

Monday, November 29, 2010 3:47 PM

RE: Capt. Lester G. Taylor, 359th FG, 369th FS

From: "Peter Randall" <peter.randall@littlefriends.co.uk>

To: ""Wayne Taylor"" <wmt001@yahoo.com>

Cc: ""Patti Haggerty"" <ptrags@aol.com>, ""Steve Taylor"" <taylos911@yahoo.com>

2 Files (45KB)



Taylor Mi...



Explanati...

Wayne and Steve,

Many thanks for your messages. I do in fact have the photo of Capt. Taylor along with pretty well the entire 359th Association collection, it's just that I have not got around to updating the 359th because I am still trying to organise their own site for them. As it happens though, your emails prompted me to have a look at his record again and I realised that I made a typo with the 368th FS as he was in fact with the 370th for about a month. Here are the details that I hold on him and perhaps you would be able to let me know if they are accurate or not:

Lester George Taylor service # O-025619 entered the service from Kansas City , MO.
1943

April – Ex West Point - assigned to 369th FS as 1/Lt
1944

31 January – promoted to Capt.

16 May – transferred to 370th FS

14 June – returned to 369th FS

15 September – ended tour of duty.

Known assigned aircraft:

P-47D 42-75056 IV-P

P-51B 42-106915 IV-P then IV-K with 370th and IV-L on return to 369th

P-51D 44-13689 IV-H

I believe that all of these were named "Jean's Warrior".

When I can get the 359th online, I intend to show each pilot's mission list, so attached is your father's in case you are unaware of it. Eventually I hope to be able to add the targets to the list as well. Also attached is an explanation of the "S&P" (section and position) again in case you are not conversant with the 8th AF system. Section (flight) colour order for the 359th FG was White/Blue/Red/Yellow/Green/Black/Purple and this often varied between the various 8th groups.

From your description of the book, I believe that this is the same one of which I have a copy of the reprint. I was fortunate enough to obtain one before it went out of print. Mine has a different cover but certainly covers the same period and does include all of the pilot photos. The big problem with my reprint though is that the pilot photos are far too grainy for me to scan and use online. If your original enables scans of the individuals to be done at say 600 pixels each in width, then I would very much appreciate a copy for future use. If not then perhaps I might be able to settle for 500 or 400 pixels but certainly no less.

I will try to get your photo online in the existing 359th gallery shortly.

Best wishes

Peter

Peter Randall

US 8th Air Force Little Friends Site

www.littlefriends.co.uk

Also hosting the Official Site of the
Fighting Scouts of the 8th Air Force

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PeterJohnRandall

From: Wayne Taylor [mailto:wmt001@yahoo.com]

Sent: 29 November 2010 04:19

To: peter.randall@littlefriends.co.uk

Cc: Patti Haggerty; Steve Taylor

Subject: Capt. Lester G. Taylor, 359th FG, 369th FS

Hi, Peter

I just found your Little Friends website and I'm very thankful to you for keeping the memories alive.

I found my Dad's info as a member of the 359th Fighter Group, 369th Squadron (also 368th for a while), and it makes me very proud that I could just google his name and find him!

I didn't see any photos of my Dad, so I've attached one he sent my mother in 1944 and has stayed in the family for all these years. In this photo, he's astride the nose of his P-51 Mustang which he named Jean's Warrior after his beloved wife and my mother.

I also have a history of the 359th that's in yearbook format that was in my mother's belongings. It covers the period from the start of the 359th until VE and VJ day. I don't know when it was printed, but the credits say it was verified by the 8th AF. If you don't already have it, I'd be glad to have it copied and scanned and sent to you. I've attached the cover page so you can see what I'm talking about. It's about 70 pages and includes photos of all the pilots. It's a great tribute to some incredible pilots and their support teams.

Thanks, again, for your great website. I spent hours on it. I hope you'll include my Dad's photo. It's been an inspiration to his children for many, many years.

Wayne Taylor
214-562-7106