



The Crow Flight

Fourth newsletter of the 47th Bomb Squadron, 41st Bomb Group (M) issued November 10, 1997

REUNION PLANNING MEETING

On September 15, 1997 the following folks met in San Antonio:

For the 820th, Polly and Elmer Littrell, Hedy and Paul Brooks and Gus Anderson.

For the 396th, Bill Zingery.

For the 48th, because of scheduling problems no one could be there, but John Helmer and Don Rossbach authorized Kem Sitterley to speak on their behalf.

For the 47th, George Tolbert, Urb "Gutts" Gutting, and Kem Sitterley.

In the meeting from time to time were hotel people, tour guide guy, Chamber of Commerce folks, etc.

This reunion, planned for April 16-19, 1998 will be very similar to the great one that George Tolbert planned for us last year with the following additions:

- 1) All four squadrons will be there.
- 2) Urb Gutting, our resident golfer suggested a golf game on Registration Thursday, and this idea met with an enthusiastic response at the meeting and also with several people that I have talked with since. Urb has reserved 20 spots at the Lackland Air Force links!
- 3) There will be a choice of four tours this time where we had only one in 1996.

More details follow on Page 2

Notes from George....

Welcome 48th Bomb Sq. Readers!!

Seriously, now is the time to schedule your vacations to include our upcoming reunion, make reservations, and let Gutts know you are planning to attend. Very few have indicated they plan to attend so far. It is difficult to plan entertainment functions, etc., based on assumptions and guesswork. Also there is the possibility that the hotel will be over booked! ... particularly as our time is right before the famous, very popular "San Antonio Fiesta."

I will look forward to seeing you all in San Antonio, April 16-19, 1998!



48th Bomb Sq.
Lefty's Wolf Pack

WELCOME 48TH BOMB SQUADRON READERS!

For the reason that the 48th had no newsletter operating it was agreed with John Hellmer and Don Rossbach that we would send THE CROW FLIGHT to them until such time as they get their own newsletter going. And so the call is out for someone with the 48th to come forward and take over their newsletter! Also there are many other jobs open... see inside!

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TENTATIVE REUNION COSTS

Next newsletter will be more specific

HOTEL— The Holiday Inn has guaranteed us a rate of \$69.00 per night plus tax and any items such as meals, room service etc. you may have charged to your room.

TRANSPORTATION--The airfare depends on many things. Some people come in military space available. Most airlines have a special for senior citizens which gives four round trip tickets anywhere on their system for \$600. These specials are subject to some conditions such as so many days advance notice, etc.

REGISTRATION FEE – \$50.00 which includes the banquet at \$18, the buffet breakfast at \$10, favors, music, the hospitality room amenities such as booze, beer, chips and dips, name tags, misc.

TOURS— The prices vary here between \$35 to \$45 depending on the tour and whether or not lunch is served with the tour.

GOLF— Golf Day ... Urb "Gutts" Gutting suggested this at the planning meeting, and it was eagerly accepted by all. Urb has reserved 20 tee times at the Lackland AFB course beginning at 8:30 AM. Hotel departure is scheduled for 0700 allowing 30 minutes driving time, registration and warm-up. Green fees: E-4 and above \$9, Civilians \$15, Powered Cart \$7. Money will not be requested with your reunion registration. Just settle up with Gutts at the golf course. The registration form will ask for an indication of whether or not you will want to play golf, so that Gutts can update his reservation. It's rumored that the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce might have a special packet for the golfers, too. Dunno why we all can't have one.

REUNION NOTES!

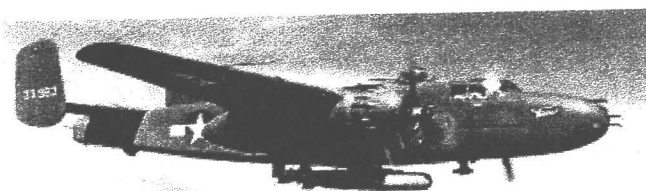
If you remember from our Newsletter #1, it was announced that Gus Anderson, current president of the 820th was a guest and it was planned that this reunion would be a joint one with the 47th and 820th. Then Bill Zingery of the 396th called both Bill Childs of the 820th and George Tolbert of the 47th and was assured by both that they would be very welcome to join in.... and then Don Rossbach of the 48th called both Bill and George with the same result! so all four squadrons will be there! This in the editor's view is a "joint reunion," however some resist this phrase. At any rate, all four squadrons are welcome. They will each retain their individual identities, make reservations at the hotel in their respective squadrons name, pay their own bills, etc. As I understand it at the present time, four items that they will join together are the banquet on Saturday night, the breakfast buffet on Saturday morning, the tours, and the golf game.

