

Travel Committee Report — **Following the Bedford Boys**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 24

7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, November 5

7:00 p.m. – Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, November 21

Time & Location to be determined – “A Taste of France” Member Event

Wednesday, January 15, 2004

Time & Location to be determined – Annual Meeting of Members

Vice-President Jack Gross and Gloria Gross are, once again, taking on the leadership roles for developing the next Bedford International Alliance trip to Europe. They are supported by a broad group of well-traveled and excited Alliance members.

This very important trip will coincide with the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day landings and will follow the Bedford soldiers of Company A from the USA to England and to France. Initial planning efforts are below and reflect a well-thought plan for this historic commemoration.

The Bedford International Alliance, Inc., Travel Committee has been very busy planning a trip to Normandy next June for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day. The theme of the trip is, “Following The Bedford Boys.”

TENTATIVE TRIP PLANS

We will leave Bedford on Wednesday, June 2nd, and return Saturday, June 12th. Our tentative plans are to fly to London, visit Ivybridge and Slapton Sands (where the troops trained for the liberation invasion) and then ferry across the English Channel to Normandy. After spending three days with host families and participating in the 60th Anniversary activities, we will return to London on the Eurostar

Travel Committee

**Jack and Gloria Gross,
Chairmen**

Tom and Connie Messier

Joe and Liz Beverly

Al Vincent

Kathleen Wilkerson

Teresa Stanley

Lucille Boggess

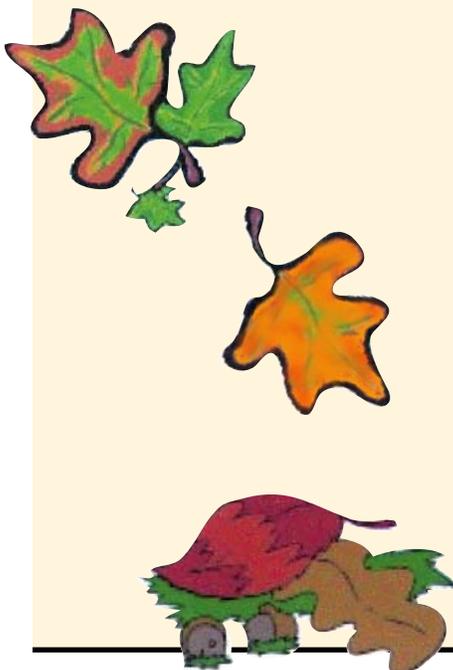
train via the Channel tunnel for three days of sightseeing in the London area before returning to Bedford.

START PLANNING NOW

So that folks can plan ahead, we feel it is important to provide this general “heads up” to the membership concerning the trip and information on how the Travel Committee will handle the registration process. While the details aren’t complete yet, we feel there will be sufficient interest to quickly fill the limited space available.

This trip is **not** a commercial travel excursion; it is entirely planned and conducted by Alliance volunteers. Each one of us is responsible for ourselves and our luggage! Our motto is, “Travel is an adventure.”

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Following the Bedford Boys

—continued from front page

ELIGIBILITY

The trip is open **only** to paid-up Alliance members. It is still too early to get firm prices; however, we estimate the cost to be approximately \$2,000 per person. This includes all transportation, lodging, some meals, and certain group activities. All “free” tickets, group discounts, etc. are rolled back to the benefit of all Alliance travelers. We all pay the same price. We will also be traveling with four students and two teachers from Bedford County Schools.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Here’s how you will be able to sign

up for this marvelous opportunity: later this fall, the Travel Committee will send a letter to the membership describing the trip. It will include details on where to send your \$500 per person deposit. Reservations will be taken in order of receiving the deposit.

A PART OF OUR MISSION

You may ask, “Why are we going on this trip?” Perhaps there is no one single answer, but it can best be summarized in the Alliance’s Mission Statement, which states in part...

