a special one hour canal cruise will give you a "ducks-eye" view of this surprising city. (On the afternoon trip to Brussels you will visit a Gouda cheese farm, as promised). On Wednesday evening, an optional cruise on the Seine has been arranged. From the vessel you will see the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame Cathedral and many other famous sights. And then, on your last night in Paris, there will be an optional night out with a fine meal at a top flight restaurant (with all the wine you can drink), followed by a visit to the world famous night lub - The Moulin Rouge! The options will cost less than normal trips to the same spots, but remember, Paris is not McDonald's when it comes to prices. More full information on the options will be available from the Couriers. Friday night, 17 September, will be spent in the Piccadilly Hotel, London. (6). On 13 September, Group "C", will depart the Piccadilly Hotel at 0930 hour for the trip through Surrey, Hampshire and Wiltshire. The first stop is Stonehenge, one of the ancient wonders of the world and the stark stage for many Druid religious exercises. Lunch in Salisbury, where you will also see the beautiful Cathedral. Then on to the Roman City of Bath, where you will visit the old Roman Bath's. It is only a short trip to Bristol where you will remain overnight. Early Tuesday morning you will cross the River Severn on the massive Severn Bridge and enter Wales. You'll travel the windiest road you have ever been on, past towns with names that defy pronounciation. After crossing back into England to the city of Worcester, where you will take time out for lunch before travelling to Staffordshire and a visit to a famous

English pottery, where you will see how pottery is made. Later, after driving around Lake Windermere and Lake Thirlmere, you will travel to your lodging in Braithwaite. The next morning, you will backtrack into Keswick for some shopping and sightseeing. Heading across the hills, you travel around Carlisle to Gretna Green, where you will stop for coffee and biscuits. Off you will go through the Scots countryside to the old city of Edinburgh. You will be in the hotel in the early afternoon, in time for lunch. In the afternoon, a Resident Tour Guide will conduct a tour of the city to in-clude the Castle, Princes Street Gardens, Scotts Monument, Greyfriars Bobby and Holyrood Palace. The evening is for your own pleasures. The following morning is free for shopping along Princes Street or doing as you wish. Some might like to go to South Queensferry and see the Firth of Forth Bridge, the worlds first cantilever bridge. Around midday you will depart Edinburgh via A1, the ancient coastal road built by the Romans, passing Holy Island. where St. Aidan first brought Christianity to Britain. You will visit Bamburgh where you'll see the famous Castle and you will travel the most treacherous coastline in the East of Britain. The evening will be spent in York. The following morning, Friday, 13 September, is free for visiting the sights of this historic city. Stroll the narrow, winding lane, shop at quaint old stores, or visit the grandest of all English Cathedrals - Yorkminster! At 1330 hour you will depart York for Nottingham, famous for its lace. but even more famous for the escapades of Richard Green... Ops, I mean Robin Hood. Then down the M.1., the Motorway to London. You will be back at the Piccadilly Hotel in the early evening. Saturday morning will have a few hours free for shopping and then we are off to London's Heathrow Airport for our return to the USA. COURIERS WILL ASSIST THOSE STAYING IN LONDON FOR THEATRE AND OTHER BOOKINGS.

