



The Grow Flight

First Newsletter of the 47th Bomb Sq., 41st Bomb Group, 7th AF, WWII issued November 24, 1996

Kudos to George Tolbert for an Outstanding Reunion....



We started out on Thursday, Oct. 24, 1996 at registration with a neat envelope which included a SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, bumper stickers, a PROPOSED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION, a nice favor in the form of a metal plaque of the state of Texas, a name tag, and an updated roster. In the evening we had a mixer in the atrium courtesy of Holiday Inn, and then retired to our Hospitality room for an evening of visiting, video and going through a lot of different memorabilia that people had brought to share. Friday was a big day. The bus left the hotel at 8:00 AM. We first went to Lackland Air Force Base for their regular parade at which we had special seating and a very nice little speech on the loud-speaker system honoring our service to the nation. This talk was so moving that it sort of made the tears come into you eyes. After that we went over to a nearby B-25 and had a group picture taken which appears at the end of our newsletter. From there the bus took us to the Lackland AF History and Traditions Museum, the AF Security Museum, and lunch at the Officers Club. We then left Lackland and went to San Antonio where we visited the Mercado, a very old Mexican shopping center which was most enjoyable. From there we bussed to the Lone Star Brewery, our last stop of the day where they had two more small museums. One of these was a sort of hunter's paradise with lots of different wild animals and other things of interest to hunters, and the other was simply a display of about a thousand different varieties of fish. and then back to the hotel. Saturday was a day of free time for many. Several went for a tour of the Nimitz Museum in nearby Fredericksburg. There was a business meeting at the Hospitality Room (more later), then the evening cocktail hour, banquet and more Hospitality Room. Sunday morning brought the final Continental Breakfast, farewells, and departure.

**Have a Great Thanksgiving!!!!
....and Very Happy Holidays!!!!**

Notes from George....

Thanks to all that made our Reunion '96 an apparent success. A special thanks to Ben and Dorothy, Earl, Arnold, Kem, Urb, Smitty and to those that brought memorabilia which brought back many memories. Let's start now getting ready for '98 by locating former members of the Squadron and encouraging them to attend.

I recently read the book, "One Damned Island After Another," written in 1946 by Howard and Whitley. Well written and a fairly comprehensive history of the 7th Air Force. I recommend the book highly. Catalog # 940-544 H8480. The number in the book is 190690.

For those that did not have an opportunity to purchase the video "WWII, 41st Bomb Gp. In Action," I still have a few copies at \$20.00 each.

My hat is off to Kem Sitterley for volunteering to update and mail Squadron rosters and also publish a newsletter. A newsletter will be successful only if we all participate. Your input and suggestions are solicited. Wishing all of you a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Xmas and a happy and fruitful New Year.

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At the outset of the meeting a motion was made to adopt the PROPOSED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION, which had been included in our registration packet. There was a lot of discussion about what forms had to be filled out, being a non-profit organization, etc., but the motion seemed to suffer a natural death. The motion was never seconded or brought up again. We have no formal structure. We have no officers. We do have sort of a loose agreement, more or less, which is as follows:

HEAD GUY--GEORGE TOLBERT...George will continue to coordinate everything just as he has done so beautifully in the past. He is also one of the signatories on the squadron account which is at the USAA Federal Savings Bank in San Antonio.

INFO GUY--MAURICE SMITH....Smitty will continue to keep us posted on many items such as the AFA (Air Forces Association), ordering copies of THE CROW FLIGHT book which was published in about 1946, etc.

POINT GUY--URBAN A. GUTTING....Gutts as we knew him way back when has changed his nickname to Urb. He will coordinate the reunions in San Antonio, his hometown, and he will also act as de facto Treasurer, being the other signatory on the Squadron account at USAA.

NERD GUY--KEM SITTERLEY....Kem works at his computer, updating the roster, getting the newsletter produced and mailed, trying to get the squadron on the World Wide Web, and helping with whatever else the other guys want.

