

**THE FINE U.S.A.F. SECOND WAR B29 SUPERFORTRESS PILOTS DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AND AIR MEDAL GROUP AWARDED TO A MAJOR WHO FLEW 'THE HUMP' FROM INDIA TO CHINA AND THE FAR EAST ATTACKING JAPANESE TARGETS ALL OVER THE FAR EAST. HE THEN FLEW THE LONG HAUL FROM TINIAN ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC ON THE FIRST HEAVY BOMBER RAID ON JAPAN, COMPLETING 35 COMBAT MISSIONS WITH 468TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP, 8 OF WHICH WERE BY NIGHT**



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, BRONZE, SLOT BROOCH; AIR MEDAL, BRONZE, WITH OAK LEAF CLUSTER EMBLEM ON RIBAND, WRAP BROOCH; ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL 1941-45, BRONZE; WITH ONE SILVER AND TWO BRONZE STAR EMBLEMS ON RIBAND, CRIMP BROOCH; VICTORY MEDAL 1945, BRONZE, CRIMP BROOCH; PHILIPPINES LIBERATION MEDAL, BRONZE AND ENAMEL, CRIMP BROOCH; PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION RIBAND BAR.

George Raymond Barker was born on 18 May, 1917, Butte, Montana and enlisted into the U.S. Army as a Private on 3 August 1937. Discharged on 3 November 1941, he immediately re-enlisted as an Aviation Cadet. Promoted Sergeant, 3 November 1941 and Master Sergeant, 23 June 1942, he began flying training in February 1942, and by December he was piloting the B17 heavy bomber. He was Honourably Discharged from training on 22 June 1942, and immediately commissioned wartime 2 Lieutenant. Promoted Lieutenant on 18 February 1943 and Captain, 3 April 1944, Barker was assigned to 795th Squadron, 468th Bomb Group (The Billy Mitchell Bomb Group), 58th Bomb Wing, 20th Air Force in June 1944. Equipped with B-29's, the group moved, via Africa, to Kharagpur, India in June 1944. Barker flew combat missions flying over "the Hump" to carry supplies from India to staging fields in China, before entering combat with an attack on railroad shops at Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 June 1944. From bases in India, China, and Ceylon, he mined shipping lanes near Saigon, French Indochina, and Shanghai, China, and struck Japanese installations in Burma, Thailand, French Indochina, Indonesia, Formosa, China and Japan. Targets included iron works, aircraft factories, transportation centres and naval installations. Barker's regular B-29 aircraft (42-24734) named "Miss Lead" crashed at Tinian on return from a mission on 8 June, but was repaired.



On 20 August 1944, as part of the 468th Bomb Group, Barker took part in the first US air raid on Japan since the "Doolittle Raid" in April 1942. 64 B-29 Superfortress's took part in this daylight raid on the iron and steel works at Yawata, Japan. For this raid the 468th received a Distinguished Unit Citation. Citation as follows;

*"The 468th Bombardment Group (VH), XX Bomber Command, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy on 20 August 1944. The group dispatched 29 B-29 type aircraft to its forward bases and all aircraft were airborne on D-day as a part of the XX Bomber Command. Fighter opposition was successfully overcome on the way to the target. Despite a steady hail of intense and accurate flak concentrations which accounted for the destruction of one airplane, and damage to a second, causing it to crash on the return to the mainland of China, and despite continuous enemy fighter attacks employing suicide ramming tactics which accounted for the destruction of two or more of their aircraft, the 468th Bombardment Group (VH) succeeded in destroying the Imperial Iron and Steel Works at Yawata on the Jap mainland. In the accomplishment of its primary mission, 15 enemy aircraft were damaged or destroyed. The success of its part of the mission by the 468th Bombardment Group (VH) was especially outstanding in that the method of attack used called for the utmost in daring and skill. The first daylight raid over the Japanese home islands since the historic raid of Tokyo in April 1942 proved the real effectiveness of daylight precision bombing by B-29s. The hazards of mechanical failure, fighter opposition, flak, and barrage balloons on the mission of over 3,000 miles were all overcome by the valor and high professional ability of all members of the 468th Bombardment Group, XX Bomber Command, and by their courage, cooperative spirit, and tireless energy the individuals of the group have reflected great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces."*



