



The Crow Flight



Sixteenth newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group (M), 7th AF, WWII, issued March 31, 2001

Manchester Reunion

Preliminary Plans and Schedule

All as proposed by Arnold Sayer, Coordinator

... for the 47th, 48th, and 396th Squadrons and automatically invited guests from the 820th and the 41st Bomb Group

PROPOSED SCHEDULE – THURSDAY THRU MONDAY, Sept. 27 thru 30, Oct. 1, 2001

Thurs. – Registraton 1 pm to 7 pm, Lobby
Dinner on your own
Hospitality Room 4 pm to ????
Golf for those interested, 8 am
Tax free shopping, Mall of NH

Fri. – Continental Breakfast 7 – 9 am
White Mountain Tour, 8 am
Portsmouth Tour, 9 am
Possible Boston Tour (?) 9 am
Dinner on your own
Informal Squadron Meetings (plan for next reunion, date and place
Hospitality Room 7 pm to ????

Sat. – Possible Boston Tour (?)
Possible repeat Portsmouth Tour?
Ditto White Mountain Tour (?)
Explore Manchester Shopping Malls
Attitude Adjustment hour 5:30 pm
Reunion Banquet – 8 pm – ????

Sun – Farewell to all – Getaway Day

The Boston tour will include the USS Constitution, Boston Harbor, lunch at the Phillips Old Colony Restaurant, Phillips Candy Factory,

Boston Common, Beacon Hill, Public Gardens, Newbury Street, Paul Revere’s house, Old North Church, Cobbs Hill Burying Ground, Quincy Market, Fanuiel Hall.

The Portsmouth Tour will include Strawberry Banke Museum, Warren Lobster House, Albacore Park and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

The White Mountain Tour will go to Cannon Mountain View Point, an optional ride on the gondola to the top (\$8.00 additional), Indian Head Resort for lunch, Franconia Notch, Crawford Notch, North Conway and return crossing the Kancamagus Highway. This tour is really designed to show off the local fall foliage.

If there are enough takers, golf can be arranged at Derryfield Country Club in Manchester.

We’ll have more information as it develops.

CALENDAR for the year, 2001
820TH REUNION April 5-7
Cruise August 19-26
47th, 48th, and 396th Reunion . . . Sept. 27-30

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As per our money guy, Urban A. “Gutts” or “Urb” Gutting...the good guys who paid their dues for our fiscal year 2000 are as follows:

- Allan Cobb
- Ben Louis Grobe, son of Ben
- Dorothy Grobe, widow of Ben
- Glen Penner, 41st Bomb Group
- George Tolbert
- James Land
- Edmund Lowe
- Thomas Zachok
- Robert Gollnitz
- Raymond Kuttenkuler
- Buford Hill
- James Bain
- Lynn Sweetland
- Joe Roop
- Urban Gutting
- Stephen Gutting, son of Urban
- Suzanne St. Germain (Gutting-Daut), daughter of Urban
- Reginald Gauthier
- Frank Lynn
- Nedry Burris
- Leroy Julian
- Everett Ross

- Ricardo Rondinelli
- Dale Storms
- Paul Kenway
- John Anderson
- Robert McDermott
- John Waters
- Herbert Locke
- Kem Sitterley
- Buzz Sitterley, son of Kem
- Kemary Crowder, daughter of Kem
- George Harrison
- Eldon Ford
- Wilmer Dietrick
- John Hyde
- Earl Grunewald
- Gus Anderson, 820th
- Marvin Watts
- Robert Schack
- Maurice Smith
- Charles Treacle
- Norman Simcoe
- John Widener
- Robert Worsnop
- Harry Courser
- Bill Telega
- Jack Bell
- Francis Lisak
- Janette Phillips
- Don Haskell

Good guy early birds who have already paid for 2001 are:

- Gus Anderson, 820th
- Nedry Burris
- Reginald Gauthier
- Urban Gutting
- Kem Sitterley
- Buzz Sitterley, son of Kem
- Kemary Crowder, daughter of Kem

Our total liquid assets as of 12-31-00 is \$2,075.73, which includes the \$500.00 hotel deposit for our 2001 reunion in Manchester, New Hampshire.

REMINDER!!!! Now is a good time to mail in your checks to our money guy for your 2001 dues! Please make out the check to Urban A. Gutting and mail to his home address shown in the masthead at left.



