



## 306<sup>th</sup> BG Museum

### Newsletter 11 - June 2021

Welcome all to the 306<sup>th</sup> Museum Newsletter here at Thurleigh.

First thank you, for all your feedback to the previous newsletter, I will incorporate these into this and future editions.

#### Museum Visits

Since the last newsletter, we have had some visitors to the museum.

On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, we welcomed visitors from the surrounding USAF bases and their families and we had very positive feedback from them all.



#### Memorial Plaques

We would like your feedback on our idea to add a Memorial wall outside of the museum, this will be a Brass Plate fixed to the wall, around the size of 20cm x 7.5cm(approx. 8" x 3"), the wording will be open, so you can honour the person you are commemorating. We have yet to work out a cost for this, so be interested on your thoughts if this is something we should pursue.

#### Galsey Wood - from Ammunition Dump to Nature Reserve (by Mike Dobson)

When the 306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group of the United States 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force moved into Thurleigh Airfield in the autumn of 1942, an existing and useful attribute was Galsey Wood. Military doctrine is always to keep weaponry hidden from prying eyes and in those days, the most likely prying eyes were from aerial reconnaissance. Situated on the north-western boundary of the Airfield, outside of the perimeter track and well away from the domestic areas, the Wood provided an ideal location for the storage of weapons, and it was there that explosives and ammunition were kept. An exception was that of the larger bombs which,



because of the need for access by heavy vehicles, were stored on concreted surfaces adjacent to the Wood and covered by camouflage netting structures.



### The Camouflaged Thurleigh Bomb Store, 1943

One of the original brick-built buildings used for the storage of explosives now houses the 306th Bomb Group Museum.



### Handover of "Building 185" for the Museum, circa 2000

When in 1946 the Airfield was rebuilt to provide the flight research facility for the Royal Aircraft Establishment, part of Galsey Wood was removed, a new roadway was laid and the building, which is now the Museum, was exposed. From that day to this, the Wood has not been used except that of its return to Nature, and, as such, it is now preserved for that purpose.



Providing a picturesque backdrop to the Museum, Galsey Wood remains a natural area, which in May each year abounds with spring flowers - bluebells, primroses and cowslips. However, in 2021, access was denied for other reasons!



**Galsey Wood in 2021 with an original 1940s hardstanding.**

**Bomb Trolley**

To make a feature of the original Bomb Trolley we have outside of the Museum we are looking for Replica WW2 500lb/1000lb Bombs.

If you have any suggestions on how we can recreate these then please contact us.

We at the Museum wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you again.

If you have some article's you wish to contribute to the newsletter or some Donations to display in the Museum or even if you have the layout of "Building 185" then please contact us.

**Mark**