NEXT REUNION--This will be a joint reunion with the 820th Bomb Squadron at the same Holiday Inn in San Antonio, April 16, 17, 18, and 19, 1998. We have been promised a convention rate of \$69.00, which is the same as we had for our last reunion. Gus Anderson of the 820th was present at this meeting, and he assured us that this was agreeable with them. They seem to have about three times as many people as we do, and they make quite a thing

of inviting their kids and grandkids. Each squadron would plan to have their own registration desks and name tags. Many of the functions would be joint operations, and some would be separate including business meetings. There seems to be quite a consensus that these reunions will eventually include the whole 41st Bomb Group, for the following reasons: 1) Attrition will be taking a heavier toll, and we will need the numbers to keep making the reunions viable; 2) We can make better deals with the hotel; 3) If we eventually become a non-profit organization, we can save all the sales taxes, bed taxes, city taxes, etc.

DUES--We are asking everyone for \$10.00 per year to help offset the expenses of coordinating and organizing the reunions, publishing and mailing the newsletters, etc. Please make your checks out to Urban A. Gutting and mail to his home address of 7047 Autumn Chase Dr., San Antonio, TX 78238.

TREASURY--Our bank statement from USAA as of 11/14/96 showed a balance of \$2,442.67, which includes \$1,776.10 forwarded from Joe Gardner. We plan to have a list of income and outgo for you with each newsletter.

820TH BOMB SQUADRON'S UPCOMING REUNION IN WILLIAMSBURG, VA--This will be held May 1, 2, 3, and 4, 1997 at the Patrick Henry Inn. They have a policy similar to ours in that any member of the 41st Bomb Gp. is welcome. Remember, too, that they really stress that the kids, grandkids, widows, etc. are all welcome. At least two people of the 47th have mentioned that they were going to meet some of their children and join the 820th at Williamsburg, which has a fantastic reputation of colonial-type attractions of historical interest.

ONE HUNDRED MILLION PHONE NUMBERS!--This is software that is available for those so inclined to try to locate anyone they have not had contact with for some time. If you would like help, please call or write Kem Sitterley, who has the software. You can do a search in a minute



AFA Reception and Celebration—

On April 24, 1997 the Air Force Association (AFA) is hosting a reception and celebration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of "United States Air Force" from the "Army Air Corps." Those who served in the old "Air Corps" will be the special "Honorees." It will be called "Air Force Fifty." Quite a few from the 41st Group are already signed up for this gala in Las Vegas and Nellis AFB.

For those of you who might be interested in attending any of the following activities, you should request a registration package by writing to Air Force Association, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209-1198, or telephone (703) 247-1198.

REGISTRATION--is \$18.00 per person if postmarked before February 15, 1997, otherwise \$25.00 per person.

WELCOME RECEPTION--Tuesday, April 22, 1997, \$10.00 per person early, \$20.00 per person late.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPOWER RECEPTION--Wednesday, April 23, 1997, \$10.00 per person early, \$20.00 per person late.

INTERNATIONAL AIRPOWER SYMPOSIUM two days, Wednesday and Thursday, April 23 and 24, 1997, \$150.00 per person early, \$175.00 per person late!!

50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION & PRE-SHOW BUFFET— Thursday, April 24, 1997, \$30.00 per person early, \$40.00 per person late.

or

ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION & POST-SHOW DINNER--Thursday, April 24, 1997, \$125.00 per person.

ANNIVERSARY SHOW--Thursday, April 24, 1997 (NOTE: Seating assigned/limited)

MATINEE, \$40.00 or \$50.00

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

EVENING, \$40.00 or \$50.00

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Roundtrip transportation from Las Vegas to Nellis AFB:

Friday, April 25, 1997 or Saturday, April 26, 1997, EACH DAY \$11.00 per person early, \$15.00 per person late.

Presidential Unit Citation--Several members of the 47th have indicated they did not get a copy of the General Order awarding the Presidential Unit Citation to the Squadrons of the 41st Group. Those wanting to receive a Ribbon and copy of G.O. 50 contact Maurice Smith (he's in the roster).

"The Crow Flight"--Smitty will be able to furnish copies of "The Crow Flight" for around \$10.00, if 10 or more want copies. They make quite good copies, except they have soft covers, instead of the original hard-back cover. Many members were interested in getting copies for their grandchildren.

(Editor's Note: The "The Crow Flight" mentioned here is the book on the 47th Bomb Squadron which was published about 1946, not this newsletter, which was actually named in honor of the book. Smitty, I might add, was one of the prime movers in getting the book published).

General Bywater's book--This can be obtained by writing B-25 Press, 6951 Flight Road, Suite 4, Riverside, CA 92504. The price of the book is \$30.60, which includes shipping and handling.

Senior Citizen air fare rates--these run about \$600 for four round-trip tickets anywhere on the system and most major airlines have something similar to this.



**THE CROW FLIGHT
47th Bomb Sq. (m)
San Antonio Reunion 1996**

The first two rows have the ladies with their husbands behind them....from left to right, Marilyn and Anthony Ross, Marilyn and Rick Rondinelli, Doris and Arnold Sayer, Edith and Alvin Gazda, Ginny and Nedry Burris, Ellie and William Telega, Mary and John Widener, Betty and Jim McGrath, Dorothy and Ben Grobe, Betty and Lynn Sweetland, Carmen and Charles Reddig, Marian and Charles Treacle, Mary and Thomas Zachok with George Tolbert between them and Jim Hedstrom on the far right. On the back row are Bob Worsnop, Harold Kasten, Everett Ross, Maurice Smith (down low), Gus Anderson (from the 820th), Earl Grunewald, Urb Gutting, and Kem Sitterley. Present for the Reunion but not for this picture were Harry Courser, Mary and LeRoy Julian, Fritzie and Herb Locke, Mary and Edless Manuel, Tena Ross, Polly Sitterley, Steve Pappas, and Clyde Simons.

Lackland Air Force Base had dozens and dozens of different, old airplanes on display. You can see the nose of an A-26 sticking out in front of the nose of the B-25.



Memorabilia for Sale that might be of interest to the members of the
47th Bomb Sq. (M) may be found at....

THE AIR MUSEUM

7000 Merrill Ave., Box 17, Chino, CA 91710

Planes of Fame

(909) 597-3722 Fax (909) 597-4755

Book	"The 7 th Air Force Story", 64 pgs, soft cover. \$21.95.
Book	"B-25 Mitchell", 50 pgs. soft cover, \$10.95.
Book	"B-23 Mitchell, The Magnificent Medium Bomber", 200 pgs hard cover, \$29.95.
Book	"Jimmy Doolittle All-American and the Tokyo Raiders, 104 pgs. soft cover, \$8.95.
T-shirt	Standard white material with a big blue star outline, a drawing of a B-25, and the text "B-25 Mitchell," \$15.95.
T-shirt	Black dressy material, with a silver fluorescent outline of a B-25 underneath which is a mountainous background in fluorescent green ...very striking design...\$19.95 for small thru extra large and \$21.95 for xxl.
Tape	VHS "How to Fly a B-25 Mitchell," \$19.95.
Model	Plastic...about an eleven-inch wing-span and a nine-inch length. \$11.00.
Post card	Blue background with B-25....they probably have others, but this is the only one I saw....25¢.
Picture	Color, suitable for hanging, oak frame, 36" x 24", black and white B-25 in the air with a farmland background \$24.99.
Picture	Same as above except with an aluminum B-25 in the air with a forest background.
Tea Towelvery colorful showing seven different models. \$9.95....24" x 48"
Coffee Mug	One side has three views of the B-25, the other side has a small bit of text giving the history of the plane I think it was all black on white \$7.50.
Cap	White with a silver B-25 and a coral island background, \$8.95.
Poster	36" x 24"....black on white etching type thing...\$ 5.00.

The Air Museum is happy to accept orders by mail, phone, or fax. They also accept most major Credit Cards. They will ship charging a nominal shipping and handling charge. They have many other items too numerous to be mentioned here.that they would be happy to discuss with you.