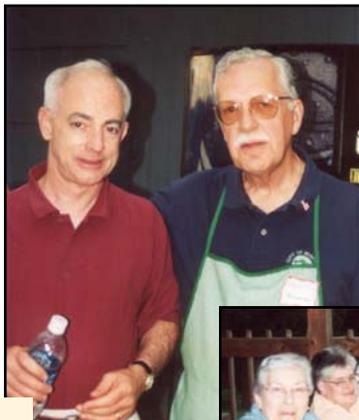
“...Its mission is to pursue and cultivate educational exchanges and twinning alliances with communities whose history and traditions reflect themselves in the life of greater Bedford. Toward that end, its broad

operational objectives are: To develop, for a range of audiences, international educational initiatives that will stimulate intellectual curiosity and promote a love of learning; to foster international, history-based visitation to and from Bedford both for groups and for individuals; and to buttress, supplement and enhance, as resources and circumstances permit, public and private initiatives that expand educational opportunities in and attract visitation to Bedford City and County.”

So, keep your eye on your mailbox...consider joining us on this exceptional odyssey!

Bastille Day Picnic

On Saturday, July 12th, the members of the Bedford International Alliance, Inc. joined together for the 3rd Bastille Day picnic celebration at Liberty Lake Park. A large gathering feasted and shared travel memories. Once again, Board Chairman Tom Messier served as a cook and to this day it appears that everyone in attendance is still alive to talk about the event.



Alliance members visit USS Normandy

The Bedford area is unique in many respects, but it has become more unique through the twinning with the USS Normandy, a guided missile cruiser with the U.S. Navy, formerly a member of the George Washington Battle Group during the Iraq war. Several Bedford International



Alliance members and staff from the National D-Day Memorial visited the ship on June 16th when it was in port at the Norfolk Naval Station. The Navy took our crew into the Atlantic Ocean and, while touring the ship, provided time for several to fire the big guns. That should send a strong message to any foreign adversaries or terrorists groups. To find out more about the USS Normandy, visit www.normandy.navy.mil, which has information about these types of battleships.

U.S. Navy Chaplain Greg Cates has worked closely with City Manager

Craig Meadows in developing this unique relationship. Bedford City Council and the Bedford County Board of Supervisors have recognized this as an official twinning relationship. Future plans call for sailors from the USS Normandy to travel to Bedford to perform work at the National D-Day Memorial and, hopefully, spend some time in Bedford. This may be an opportunity for Alliance members and Bedford citizens to open their homes to house members of our Armed Forces. As these ventures develop, the Board of Directors will be seeking your assistance and involvement.



Ivybridge, England

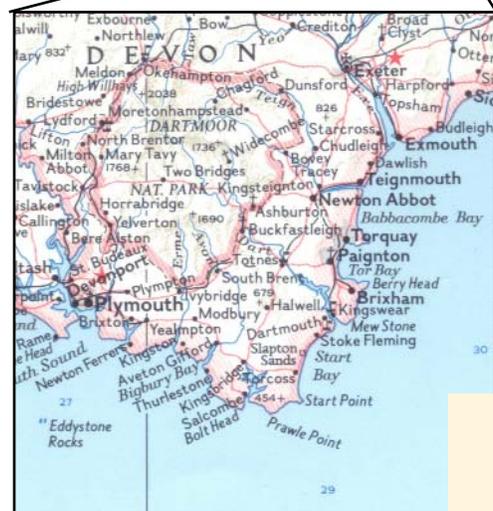
The old mill town of Ivybridge is right on the doorstep of 368 square miles of the Dartmoor National Park - stretching north from Ivybridge to Okehampton and east from Tavistock to Bovey Tracey. Proof of its fascinating and ancient history lies scattered over the land in the form of Bronze Age settlements and burial grounds, whilst the remains of Iron Age hillforts skirt the edge of the moor. Many granite tors loom up from its surface. Wild flowers grow



in abundance and with its vast moorlands, woods, rivers, streams and reservoirs, Dartmoor is a haven for the many animals that live there. Buzzards and rabbits are easily spotted, but not so easy to see are the timid deer and the shy otters splashing in the streams and rivers. The ponies that roam freely are not wild but belong to local farmers with grazing rights.

