



The Crow Flight



Seventeenth newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons. 41st Bomb Group (M). 7th AF. WWII. issued July 1, 2001

Manchester Reunion

Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn!!!
700 Elm St., MANCHESTER, NH 03101

Here's how to do it.....

1. Make your hotel reservations by calling (603) 625-1000 and do the following three things: 1) Tell them that you're with the 41st Bomb Group; 2) Confirm that your daily rate is \$92.00 plus tax, and 3) get a confirmation number. This particular Holiday Inn does not have their own eight hundred (800) number. I tried their world-wide 800 number, and they didn't have the slightest idea what I was talking about, but with the local number the hotel reservation clerk could not have been nicer or more efficient. The call didn't take over 2 or 3 minutes. Have your credit card number handy. If you're a real stickler for paperwork, you can complete the hotel form (page 4 of this newsletter) and then wait the snail mail reply hopefully with a confirmation number. Remember that the special reunion daily rate of \$92.00 is also available to us for three days before and/or after the reunion. Our reservation deadline is September 9, 2001, but it would probably be an excellent idea to get it in as soon as possible.

2. Fill out the form (page 7 of this newsletter) and mail your registration form, along with your check for the appropriate total amount, to your respective squadron money guys as shown on the form.

Sept, 27, Thur. – Hospitality Room Open 4 pm

Sept. 28, Fri. – Registration 1-6 pm, Reception in Hospitality Room from 4 pm on, – meals on your own, Golf at Derryfield Country Club, – tax free shopping

Sept, 29, Sat. – Continental Breakfast 7–9 am, White Mountains Fall Foliage Tour, Boston Tour, Portsmouth Tour, various meetings.

Sept 30, Sunday – repeat tours as necessary, attitude adjustment at 5:30 pm – Banquet at 6:30 pm Hospitality Room 8 pm on.

Oct. 1, Monday – farewell and depart.

Reminders... Avoid Boston's Logan Airport if at all possible... a lot of walking is not mandatory on any tour... bring warm clothes in case the New Hampshire weather turns cool which is quite possible in late September... the local liquor laws are not friendly at all...SO CHECK IT OUT!! The tee times for golf are not a problem, so if you want to play, bring or rent your stuff.

Any questions, contact Arnold or Doris Sayer, P. O. Box 547, New London, NH 03257-0547, (603) 763-2057... e-mail ACSAYER@aol.com.

CALENDAR

Reunion, 47th, 48th, and 396th – Sept 27, Oct 1, 2001, at Manchester, New Hampshire
Reunion, 820th May 2-5, 2002 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Reunion, 47th, 48th, and 396th about September or October, Biloxi, Mississippi

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... and I quote almost verbatim from Gutts’ e-mail...

Oliver Stone’s Coincidence – Have a history teacher explain this – if he/she can.

Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.
John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.

Both were particularly concerned with civil rights
Both wives lost a child while living in the White House.

Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.
Both Presidents were shot in the head.

Lincoln’s secretary was named Kennedy.
Kennedy’s secretary was named Lincoln.

Both were assassinated by Southerners.
Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.

Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.

Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839.

Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.

Both assassins were known by their three names.
Both names are composed of fifteen letters.

Lincoln was shot at the theater named “Ford.”
Kennedy was shot in a car called “Lincoln.” Booth ran from the theater and was caught in a warehouse.
Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theater.

Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

And here’s the kicker. A week before Lincoln was shot, he was in Monroe, Maryland.
A week before Kennedy was shot, he was with Marilyn Monroe.

