



The Crow Flight

Seventh newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group (M), 7th AF, WWII, issued December 10, 1998



The beginning of a tradition... if you look very carefully you can see a "Ray," written at the bottom center of this picture, which means that Jess C. "Ray" Ramaker sent it to your editor in 1945, and we've exchanged Christmas cards ever since!

*Merry Christmas!!
Happy New Year!*

A REUNION PLANNING MEETING was held at the Marriott Ontario Airport, Oct. 27, 1998. Present from the 396th were LaVerne and Keith Ingstad, Joyce Haddock and Walt Winner, from the 48th Esther and Felix Galyean, Helen and Paul Hopson, and Dick Monzingo, from the 47th Dorothy and Don Haskell, Kemary Crowder, Kallie Sitterley, and Polly and Kem Sitterley. Murray Bywater, 41st, and Skip Thrune, 820th both had indicated they would have come but they had prior commitments out of town. The hotel people could not have been nicer. They had a lovely lunch for us in their coffee shop. The Marriott folks, Quentin Roberts and his assistant, Christin, initialed off a few changes in the contract, and three of us signed it off as well as a representative of each of our three squadrons. More details on Page 2....

Notes from George....

At last my blood pressure and blood sugar have receded sufficiently since the debacle in April to express both my thanks to those who responded to my efforts to locate former members of the 47th Bomb Sqdn and to apologize to those who attended the April reunion. My deepest sympathy to those wives and relatives who notified me that their spouse or father is now deceased.

Despite the lack of coordination and the totally inadequate space for a hospitality room for visiting, entertainment, and a business meeting at the past reunion, for which I accept full responsibility, I feel we have made some progress since the '96 reunion. There is now a Sqdn newsletter, and an expanded personnel roster published to keep members informed and to stay in contact. A current roster, incidentally, is a part of this newsletter. My thanks to Don for his work on the roster, to Guts for handling the money and to Kem for doing the newsletter.

One of the things desperately needed is input from all of you, your wartime and post-wartime experiences that you would like to have published, in addition to any ideas you feel will make our informal association better.

Kem, the current reunion Coordinator and Editor, will provide you with information about the next reunion and I will sign off by wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

IN THIS ISSUE

More reunion details, masthead	2
Mail call, Guts money report.....	3
News from the 48 th	4
Marvin Watts crew down and rescued	5-7
B-25's escort Jap Bettys to Ie Shima	8
(From Smitty's collection)	
Smitty's vignette on Nauru for Marvin	9-10
"One of our planes failed to return" from Lucian Gray's collection	11
Leaflet... lest we forget	12
Profile- Eldon Ray Ford	13-14
Inevitable Triumverate- Sternberg (396 th) Ramaker (48 th), Sitterley (47 th)	15
Reunion Planning Committee Roster	16
Member roster	17-21
Kids of the 41 st Roster	22
Friends and family roster	23-24
In Memoriam	25
E-Mail roster	26
Profile...c'mon you guys-send us stuff!!!	27
Post card...write with all your reunion plans, ideas, etc	28