Being the southern gateway to Dartmoor, Ivybridge is a brilliant centre for walkers to explore the beautiful Erme Valley and continue along the Erme Plym Trail to Plymouth or the South Devon Coast. It is also the start – or finish, depending on your point of view – of the Two Moors Way, the 102 mile trail which crosses Dartmoor to the north of Exmoor.

Easily reached from the A38 Devon Expressway, Ivybridge offers good shopping facilities and a leisure centre with both indoor and outdoor pools.



It's your organization...get to know it better!

Your Officers and Directors Bedford International Alliance

Below are the individuals who have been elected by the membership to serve as Directors for the Alliance. Also, the officers as elected by the Board of Directors are listed. If you have any questions, or wish to find out more about involvement with the Alliance to help build the organization and its programs, please feel free to contact anyone below and especially an officer responsible for the area in which you may be interested.

2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| 1 Year Directors Term Expires 12/31/03 | 2 Year Directors Term Expires 12/31/04 | 3 Year Directors Term Expires 12/31/05 |
|--|--|--|
| Lee Ann Carr | Pride Wingfield | Lucille Boggess |
| Nancy Johnson | Connie Messier | Joe Humphreys |
| Bill McIntosh | Jack Gross | Helen Pope |
| John G. Overstreet | Will Berry | Charlene McFall |
| Milton Graham | Tom Messier | Danny Johnson |
| Kirby Richardson | Kathy Tharp | Gloria Gross |
| Ruby Shields | Skip Tharp | Bob Bashore |
| Meg Ballard | Mike Shelton | Julie Mayhew |
| Nanci Drake | Beverly Padgett | Craig Meadows |

2003 OFFICERS

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Chairman of the Board | Tom Messier |
| Vice-Chairman of the Board | Bob Bashore |
| President | Mike Shelton |
| First Vice-President – USS Normandy | Will Berry |
| Second Vice President – France | Jack Gross |
| Third Vice-President – England | Pearl Broesamle |
| First Secretary – Recording | Charlene McFall |
| Second Secretary – Communications | Milton Graham |
| Treasurer | Connie Messier |

Committees for 2003

Bedford/Woburn/ Ivybridge Unity Committee

**Vice-President Pearl Broesamle,
Chair**

Johnny Overstreet
Meg Ballard
Dave Ballard
Case Pieterman
Beverly Padgett
Kirby Richardson
Joe Humphreys
Janice Humphreys
Priscilla Gee

This committee has two distinct localities on which to concentrate to address relationship plans with – Woburn, England and Ivybridge, England.

Activities of this committee involve the ideas for contacts with Woburn and Ivybridge (who should they be, how should we go about establishing these contacts, developing the specifics on formal communications, and establish who the key people are), exchange information about the twinning efforts (determine what we should send to these two villages from Bedford, ascertain what information we may want from them, determine what type of educational information we want to exchange), and propose what the Board of Directors should do to build these relationships. Also, this committee should develop the ideas for information to be placed on the Alliance website, information to go to the membership, and how to promote this effort in the community.

Woburn is the location of the Woburn Abbey, which serves as the official home of the Dukes of Bedford. Bedford and Bedford County are named after the Fourth Duke of Bedford, John Russell. The village is located in Bedfordshire, England, approximately 50 mile north of London. Members of the Alliance in 1998 made an official visit to Woburn.

Ivybridge, England, is in Devonshire along the southwest part of England. It is here that the soldiers of Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment of the 29th

Infantry Division were encamped for training and deployment for the D-Day landings in Normandy, France. Ivybridge is close to Slapton Sands, the primary training area for the landings, and was the last place that our Bedford soldiers lived before June 6, 1944.

