



"HELL'S ANGELS" NEWSLETTER

VOLUME II NUMBER II

MARCH 1978

PLAQUES IN THE ATTIC

Headquarters, 3d Air Force, Office of Information recently received five WW II plaques from a British family who found them in their attic. I am writing in hope that some AIR FORCE Magazine readers may know the whereabouts of the original owners.

Housed in a pine presentation case lined in brown velvet, the plaques are in the form of a circular fifteen-inch mahogany frame, with plate glass (now cracked) face. The plaques bear the crest of the 303d Bombardment Group (H), and the inscription "Hell's Angels." They are engraved: "as presented by the Officers and Men of the 303d in June, 1945." The unit transferred from RAF Molesworth to Casablanca during that time frame, and the cracked plaques may have been abandoned, misplaced, etc.

The plaques are personalized to Lt Col John R. Martin, Maj Wm. C. Heller, Col James H. Wallace, Lt Col Wm. R. Calhoun, and Maj Glynn F. Schumake.

We would appreciate hearing from anyone with information on these individuals.

Lt Col Steve Hinderliter
 Director of Information
 Hq, Third Air Force
 APO New York 09127

(Printed in July 1977 issue of Air Force Association Magazine.)



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Rep. Glynn Shumake of Columbus, left, belatedly receives a plaque originally meant to be awarded in 1945. Col H.W. Miller made the presentation in a brief ceremony at the Columbus Air Force Base

yesterday. The cracked plaque, leaning against its mahogany case, lay unnoticed for 32 years in a farmhouse in England. The plaque was a commendation from the officers and men of the 303rd Bombardment Group (H) of the U.S. Army Air Force. Shumake, later promoted to colonel, was a major in the U.S. Army Air Force at the time.

SHUMAKE GETS PLAQUE-- 32 YEARS LATE

According to an old adage, some things are better late than never, and Rep. Glynn Shumake of Columbus must surely be a believer of that proverb.

About 32 years late, Glynn F. Shumake of Columbus will be presented a plaque that was awarded him during World War II.

The plaque, lost for the past three decades, was among five found in the attic of a farmhouse in Britain. The plaque is a commendation from Shumake's fellow officers and the men of the 303rd Bombardment Group (H) of the U.S. Army Air Force operating out of RAF Molesworth, England. Shumake, who was later promoted to colonel, was a major in the U.S. Army Air Force at that time.

When the family living in the farmhouse cleaned out their attic, it seems they came across the five plaques in a pine presentation case. The awards were engraved with the shield of the Bombardment Group and the inscription "Hell's Angels," which Shumake said was the group's nickname.

The plaques were to have been presented to the five officers in May 1945, but, unfortunately, at the time the presentation was to have been made, Shumake was in a prisoner of war camp in Europe.

He remained a prisoner for the last six weeks of the war.

When the plaques were finally discovered in the English farmhouse, the owners of the farmhouse turned the presentation case and plaques over to the Royal Air Force who then contacted the U.S. Air Force.

Hoping the plaques could finally be presented to their rightful owners, the 3rd Air Force Office of Information wrote a letter to the Air Force Magazine, widely read by military personnel.

The letter, printed in the "Air Mail" column of the July issue of the magazine, related the history of the plaques. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the five men, whose names were listed, was asked to contact the 3rd Air Force headquarters.

Col F.M. Hutchison, ROTC instructor at Lee High School, read the letter, and according to Shumake, called him and asked him if he had read the magazine.

"I had read the magazine," Shumake said. Hutchison then asked Shumake, "Did you notice anything funny about it?"

When Shumake said he hadn't, Hutchison told him to look at the letters column, and, said Shumake, "There I was among the names" of persons who were supposed to have gotten the plaques.

So Shumake wrote to Air Force headquarters, who forwarded the plaque to Columbus Air Force Base. Col H.W. Miller, 14th Flying Training Wing Commander at CAFB, will make the formal presentation to Shumake Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the base. Following the presentation, Shumake will answer questions from the press and then join Col Miller for lunch.

Sgt Al Johnson of the Columbus Air Force Base Public Information Office said out of the five officers who were to have gotten the plaques in 1945, three have been located. As to why the plaques were lost for so long, that's still pretty much a mystery. Sgt Johnson theorized that the plaques might have been left in the farmhouse when the Bombardment Group moved. During the war, he said, private homes were sometimes used as military headquarters.

So, after a rather lengthy delay, Glynn Shumake will finally get the commendation his fellow officers wanted him to have 32 years ago.

The plaque itself shows a few signs of the intervening years, said Sgt Johnson. There is a bit of a crack in the glass top, he said, but since Shumake probably never expected to get the plaque at all after all these years, he probably won't mind that the plaque, like an old soldier, carries a few battle scars.