The famous "San Antonio Fiesta," starts on the Sunday we are all scheduled to leave. For anyone who wants to stay over, please call for reservations now, because bookings for that week are hard to come by. When you do call for reservations 1-800-HOLIDAY, remember two things: 1) tell them what squadron you are with to get the good rate, and 2) make sure you have the right Holiday Inn Northwest. There are two of them. The one you want is the one at 3233 Northwest Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78213.

The hospitality rooms will be allowed on a complimentary basis, one room for each 25 rooms rented. The 820th has by far the biggest reunion group and will probably have more rooms than the other three squadrons combined. A good forecast, then would be that the 820th will be in one hospitality room and the 396th, 48th, and 47th in the other and everyone agrees that everybody is welcome in both!



Place mats— Gus Anderson (820th) had this idea as something to give away as a favor at the reunion. He asked me what I thought and if I could do something on it with the computer. I liked the idea, too, and after much collecting of different input came up with the following idea: Side 1 will have a map of the Pacific showing where we went with text and squadron insignia around the edges. Side 2 will be divided into four equal sections with a picture of a B-25 from each squadron. Gene Olson sent me a fabulous color picture of two B-25's with 48th tail markings over southern Kyushu. Bill Childs sent an excellent color photo of an 820th B-25 suggesting a caption something like "820th B-25's attack Maloelap." Bill Zingery sent a fine black and white photo of a B-25 with the 396th's single horizontal stripe on the tail and suggesting the caption "396th from Tarawa to Okinawa!". I have only a really cruddy picture of a B-25 with the glide torpedo to show for the 47th. I need ideas, particularly with getting good color pictures for the 396th and the 47th ... Or how to improve and/or colorize the black and white ones I now have. The present plan is to give one of these place mats with each registrant at the reunion. We will also try to get an idea of how many more people might want to buy. I'm hoping to get the price down to about \$3.00 each. The quantity, of course, will be a factor in just how far we can get it down. **HELP!** The place mats will measure 11" x 17". You can see with the picture below that the quality is not that great (it's an old and grainy photo, let's face it!) and it fades badly when you try to enlarge it. Anyway I would appreciate very much any ideas or other pictures I could get. I was thinking of a caption for the 47th picture of something like, "47th's glide torpedoes hit the pride of the Japanese Navy, Sasebo Harbor!"



Don Haskell— has taken over the job of Roster Editor and been doing a lot of work on all three rosters. The member roster, the roster of friends and family of the 47th, and the "In Memoriam" roster all will be updated and handed out at the reunion. The ones not attending the reunion will get their's in the first newsletter mailed after the reunion. We thank Don for taking over this very time-consuming work and wish him good health and good luck in his new job. This is a bit of a thankless job in that you need to be prepared to be sad because so many times you find that whoever you're looking for has "gone on before!" You can contact Don as follows:

Mr. Don Haskell
1510 S. Peppertree Court
VISALIA, CA 93277-8606.
Telephone (209) 732-1553
e-mail dhaskell@mindinfo.com.

Mrs. Marshall M. Truex— And I quote from her letter of Sept. 26, 1997, "... I'm sorry Marshall hadn't lived to attend the Reunion in San Antonio. He would have liked that, as, San Antonio was his home town. I hope everyone has a great time. San Antonio is a great place and so much history. Sincerely, Jean Truex." We all send our condolences to Jean and wish to extend to her a very hearty welcome to our reunion ... We do have a few widows come, and they are very especially welcome! Jean's address is 117 Davis Road., Malvern, PA 19355-3427.