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group, 7th AF, WW II. The more or less unelected folks for the 47th are: Head guy, **Geo.**

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48th correspondents are **John Helmer**, 2122 S. W. Vista Av., PORTLAND, OR 97201. (503) 222-4614, and **Jess (Ray) Ramaker**, 17217 N. E. 7th Pl. BELLEVUE, WA 98008-4134 (425) 747-2306 e-mail ramajess@msn.com



...and this is a photo of a sculpture that started it all... and I quote excerpts of an e-mail from Bob Ayres.(48th) .. "in the last CROW FLIGHT, Helmer gave me credit for taking "cock-eyed" pictures... Okay, I'll admit to it... and now for a look at some more "cock-eyed" pictures. I was recently traveling Colorado and visited The Michael Garman Gallery. While browsing I saw a sculpture named "There I was...." It was a sculpture of an Airman who was explaining an aerial combat experience with his hands. I immediately remembered a series of pictures that I had taken at Muroc with you guys going through the

same motions.... Well, needless to say I bought a copy of the sculpture and I am having the pictures printed from original negatives that I still have on file....this gallery gave a copy of this particular sculpture to President Bush in 1988... (editor's note...this gallery has two or three dozen different designs of these pilot pieces... most of them are about a foot high.... you can contact them at Michael Garman Galleries, 2418 West Colorado Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80904 - phone (719) 471-9392 -- or contact Bob Ayres direct, P. O. Box 1711, Kearney, NE 68848-1711 e-mail bayres@kearney.net, phone (308) 234-1020)



Confused navigator, left, with three crazy pilots...left to right Navigator Kem Sitterley (47th), Pilot Bob Ayres (48th), Pilot Frank Hayward (47th deceased), and Pilot Gutts Gutting (47th). Bob put this picture into the hands of his sculpture.



Bob's caption read, "Don't remember why - but you lost 'em... your pants, that is.." Your editor doesn't remember why either but seemingly enjoying the whole thing are from left Tom Wetherbee (deceased) and Jess "Ray" Ramaker (48th), and Urban A. "Urb" or "Gutts" Gutting (47th)... taking the pants of the helpless navigator, Kem Sitterley (47th)



Bob Ayres caption, "...forgot the wheels..." From left Bob (48th), Kem Sitterley (47th), and Gutts Gutting (47th) Why were we all smoking cigars? I simply cannot remember our ever being into cigars?



We've always known that the navigators carried the pilots ...and here's the proof...Navigator Kem Sitterley (47th) holding up pilots Gutts Gutting (47th), and Bob Ayres (48th) on top. Bob's caption read, "Fighting for which side?" Did I ever have that much hair???... that dark????



Bob's caption was a simple, "Buddies."... and that we were— top row left to right, Jess "Ray" Ramaker (navigator, 48th) (where did he ever get that WAC cap?) Tom Wetherbee, deceased, (navigator, 48th)(ditto on the cap), Frank Harvey (pilot, 48th), Kem Sitterley, (navigator, 47th)... bottom row, Emanuel "Pat" Kapustka, (pilot, 48th), Frank Hayward (pilot, 47th), and Gutts Gutting (pilot, 47th).. two complete crews here... Kapustka Harvey and Wetherbee (48th) for one and the other Hayward, Gutting, and Sitterley (47th).



Frank B. Hayward, deceased, pilot, 47th. This particular day of horsing around was very unlike Frank... he was normally very formal, dressed to the nines. He was a super-handsome guy with the ladies always around. No one was more loved and respected than Frank.. Bob's caption read, "Hot Pilot!!" He was that and so much, much more.



Speaking of cock-eyed pictures? Here is our erstwhile money guy, Urban A. "Gutts" Gutting... feeling his oats in about the fall of 1944. Were we drunk and why all the cigars? Ennyway, he was a fun guy to be around... he's built like an ape... look at those long, strong arms... He was probably one of those all-star all-stars... I know that whenever I tangled with him on the basketball court, I'd end up on my ass and he was dribbling

off down the court with the ball. Bob's caption read "Family would probably like to have this." I'm sure they would. They're a great family. I have met many of them... But do you realize that we're trusting all our squadron money to a playboy like this?



e-mail forwarded by Gus Anderson, 820th....

From: Paula Trout (trout@iapc.net)

Subject: TAPS

....We have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually creates tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or a Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But out of

respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody we now know as "Taps," used at military funerals, was born....

I have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song that I did before.

**Day is done
Gone the sun
From the Lakes
From the hills
From the sky
All is well,
Safely rest.
God in nigh.**

**Fading Light
Dims the sight
And a star
Gems the sky,
Gleaming bright
From afar,
Drawing nigh,
Falls the night.**

**Thanks and praise
For our days
Neath the sun,
Neath the stars,
Neath the sky,
As we go
This we know,
God is nigh.**



Yesterday, the Pacific Northwest had a 6.8 earthquake. It was centered about 100 miles north of Portland.

I was in a doctor's office at the time, and I only felt a slight motion, but I knew we going through an earthquake.

Beverly was home and talking to Kem Sitterley on the phone. The kitchen floor began to shake, the cupboard doors swung open, dishes rattled, and mortar fell loose from inside the chimney. God is in charge. (Editor's note...see end of page for my story of the phone call.)

I am still working in my forest. At the present time I am in the process of planting 1200 Western Red Cedars. These seedlings are two years old and are about 15 inches long with roots 8 inches long.

The Pacific Northwest is experiencing a low rainfall. We are only getting one half of our normal amount of rain. This means a greater forest fire potential; not enough water for the Salmon runs, shortage of our drinking water, and restricted water for electric power generation. Our water is stored in snow packs in the mountains for spring and summer run offs. (Editor's note.... Crazy weather... just a few days ago, I heard one of our local newscasters say something like, "Who would have thought it? Year to date Los Angeles has had more rain than Seattle, and Seattle has had more earthquakes than Los Angeles!")

The new year has started and I would like to remind you about our \$15.00 dues for 2001.

I have received two checks for 2001....Fitz Fitzpatrick and John Helmer.

Please make your checks payable to John Helmer, Jr. and mail to my home address, 2122 S. W. Vista Avenue, Portland, OR 97201.

Our present balance in our savings account is \$1,666.80. We will soon make a down payment for our reunion in New Hampshire.

Our 48th Squadron charge for the last newsletter was \$182.51.

Our good guys who paid dues for the calendar year, 2000, are as follows:

- Dick Monzingo
- Fred Deutsch
- Lefty Pfingst
- Ana Smith
- Ed Krikorian
- F. E. Campbell
- Dick Dunn
- David Crane

- Marian Calbreath
- Robert H. Murphy
- Fred Emmert
- Buford O. Hill
- Brosig A. Harmon
- John A. Carson
- E. J. Tracey
- John Geidel
- Don Bettisworth
- Bob Morse
- Chauncey Kershaw
- Bill McCoy
- Hi Fitzpatrick
- Hillard Shank
- Wallace Johnson
- James Hegg
- Warren Noe
- Felix Galyean
- Mary McCawley
- George Knight
- Homer Sleasman
- Francis Hanley
- Arthur Rochlin
- Joe Chamide
- Mildred Chilson
- Paul Hopson
- Luther Hart
- Jess Ramaker
- Joe Carrion
- Tom Carson
- Ray Huschle
- Carl Moritz
- John Helmer

We really appreciate our good guys who help in keeping us afloat, financially.

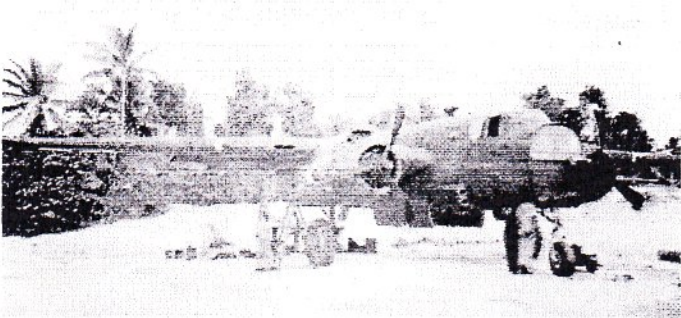
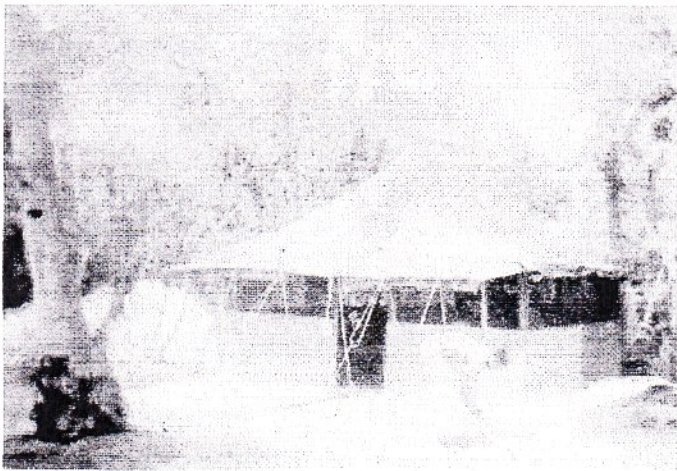
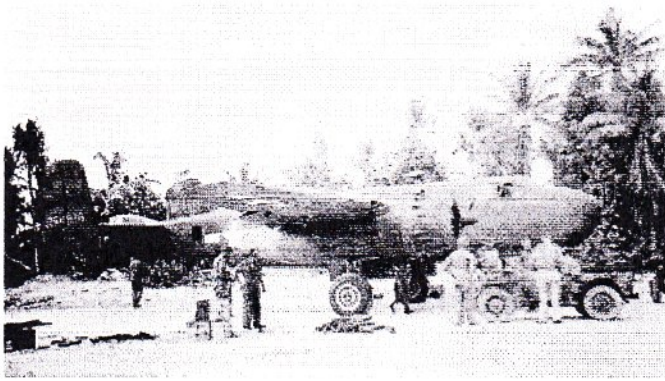
Keep your mind set for our reunion in New Hampshire...**SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

Sincerely, John Helmer, Jr.

YOUR EDITOR'S STORY OF HIS NOW-FAMOUS CALL TO BEVERLY HELMER....

Beverly, in Portland, and I, in Walnut, California were visiting and all of a sudden, she said, "Kem, I think we're having an earthquake!" I answered, "Beverly, you go check it out, Goodbye!"

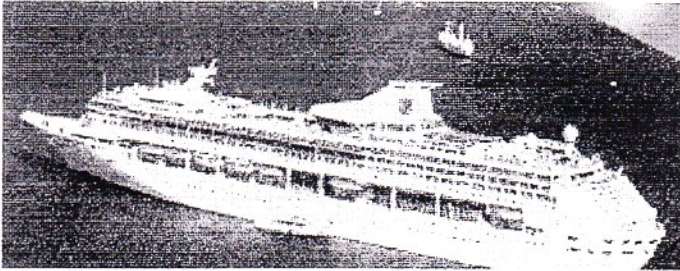
...and I thought... well I've been brushed off a few times in my life, but this is the first time with an earthquake story.... And then a couple of hours later, Polly and I were having lunch, and we thought we'd catch up on the news and turned the TV on... and we hear something like, "there was a major earthquake near Seattle today and it was felt as far south as Portland!"



Appemama Boulevard



Friendly natives!



“Vision of the Seas” Built in 1998, 75,000 tons, 2,000 passengers, 765 crew... truly a beauty!!!!

Many people have said that they are interested. The ones that are planning on going at the present time include Enid and Gus Anderson, 820th; Pat and Dick Sternberg, 396th; Carolyn Colvin and “Gutts” Gutting, 47th; Lefty Pflingst, 48th; Polly and Kem Sitterley, 47th; and their daughter, Kemary Crowder.

DATES OF THE CRUISE – Aug. 19 – 26, 2001.

ITINERARY – Vancourver, Hubbard Glacier, Skagway, Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan, Misty Fjords, Vancouver.

TRAVEL AGENCY – The Travel Company, 3351 El Camino Real, Suite 250, Atherton, CA 94027-3804. 1-800-367-6090...Dial Extension 317, which should get you Tara who has handled our situation. She has also been able to confirm that our whole party can go at my interline rate, which means that we get the airline employee discount, which normally is the best you can get. Our son is a captain with USAirways, which is what enables us to get his rate.

INSIDE CABIN PRICE – \$883.00 per person double occupancy plus \$185.05 port tax per person, for the first two persons in each stateroom. The 3rd and 4th persons in each stateroom are \$429.00 per person plus \$185.05 port tax per person. Make sure and tell Tara that you’re with the 41st Bomb Group. This particular cabin has no outside window. You can get more luxurious accommodations... and I’m sure that our interline rate would apply. This rate is one of the lower ones and there are probably a few under and a few over. My experience with cruise ships is that there are about a dozen different price levels depending on view, location, space, etc.

DINNER SEATING – We are too late to get main seating, but I put us down for the waiting list. We took this identical cruise last year, when we were on the waiting list and did get the main seating.... this is a completely different thing however with maybe a dozen or two people involved.

TICKET INSURANCE – \$99 per person. I personally bought this insurance mainly because of a history of heart problems starting with a heart attack in 1990.

DEPOSIT – The minimum deposit to hold your space is \$250 per person. Payment in full is required 60 days before sail date, which would be approximately June 19, 2001.

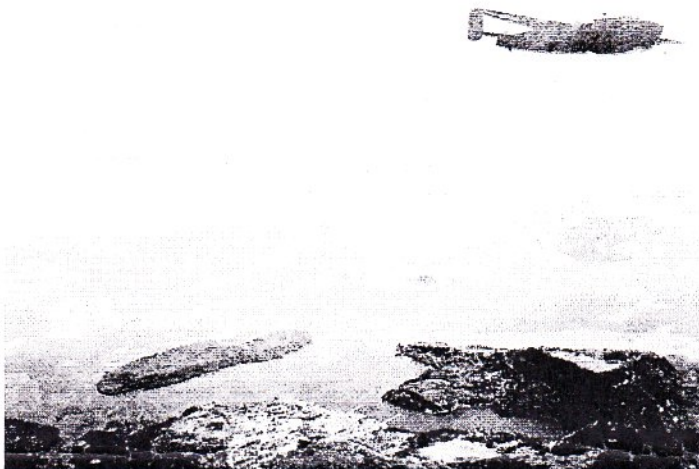
REFUND POLICY – Full return, no penalty with written cancellation 60 days, or more before sail date. There is a graduated scale from there down depending on how many days before sail date you cancel.

CAR STORAGE – For those of you who may want to drive you may make car storage arrangements with the cruise company.

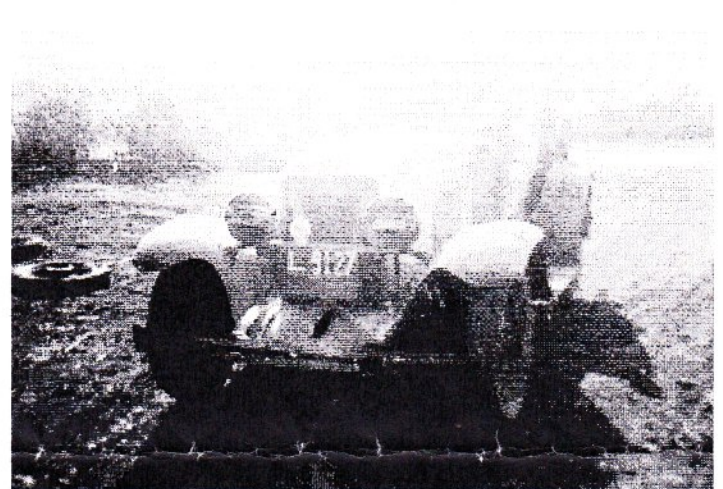
THREE HOUR ROLLER COASTER RIDE – This is probably the most famous tour of the whole week. You leave from Skagway and go up into the mountains. At the end of the trip you are actually in Canada. The views are extraordinary to say the least. When you look out your window, you’re looking straight down thousands of feet, and you wonder just what is holding these train tracks on the cliff...scary?! Not for the faint of heart!

GLACIERS – This huge ship gets unbelievably close to the glaciers... and then they use their side-thrusters to literally rotate the ship around.. An incredibly stunning experience!

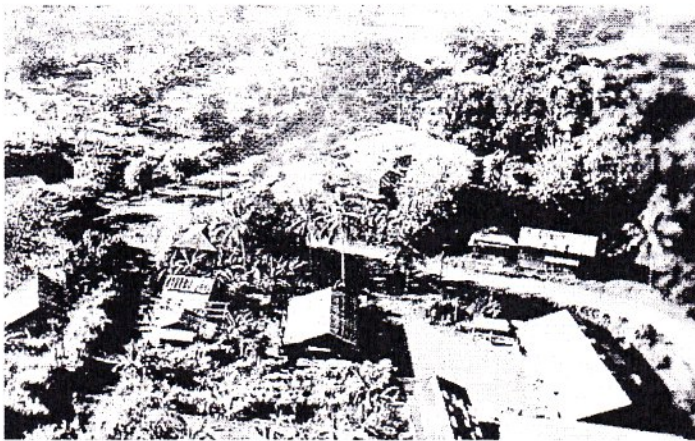
Please call with any other ideas or questions. We made this identical trip last year... same ship... same itinerary – call Kem Sitterley, (909) 595-4451... or e-mail kusitterley@cs.com



Ponape



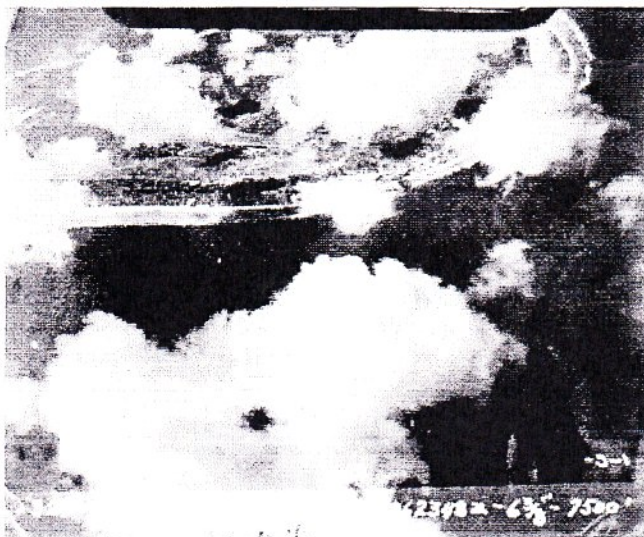
George Kinney and I bought this limo – got about 10 miles per tire – Got it barred from Hickam Field.



Ponape Town



Quarters Kipapa Gulch, Hawaii... take off on SNAFU... Things Are Really Fouled Up



Nauru



Then Col. Bywater – Watts foreground

The captions on these pictures are exactly what Marv Watts wrote on his little stick-on messages. Thanks so much to Marv for sending us these pics. If you remember the story on these pages sometime ago, "Shot Down, Rescued to Playing Second Base in 24 hour – Story of 47th Pilot Marvin Watts and His Crew."

Once again, Marv, thanks for your help in making our newsletter more interesting!



GEORGE KINNEY PASSES AWAY – and I quote from a letter from his wife, Josephine, dated December 9, 2000.... “ It’s with great sadness that I inform you that George passed away on August 13, of this year after a long illness. He died at home – I was with him, and he is now ‘resting’ at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs ...Thank you again – and perhaps in the future I may come to one of the re-unions...”

76th birthday... We (her sons) know how much her and Spud enjoyed getting together “to talk old times.” We are all going to miss her very much. She was still so full of energy. It is definitely an end of an “era in Elyria, Nebraska.” Signed, “the oldest son, Robert Kapustka.”



From Dick Monzingo, 48th, along with a note... “ ran across this picture the other day...still think it was one of the best shows ever made.”

LOUIS L. COCHRAN – has moved from Fresno... his new address is 2248 Wrenwood Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611.

IRYNE KAPUSTKA PASSES AWAY — Iryne was the widow of “Pat” Kapustka, pilot in the 48th. And we quote from a note.... “ Please let the members know that Iryne Kapustka passed away very unexpectedly on January 4, 2001, one day after her

**Major (Ret) USAF
Donald E. Lighthall**



Don passed away peacefully March 1, 2000 after a courageous three year battle with lymphoma cancer. Don graduated from U.S. Army Air Corps Officers Flying School as a 2nd Lt. With Silver Wings in 1943 at Santa Ana, CA. He took part in the first land based B-25 raid over Tokyo. He was in the bomb raids on Southern Japan when the Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

Don served proudly for 27 years of active duty with the Air Force. He loved his country and served honorably, earning many decorations. He retired on May 1, 1967 after serving in World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Era. He was assigned to B-25 Crews, B-29 Crews, and to a KC 135 Crew as his last flying duty, flying with the Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska.

Don married Eileen Purdue on August 31, 1943 in Greenville, South Carolina, and they spent 56 years together. Surviving are his wife, Eileen, one daughter, one son, and seven grandchildren.

We thank Mary and Johnny Widener for passing this information on to us.

MARY AND RAY KUTTENKULER ARE BACK – and we quote from an e-mail... “We are back online with a new Gateway computer. I haven’t mastered all the functions yet but we can send and receive e-mail...”

Try rpkmur@aol.com !!!!