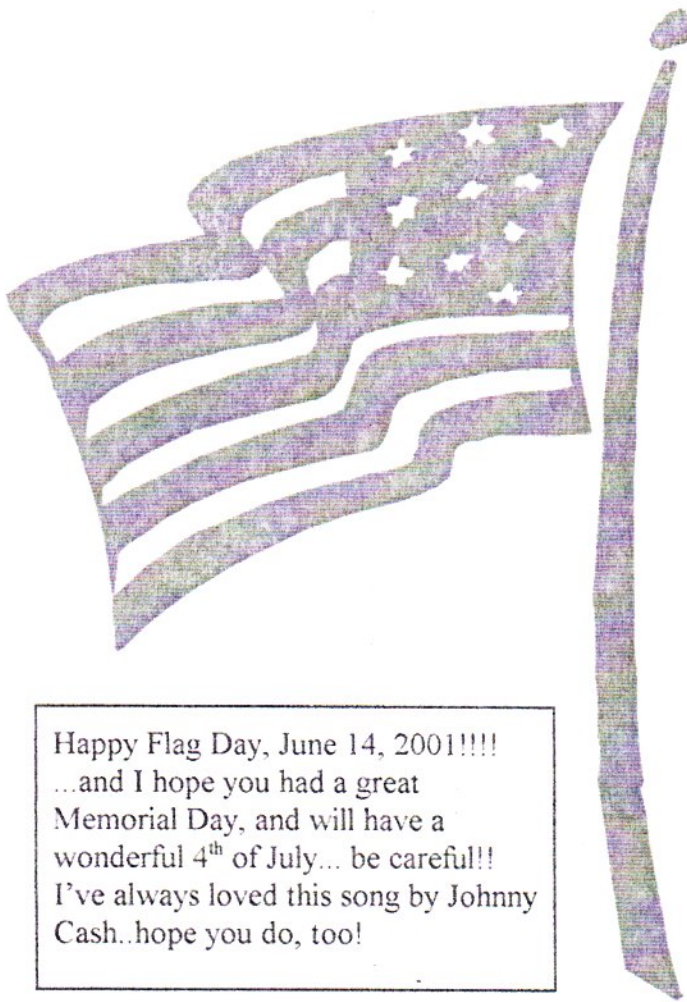
Our bank balance May 18, 2001 was \$ 1,937.71.
The \$500 deposit for the Manchester, New Hampshire reunion brings our total equity up to \$2,437.71.

The good guys since the last report are Herbert Locke, Leroy Julian, Donald Haskell, John Sacco, Eldon Ray Ford, Dale Storms, Robert Gollnitz, Wilmer Dietrick, Joseph Kiseleski, Lynn Sweetland, George Harrison, Paul Kenway, Ricardo Rondinelli, Raymond Kuttenkuler, Stephen Gutting son of Gutts), Suzanne St. Germain (daughter of Gutts), Norman Simcoe, John Anderson, Jack Bell, and Robert Schack, Bill MacMinn (396th), Jim McGrath, and George Tolbert



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. Tolbert**, 28455 W. Hwy. 66, BRISTOW, OK 74010 (918) 367-5988. e-mail geosplace@aol.com -- Money guy **Urban A. “Gutts” Gutting**, 7047 Autumn Chase Dr., SAN ANTONIO, TX 78238-2118 (210) 647-1651, e-mail urbangu@sax.it.com. Info guy **Maurice “Smitty” Smith**, 803 Vesta Del Rio, SANTA MARIA CA 93458 (805) 348-3868 -- Website guy, **Donald Haskell**, 2831 Springfield Dr., ROCKLIN, CA 95765-5060. (916) 732-1553. e-mail dhaskell@softcom.net -- WEB site <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/> -- 41st WEB site <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/bombgroup41/>
Nerd guy and editor, **Kem Sitterley**, 20449 Blue Mountain Dr., WALNUT, CA 91789-1001, (909) 595-6821, or (909) 595-4451 (fax possible this number, call first so I can push a button). cell phone (909) 994-4444 - e-mail kusitterley@cs.com
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





Happy Flag Day, June 14, 2001!!!!
...and I hope you had a great Memorial Day, and will have a wonderful 4th of July... be careful!!
I've always loved this song by Johnny Cash..hope you do, too!

I walked through a county courthouse square
On a park bench an old man was sitting there.

I said, "Your old courthouse is kinda run down."
He said, "it'll do for our little town."

And that's a Ragged Old Flag you got hanging on it.
He said "Have a seat," and I sat down.
"Is this the first time you've been to our little town?"

I said, "I think it is." He said, "I don't like to brag,
But we're kinda proud of that Ragged Old Flag.

"You see, we got a little hole in that flag there
When Washington took it across the Delaware.

"And it got powder-burned the night Francis Scott Key
Sat watching it writing, 'Oh Say Can You See.'

"And it got a bad rip in New Orleans
With Packingham and Jackson tuggin' at its seams.

"And it almost fell at the Alamo
Beside the Texas flag, but she waved on through.

"She got cut with a sword at Chancellorsville
and she got cut again at Shiloh Hill.

"There was Robert E. Lee, Beauregard, and Bragg.
And the south wind blew hard on that Ragged Old Flag.

"On Flanders Field in World War I
She got a big hole from a Bertha gun.

"She turned blood red in World War II
She hung limp and low by the time it was through.

"She was in Korea and Vietnam.
She went where she was sent by her Uncle Sam.

"She waved from our ships upon the briny foam
And now they've about quit waving her back here at home.