FANTASY! – Boy I wish I could play golf. I really envy those guys out there. Dang! My skin won't take the sun; my metabolism won't take the heat; my heart won't take the exercise; my knees and hips can't take the walking; my aching back can't take the golf swing... etc. Those guys are really lucky, too, 'cause I was a real steady 120-some golfer! Ah well ... You can't have everything.



Smitty's Letters.... and we quote excerpts...
 .. The first being from his note right after he got back from China... "... will forward some 'excerpts' from news releases of 1944-45 on 'Wresting Islands from Japan.' ...
 ...and then from a later letter... "the requests for the Unit Citation and the ribbon keep coming in... And we've filled so many I've lost count- 47 I believe.. And Don Haskell of Visalia called me for 3 more (and will buy my coffee if I'll fly them down to him) together with 3 more 'Crow's Flight.'

I still have great desire and ambition to visit you soon. We're putting a new engine in the plane but perhaps can drive down. Perhaps Frank (Ciaroche) can come over from Palm Springs and Murray (Bywater) can join us for an extended lunch somewhere near...

Most of the crops are in but the apples and some late grapes so maybe I can clean up the Law Office here and let the younguns and my Paralegals run things, etc. But you know how us older ones are- we think only we can do it right.... From Burns, 'the best laid plans of mice and men oft gae awry.'"

Editor's note--To order either the book, "The Crow Flight" (\$10.00) or the General Order awarding the Presidential Unit Citation to the Squadrons of the 41st Group--ribbon and copy of the G.O. 50 (\$5.00), please contact Smitty at:

Maurice E. Smith
2141 Tuolumne, Suite B
P. O. Box 119510
FRESNO, CA 93776-1951
(209) 268-5331

(Editor's note) For other squadrons, a clarification is in order here about the book, "The Crow Flight." This book of about 90 pages was put together by 47th personnel, most of the real work being done before and while on Okinawa. It was later (probably in 1947) printed and mailed to the ones who had paid a fee of a few dollars. It is mostly about the 47th, but a lot of the history and correspondence in it are applicable to all squadrons.

Frank N. Lynn -- "Having a new knee put in on August 25th! Wish me luck! See you in San Antonio. I lost Betty Oct 27th ... Frank" We all send our condolences and best wishes for his new knee. Frank's new address and phone number are:

Mr. Frank R. Lynn
 10330 W. Thunderbird Blvd., C128
 SUN CITY, AZ 85351
 (602) 876-0699

Lillian and James R. Land -- Another member found courtesy of Jean and Bill Childs of the 820th and I quote from their postcard to Jean and Bill, "Thank you for the interesting inquiry. I was in the 47th Bomb Sq., 41st Bomb Gp. ... Some of the former members of the 47th used to get together once a year in Portland, Oregon, but haven't for many years. I would like to hear from others in the 47th. Best to all of you.... James R. Land

To Lillian and James, we're so happy to have found you! For others please add to your roster:

Lillian and James R. Land
 4834 So. K Street
 TACOMA, WA 98408
 (253) 475-3684

Maj Norman K. Simcoe --

-- Sorry about the dues delay -- I'm a comparatively new member and didn't know about it.

I was a very early member of the 47th and doubt that I know anyone anymore.

Did you ever have occasion to meet Maj McCann, Maj Tucker, Capt N.S. (Curly) Wood? They were all old buddies of mine. We flew sub. Patrol together and others.

Maybe I can make it to the next convention?

Sincerely,

Norm



Chief Financial Officer Urban A. Gutting – Gutts has so many nicknames anymore that he answers to just most anything. Back in the 40's, it was always "Gutts." Somewhere over the years it was changed to "Urb." Recently, there was a mix-up in his changing his e-mail address, and it came out "Urbang!" ...as many of you know my middle name is also Urban... so now when I call him, I say "Urbang! ... Urbang here!" ... ennyway to the business at hand. In the bank as of 9-30-97 is \$1963.24. The good guys since the last report include Frank Lynn, Harold Kasten, John Helmer (48th), Murray Bywater (41st), Edless Manuel, Joe Harty, Franklin Malone, William Telega,, Alvin Nye, Allan Cobb, John Mahan, James Land, and Jean Truex. Gutts says, "Now, we're sending about a 150 newsletters, and we have only about 50 dues-paying folks...so that means that there's still about a hundred **BAD GUYS** out there!" ... so, you bad guys, get you check-books out! There are a few recently who have been paying \$20... so as long as you're writing you may as well send both 1997 and 1998 dues—THANK YOU MUCH! If you would like to send more, that's fine, too...and I quote a note from:

Ed Telega – "I don't find a canceled check so I must be one of the BAD guys. Here's \$10.00 dues and \$10.00 Penalty and interest."

Correction on the reunion— On page 2, it calls out that we are going to join the whole group for the buffet breakfast on Saturday morning, which is correct. On page 7 it says that we are going to be on our own for breakfast, which is **not correct!**

John Helmer— Our 48th coordinator friend is a busy fellow. He has turned over the family store to his son, but he still works there four days a week... and then he works another two days a week in his wood lot. Sundays are busy with church and Promise Keepers, including going to Washington recently for that well-publicized meeting. I'm envious, for I surely couldn't handle all that... I suppose he plays golf, too!



48th Bomb Sq.
Lefty's Wolf Pack

John Helmer Says!

"I have agreed to act as coordinator for the squadron until such time as we can all get together and set up our organization. Hopefully the reunion in San Antonio will provide that opportunity.

"First let me express the 48th 's appreciation to the 47th for allowing us to share their newsletter until we can get our own set up.

"Secondly, we need a lot of help! We need someone to write our newsletter. Maybe the same person or someone else could do the roster, another roster of "Friends and Family of the 48th", and yet another "In Memoriam" list. Computer skills would certainly be helpful here but not mandatory.

"I plan to get to San Antonio a day or two early to help in the preparation there for the reunion. We need someone to help with the name tags, man the registration desk, etc.

"I have agreed on an interim basis to collect dues and the registration money for the reunion. We have decided to ask \$10.00 per year dues, the same as both the 47th and the 820th. If you would like to send more please do. .

"Please do not send the reunion money now! But I'm very receptive to receiving the dues to help pay for the newsletter, possibly some advertising and software to help in locating more of our members.. Please make out your checks to John Helmer and mail to:

2122 S.W. Vista Avenue
PORTLAND, OR 97201
(503) 222 - 4614 (at home)
(503) 223 - 4976 (at work)"



Kemary Crowder— (editor's daughter) is considering an organization of daughters and sons of members of the 41st Bomb Group. She's thinking of the name "Kids of the 41st". Of course, the actual name would be decided after the group had met and voted. She went to the 820th's reunion in Williamsburg and enjoyed it so much, she plans on going to the one in San Antonio. If any of you have sons and/or daughters that may be interested, tell them that they can see Kemmy at San Antonio or contact her at:

8862 Shaula Way
San Diego, CA 92126
(619) 271-1844 at home
(619) 531-4444 at work

Murray Bywater— is planning a memorial display for the March Field Museum. Right now he is in the process of getting bids on a design of which he has an artist's rendering. When he has everything all decided he will be asking for contributions. More details later. Don't forget that you can still order his book, 11390 Coleman St., Moreno Valley, CA 93288.

Franklin Malone— has a new address— P. O. Box 15174, Del City, OK 73155-5174.

George Tolbert— our fearless leader just got out of the hospital after four long days and carotid artery surgery where they dug out a 95% blockage on his right side.... sez it could really affect his sex life if he had one! I'm happy to report that he's just finishing up ten days of convalescence at home and is back better than ever.

Joe Harty— advises that the name of his town is Bridgewater... NOT Ridgewater...

Peggy and John Sacco— We're happy to have found another long-lost member... please add to your roster:

8 Garland Drive
BRICK, NJ 08723
(908) 920-6114

John Mahan— writes us nice letters. He was very active in the reunions a few years ago, but has missed the last few because of health problems. He cannot get too far away from his hematologist. He's hopeful but doubtful about San Antonio.



396th Newsletter, published every now and then by Bill

Zingery. I'm happy to report that Bill is just doing a grand job of getting the 396th organized a bit and getting the newsletter out. To our knowledge the 396th has never had any sort of reunion or newsletter. That has now changed, and they will be represented at San Antonio. If any of you have friends in the 396th that you would like to locate, contact Bill at:

Mr. Bill Zingery
P. O. Box 5930
COLLEGE STATION, TX 77844
e-mail – b25mitch@mail.myriad.net
(409) 694-9584



Alley Oop News

published by Jean and Bill Childs

...still working hard, they have found two or three dozen more members of the 820th. If you're seeking info or whereabouts on any old friends in the 820th, you can get Jean or Bill at:

3637 Patsy Ann Drive
RICHMOND, VA 23234-2951
(804) 275-6012

Robin Hitchen— daughter of the 820th has asked to be put on the mailing list of THE CROW FLIGHT. Welcome, Robin!

Ms. Robin Hitchen
4611 Harrow Court
BRYAN, TX 77802

Joint Reunion of the 820th and the 47th Bomb Squadrons with the 396th
and the 48th Bomb Squadrons invited to join in
April 16-19, 1998

Tentative Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 16, 1998

0800 - 1600	Check-in/ Register
0800	Depart for Golf game for those that have signed up. Most of these folks will probably want to arrive yesterday.
1930 - 2030	Complimentary welcome mixer with beer, wine, assorted cheeses, hors D'Oeuvres, chips and dips
2020	Hospitality, Room 1109

Friday, April 17, 1998

0630 - 0730	Free Continental Breakfast in Hospitality Room 1109
0800 - 1600	Board buses for optional tours. Lunches are included in both tours. The Lackland AFB tour spends the morning at Lackland and the afternoon of free time in downtown San Antonio to tour the Alamo, River Walk, the Mercado and other attractions. The history tour includes Fort Sam Houston, Mission San Jose, The Mexican Market (the Mercado), and Botanical Gardens.
1600 - 1700	Group business meeting
1700 - on	Evening of free time

Saturday, April 18, 1998

0700 - 0800	On our own for breakfast
0800 - 0900	Squadron business meeting in Hospitality Room 1109
0900 - 1600	Two more optional tours at this time, 1) the same history tour described above with lunch and the other a trip to Fredericksburg to the Nimitz Museum, where you are allowed free time for lunch on your own.
1800 - 1900	Stand-up cash bar in the Atrium
1900 - 2100	Banquet (coat and tie) in the Ballroom
2100 - on	Hospitality Room 1109 – BobbiSox lounge optional 40's music

Sunday, April 19, 1998

0600 - 0800	Complimentary Continental Breakfast Hospitality Room 1109
0800	Departure – Farewells

(Hospitality Room numbers to be assigned later depending on how many from each squadron attend)

*Notes of agreement between 47th Bomb Squadron and the Holiday Inn
for their reunion April 16-19, 1998*

(this is a joint reunion with the 820th with the 396th and 48th invited)

(each squadron will be operating independently)

1. 40 rooms will be blocked off at a reunion rate of \$69.00 per night. The squadron will keep the hotel notified as fast as possible as to the actual number of people attending.
2. For approximately each 25 rooms rented the hotel will provide at no charge. a hospitality suite, which consists of a meeting room and two bedrooms, one on each side of the meeting room.
3. For the group as a whole including all four squadrons, 3 hospitality suites will be blocked off on the upper floors including the two on the 11th floor. These suites will be assigned later depending on how many from each squadron attend. An additional three hospitality rooms on the first floor will be reserved just in case we have a lot more people come that we presently expect. For your info, at the last 820th reunion there were about 76, the last 47th had 45, and the last 48th had 37. To our knowledge the 396th has never had a reunion.
4. Shuttle buses are available to take guests to nearby shopping centers, restaurants, airport, etc.
5. The ballroom with podium and PA system will be furnished on Friday night for a group-wide banquet. The price per plate of steak and chicken is \$18.00 including tax and tip.
6. The hotel will furnish a piano. The Squadron will furnish the pianist.
7. The hotel will have a mixer in the atrium on Thursday night with complimentary beer, wine, cheese, and hors d'oeuvres.
8. Complimentary Continental Breakfasts will be served in our Hospitality Suite on Friday and Sunday mornings.