BODY TIME AND JET LAG

an an talan Andrew School S	TIME	ZONE	MEDICINE		(Dents)*
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A few years a keeping your As an example Pacific time Savings time 1800 and 2400 body time, re in England, t This may be a body, especia dysrhrthmia - tial and image body's biolog time changes. crews or cont and a few gui tips from PAN (1) Allow you exhaustion be have to carry loose and cor and use them increase bloc smoke as liti and make slee as possible. If you can't a last resort yourself. Re tion, which c (7) Freshen u Clean out the can't sleep y just good! (5) a two hour na (10) Remember it's psychosc are also adj functioning s the opportuni (*) Paris is Double David	<pre>igo, a USX pill-tax' ; if you ; zone, you in Englan) out in () out in () ad across ; ake your in and in the you in any me pical time . No one cant trave delines, in any me for your in fortable in fligh od circul the as po ping a ti This is relax, ci p before e sedimen when trave of dysrythi matic. L ustable. if your you your you in fortable in fligh od circul the as po ping a ti This is relax, ci p before e sedimen when trave of the your in fortable. is moothly. if y. Ford actually ght Savin</pre>	AF Flat ing at the set of the set	ght Surgi body tin n a pill 1 be flygi f you ta rnia, the at, souther known at 1400 r the 400 rn the 400 rn the to known at souther but with tarted. t	eon wrote an ar me and not at t regimen and li ing into Greenw ke pills at 060 en to keep your ading GDST. Wh , 2000, 0200 an it certainly h subjected to ci s jet lag. The cal upsets caus own off tempora this ailment - th a bit of com can help yours nstantino, an e o get to the ai (2) Don't overp rs are not avai he flight. Carr r toes and bend 't over-eat, ov ses can increas on. (5) Try to o combat time a to s a security lot of water p ified pressuriz oshing cold wat rary condition clocks, biolog rsonal attentio coks by resting u to have a hap incide with the S under the GD:	time zones. ve in the tich Daylight 10, 1200, bills on ten you are d 0800 hours. telps your readian real, poten- ted when the trily by fast not aircraft mon sense telf. Here are expert on jet-lag: rport and avoid ack. You might lable. (3) Wear ty soft slippers i your ankles to ter-drink, and te heart beat sleep as much cone fatigue. telse's, or as y blanket over prevents dehydra- ted cabin air. ted cabin air. ted cabin air. ted at least te first night. and sometimes pical clocks on to keep them

NEWS ON DUES

This is just about as small a space as I can find to narrow down the issue of annual dues and cost of operations. Ever since the small group of members tried to organize this Association back in 1956, the cost of operation fell on just a few persons who made donations whenever anything had to be done. Those few person (and I admit I was not one of them) really carried the ball and made it possible keep the organization together by a very thin thread. Many men were too busy earning a living to even participate, and over the years, fewer and fewer changes of address were sent in to the Officers of the Group. Atlanta was my first reunion and I ended up with a job to do. As Secre-tary, my first job was to purify our mailing list. After the first mailing, approximately 290 addresses were good, and the other mail was returned. That is when most of you went to work and helped me with corrections and new names. The first Newsletter was six pages and at the prices quoted then, it was suggested that \$3.50 would cover two years mailing. Then our mailing and printing costs increased and the letter grew to eight pages. In order to get better mailing rates, a Constitution and By Laws were drawn up and ratified. And that is where I can get down to the "nitty-gritty" of this editorial. Only about fifty percent of our present 585 valid members seem to have read the first sentence of Section 3, Article VI, on page 6, wherein it is

stated that "The annual dues for members of this Association will be three (3) dollars." I am now appealing to those who can afford to pay the dues to please do so. We have the lowest dues of any Reunion Group and would like to keep it that way. Those members who have made donations since the first Newsletter, were credited with \$3.00 for dues and the balance as a donation. We are striving to give you full value for your money, and all you are being asked to do is keep the "green' flowing, so there's no "red" in the books.

THE PREZ SEZ:

To all Val's Valients and Friends:

Can you believe that a year has passed since our 5th Reunion in Atlanta last April? Much has happened since then.

The Memorial Trip to England has developed from dream to reality. We owe so much to so many people for the help they provided in firming up the plans: Leo LaCasse, Roger Palmer, Frank Marano, to name a few, but the person who should get the credit for guiding this effort is John Ford. He has done a magnificent job in seeing it through all the way.

John Ford is also due credit for getting the Organizational Meeting off the ground. We are now (or soon will be) a bonafide non-profit outfit, giving us many benefits.

Many people had input into the development of our Constitution and BY LAWS. Sixteen of us met in Atlanta on February 11th, to formulate our first papers of organization.

Now plans are shaping up for the 6th Reunion in Las Vegas. Charles C. Smith, who hosted the successful Atlanta Reunion, and his committee are working with Arkey Huber to make this another outstanding meeting.

