After Thirty-three Years

In 1945, I commanded the 2234th Air Force Truck Co., 43d Air Service Group, Fifteenth Air Force, stationed in Cerignola, Italy. On March 23, 1945, a B-24 of the 740th Bomb Squadron, 455th Bomb Group, crashed near my headquarters after being shot down during a mission assignment. Two NCOs of my command and I rescued the ten crew members from the wreckage of the plane, administered first aid, and were credited with saving the lives of these men. The Group Deputy Commander, through Maj. Herbert A. Meyer, Jr., Squadron Commander, sent a letter of commendation, recommending awards "for heroism and courage. . . ."

The picture and caption appearing

in the July AIR FORCE Magazine, p. 26, shows Gen. Richard Ellis, SAC Commander in Chief, awarding the medals to me—thirty-three years later!

I would appreciate hearing from any former members of my command and others from the 43d ASG and 534th ASG, Fifteenth Air Force, and from members of the B-24 crew and/or 740th Bomb Squadron and 455th Bomb Group who may still remember this incident and/or our service together.

Dr. Charles S. Wehrer
2932 S. 93d Plaza, Apt. 8
Omaha, Neb. 68124