Bedford/Normandy Unity Committee

Vice President Jack Gross, Chair

Tom Messier
Connie Messier
Al Vincent
Lucille Boggess
Gloria Gross
Joe Beverly
Liz Beverly
Teresa Stanley
Kathleen Wilkerson

Continue to build the relationship with the Omaha Beach-Bedford Association. This very active relationship was first forged in 1997 and continues to strengthen to this day. The Alliance has traveled to the Omaha Beach communities in 1998 and 2002. Friends from Normandy have traveled to Bedford on 3 separate occasions in 2000, 2001 and 2002. There are eleven villages that have joined together to twin with Bedford. The communities are Vierville-sur-Mer, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, Colleville-sur-Mer, Asnieres-en-Bessin, Formigny, Louvieres, Colombieres, Englequesville-la-Percee, Trevieres, Criqueville-en-Bessin, and St. Pierre du Mont.

USS Normandy Committee

Vice-President Will Berry, Chair

Craig Meadows
Bill McIntosh
Nanci Drake
Barbara Parker
Joe Humphreys

This is a unique relationship with a United States Navy guided missile cruiser. The Chaplain and the Executive Officer of the USS Normandy made

contact with the City Manager in 2001 and have visited Bedford. A formal relationship has been established due to Bedford being the home community for the National D-Day Memorial. In June of this year, a contingent of Alliance members and representatives of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation visited the USS Normandy in Norfolk and spent time cruising the Atlantic Ocean. In exchange, it is planned for Bedford to host visits from the sailors and officers of the USS Normandy while they perform services for the National D-Day Memorial.

Student Exchange Policy Committee

**Vice-President Will Berry,
Chair**

Julie Mayhew
Helen Pope
Tom Messier
Bob Bashore
Sam Broesamle
Joy Bashore
Teresa Stanley

This committee is developing the guidelines and activities for ongoing student exchange programs with our British and French counterparts. The Alliance hosted a French college student, Anne-Claude Lebarbey, in 2001 in the home of Sam and Pearl Broesamle. In 2004, we plan to sponsor four Bedford students in traveling and learning in France and England. Our students will be directly involved with students from England, France and Germany during this exchange. Julie Mayhew and Helen Pope are leading the efforts to garner four enthusiastic Bedford area students to represent us in this important venture. This effort fulfills one of the major commitments of the Bedford International Alliance for education and youth involvement.

Membership Committee

Second Secretary Milton Graham, Chair
Kathy Tharp
Charlene McFall
Connie Messier
Lynn Scott

This committee works to stimulate growth and retention in membership by sending notices of dues payments to those in arrears since the previous year, developing membership information and developing methods to add new members to the Alliance and retain ongoing members.

Social Committee

First Secretary Charlene McFall, Chair
Helen Pope
Janice Humphreys
Tom Padgett
Joe Humphreys
Charlotte Vincent
Gail Davis

Develops and organizes the social activities of the Alliance. Determines the events to be held and the logistics, costs, facilities and invitees to such events. These events include the reception for the Annual Meeting of Members, Bastille Day Picnic, Beaujolais Nouveau Party and other social activities for the membership.

Home Stay Committee

President Mike Shelton, Chair
Charlene McFall
Teresa Stanley
Kathleen Wilkerson

Develops an active list of families to serve as hosts for foreign visitors coming to Bedford. Ascertain the number of homes necessary based upon visitors, the specific information about visitors and makes assignments of guests to homes accordingly. Generates interests within the community in serving as host families.

Newsletter/Member Information Committee

President Mike Shelton, Chair
Newsletter:
Connie Messier
Nita Holt
Web Site:
Kristen Youngblood
Jack Gross

Develops informative newsletters for the membership each year. Sets up and maintains the Alliance website at www.ci.bedford.va.us/alliance. Determines special news information that will be shared with the membership.

Bedford International Alliance, Inc.
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Bedford, Virginia 24523