The Group evacuated the advanced bases in China in Jan 1945 but continued operations from India, bombing storage areas in Rangoon, Burma, a railroad bridge at Bangkok, Thailand, railroad shops at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, and the dry dock in Singapore harbour. Barker flew further missions against Japan after the Bomb Group repositioned to Tinian Island in the Marianas group in February 1945. They also took part in mining operations, incendiary raids on area targets, and high-altitude missions against strategic objectives. The group dropped incendiaries on Tokyo and Yokohama in late May 1945, being awarded a second Distinguished Unit Citation for the attacks. Citation as follows;



*"The 468th Bombardment Group (VH) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy. During the period of 23-29 May 1945 the destruction of the militarily important industrial areas of Tokyo and Yokohama was completed, despite the fierce enemy antiaircraft fire from these most heavily defended points of the Japanese mainland. On 23 and 25 May 1945, the heroic efforts of all personnel of the 468th Bombardment Group (VH) contributed materially to the destruction of an additional 22.1 square miles of vital industrial area in Tokyo, bringing to 56.3 square miles the total area devastated within that city, the center of Japan's war industry. Before the Japanese had time to recover from this staggering blow to their morale and war potential, this group participated in a daring daylight strike on 29 May 1945 against the city of Yokohama, a single attack in great force, which reduced to rubble 6.9 square miles of the city's most important industrial area. The success of this series of missions, flown as they were in rapid succession and over vast expanses of open sea, despite dangerous tropical weather conditions and intense enemy opposition, is a reflection of the exemplary devotion to duty demonstrated by the ground personnel and of the great professional skill, tenacity, and courage of aircrews. The achievements of the 468th Bombardment Group (VH) during this period of sustained effort reflect great honor on themselves and the armed forces of the United States."*

The group received another Distinguished Unit Citation for a daylight strike on an aircraft plant at Takarazuka, Japan, in July 1945, citation as follows;

*"The 468th Bombardment Group (VH) is cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. On 24 July 1945, this group and one other group of the 58th Bombardment Wing were ordered to knock out the Kawanishi aircraft plant at Takarazuka in a daylight precision bombing attack. This mission was of utmost strategic importance because the plant was known to manufacture components of a dangerous Japanese navy fighter. Inspired by the importance of the mission, both air and ground personnel worked tirelessly to insure maximum success of the strike. As a result, 42 airplanes of the group reached the target area. At the assembly point, the aircraft encountered continuously pointed fire that continued all the way into the target. The fire was so accurate and concentrated that twenty-three of the forty-two B-29s were damaged. Despite this savage fire the 468th Bombardment Group (VH) calmly and heroically held the compact formation necessary for maximum bombing accuracy and dropped 245 tons of explosives on the aircraft factory. When the group retired from the target area, the Kawanishi plant was 85% destroyed and was canceled as a future target for B-29 aircraft, thus materially reducing the Japanese air potential. By the conspicuous courage, leadership, and professional skill of its combat crews, together with the high technical ability and unfaltering devotion to duty of its ground personnel, the 468th Bombardment Group (VH) on this occasion was able to inflict serious damage on the enemy. The gallantry, brilliant teamwork, and heroic determination displayed by the group reflect the highest credit on its personnel and exemplify the finest traditions of the Army Air Forces."*

