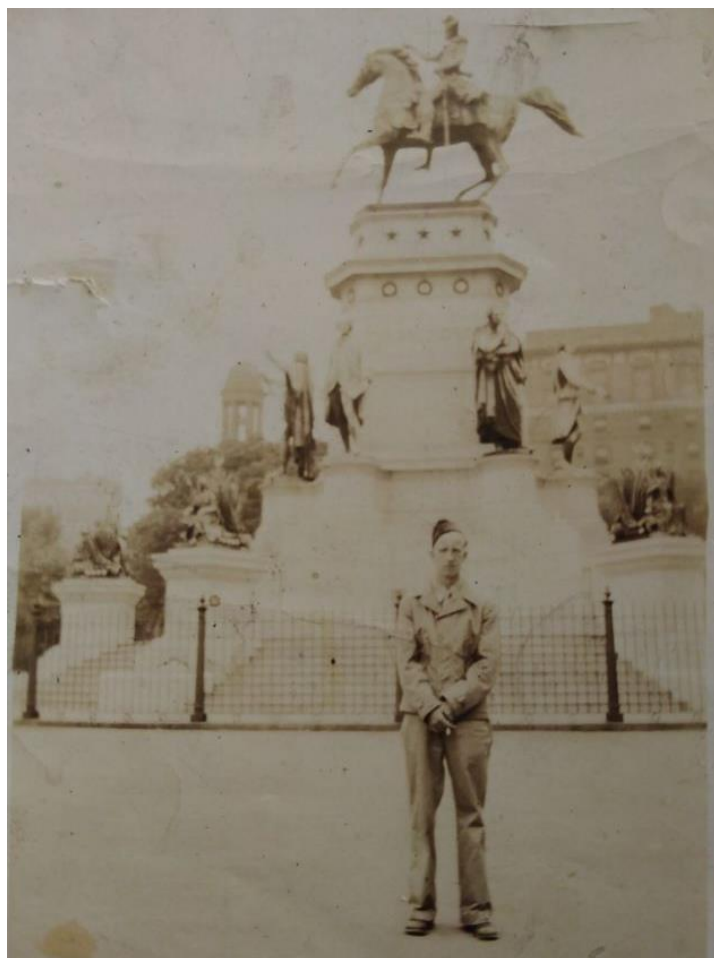


Iain Walker & Uwe Benkel

Get it Home United & Arbeitsgruppe Vermisstenforschung

This lead was received on February 23, 2023, when we were contacted by Julian Evan-Hart of England's *Treasure Hunting Magazine*. We have collaborated with Julian on several other projects and on this occasion, he introduced us to Bartek "Bart"

Oprzędek who reported that he found a dog tag on January 22nd in a field in Holton, Suffolk, England. The dog tag was in the name of Howard E. Walters, service number 35120948. The tag was in excellent condition considering its age, and further referenced Mamie Walters, 203 E Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH as next of kin information. Bart was interested in learning more about Mr. Walters and returning the dog tag to his family if they could be identified. We were able to identify Walter further, learning that he was born in 1920 and enlisted for service during WWII on March 20, 1941, at Ft. Thomas, Newport, Kentucky. At that time, he was single and without dependents and was a resident of Hamilton County, Ohio.

*Howard Walters*

A copy of his DSS Form 1 was found which referenced the same home address (left, present day) as found on the dog tag, his complete date of birth, and his middle name, Etheny.

Employment information was not legible. General genealogical research showed that the family had a strong historical footprint in Cincinnati and as such this was the best place to begin our search for Walter's family.

His parents were identified as Charles Anthony Walters (1880-1970) and Mamie Josephine Gregory Walters (1891-1951), both of which were buried at Saint Joseph New Cemetery in Cincinnati.

The Find:



Bart (above) reported that Holton, where the tag was found, was about a 15-minute walk from Halesworth Airfield which was a Royal Air Force (RAF) Class A bomber station during WWII.

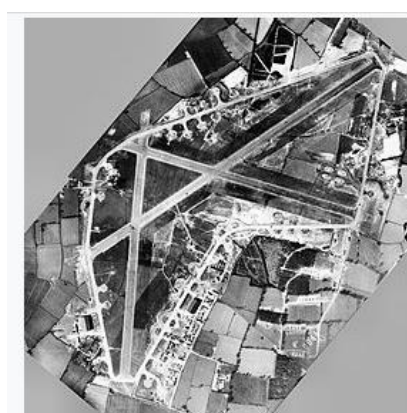
It was additionally learned that the field where Walter's dog tag was found lies

between two small military compounds that were built and used by the Air Ministry during the war.