"In her own good land she's been abused –
She's been burned, dishonored, denied and refused.

"And the government for which she stands
Is scandalized throughout the land.

"And she's getting threadbare and wearing thin,
But she's in good shape for the shape she's in.

"Cause she's been through the fire before
And I believe she can take a whole lot more.

"So we raise her up every morning. Take her down every
night.
We don't let her touch the ground And we fold her up
right.

"On second thought I DO like to brag.
'Cause I'm mighty proud of the Ragged Old Flag."

Johnny Cash

e-mail from Urban ("Urb" or "Gutts") A. Gutting

The easy way to do this is to call the local number below, (603) 625-1000, and within a few minutes you have your confirmation number in hand and don't have to worry about snail mail....smoking vs non-smoking, king size bed, etc. If you are, however, more comfortable with going the paperwork route, fill out the form below and mail it the letterhead address shown.... however, get it done, and we'll all have a marvelous time in Manchester, New Hampshire!!!!!!

Holiday Inn

The Center
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101
(603) 625-1000

41st Bomb Grp, 47th 48th, 396th Bomb Sqdns

Reunion Sept 27 - Oct 1 2001

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Nbr of Rooms _____ Nbr of People _____

Reservation Deadline for this rate: 9 September 2001

Single \$92.00 Double \$92.00 Triple \$102.00 Quadruple \$102.00

Rates subject to NH Rooms & Meals Tax, currently 8%.

Deposit of one night's stay or credit card number is required to guarantee reservation.

___ Check enclosed, or ___ Major Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature _____

Check-in: After 3:00 P.M. Check-out: By 11:00 A.M.

Arrival Date # Nights Print Name(s)



Summer greetings from Portland, Oregon. Summer has come in with a bang, three days in May with the temperatures above 90 and one all-time record of 97.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our reunion in New Hampshire in September. I expect to see many new faces because we have never had a reunion on the east coast. This might be a good time to call an old buddy and say, "I'll see you in New Hampshire in September."

We all had a unique and wonderful experience in serving our country and making friendships in our 48th Bomb Sq. that have lasted over 56 years. Come and share in the things we remember.

Since our last newsletter, I have received monies from the following people: Paul Hopson, Tom Carson, Donald Bettisworth, David Crane, Felix Galyean, Fred Deutsch, Joe Carrion, H. E. Fitzpatrick, Bill Chilson, Ed Tracey, James Hegg, Charles Glownia, Richard Dunn, Homer Sleasman, Herbert Buckstone, Al Gazda, and Ana Smith. The receipts from these folks amounted to \$340.00. Our current bank balance is \$2,557.30. Thanks for your support.

Gene Olson called the other day asking about John Davis. I talked to Janet a few months ago. Their health does not permit them to travel. They were regular attenders at our reunions.

See you in New Hampshire . . . John Helmer

VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

...and we quote nearly verbatim from an e-mail from Arnold Sayer...

"Hi All,

I have received a package of information from Cong. John Sununu reference the above subject. I had spoken with a friend at the last TROA Board meeting who had brought up the subject.

It occurs to me that the reunion might be an ideal time to try to put some of the stories of the squadrons on tape or video tape for submission. Cong. Sununu's staff is planning a preliminary meeting sometime in June. If there is interest, I will plan to attend that meeting. I suggest that this might be something that would be worth disseminating to all squadron members.

The Veterans' Oral History Project was created by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Clinton on October 27, 2000. Public Law 106-380 calls upon the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to develop a program to collect and preserve audio and video recorded oral histories from American war veterans. The Law also allows for the selective acquisition of documentary materials such as diaries and letters. The American Folklife Center is also authorized to develop online presentations of the collection as an accessible resource for the American people.

For those interested in further exploration of the subject, here are the internet addresses which will provide further information:

lcweb@loc.gov For LC Home Page, Search the LC Catalog, Services for the Researchers, Research Tools.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/folklife/vets/> For information on Veterans Oral History Project.

Keep me advised as to how you feel about participating in this program. If there is sufficient interest, I will get the necessary forms guidelines and release forms. I already have one set of them. Your own congressman should be able to provide you with the same package which I received.

Arnold"

(Editor's note...Arnold can be reached at his e-mail address, ACSAYER@aol.com. Snail mail at P. O. 547, New London, NH 03257-0547. Telephone at (603) 763-2057).



From Keith Ingstad of the 396th.... a forward of another e-mail to him....