TREASURED MEMENTO OF WORLD WAR II

It is nearly 35 years after the fact, but from the attic of a home in Molesworth, England, there came to a Rochester woman the other day a treasured memento of WW2.

It is a plaque. It was supposed to have been presented in 1943 to Col James H. Wallace (he later became a major general), commander of the 303rd Bombardment Squadron of the 8th Air Force.

Gen Wallace died in 1971 after 31 years with the military, but his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Wallace of Penfield, received the plaque--encased in a large wooden crate--from 3rd Air Force headquarters in England.

Mrs. Wallace, who was a lieutenant-colonel in the Women in the Air Force (WAF) before she met and married her husband, received a letter a while back from the information officer of the 3rd Air Force, saying that the plaque, along with four others, had been turned in by a British lady who found them in her attic.

"I suppose," said Mrs. Wallace, "that some officers were billeted in private homes when they went over there. Molesworth was an RAF base at that time. Although the plaques were made up by the officers and men of the 303rd, they never were presented. Maybe an air raid or something like that prevented it. Anyway, the lady finally found them and turned them over to the 3rd Air Force."

The U.S. Air Force somehow tracked down Mrs. Wallace in Penfield, and the plaque was shipped to her. "It should go to someone to whom it was meaningful," the letter said. It is meaningful to Mrs. Wallace.

It mentions the "Hell's Angels," the squadron's nickname; it underlines the "Might in Flight" of that B-17 bombing group; it is slightly damaged, but Mrs. Wallace hopes to have it repaired. And she is going to write to the English woman and thank her for unearthing it.

Mrs. Wallace herself has a solid military background. She was one of the first three women from the Rochester area who went into an Officers Candidate School class in WW2. She had worked at Rochester Savings Bank prior to then.

She went into the Air Force, spent most of her time working out of Mitchell Field, was offered a post as a USAF staff director but married Wallace in 1947 and left the service.

He was a career military man who was born and brought up in Washington, D.C., and had flown the mail on the west coast before the war.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS MEETING

(The following is a reprint of the minutes from the 303rd Bomb Group Association Officers & Directors Meeting of August 28, 1977.)

Meeting was held in the Ball Room of the Four Seasons Motel in Colorado Springs and called to order by President Charles McClain. Officers and Directors present were:

President Charles J. McClain
 1st Vice Pres. Wm. E. Eisenhart
 2nd Vice Pres. Richard C. Waggoner
 Treasurer Jos. Vieira
 Secretary Carl A. Hokans
 Directors: Harry Heller
 Harry Jenkins
 Richard Webster

A general discussion was held concerning the 3rd bi-annual reunion to be held in Dayton, Ohio, during the last week of August 1979 - specifically, Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Sunday - Aug. 29, 30, 31, and Sept. 1.

It was agreed that Richard E. Webster Reunion Chairman and Richard Waggoner (who lives in Cincinnati, Ohio) would contact Dayton people to arrange for the 1979 reunion site and other activities.

Regarding reunion expenses Charles McClain suggested, and it was agreed, that \$400.00 would be made available.

The 1979 reunion format was discussed and in addition to following the basic 1977 format suggestions were made as follows:

Richard Waggoner:

A program for the ladies such as a style show, bridge, etc.

William Eisenhart:

Door prizes should be included as well as a golf outing for the men.

It was agreed that the reunion committee would consider all of the foregoing and in addition would collect all monies for the 1979 reunion.

It was suggested and agreed that 3.5 hours would be scheduled for the next reunion business meeting.

A discussion developed concerning publicity. Publicity Chairman and Newsletter-Editor Harry Jenkins stated that he felt the news letter should be sent out as soon as possible and would try to have this done by mid-November 1977.

Concerning 1977 Reunion attendance, Charles McClain indicated that compared to 1975, there were 100 more in attendance and only 40 repeats.

Van White suggested that future reunion locations should be scheduled several years in advance, but it was decided that only the 1981 Reunion should be considered at this time. It was decided that San Diego, Calif. would be the Reunion site in 1981, to be held the last week in August.

After a motion was made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned by President Charles McClain.

Submitted by:
 Carl A. Hokans,
 Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Vieira, has submitted the following Treasurer's Financial Report as of December 31, 1977.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
1977	\$25,276.00	\$23,585.95	\$1,690.05
1976	2,235.00	893.25	1,342.51
1975	825.00	109.17	715.83
Subtotal		\$24,578.37	\$3,748.39
TOTAL	<u>\$28,336.76</u>	<u>\$28,336.76</u>	
Savings Account			\$2,000.00
Checking Account			1,748.39
TOTAL			<u>\$3,748.39</u>

Two plaques are still available for those members who would like to have both or one of them, you may contact Joseph Vieira. Cost is as follows:

7x9 plaque	\$15.75
3x5 plaque	\$4.75

Make checks payable to 303rd Bomb Group Association, and the following information is required, during your assignment with the 303rd Bomb Group, name, rank, squadron, and month and year of arrival and departure.