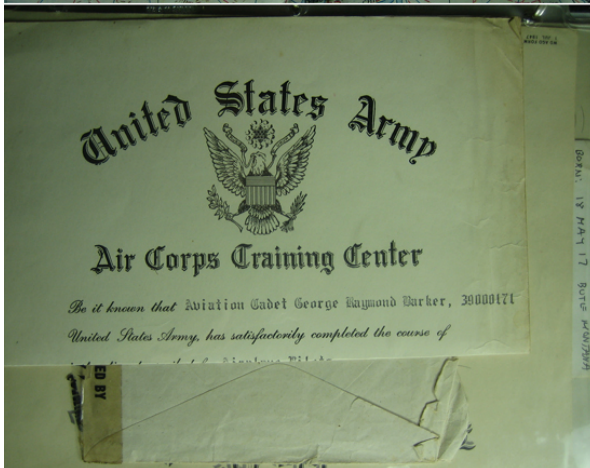
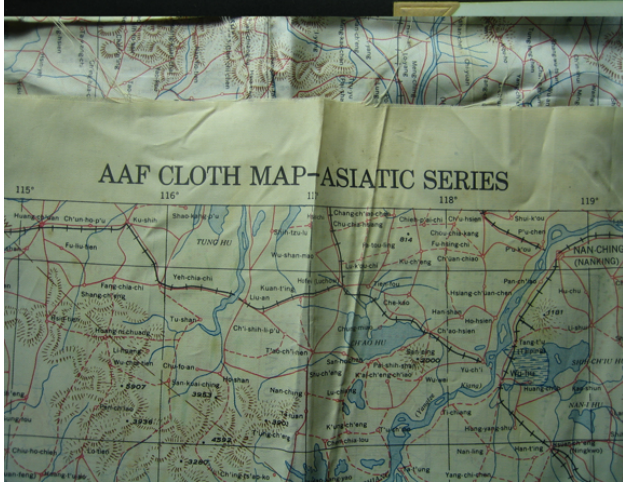
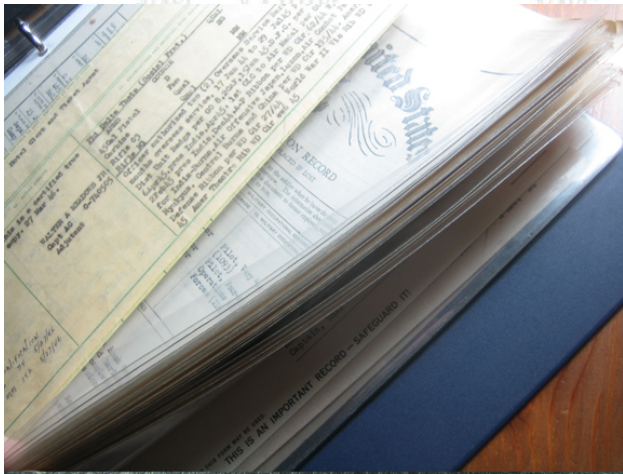
For more details on the units operations, see:

<https://terryphipps.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/williamgwootenmilitary.pdf>

Barker completed his tour on 29 July 1945, leaving for home just a few days before the "Enola Gay" left Tinian for Hiroshima. For his services, Barker received a letter of commendation from Brigadier General Ramsey, C/O 58th Bomb Wing, for completing 35 combat missions of which 8 were by night, for a total of 596 combat flying hours. He had served 13 months overseas, qualifying him for two overseas service bars and the seven battle stars for China campaign, India-Burma Campaign, Air Offensive Japan, Air Combat (Palembang), Luzon (Philippines), Ryukus, and Central Burma. He also received a first Air Medal for his missions flying 'the hump', 4th December 1944, second Air Medal (Cluster) on 2nd February 1945, the Distinguished Flying Cross for missions flying 'the hump', 6th April 1945 and the Distinguished Unit Badge, 15 June 1945.

Promoted Major, 28 August 1945, on 11 December he was assigned to 873 Squadron, 498 Bomber Group, McDill AFB Tampa, Florida as a B-29 pilot instructor. On 14 March 1946 he was assigned to 873 Bomber Squadron, 498th Group and remained there until 30 September 1946 when he went on termination leave. He re-enlisted as a Master Sergeant in the Army Air Force on 5 December 1949 and was assigned to a base in the UK in December 1950, returning to the US in 1953. He retired 20 October 1967. Total Army Air Force service 30 years 7 months and 18 days.







