

Memorial Ceremony

Andrews Theater, Asbru, Keflavik Airport, Iceland

3 May 2013



Lieutenant General Frank Maxwell Andrews
U.S. Army Air Corps (1884-1943)
Commander, European Theater of Operations

Keilir Aviation Academy will sponsor a memorial ceremony to honor Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews and the passengers and crew members who perished in the B-24D Liberator Bomber Hot Stuff flight accident on Mt. Fagradalsfjall, Iceland, 3 May 1943.

The ceremony is organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, the Icelandic Coast Guard, Icelandic Rescue Forces, KADECO, and AirTransportNews.





B24D *Hot Stuff* Flight Accident 3 May 1943

Crew Members:

Captain Robert H. "Shine" Shannon – Pilot
 Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews – Copilot
 (Commander of the European Theater of Operations)
 Captain James E. Gott – Navigator
 Technical Sergeant Kenneth A. Jeffers – Radio Operator
 Master Sergeant Lloyd C. Weir – Crew Chief
 Staff Sergeant Paul H. McQueen – Gunner
 Staff Sergeant George A. Eisel – Tail Gunner (Survivor)

Passengers:

Civilian Adna W. Leonard – Methodist Bishop and Chairman of the
 Corps of Chaplains
 Colonel Frank L. Miller – United States Army Chief of Chaplains
 Major Robert H. Humphrey – United States Army Chaplain
 Brigadier General Charles H. Barth – Lieutenant General Andrews' Chief of Staff
 Captain Joseph T. Johnson – Lieutenant General Andrews' Aide
 Colonel Morrow Krum – Member of Lieutenant General Andrews' Staff
 Lieutenant Colonel Fred A. Chapman – United States Army
 Major Theodore C. Totman – United States Army



Photos from the Fossvogur Cemetery in Reykjavik, where Lieutenant General Andrews and 13 other Americans in the B-24D mishap were laid to rest with full military honors. Lieutenant General Andrews was later re-interred in Arlington National Cemetery.



Memorial Ceremony in Honor of Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews and the Crew Members and Passengers who Died in the B-24D Liberator Bomber *Hot Stuff* Flight Accident on Mt. Fagradalsfjall in Iceland 3 May 1943.

Memorial Ceremony at the Location of the Memorial Monument near Mt. Fagradalsfjall in Grindavik

Friday 3 May 2013

**Memorial Ceremony on the road to Grindavik
on parking place towards Mt. Fagradalsfjall**

13.30 Welcome

*Mrs. Bryndis Gunnlaugsdottir, Chairman of the Town Council
of Grindavik*

Honoray Guards by the Grindavik Rescue Force

Inauguration of a Plaque interim to the Monument

Mr. Jim Lux, Master of Ceremonies

US Ambassador Luis Arreaga

Thorsteinn Marteinsson

Olafur Marteinsson

Honorary Air Show

*The Airplanes and Helicopters of the Icelandic Coast Guard
and the Diamond Airplanes of the Keilir Aviation Academy
will fly from Mt. Fagradalsfjall over the location of the
Monument at the Ceremony.*

14.00 Car Transport to Andrews Theater

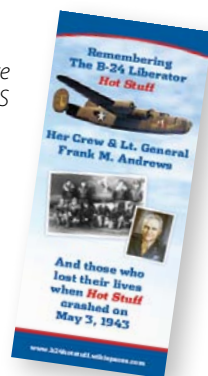
**A Memorial Monument honoring the *Hot Stuff* Crew,
Lt. Gen. Andrews and those killed in the flight
accident on Mt. Fagradalsfjall.**

Two Icelanders, Mr. Thorsteinn Marteinsson and Mr. Olafur Marteinsson, together with Mr. Jim Lux, have been instrumental in planning for a memorial monument honoring the B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff* crew, Lieutenant General Andrews and those killed in the flight accident on Mt. Fagradalsfjall. Mr. Lux has spent several years researching and seeking long overdue recognition for those involved in this tragic accident.

The Town Council of Grindavik where Mt. Fagradalsfjall is located has approved the site for a Monument which has the support of US Ambassador Luis Arreaga.



This is a design concept for a Memorial Monument Honoring the *Hot Stuff* Crew, Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews and those killed in the flight accident on Mt. Fagradalsfjall.



Mt. Fagradalsfjall on the Reykjanes peninsula

Memorial Ceremony at the Andrews Theater in Asbru, Keflavik Airport

The Memorial Ceremony will be broadcast on the Internet through the Keilir Network so all active-duty military members on land and at sea can watch and take part!

Friday 3 May 2013

14.15 Refreshment (coffee)

14.30 Welcome

Hjalmar Arnason, Director of Keilir Atlantic Center of Excellence and Master Ceremonies.

Presentation of *Hot Stuff*, her crew and those who died in the flight accident on Mt. Fagradalsfjall

*Jim Lux, the Historian of the B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff**

14.45 Memorial Service

The Chorus of the Keflavik Church

The Ordaining Bishop of Iceland for Skalholt; Kristjan Valur Ingoslfsson

The Catholic Bishop of Reykjavik, Pierre Burcher

The President of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson

The U.S. Ambassador, Luis Arreaga

Captain George M. Morrison, Past Commander, Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

15.30 Refreshment (coffee)

16.00 Historical Moments

Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews. One of the founding fathers of the United States Air Force

Tbc., US Air Force

Film - The B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff*, the first Heavy Bomber in the 8th Air Force to complete 25 Missions in WWII

*Jim Lux, the Historian of the B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff**

The B-24D Liberator Bomber *Hot Stuff* Flight Accident in Mt. Fagradalsfjall on 3 May 1943

Fridthor Eydal, former Iceland Defense Force Public Affairs Officer and author of The Keflavik Air Base 1942-1951

The Memorial Monument near Mt. Fagradalsfjall in Grindavik

Thorsteinn Marteinsson and Olafur Marteinsson

17.00 Closing Ceremony

Hjalmar Arnason, Director of The Keilir Atlantic Center of Excellence



Andrews Theater at the Keilir Atlantic Center of Excellency

The doors of Andrews Theater opened in 1959, and the theater was in full operation for as long as American armed forces maintained facilities in Iceland (until 2006). Andrews Theater is named in honor of Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews, general officer in the United States Army and one of the founding fathers of the United States Air Force. Andrews Theater was renewed in 2010 and has approximately 500 comfortable seats and excellent sound and film equipment for international conferences.

