

# ***The Molesworth Story***

## **Second Edition Dedication**

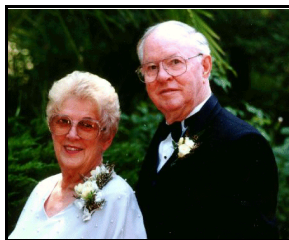
***To Susan — my wife and Eternal Sweetheart. Without her love and unwavering support, this never could have been accomplished — and to my dad, we miss him still.***

**Gary L. Moncur, Editor**

**W**hen I volunteered myself (or was volunteered by Ed Miller) to develop a web page for the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, I had no idea it would lead to an involvement of this magnitude — on the web page or this CD-ROM. I never wanted to work a second full-time job, especially for no money, but that is exactly what has happened. Actually, I am paid and I shouldn't call it work, because I love it so much. I am paid by the grateful thanks of veterans and their families. Nothing has touched me more than shaking hands with a veteran, and having him, with tears in his eyes, simply say, "thanks." It should be me who is saying "thanks." You brought my dad home safely from the war to start a family in a free country. Who could ask for more? Thank you all so much.



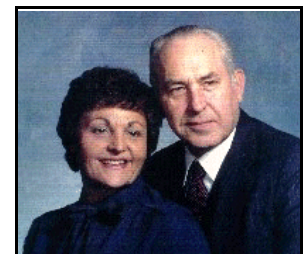
*Susan and Gary Moncur*



*Jill and Ed Miller*

*The Molesworth Story* CD-ROM was **Edgar C. "Ed" Miller's** dream. Ed and **Linda Garrison** spent over two years of tedious, demanding work to make it come true with the release of the 1st Edition of *The Molesworth Story* in 2000. Countless hours were spent digging through old records, trying to read copies of bad carbon copies, typing, checking and double checking. Myself and others played a part in the release of the 1st Edition, particularly 303rd BGA Historian **Harry D. Gobrecht**, but it was Ed and Linda that did the hard work and made the CD-ROM come to life. The 1st Edition is a collection of 303rd Bomb Group history of which they can be most proud. Ed and his wife Jill are our dear friends. Susan and I certainly understand what they went through while working on the 1st Edition. Thanks Jill, Ed and Linda for the wonderful job and for doing the hardest part.

The 1st Edition of *The Molesworth Story* CD was the framework on which we built the 2nd Edition. Our dedicated Historian, **Harry D. Gobrecht**, and I teamed up to make this project what it is. Harry is the author of *Might in Flight, Daily Diary of the 8th Air Force's Hell's Angels*. His massive, historic volume was the source on which much of the 1st Edition of *The Molesworth Story* CD was based, as well as much of our web page. Also, it was an invaluable resource for this project. If you've ever had the occasion to ask Harry a question about the 303rd Bomb Group, you already know how precise and detail-oriented he is. His talent, knowledge and attention to the smallest details are evident in every mission report and other document on this CD.



*Barbara & Harry Gobrecht*

For this 2nd Edition, Harry did the research and I did the rewriting, reformatting, editing and proofreading. We both worked almost full-time for a full year. Harry and I exchanged email messages several times each day – with my questions and his answers and advice. I would say that we became fast friends, but that actually happened long before this CD was envisioned. Harry and his sweet wife Barbara are wonderful people. Thanks Barbara and Harry, for the love, support, encouragement and for adopting us into your family.

We owe a special thanks to Todd Hollritt for the beautiful photo of the 303rd Bomb Group Memorial at Molesworth, England that is embossed on the CD itself, and for the photo of the B-17 *Sally B* that is on our start-up screen.

Many other people have contributed to this Second Edition of *The Molesworth Story* by sending photos, stories, suggestions and corrections. A few of the stories first appeared in our outstanding *Hell's Angels Newsletter*, now is its 26th year of publication. Most of the photos within the Mission Reports are not credited. They came from hundreds of you and we are most appreciative. I wish we could name you all, but you know who you are and so do we. Without your contributions, the CD and web page would be much smaller and much less interesting. Thank you for allowing us to help preserve your family's history.

We are grateful for the contribution of the many talented artists who have allowed us to showcase their beautiful works on our web page and on this CD-ROM. Much of it has been added to various Mission Reports to greatly enhance the look of the pages. Our entire collection of 303rd Bomb Group related Art is included in the *Photo and Art Galleries* link. Contact information for each artist is also listed there.

Each of the 364 Missions were re-edited. Each crew and aircraft were matched with the formation diagrams and loading lists. Many discrepancies in official records, discovered in the 1st Edition, were resolved. Photos were added to enhance the pages and provide more historic information. Many more stories from 303rd veterans were added. We have included all the Lead Crews, for which we have photos, with the missions. We have included many other crew photos within the Mission Reports, and have included all 700+ in another section. We have corrected many errors on personnel and aircraft. Most of them were caused by almost impossible-to-read records. There is no doubt that we have missed some corrections and made some new errors. We apologize for that. We have done our best.

We hope you enjoy the CD-ROM. The historic content is staggering. Consider purchasing additional copies for your family and loved ones. It is very unlikely that there will be a Third Edition. This history should be treasured for many generations to come.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact us via email or on the web page.

Web Page: <http://www.303rdBGA.com>

E-mail: [CDFeedback@303rdBGA.com](mailto:CDFeedback@303rdBGA.com)