The Livingston Enterprise, Monday, June 4, 1945-5

## George Barker Cited

### Given Distinguished Flying Cross

Capt. George Barker, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barker, 114 North Yellowstone, has been awarded the distinguished flying cross for meritorious and heroic achievement in the "Billy Mitchell" group of the Twentieth Bomber Command, pioneer B-29 Superfortress organization in the far east, officials at headquarters in India announced today.

Capt. Barker was the first Livingston young man to fly the giant Superfortresses against the Japanese. He has been on active duty overseas since August, 1944. Since arriving in the India-China theater of operations, the Livingston young man has flown numerous successful missions, including attacks on Tokyo and other strategic areas of the Japanese mainland.

He has been serving as first pilot on a B-29 since completing advanced training at Clovis, N. M.

Capt. Barker enlisted in the army air corps a short time after the outbreak of hostilities.

## Capt. Geo. Barker Awarded D.F.C.

Capt. George R. Barker, first pilot on a B-29 bomber, has received the Distinguished Flying Cross for meritorious achievement in bombing flights over Japanese territory. The award was made at a 20th Bomber Command headquarters in India.

Captain Barker received his flight training at various bases in the United States, and served as an instructor at Chico, Calif., for 19 months before taking bomber training at Clovis, N. M. Flying a B-29 from Herndon, Kansas, across the Pacific to China, Captain Barker was one of the first B-29 pilots to land in the Asiatic theater, and he has a long record of successful bombing missions over Japan.

His wife, now in Hollister, Calif., will be here soon to visit his parents. Mrs. Barker and Captain Barker's parents have received numerous "mementos" from the Asiatic sector, including a bolo knife for Mr. Barker, most feared of all weapons by the Japanese, and a purse for Mrs. Barker, made of the hide of a big cat.

The bolo knife, with large, curved, top-heavy blade for efficient striking, has an ebony handle and is sheathed in a leather holder, which also harbors two small but very wicked blades about the size of an ordinary pocket knife.

## Livingston Pilot Is Dropping Bombs On Japan; Capt. George Barker Is Skipper of Giant Superfortress

Livingston, June 9.—He was among the first who flew Superfortresses against Japan and he is still flying them. Capt. George Barker of Livingston, who was cited recently for achievement with the 20th Bomber Command, arrived the AAF base after Pearl Harbor. His lone and especially noteworthy service now has brought him the distinguished flying cross.