If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:



- 57 Asians
- 21 Europeans
- 14 from the Western Hemisphere both north and south
- 8 Africans
- 52 would be female
- 48 would be male
- 70 would be non-white
- 30 would be white
- 70 would be non-Christian
- 30 would be Christian
- 89 would be heterosexual
- 11 would be homosexual
- 6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.
- 80 would live in substandard housing
- 70 would be unable to read
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition
- 1 would be near death
- 1 would be near birth
- 1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education
- 1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent. The following is also something to ponder:

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness.... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation.... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, and in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace... you are among the top 8% of

the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married... you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and more, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Someone once said, "What goes around comes around... Work like you don't need the money.... Love like you've never been hurt.... Dance like nobody's watching... Sing like nobody's listening... Live like it's Heaven on Earth... It's National Friendship Week... Send this to everyone you consider a FRIEND... PASS THIS ON AND BRIGHTEN SOMEONES' DAY."

From Gus Anderson of the 820th Another e-mail forward from Paula Trout... remember her? she is the lady who forwarded to Gus the great story about the composing of the Bugle Call, "Taps." (Editor's Note: I did send Paula Trout a thank you note via e-mail thanking her for the story and informing her that it was in our newsletter and offering to send her a copy of our newsletter... she sent another nice note, but sort of remains the nice mystery lady who sends stuff to Gus who kindly forwards it on to us).



Subject: Ever Wondered about the importance of cole slaw?

GOVERNMENT AND BUREAUCRACY

- Pythagorean Theorem: 24 words
- The Lord's Prayer: 66 words
- Archimedes Principle: 47 words
- The Ten Commandments: 179 words
- The Gettysburg Address: 286 words
- The Declaration of Independence: 1,300 words
- The U. S. Gov't regulations on the sale of cabbage: 26,911 words

NEEDED!! A NEW EDITOR-PUBLISHER -- This letter must be the last that I publish and edit. There has been a major change in the Sitterley household. On April 19, 2001, Polly had a very bad fall resulting in a life-threatening brain injury. She was overnight in the emergency room, then about a week in ICU and then about two months in a nursing home. We brought her home on Tuesday, June 26. We do love having her at home. She is on sort of a maximum-assist program and sleeps about 22 hours per day.... And so after 4 1/2 years and 17 newsletters, I must resign. Perhaps I can continue contributing here and there.... **FAREWELL!!!!**Kemle "Kem" Urban Sitterley.



Registration for 41st Bomb Group Reunion
Manchester, New Hampshire, Sept. 27– Oct. 1, 2001
(Thursday thru Monday)



Name (s) for name tag (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State and zip _____

Phone number _____

How many in your party? _____

How many for golf? _____

How many for Chicken Oscar _____

How many for Steak and Salmon: _____

Please send this form and your check to your respective squadrons as follows: Make checks payable to the **RESPECTIVE INDIVIDUALS** --NOT TO THE SQUADRONS--



47th/ 820th/
Group Hdqtrs
 make checks payable to
 and mail to:

Urban A. Gutting
 7047 Autumn Chase Drive
 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78238-2118
 (210) 647-1651
 E-MAIL: urbangu@satx.rr.com

ITEM PER PERSON	Price Each	How Many	Amount
Registration (includes banquet)	\$75		
Banquet only	\$40		
White Mountain Tour, includes Tram	\$69		
Portsmouth Tour	\$84		
Mountain Tram, if taken separately	\$8		
Boston Tour	\$79		
Total			



48th make checks
 payable to and mail to:

John Helmer
 2122 S.W. Vista Avenue
 PORTLAND, OR 97201
 Home phone (503) 222-4614
 Business phone (503) 223-4976

Select no more than two tours per person.

GOLFERS: You'll probably want to arrive on Wednesday, the 26th, because you'll need to get started early Thursday morning.

If you're with the 47th, 48th or 396th, please mail to your individual Sq. shown at the right. If you're with the 41st Group Headqr's or the 820th, please mail to Gutts with the 47th. Please make checks payable to the individual... not to the Sq. The bank takes exception to this because of the laws requiring you to register as a fictitious name, etc.



396th make checks
 payable to and mail to:

Lou Beisser
 2737 E. Waterview Drive
 Avon Park, FL 33825
 (863) 385-9475

Helmer furnishes the finishing touch!



John Helmer Jr. (right) and John Helmer III, father and son, supply the finishing touches for the perfect gentlemen's wardrobe
TRIBUNE PHOTO
JIM CLARK



Need spats? You'll find them at John Helmer, along with sock and sleeve garters, collar enlargers, suspenders and ascots.
TRIBUNE PHOTO
JIM CLARK

Editor's note – John Helmer sent in a copy of this article from the BusinessTribune, which I think is a twice weekly section of the Portland Tribune.