Both Thelma and I certainly had a ball and was very pleased to meet all you beautiful people who attended both of our reunions and we certainly are looking forward to meeting many more in our future reunions. We have been blessed with a lot of friends during our military career, and we are honored to consider those we have met as our friends. You are beautiful and special

people. Thank all of you for your cooperation in our last reunion and we are looking forward to October 1978 in Washington and Dayton, Ohio, August 23-26, 1979.

My wish for 1978, all members sign up at least one new member so that our next reunion will be better and greater in 1979.

Did you know that if you are 62 or older, you are entitled to the Golden Age Passport, which is free and good for all federally supervised national parks, monuments and recreation areas that charge entrance fees? For further information write to Consumer Information Center, Dept. 672E, Pueblo, CO 81009.

Submitted by:
Joseph Vieira,
Treasurer

THANKS

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to Mr. James Ferris for helping me with the newsletters. His enthusiasm has given me added incentive, and his interest and assistance has been invaluable. I sincerely think you, Jim!

Harry F. Jenkins
Publicity Chairman

LAPEL PINS

A lapel pin of the 303rd Bomb Group "Hell's Angels" in full color is available from Mr. Joe Vieira, 6400 Park Street, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

The pin is 1 1/4 inches in diameter and the price is \$1.50

"KRIEGIE CORNER"

Any P.O.W. wishing to get in touch with, or become associated with other P.O.W.'s should contact Dr. Carl J. Fyler, 510 Mills Bldg., Topeka, Kansas 66612.

Dr. Fyler is one of the National Directors of the South Central Region.

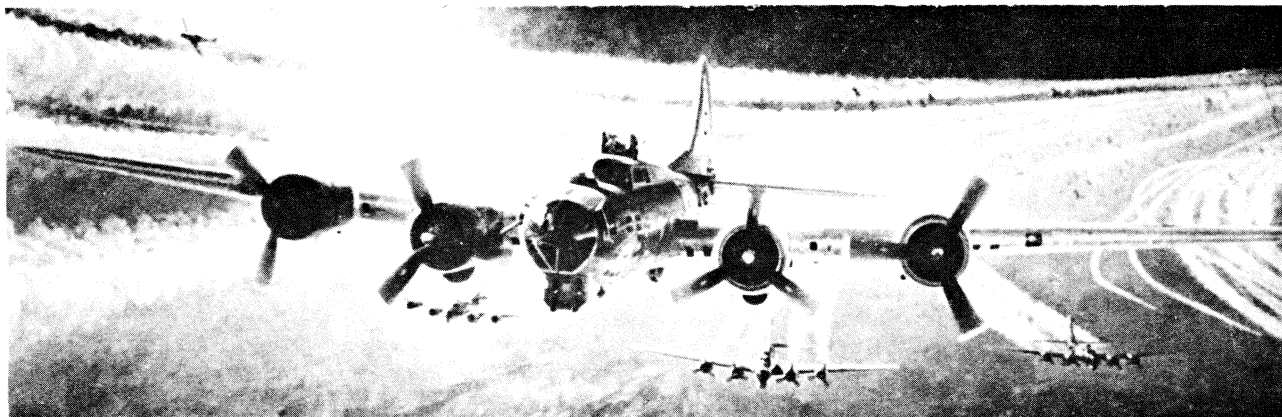
The 1978 National Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida July 17-22, 1978.

PICTURES

The group picture for Squadron #358 taken at Colorado Springs did not turn out due to camera malfunction.

