

306th Bomb Group Museum, Thurleigh

Newsletter No.9, July 2020



Hallo friends, by any standards 2020 has, so far, been a lousy year and prospects for the rest of it don't look much better. Disappointing for the Museum as it has not been possible to open for visitors, particularly following the success achieved last year, the first under the new management regime. But that's the way it is in this biological war which we are all fighting! Hopefully things will be back to normal next year!

However we have not been entirely stationary in the background with great efforts being made, amongst other things, to get access to the Museum's bank account which has gone something like this: Bank; "We need Ralph's signature", Response; "yes but he died", Bank; "Yes, but we need his signature", Response; "But he died" and so on ad infinitum! Anyhow, it seems that success has, at last, been achieved! We must acknowledge the continuing help in resolving this from Ray [Ralph's son] who has moved away from the area.

Work had continued within the Museum with some re-arrangement of the artefacts with the view to improving the continuity of the story as visitors walk through. John W-R has been instrumental in this as he has in his continuing tending of the grounds surrounding the Museum.

This brings me to the logo, as it appears above, and to this month's challenge to our readers. You will see that the logo is surrounded by a copper-coloured ring. Three such artefacts were recently dug up by John not far from the door of the museum. Two have been retained in their "dug-up" state while the third, shown here has been fettled back more into its obvious original circular shape and polished up a little.

Clearly, I think, it is a gasket from an engine with individual cylinder "pots", typically as in the Wright Cyclone air-cooled B17 engine, and the Pratt and Whitney Radials. However, its internal diameter is 100mm [approximately] which, fitting round the base of the pot would indicate a cylinder bore diameter of about 90mm, too small to have come from any of those US engines. So, is it perhaps from a motorcycle engine, Harley or Indian? There dear reader, is your challenge, identify the gasket!

Another happening is that your scribe has produced a small 45-page book entitled "United States Army Air Force Station 111 Thurleigh 1942 to 1945". Not intended to upstage any of the other excellent writings on the subject, it is simply a collection of some 61 photographs of the wartime Station with a little bit of narrative here and there to help things along. Intended to be sold through the Museum, it is priced at £5.00 [plus any p&p] and can be ordered through mike@mddobson.co.uk.

The "commercial" done, that's all folks so "stay safe". Mike D.