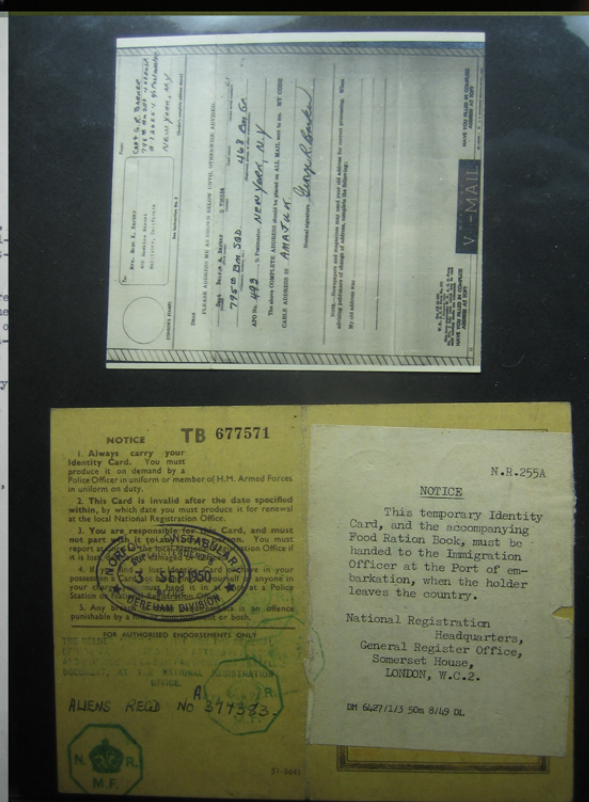
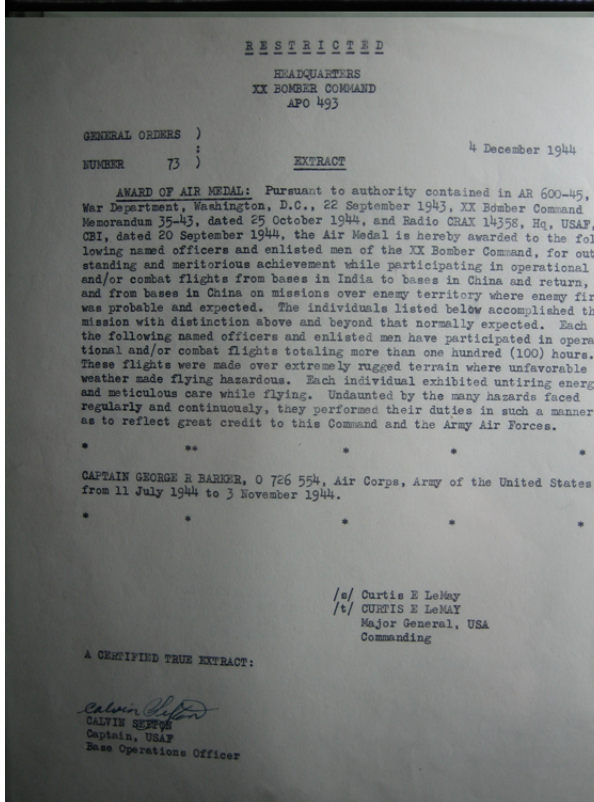
The pilot, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barker of Livingston, saw his earlier service in the Indo-China theater. When intensive raids against Japan began, he was transferred to the other front. His time with the "Billy Mitchell" a famous crew of bombers. His raids include several on Tokyo. News of his citation comes from AAF headquarters in India.



MAJOR GEORGE R. BARKER  
AIR CORPS U.S. ARMY  
20TH AIR FORCE









HEADQUARTERS  
TWENTYFIFTH AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 June 1945

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NO. 8 )

**AWARDS**

1 - DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION. --As authorized by Executive Order 9366, superseding Executive Order 9073, and under the provisions of Section IV, Circular No. 333, War Department 1943, the following units of the XI Bomber Command are cited for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy:

\* \* \*

468TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (VH), XI BOMBER COMMAND, is cited for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy on 20 August 1944. The group dispatched 22 B-29 type aircraft to its forward bases and all aircraft were airborne on D-Day as a part of the XI Bomber Command. Fighter opposition was successfully overcome on the way to the target. Despite a steady hail of intense and accurate flak concentrations which accounted for the destruction of one plane and damage to a second which caused it to crash on the return to the mainland of China, and despite continuous enemy fighter attacks employing suicide ramming tactics which accounted for the destruction of two or more of their aircraft, the 468th Bomb Group succeeded in destroying the Imperial Iron and Steel Works at Yawata on the Jap Mainland. In the accomplishment of its primary mission, fifteen enemy aircraft were damaged or destroyed. The success of its part of the mission by the 468th Bombardment Group was especially outstanding in that the method of attack used called for the utmost in daring and skill. The first daylight raid over the Japanese home island since the historic raid of Tokyo in April 1942 proved the real effectiveness of daylight precision bombing by B-29's. The hazards of mechanical failure, fighter opposition, flak and barrage balloons on the mission of over 3,000 miles were all overcome by the valor and high professional ability of all members of the 468th Bombardment Group, and by their courage, cooperative spirit and tireless energy, the individuals of this Group have reflected great credit on themselves and the Army Air Forces.