I hope to see you all in England come September, but if you cannot make it, I expect to see you in Las Vegas. "You all come!"

(Signed)

Vince Masters President

DECEASED

DR. DANIEL P. ELSTON

The members of the 385th BGRA extend their sympathy to Mrs. Beryl, and son Daniel P. Elston Jr., upon the sudden death of their husband and father during the month of July. He will be remembered in our Memorial Services in ingland. The Elston family had been scheduled to make the trip with us. **3 SPACES**

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There are three vacancies available on the Group "A" (England-London) part of the England Memorial Trip. The total cost is \$499.00 for airfare (pro-rata), hotels, breakfast (Continental), V.A. T. (Value Added Tax) and services. The luncheon on 7 September (less wine), is also included. To participate, you must be a qualified member, or the wife and dependents of a qualified member, you must have a valid passport, and you must call the Editor at (301) 449-6382 as soon as possible in order to have you name entered on the flight manifest. It cannot be later than 10 August 1976, and you must have your passport. The PAN AM aircraft is a bonafide affinity charter and each person traveling must pay his or her equal share of the aircraft costs. That amounts to \$259.00 per person based on 180 passengers. In the event three or less seats are not filled, the following table explains the increased costs per person:

\$259 x 3 = \$777 ÷ 177 = \$4.39/person 259 x 2 = 518 ÷ 178 = 2.91/person 259 x 1 = 259 ÷ 179 = 1.45/person

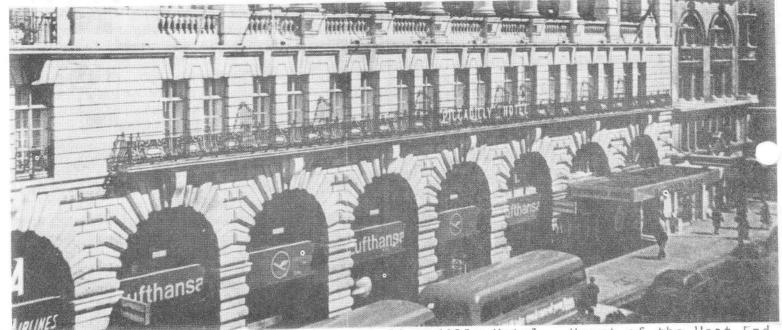
Persons scheduled for the flight are requested not to send in any additional monies. If addition costs are assessed, they will be collected on the flight enroute.

ENGLAND

Hopefully, the Association Roster, as of 3 March 1976, will be printed and included with this newsletter. If not, pleased send a stamped selfaddressed envelope or wait to the next issue of Newsletter.

BICENTENNIAL TRIBUTE

In every sense, this Memorial Trip to England is the 385th Bombardment Group Reunion Association's finest way of celebrating the Bicentennial of the USA. In 1956, while stationed at Hq. Third Air Force in South Ruislip, England, General George C. Marshall came to Cambridge to dedicate the Military Cemetary there. His words will never be forgotten! "With all my heart, I believe that no one who left a son overseas should doubt the fittingness of his final resting place. That he should have, for time unending, a part of the ground he so dearly bought, is supremely right and fitting". Later in 1956, General Marshall further stated: "Something else is needed in addition to the serene areas and edificies. All of us are greatly indebted to the boys lying in these overseas cemetaries. In a higher sense, they are the sons of every free man. Therefore I ask that everyone who can - not just the war bereavedto visit these cemetaries and pay tribute". Our trip and Memorial Services at All Saints Church and at Madingly, Cambridgeshire, embodies an act of love and memory for those men, without whose sacrifice we might never have had the opportunity to celebrate this Bicentennial Birth Year. And remember, they are never forgotten by the English people on our Memorial Day. God bless them!



Our London Headquarters - Traditional Piccadilly Hotel - Heart of the West End

385th BGRA NEWSLETTER John C. Ford, Editor 7204 Easy Street Camp Springs, MD, 20031

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL