



The Crow Flight

Second Newsletter of the 47th Bomb Sq., 41st Bomb Group, 7th AF, WWII issued March 9, 1997

48th and 396th Bomb Squadrons May Join 820th and 47th at their joint reunion, April, 1998!!!!

Wouldn't that be a neat deal? A nice long visit with Don Rossbach who has been organizing the 48th reunions says that after talking with both Bill Childs with the 820th and George Tolbert with the 47th and getting a warm approval from both he is sending a newsletter which is going out to approximately 130 members about the same time as this one to suggest to the 48th folks that they join the 820th and the 47th at San Antonio, April 16-19, 1998.

Don also has the names of about sixty members of the 396th who will also be receiving that letter, and also invites them to join us. As far as we know, the 396th does not have any reunion structure at this time, and Don is the only one that I have talked to that has any appreciable number of names for the 396th. Anyone that can help with getting any more names and current addresses for Don may contact him by phoning (315) 858-3612 or by writing P.O. Box 1422, Richfield Springs, NY 13439.

While we're on the subject, no one to my knowledge has a current roster of people who were with the 41st group. It would really be nice to get this information out to them also.

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Notes from George....

More than three months have lapsed since our get together in SA and only about fourteen months until we do it again. I hope all that attended the past reunion have fully recovered and are planning to do it again. Those that did not attend for various reasons, health problems, previous commitments, etc., I hope that you are able and plan to enjoy the camaraderie with old and new acquaintances 16-19 April, 1998. Rooms have been tentatively contracted for at the same Holiday Inn; however some arm 'rasslin' is in order to get a few more "freebies." I still haven't obtained a reading as to whether a non-profit organization would eliminate the 15% room tax. If so, I would like opinions from members of the squadron. Kem Sitterley is still working hard to produce an interesting and informative newsletter. He is in dire need of input from all squadron members to report anything that may be of interest to others. So far many compliments were received about the newsletter previously published; however, Urb Gutting has received very few donations to keep the newsletter going. I almost forgot to mention, that Kem is up but not exactly running following a hip replacement. Wishing him a speedy recovery. I would also like some recommendations and/or suggestions about how to make the next reunion better. If you know of any members not included on the latest roster, please furnish this information to Kem for inclusion in the roster update in the newsletter.

CALENDAR REMINDER....

- April 22-26, 1997--Air Force Association in Las Vegas....call 1-800-552-5427.
- May 1-4, 1997 --820th Bomb Squadron Reunion at the Patrick Henry Inn, Williamsburg, VA, more details later.
- April 16-19, 1998— Joint reunion of the 47th and the 820th Bomb Squadrons at the same Holiday Inn as last time....more detail later.



Murray Bywater....reporting a change in address for ordering his book and advising that there are only about a hundred copies left of the second printing....a copy of his letter is attached.

George Harrison....sorry that he couldn't make the reunion...he was involved with the American Legion holding both state and national offices....change the area code for both him and Dutch VonScherdtner's widow Patty from (301) to (410)....adds three names to the In Memoriam page...WILLIAM BONSAI, ROBERT WALTERS, AND CHARLES WENCK....interested in attending the 820th reunion in Williamsburg....

Arnold Sayer....advises that there have been previous issues of the newsletter and sent me several of them....I understood that there had been none in the past....so our apologies to Arnold for the oversight.... Arnold's letters used Volume numbers, so that for those that have kept these over the years....if it uses a Volume number, it is from the earlier series.....I had just planned to copy the 820th 's format and number them consecutively....the 820th is up to something like the 58th newsletter by now....Arnold is super busy right now with running his ski lift....he and Doris tentatively planning on going to the 820th's reunion in Williamsburg.

Bob Schack....adds his wife's name, Vivienne, to the roster, corrects his zip code to 56302, and adds his phone number, (320) 252-1151....says he hasn't made any of the reunions yet but keeps hoping.

Eldon Ford....Changes his area code from 213 to 310....also a fascinating letter on how to get info from the Veterans Administration....see page 4....

Returned Mail....We have had ten of our latest newsletters come back, many of them with the notation "Forwarding Order Expired." We would

surely appreciate any help we can get in trying to locate these folks, who are Royce B. Brower, Edmund E. Dawson, Jack C. Sullivan, Patty Von Schwerdtner, Edith Demarest, Mary and Rodney (Sam) Samson, Mary Leslie, James Boudreau, Charles (Slim) Wood, and Dorothy and Don Haskell..

Our Chief Financial Officer, also known as the Point Guy or Urb or Gutts.... reminds us that he is in a very receptive mood, and that very few have paid their \$10.00 annual dues. He also reminds the widows that they are not expected to pay....only the guys. The bank gives him a real hard time if the checks are made out to the squadron so please make checks payable to and mail to:

Urban A. Gutting
7047 Autumn Chase Drive
San Antonio, TX 78238-2118

The good guys so far include Ford, Rawson, Gutting, Locke, Walker, Rondinelli, Schack, Meeks, Gordon, Harrison, Waters, Storms, Tolbert, Gardner, McConnell, Dunkel, Kenway, Zingery and Sitterley. Please add you name do the "good guy list" for next issue.

Our present balance is \$1,749.81. Checks written since last letter total \$949.66, and deposits add up to \$256.80.

Most of the money has been put in a savings account, which will make us a few bucks a year. At the present time there is \$9.81 in the checking account and \$1,740.00 in the savings account.

Another reminder....It has always been the policy of both the 820th and the 47th Bomb Squadrons that anyone from any part of the 41st Bomb Group is welcome at their reunions. So if anyone knows someone from the Group Headquarters, or the 396th or the 48th Bomb Squadrons, please get the message to them!



Dale Storms.... his summer address from April 1 to December 1, is 3024 Jefferson, Joplin, MO 85225. He also adds to our IN MEMORIAM list Peter Bednary and James Henderson.

Paul Kenway....informs us of a new address—3473 County Rte 22, Richland, NY 13144.

Joe Gardner....He and his wife Fran are in good health and are actively working his insurance business out of their new condo. They have recently sold their “empty nest,” and their new address is 9300 W. Bay Harbor Drive, #3A, Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154....Telephone (305) 866-1987.

Jim McGrath....has been able to locate his tail gunner, Lucius Brown, 140 Farm St., Dover, MA 02030, phone (508) 785-1442. Betty and Jim will be at 840 The Esplanade #203, Venice, FL 34285 until May 10.

Frank Hanley....Please change the state on his address from Connecticut to Vermont. He comments that he will be sending us some short articles for our newsletters, which we will look forward to.

Storybook story.... There were a few complaints including one from the editor's wife about the font called, “Storybook,” which is what was used for the title of the newsletter. I seems that the “C” looked more like a “G” and came out “The Grow Flight.” The complaints were well founded so the editor's wife picked out the new font called, “Diploma.” It is similar but more legible, so hopefully everyone is happy and it will get the editor's wife off the editor's back (which will be helpful, for with the editor's new left hip, he is grateful for any lightening of the load).

Internet.... Speaking of fonts, it may get changed again, because on the internet, you are somewhat limited as to what fonts you can use. It

would be nice in the future for purposes of putting the latest newsletter on the internet to be able to put it over just as you have written it. I tried to do that with our first newsletter, and it wouldn't work....so I am still hassling with the “html” language bit. That stands for “hyper text markup language,” which is what everything on the “net” is. Hopefully, I'll have us on the net in the next few weeks....of course I've been saying that since October of '96.

Harold Kasten....please add his wife's name, Lillian, to your rosters.

Bill Zingery....welcome to a 396th pilot, a retired professor at Texas A&M. Bill called George Tolbert and said that this is the first contact he's had with anyone from the group. He's very happy to be a new member of our family and has already sent in his dues. His address is P.O. Box 5930, College Station, TX 77844.

820th Reunion....have fun with the reunion and visit one of the country's finest historical sites. George Tolbert and Kem Sitterley are both planning on going, and many others have shown interest including Arnold Sayer and George Harrison.

Air Force Fifty....the celebration of USAF's 50th Anniversary, April 22-26, 1997, Las Vegas. This should be a very interesting deal. There will be over 4 acres for the display of approximately 600 booths, representing 125+ state-of-the-art aerospace industry exhibits which will be alongside more than 55,000 square feet of USAF displays. Maurice Smith, Frank Ciarochi, and Kem Sitterley are planning on going along with Gene Olson, a 48th pilot. Smitty advises that there will be a 41st Group function there. If you can make it, call Smitty at (209) 264-7361 to get the latest update. The website for the AFA's Air Force FIFTY team is <http://www.usaf50thafa.org>. For the Air Force's 50th Anniversary Plans & Programs Office try <http://www.hq.af.mil/cvax>.

RECEIVED FEB 28 1981

2-26-97

Hello Ken:

I thank you for your prompt reply to my recent inquiry re: H. Fantasia.

Today, while looking for another public office in the front of my telephone directory, I noticed "U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (800) 827-1000.

I called and pressed "No. 4". I told the lady I wanted to locate Horace L. Fantasia, born in 1924 or 1923 and that I had no other information.

In about 90 seconds she said "we show two army men with that name. One born in 1948 and the other 1924. The one born in 1924 died in March of 1963" !!

A little later I called again, giving the name Arnold Dean Hyzer (my Bomb-Hav) born in 1920. I was promptly told that he died in 1984.

Very truly yours,

Eldon Ford

VETERANS REUNIONS by Travcon, Inc.
924 Farmington Avenue, Suite 100
West Hartford, CT 06107
1-800-4-US-VETS 1-800-487-8387

820th BOMB SQUADRON REUNION

May 1 - 4, 1997

Patrick Henry Inn
York & Page Streets
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-3647
(804) 229-9540
1-800-446-9228 for reservations

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|----------|---------|---|
| Thursday | May 1st | - 2:00 PM - Hotel Check-in
- 2:00 PM - Hospitality Room Opens - Patrick's Board Room |
| Friday | May 2nd | - Hospitality Room Open - Patrick's Board Room
- <u>Optional Tour - "Jamestown Island and Yorktown Visitors Center" Tour</u>
- 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM - Visit Jamestown Island, original site of the first permanent English settlement in America in 1607. Exhibits include ruins of the 17th century settlement, glass house, a 15-minute film, and Visitors Center. Board the bus and admire the view as you ride along the scenic Colonial Parkway to the quaint village of Yorktown, the site of the last major decisive battle of the American Revolutionary War. Visit the National Park Service Visitors Center and view the exhibits relating to the Battle of Yorktown, a 12-minute film, and a rooftop view of the battlefields. Lunch on your own, as directed by tour guide. (Required minimum of 30 participants)
- 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM - Hoe-down Gathering Buffet (Casual Attire)- President's Ballroom |
| Saturday | May 3rd | - Hospitality Room Open
- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Buffet Breakfast - President's Ballroom
- Business Meeting
- 10:00 AM Hospitality Room Open
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Cocktails in Hospitality Room
- 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM - Banquet Dinner (Coat and Tie) - President's Ballroom featuring Roast Sirloin of Beef with Rissole Potatoes or Chicken Breast on Ham with Poulets Sauce and Rice |
| Sunday | May 4th | - 12:00 PM Hotel Check-out |

*To be admitted to Reunion Functions, Attendees must wear badges/name tags at all times.
All events will be posted on Patrick Henry Inn's Bulletin Board each day of the Reunion.
please see other side*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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REGISTER EARLY TO ASSURE REGISTRATION: Please complete the registration form and send in before March 28, 1997 with full payment (check or money order only). Make checks payable to VETERANS REUNIONS and send to 924 Farmington Avenue, Suite 100, West Hartford, CT 06107. Registrations received after March 28 will be charged a late fee of \$25.00.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: VETERANS REUNIONS has arranged a special group rate for additional hotel nights of \$60.00 plus \$5.10 (8 1/2%) tax for a total of \$65.10 per room per night available from three days prior to and three days following the official dates of the Reunion (subject to availability). Call Patrick Henry Inn directly as soon as possible but no later than March 28, 1997 to make your hotel reservations at 1-800-446-9228. Identify yourself as attending the **820th Bomb Squadron Reunion** to receive the special group rate.

CANCELLATIONS: All cancellations must be in writing and must be received by Veterans Reunions by April 10, 1997 to avoid charges for Reunion Function Package. Cancellations after April 10 are subject to an Administrative Fee of \$25.00.

Please Note: To avoid hotel cancellation charges, the hotel must be notified of the cancellation directly by the attendee three days prior to scheduled arrival date.

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS can be made directly with VETERANS REUNIONS. Call us at 1-800-4-US-VETS (1-800-487-8387) for the best airfares available.

HOTEL PARKING: The Hotel provides free guest parking.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS: From the Norfolk Airport, the Norfolk Shuttle (1-757-857-1231) is available at a cost of approximately \$17.00 per person, one way. They are located outside the baggage claim area and no reservations are needed.

From the Newport News Airport, Colonial Cab (1-757-565-1240) will transfer you to the hotel for approximately \$15.00.

Avoid the late fee charge, register before March 28, 1997.

VETERANS REUNIONS -- OFFICIAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

820th BOMB SQUADRON REUNION

May 1 - 4, 1997

Patrick Henry Inn
 York & Page Streets
 Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-3647
 (804) 229-9540
 1-800-446-9228 for reservations

Name _____ For Name Tag _____

Spouse/Guest _____ For Name Tag _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Business Phone (_____) _____

Check-in at Hotel 2:00 PM - Check-out at Hotel 12:00 Noon

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Please indicate that you have contacted the hotel directly and made your room reservations: _____

REUNION FUNCTION PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- * Hospitality Room
- * Hoe-Down Buffet Dinner
- * Buffet Breakfast
- * Banquet Dinner

EXCLUSIVE OPTIONAL TOUR:

May 2nd, 10:00am-3:30pm--"Jamestown Island and Yorktown Visitors Center" tour @ \$44.00/person.(min. of 30 participants)

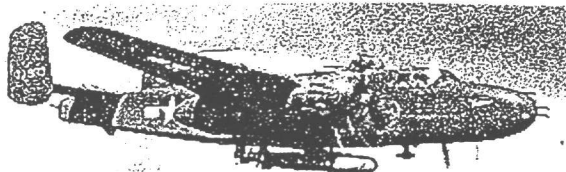
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Number of Persons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Reunion Function Package	\$ 79.00	x _____	= \$ _____
"Jamestown Island and Yorktown Visitors Center Tour"	\$ 44.00	x _____	= _____
Registrations after March 28, 1997	LATE FEE = \$ 25.00		_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED --Make checks payable to VETERANS REUNIONS \$ _____			

BANQUET SELECTION:(For each Person Registered): Roast Sirloin of Beef with Rissole Potatoes _____
 Chicken Breast on Ham with Rice _____

REGISTER EARLY TO ASSURE REGISTRATION. Please complete this form and postmark by **March 28, 1997** and return with your Total Payment (check or money order only) to VETERANS REUNIONS, 924 Farmington Avenue, Suite 100, West Hartford, CT 06107. Your canceled check is your receipt. If you wish a written confirmation, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

If you require airline reservations, please contact us directly at 1-800-4-US-VETS (1-800-487-8387) for the best airfares available.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Please make your reservations directly with Patrick Henry Inn at 1-800-446-9228 or 1-804-229-9540. Be sure to tell them that you are with the **820th Bomb Squadron Reunion**, May 1 - 4, 1997 to get the special rate of \$60.00 plus \$5.10 (8 1/2% tax) for a total of \$65.10/night. Register before March 28, 1997.



47th Bombardment Squadron (M)

41st Bomb Group, 7th Air Force, WWII

8 October 1996

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: B/General Robert T. Courter, Jr
Commander, 37th Training Wing
2000 Bong Avenue, Suite #1
Lackland Air Force Base, TX 78236-5109

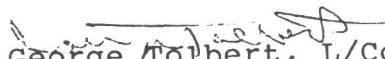
The courtesies extended to the 47th Bombardment Sqdn(M) Reunion during our visit to Lackland AFB on 25 October 1996 is deeply appreciated.

The Graduation ceremonies and Parade was thoroughly enjoyable and brought back many memories of events more than fifty years past. Acknowledging the Squadron and its wartime record during the ceremony was appreciated. The tour of the Lackland AF History and Traditions Museum and the AF Security Museum was quite enjoyable. Then the tour of the base and the lunch served at the Officers Club completed a most impressive and delightful morning of entertainment.

Courtesy and outstanding professionalism displayed by your personnel was quite evident throughout our visit. Especially helpful was Ms. Olga Purpura-Clark, Community Relations, for arranging our tour, and to Lt. John S. Haynes, Deputy Chief, Public Affairs, for meeting us and conducting our tour of your Base. Also, Belinda Riojas, AF History and Traditions Museum Staff Member, for advising of an error in our hotel departure schedule, which would have caused a late arrival to the Graduation Ceremonies.

We hope that the original photo of General Lackland, taken by Maurice Smith in 1941, then a photographer, later a pilot in our Squadron, and now a successful lawyer, presented to and accepted by Lt. John Haynes on behalf of your organization can be used and displayed.

We extend our thanks to you and to all of the personnel under your command that helped make a most successful and enjoyable Reunion.


George Tolbert, L/Col USAFR Ret
Coordinator, 47 Bmb Sq Reunion

For your info



Brig. Gen. Murray A. Bywater, USAF (Ret.)
11390 Coleman Street
Moreno Valley, California 92557

6 December 1996

Greetings -

I was very impressed with the GrowFlight newsletter and the accompanying roster. Someone did a great job of assembling all the data and made a beautiful presentation.

I also appreciated the mention of my book and where it could be obtained. Unfortunately, the wrong address was given as it has been changed. The new address is -

B-25 Press
P.O. Box 7721
Moreno Valley, CA 92552

Would appreciate it if the word could be spread to the members and you might add that I only have about a hundred left of the second printing.

Many thanks again and we send our best wishes for a festive Holiday Season and a bright New Year.