RAF Halesworth's close proximity to the North Sea provided an ideal launch location for missions deep into Europe. General internet research, including information found on the Halesworth Airfield Museum website, referenced that in 1942 the construction of the runways, two hangars, and accommodations for 3000 personnel

began and by July the airfield saw its first operational unit, the 56th Fighter Group of the United States Army Air Force. The 56th became one of the leading fighter groups in the 8th and by the end of the war was one of the most successful in aerial combat. They left Halesworth in April 1944.



Aerial photograph mosaic of Halesworth (Holton) airfield, P-47 Thunderbolts of the 56th Fighter Group are taxiing on the perimeter and main runway, 18 April 1944. Photograph taken by 31st Photographic Squadron, 10th Photographic Reconnaissance Group, sortie number US/31GR/LOC17

203 E Clifton Ave. Cincinnati Ohio

WALTERS 1640A

SERIAL NUMBER 2617	1. NAME (Print) Howard Ethery Walters		ORDER NUMBER 1640-A
2. ADDRESS (Print) 7011 Proctor St Cincy			
3. TELEPHONE -0-	4. AGE IN YEARS 21	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Cincy Ohio	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MAYNOR WALTERS		8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON MOTHER	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 203 E. Clifton Ave.			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME E W Brown			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Mc Nicken Ave Cincy			

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD
D. S. S. Form 1
16-17105

Howard Ethery Walters
(Registrant's signature)



We learned that Walter was part of the 496th Fighter Training Group which was based at Halesworth in January 1945.

Activated in December 1943, the unit trained replacement pilots on the Lockheed P-38

Lightning and later the North American P-51 Mustang. In October 1944, its training mission was ended when the Eighth Air Force decided to instead train pilots in operational training units that were part of combat fighter groups. For the remainder of its service, the group provided support services for units at RAF Halesworth, including an air-sea rescue squadron.

His family reported that he possibly served as a medic, and we did find one reenlistment record in 1948 for continued service after the war ended. Thankfully, Walter returned home, married, and had children. He worked for Proctor and Gamble and later the Cincinnati Reds baseball team. Howard passed away in 1983 at 75 years of age and was also buried in Saint Joseph New Cemetery in Cincinnati.

Ultimately, we were able to make contact with Howard's niece Trudy Mullis who was very eager to get her uncle's tag. She said that sadly both of his children had passed away and that she would love to give his dog tag a safe place to land.

Bart sent the tag to her in Ohio which was received just before Easter. She was pleased and sent us a picture of her family with the tag.

Name WALTERS, Howard E.

Army serial No. 35120948

Grade Pvt. CPL

Years of service 3 (Three)
(On date of opening this book)

Insurance, amount and class \$ 10.000

Insurance premium, monthly N. 6.60

Allotments, amount and class \$

Compulsory allotments, amount and class \$

Pay reservation, class A \$

Technician grade

Additional pay for Foreign Service.

Person to be notified in case of emergency:
Mrs MAMIE WALTERS (Mother)
(Name)
203 E. Clifton Ave.
(Relationship; if friend, so state)
Cincinnati, Ohio
(Number and street or rural route; if none, so state)
(City, town, or post office) (State or country)