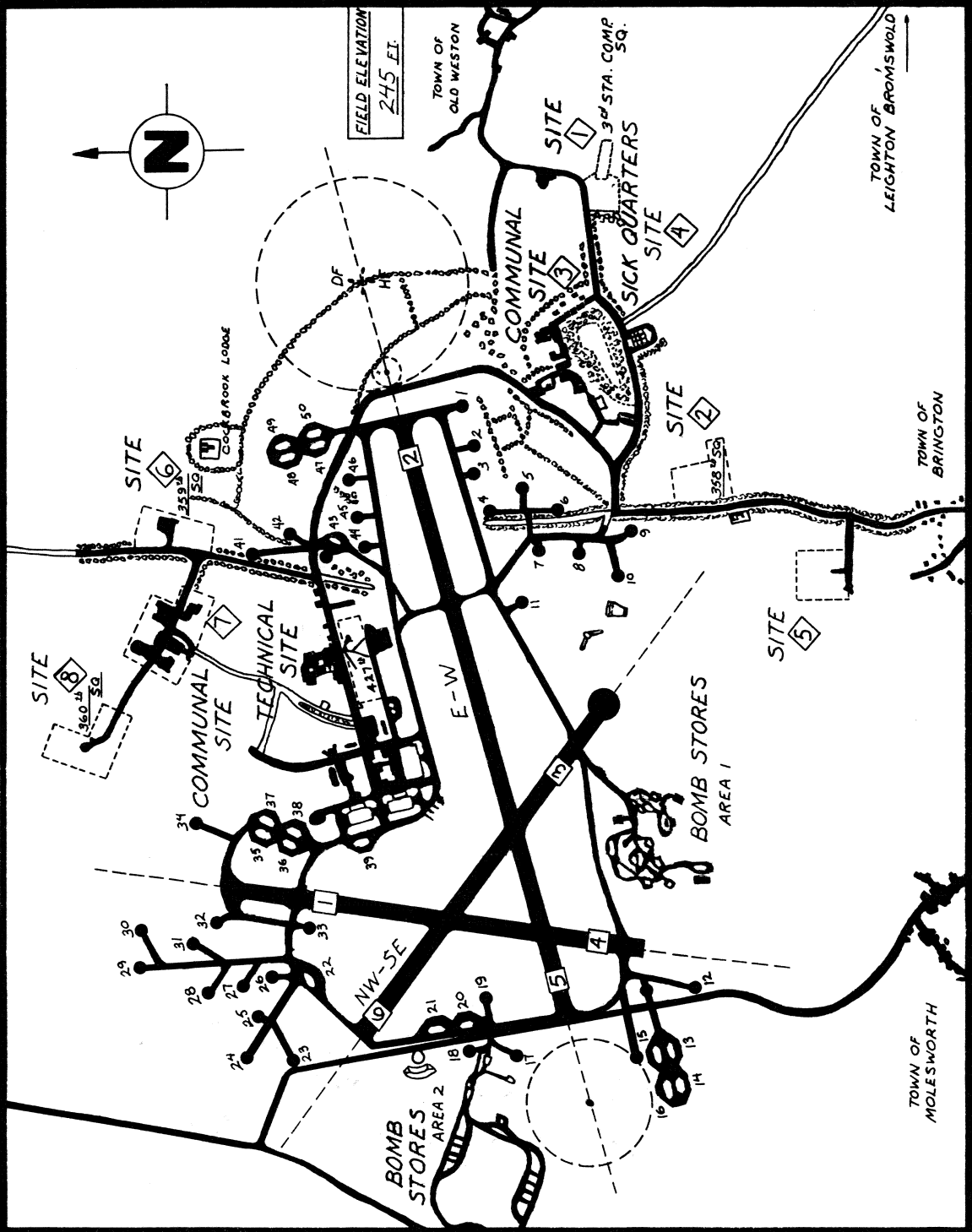
IN MEMORIUM

Richard E. Webster
125 Allen - Lake Pines
Laurel, Delaware 19956



This is a rendering of the mural Keith Ferris painted on the National Air and Space Museum wall. The Smithsonian tells us that posters of this painting should be available in 1978. In any case, the 303rd Bomb Group has invited Keith Ferris to be our guest at the D.C. reunion. 8 x 10 full color prints are available at \$5.00 each. The proceeds will be used to help cover the Ferris expenses. Send your check to Elmer Fessler, 3911 N.W. 173rd Terrace, Opa-Locka, Florida 33055.

MOLESWORTH AIRDROME



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

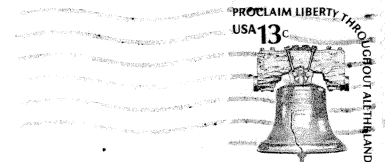
Please complete this form and mail it along with your check for dues (\$10.00 FOR FIVE YEARS DUES) to: Van White, 815 San Mateo S.E. Albuquerque, N.M. 87108. Make checks payable to: 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association.

DATE: _____ RETIRED MIL GRADE OR RANK: _____
 (If applicable)
 SQUADRON: _____ CREW OR DUTY _____
 (If flying and not pilot, give pilot's name)
 NAME: _____, _____, _____
 (LAST) (FIRST) (M.I.)
 ADDRESS: _____, _____
 (Street or Box #) (City)
 _____, _____, _____
 (State) (zip) (Phone)
 WIFE: (FIRST NAME): _____

 (Members signature)

(IF ALREADY A MEMBER SEND THIS TO ANOTHER 303RDER)

Harry F. Jenkins
 16414 Flanders St.
 Granada Hills, CA 91344



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED