



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

### Newsletter 12 – Sept 2021

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

There has been a significant gap since my last communication, and for that, I apologise, but I am glad to report that during this time, the Museum has been very busy.

#### Museum Visits

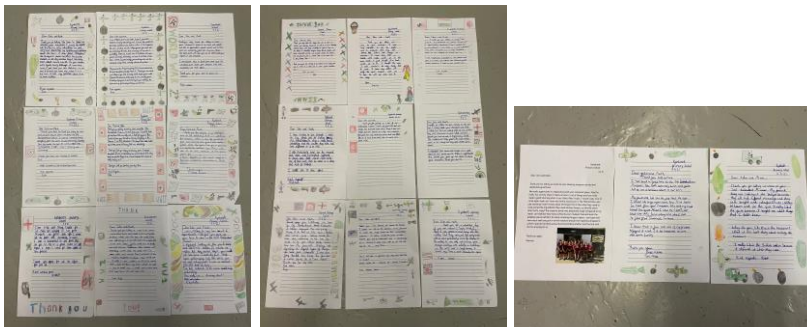
Volunteers from the surrounding American Airbases joined John and myself in the upkeep and maintenance of the Museum. The volunteers participated in cutting the grass, painting and putting together a memorial bench, they expressed their wish to continue visiting and helping out when we require.



We also had Kymbrook and Thurleigh schools come up to the museum as they are studying this term World War 2, Kymbrook will be looking at the Pathfinders and Thurleigh are researching co-pilot Leo R Kisamore who's medals were found actually at the school. The Museum has agreed to display their presentations on Leo.

Both Schools had a great day, listening to John and Myself and completing the Museum quiz which all participated in with eagerness, and I think we all learned something new.

It was also very heartening to receive thank you letters from the Children.





## **Birthday for Thurleigh Station 111**

The 306<sup>th</sup> was assigned to the Eighth Air Force in September 1942 and was known as Station 111. Therefore, this means Sept 2021 we are looking at 79 years of a presence at the Airfield. It also means in Sept 2022, we will be celebrating 80 years, so if you have any suggestions of how we can celebrate and honour the personnel of the 306<sup>th</sup>, then please let us know.

## **First mission – 9<sup>th</sup> October 1942 – Locomotive Works - Lille**

It was not long after arriving in Thurleigh that the 306<sup>th</sup> were sent on their first mission, 24 B17's took off from Thurleigh between 07:32-08:14 and arrived over the target at 09:30 – 09:48. All of the squadrons took part and the 306<sup>th</sup> suffered their first loss when Captain Olson's plane was seen to lag behind with the no1 engine on fire. It was immediately attacked by 6-8 enemy planes, which took out engine no2, it was shortly after this the plane lost height and descended in a slow spiral and then in a vertical descent. Witnesses saw one parachute before the plane hit the ground.

It was also witnessed that while the stricken plane was heading to earth and the top turret gunner was aware of his fate, he was seen to be firing at enemy planes of which one was hit and shot down, T/Sgt Erwin C. Wissenback was credited with destroying the enemy plane.

The museum is there to always, honour, those that finished their missions and that survived the war, but also to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. The Museum is where they can still speak and tell their stories for generations to come.

## **Scale (ish) Model**

One of the next projects at the Museum is to recreate the Airfield in 3D, if anyone has a good detailed layout of the Airfield we can use, or how to obtain one, please get in touch.

The Mystery of the SAA (Small Arms building) the Museum is set in and its official number continue to bemuse we have in the previous newsletter it showing "Building 185" and in other layouts it shows as "Building 156", so if anyone can help 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 just need a chat then we are always available.

We are looking to make next season (2022) our best yet so please help us spread the word.

**Mark**