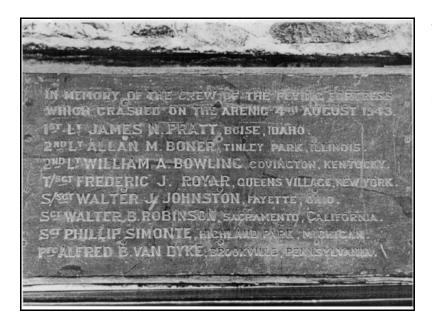
303rd BG (H) Combat Mission No. 56A 4 August 1943 Crew Loss

he 303rd BG(H) suffered a tragic crew and aircraft loss on 4 August 1943. B-17F #42-3124 (No Name), piloted by 1Lt. James N. **Pratt**, crashed on the summit of Arenig Fahr, a 2,800 ft mountain in Snowdonia, Wales (six miles due east of Bala), while on a night cross-country flight. Little is known about why they were flying in this area or about the purpose of the flight.

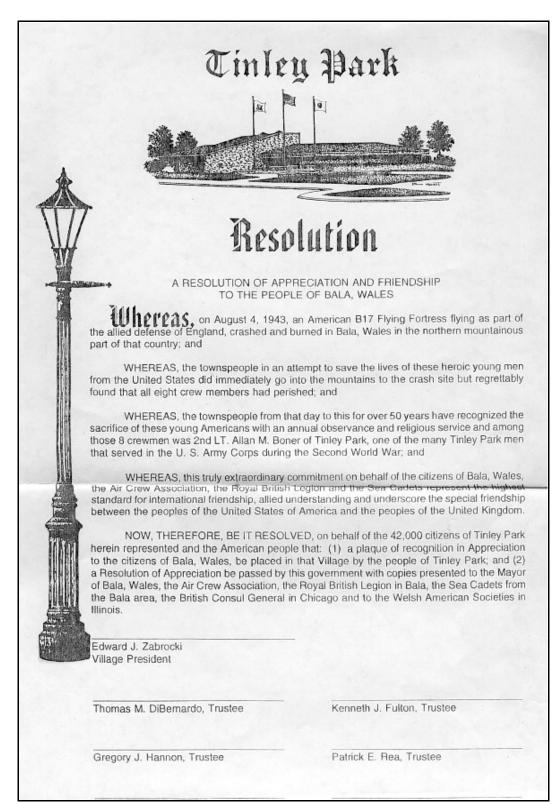
Eight men in the makeshift 427BS crew were killed. Lt. **Pratt** is buried in Idaho. Copilot 2Lt. William A. **Bowling** is buried in Kentucky. Gunner Sgt. Philip **Simonte** is buried in Michigan. Navigator Allen M. **Boner**, Radio Operator T/Sgt. Frederick J. **Royar**, Engineer S/Sgt. Walter J. **Johnston** (whose normal crew position was Left Waist Gunner), Gunner Sgt. Walter B. **Robinson** and Passenger Pfc. Alfred B. **Van Dyke** are buried in Cambridge American Cemetery, England.

Sgts. Robinson and Simonte and Pfc. Van Dyke were not regular members of the 427BS(H) Pratt crew. It is not known why they were on the night cross-country flight. Regular Pratt crewmen who were not on the night cross-country flight were: 1Lt. Leonard B. Bierman Bombardier, S/Sgt. Glen R. Allen Ball Turret Gunner; S/Sgt. Joseph E. Scheuerer Engineer, S/Sgt. Robert R. Humphreys Tail Gunner and Sgt. D. E. Schilling, Right Waist Gunner.



427BS Engineering Officer Capt. Quentin **Hargrove** and Capt. Louis A. **Lame**, 303rd Medical Officer, were dispatched to the crash site to investigate.

A group of caring people erected a memorial at the crash site to pay tribute to this unlucky 303rd BG(H) crew that hit the mountain that stood away from the population center of Snowdonia.



Resolution of Appreciation and Friendship to the People of Bala, Wales from the citizens of Tinley Park, Illinois

Presented in June 1995 by Jack Dunn, Mayor of Tinley Park to Chancellor Gwyndaf Hughes, Mayor of Bala and members of the Town Council and the Penllyn Royal British Legion.

The Resolution was initiated by Don Konley of Tinley Park when he discovered a resident of Tinley

Park, 2Lt Allen M. Boner, was one of the men killed in the crash.