By command of General ARNOLD:

LAURIS HORSTAD,  
Brigadier General, U. S. Army  
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

/s/ H. H. Hewitt  
H. H. HEWITT  
Lieutenant Colonel, A.G.O.,  
Adjutant General.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY

BRUCE C. HARRIS  
Capt, AG  
On Personnel O  
468th Bomb Gp

794TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON  
AFO 493

200.6 (Cit) 15 March 1945

SUBJECT: Battle Participation Awards.

TO : Captain George R. Barker, 0726554, 794th Bomb Squadron, 468th Bomb Group, AFO 493.

1. Notification is hereby given that you are authorized to wear the bronze campaign stars, as indicated below, on the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, for honorable service, while assigned or attached to the 468th Bombardment Group and/or one of the units thereof some time during the period in which the unit participated in battle and was awarded credit therefor.

a. One bronze star for the China Campaign, in accordance with letter, Headquarters, United States Forces, India-Burma Theater, file 200.6 (Cit) (22 Dec 44), subject: "Battle Participation Awards," dated 22 December 1944.

b. One bronze star for the India-Burma Campaign, in accordance with letter, Headquarters, United States Forces, India-Burma Theater, file 200.6 (Cit) (20 Dec 44), subject: "Battle Participation Awards," dated 20 December 1944.

c. One bronze star for the Air Offensive, Japan, in accordance with letter, Headquarters, United States Forces, India-Burma Theater, file 200.6 (Cit) (12 Dec 44), subject: "Battle Participation Awards," dated 12 December 1944.

d. One bronze star for Air Combat (Palenbang) in accordance with letter, Headquarters, United States Forces, India-Burma Theater, file 200.6 (Cit) (23 Dec 44), subject: "Battle Participation Awards," dated 23 December 1944.

2. Entry has been made on your AD AGO Form 66-2.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel GEORGE:

Loren E. Ritz  
Loren E. RITZ,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Executive Officer.

THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES

WAR DEPARTMENT  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

21 JUL 1945

To all who shall see these papers, know ye that George Ray Barker, First Lieutenant, Army of the United States, was appointed to the grade of first lieutenant, Air Corps Reserve, in the Army of the United States, and is mailed to you for safekeeping.

If the officer now holds an equivalent or higher temporary grade this promotion in no way affects the temporary grade.

Please acknowledge receipt of the commission on the attached card (W.D., A.G.O. Form No. 658).

J. A. ULIO,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

W. D., A. G. O. Form No. 974

24-88108-108

This commission is issued in the provisions of Section 37, National Defense Code, from force period of five years from the date of the President of the United States for the term of the President of the United States, this twenty-first day of July, 1945, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-ninth.

By the President:

John F. Kennedy  
President of the United States

The United States of America  
honors the memory of

GEORGE R. BARKER

This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Jimmy Carter  
President of the United States





#### Sold with

- 1) A Leather cased B29 bomb load adjusting slide rule, this numbered and marked 'Model B-29';
- 2) The recipients dog tags;
- 3) Metal uniform name tag;
- 4) Pilots wings, embossed 'Sterling', uniform attachments removed for display;



- 5) 20th Bomber Command silvered and enamel pin badge;
- 6) Major's collar insignia;
- 7) Sergeants chevrons,
- 8) U.S.A.F. unit patches;
- 9) Air Force cloth escape map, South East China;
- 10) the recipients lightweight side cap with Major's insignia.

Additionally, a large archive of original documentation, including various photographs of Barker next his B29 "Miss Lead" and Barker and other crew; Original newspaper cuttings relating to service and awards; ration cards, foreign currency; various U.S.A.F. Certificates and Diplomas, including; Pilots training course completion, appointment to rank of Major and Master Sergeant; Strategic Air Command course; proficiency as Flying Instructor; Honourable discharge. Also citations for both the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal, enlistment and service records, plus some copied research