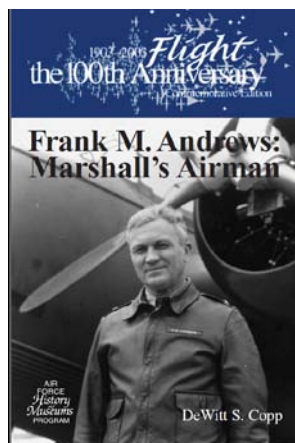


Frank Maxwell Andrews
Lieutenant General, United States Army

Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews was a general officer in the United States Army and one of the founding fathers of the United States Air Force. In leadership positions within the Army Air Corps, he succeeded in advancing

progress toward a separate and independent Air Force. Lieutenant General Andrews was the first head of a centralized American air force and the first air officer to serve on the Army's general staff. In early 1943, he succeeded Dwight D. Eisenhower as commander of all U.S. troops in the European Theater of Operations. After his death, General Eisenhower, who became the 34th President of the United States (1953 – 1961), took his place as the Commander of European Operations.

Born on 3 February 1884 in Nashville, Tennessee, Lieutenant General Andrews was killed in an aircraft accident in Iceland on 3 May 1943. He was buried in Section 3 of Arlington National Cemetery. Camp Springs Army Airfield, Maryland, was renamed Andrews Field (now Joint Base Andrews Naval Air Facility) for Lieutenant General Andrews on 7 February 1945. However, he has lost his rightful place in history. Few people remember it was Lieutenant General Andrews who advocated a separate Air Force. He outranked General Eisenhower and replaced him as commander of the European Theater of Operations and, according to General Hap Arnold, most likely would have assumed the position of Supreme Allied Commander had he not lost his life on 3 May 1943.



From the book:
Frank M. Andrews:
Marshall's Airman
DeWitt S. Copp

„Andrews had said that when the end came he hoped it would be in the cockpit, and he got his wish. Everyone else who knew him or served under him deeply mourned his loss.“

„History does not reveal its alternatives, and Andrews's sudden death leaves some haunting questions. Had he lived, would he have commanded the Normandy invasion, as so many of his contemporaries believed? Certainly Marshall had placed him in the position to oversee the buildup for that then unresolved strategy. And what then? Whatever his future might have been, Andrews's star was in swift ascendancy when it was snuffed out, and all the bright promise of tomorrow became reflections on the ordeals of yesterday, the yesterday of a military leader whose name will ever be joined with strategic air power and the fight for air independence.“

B-24D Liberator Bomber Hot Stuff
First to complete 25 missions in the 8th Air Force in the Second World War



Hot Stuff Crewmembers

- Captain Robert H. "Shine" Shannon – Pilot, Washington, IA
- First Lieutenant John H. Lentz – Copilot, Chicago, IL
- Captain James E. Gott – Navigator, Berea, KY
- First Lieutenant Robert T. Jacobson – Bombardier, Cedars, MS
- Staff Sergeant George D. Farley – Gunner, Wellsville, NY
- Technical Sergeant Kenneth A. Jeffers – Radio Operator, Oriskany Falls, NY
- Staff Sergeant Joseph L. Craighead – Engineer/Gunner, Bedford, VA
- Staff Sergeant Grant C. Rondeau – Engineer/Gunner, Racine, WI
- Staff Sergeant Paul H. McQueen – Gunner, Endwell, NJ
- Staff Sergeant George A. Eisel – Tail Gunner, Columbus, OH (not in the photograph)
- Staff Sergeant L. F. Durham – Gunner (not a regular crewmember)



B-24D *Hot Stuff* on her third mission off the coast of France, 31 October 1942

B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff*: A Story of Triumph and Tragedy
 by Jim Lux, the Historian of the B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff*

The B-24 Liberator *Hot Stuff* heavy bomber and her crew were the first in the 8th Air Force to complete 25 successful missions in World War II.

Hot Stuff was ordered back from Europe to the United States to tour the country and help sell war bonds. Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews, commander of the European Theater of Operations, was ordered back to Washington, D.C., by General George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff for summons but Andrews was a close advisor to General Marshall, who had appointed Andrews to take over as the Army commander in Europe to plan air strikes on Germany. Andrews contacted his friend, Colonel Ted Timberlake, commander of the 93rd Bombardment Group, and requested to fly back to the United States in *Hot Stuff* with Captain Robert "Shine" Shannon whom he also knew.

The first stop was the U.S. base in Iceland, but the flight crashed on Mt. Fagradalsfjall in the Reykjanes peninsula in Iceland in very bad weather conditions. With the exception of Lieutenant General Andrews, everyone onboard *Hot Stuff* was soon forgotten. *Hot Stuff* and the surviving crew members were also forgotten. General Jacob E. Smart, former U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff and aide to General Hap Arnold during World War II, agreed that "Shannon's *Hot Stuff* was the first in the 8th Air Force to complete 25 successful missions, even though the heralded Memphis Belle, B-17 Flying Fortress, wears the label."