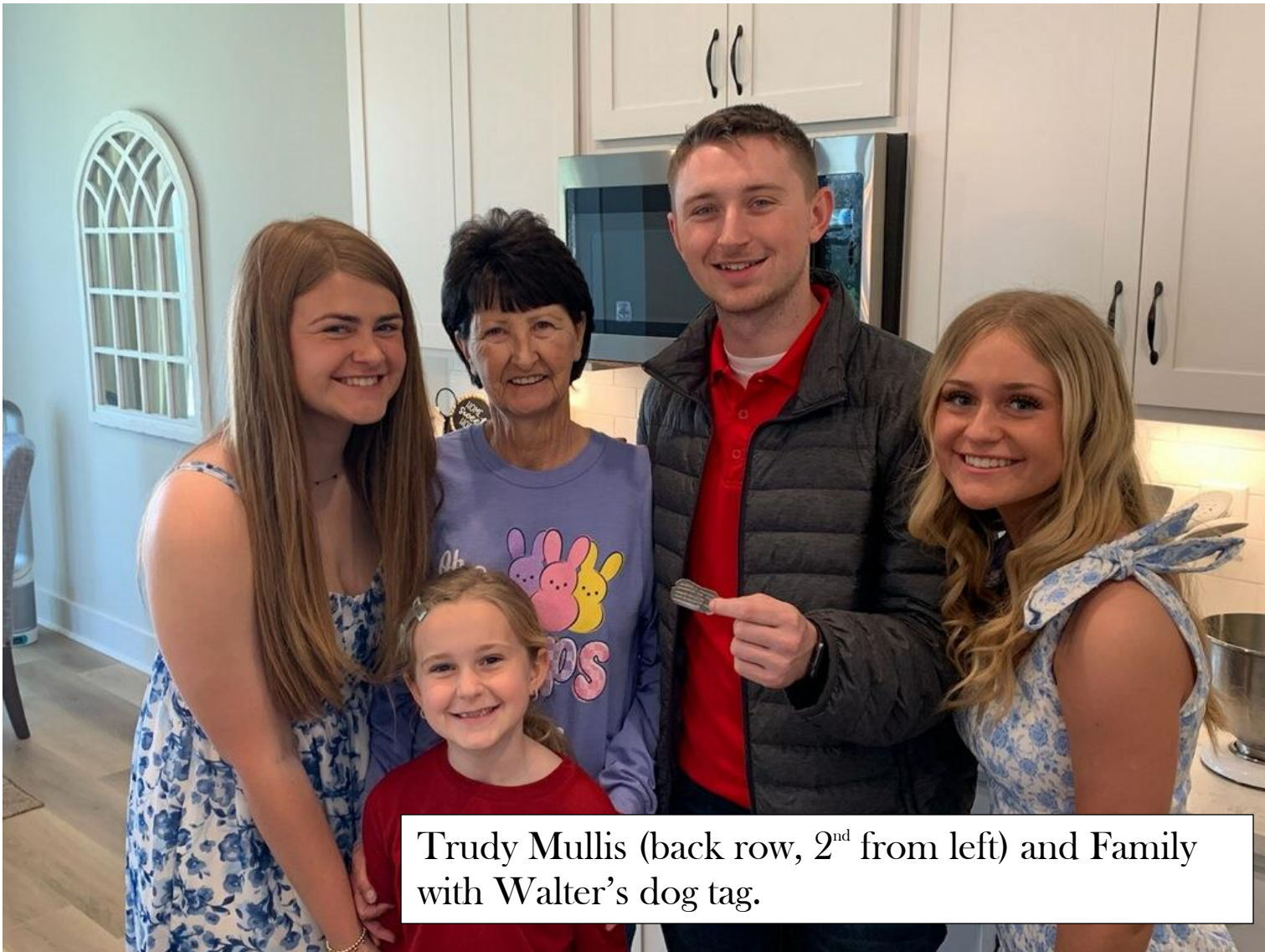
Date of opening this book 25 June 1944

Howard E. Walters
(Signature of enlisted man. Name, grade, and arm or service only. Do not enter organization)

Witness to signature by officer preparing book:

(Signature—Name, grade, and arm or service only. Do not enter organization)

Pay Status Document 1944



Walters, Howard E (Enl) 1st Ind
 HEADQUARTERS, 9201 TSU TO SHIPS' COMPLIMENT DETACHMENT, NEW YORK PORT OF
 EMBARKATION, Brooklyn, New York, 26 November 1948
 TO: Chief, Military Personnel Branch, New York Port of Embarkation,
 Brooklyn, New York.
 1. In compliance with Par. 6b, AR 615-200, the following information
 is furnished:
 a. Race: White
 b. Component: Regular Army
 c. Marital Status: Married
 Dependents to accompany soldier: Two
 d. Age at enlistment: 18 7/12
 e. PFEN: 1 1 1 1 1 1 X
 f. Date and period of present enlistment: 27 August 1948 RA 3 years
 Time lost AW 107: None
 g. Convictions by CM during current period of service: None
 h. Under charges, in confinement, or undergoing company
 punishment: No
 i. Due US: Nothing
 Due EM: Usual pay and allowances
 j. Civilian MOS: Hospital Orderly
 Military MOS: Medical Aidman (657)
 Special Qualification: None
 k. Character: Excellent Efficiency: Excellent
 l. AGCT, grade and score: IV (75)
 m. Authorized strength: 296 Actual strength: 345
 2. Recommend approval.
 FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:
 WALTON L. EDWARDS JR.
 Captain TC
 Adjutant
 Incl - 1
 Ltr, Hq Wright- Patterson
 AF Base, Dayton, Ohio

Source: Trudy Mullis

Many thanks to Bart for parting with his find and getting this item home to Walter's family where it rightfully belongs. This was our 92nd completed project with many more in the pipeline!