Pictures and text have been copied exactly. The format has been changed to fit our 8 1/2" by 11" pages.

This article started on the front page of the BusinessTribune and finished on the second page

The pics are actually in color and larger than shown here.

Text by Jeanie Senior
For the Tribune

It's no surprise to find that John Helmer, Haberdasher, founded in 1921 and probably the last remaining men's store of its kind in Portland, carries spats, linen handkerchiefs, ascots and even sock garters along with its extensive stock of hats and men's clothing.

But Viking Helmets? Like Wagner's Valkyrie, with horns attached to a metal helmet and leather flaps, front and back?

"We might sell about a half-dozen a year," says owner John Helmer, III, whose grandfather, a Swedish immigrant, founded the business.

"We're always kind of surprised when it happens," adds John Helmer Jr., courtly and quiet-voiced, who started helping in his father's store as a youngster. He models the store's \$10 wool berets in advertisements in *The New Yorker*, *Sunset*, *Smithsonian* and other national magazines.

He says the helmets are made by a "a retired fellow in the 'San Juans,'" who gets his supply of cow horns from Mexico. Helmer sells the Ceremonial Deluxe model for \$95.

"We like to think we have a hat for everybody," the younger Helmer says, smiling.

Indeed, Helmer has made its reputation with hats. According to Helmer Jr., head-wear accounts for about half of the store's business.

"I think maybe hats could be one of the reasons why we have been able to exist," he says.

"It's really hats that have kept us going," Helmer III says.

Thanks to the senior Helmer's magazine ads and a 3-year-old Web site, mail order also brings in a fair share of business. He's also the person who wraps berets for mailing. On one notable day, he says, they mailed 100 berets.

"Movies have helped the revival of hats," the younger Helmer says. Even the baseball cap craze has contributed. "It's getting used to something on your head that makes a big difference... You have to wear a hat for two or three days before you become accustomed to it."

Although both men consider hats a fashion accessory, the finishing touch to a wardrobe, the store's owner also points out their practicality.

"A hat keeps you warmer and drier and looks good at the same time," Helmer Jr. says.

The store's shelves are stocked with an awesome variety of head-gear — hats from England, Ireland, France, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Italy and Greece, as well as the United States

There are four styles of Derbies in seven colors. There's a collapsible top hat, its frame made in France. There are shelves of homburgs — the hat Sir Winston Churchill favored — in a variety of colors and finishes. Fedoras — as popularized by Humphrey Bogart and later, Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones — range in price from about \$50 to more than \$200. Berets, too, come in a wide variety of styles, prices and colors.

Something for everyone

"There certainly are hats that are not for everybody," Helmer III observes, donning a green Robin Hood hat, feather-accented, that shoots to a point in front.

His comment could apply to other headgear in stock: the "mad hatter," an exaggerated top hat; a Swiss Army helmet, the tricorne of the American Colonial era, a pith helmet, a Moroccan fez. There are tweed driving caps, grouser hats and deerstalkers (think Sherlock Holmes).

"You must have your proper hat for the shooting excursion," Helmer III kids.

In fact, the men say, there's a buyer out there for each of the hats and an emerging youth market. High school seniors, for example, buy bowlers and walking sticks for graduation ceremonies.

When young people buy hats, "they think that they have discovered something new," the elder Helmer says.

Helmer: Downtown shop specializes in hats, spats and ascots



Waylon Spencer tries on a Derby while John Helmer employee Louise Marriage looks for a different size. Headwear accounts for nearly half of the stores business. TRIBUNE PHOTO -- JIM CLARK

Continued from last page

As a proper haberdasher, John Helmer specializes in all manner of men's furnishings, except for shoes. Helmer sells custom-tailored shirts, which start at \$62.50 and go up to \$200.

The store sells suits and sport coats, English raincoats and duffle coats, overcoats and ties. Suit sales dwindled last year, but both father and son are confident the demand will remain.

"One big-deal consultant said suits will go the way of hats," the younger Helmer says. "I was happy to hear that."

Casual dress days may be popular, but he thinks the pendulum will swing back. The Bush White House has put into place a more formal dress code than existed during President Clinton's eight years in office. And the need for "special occasion" suits also continues.

Spats and sticks

Helmer also has filled a niche in supplying hard-to-find items. The store carries spats, for example, which come in white or dove gray. "We might sell a dozen pairs a year, some fellows get married in them," Helmer Jr. says. "My dad wore spats on cold days to keep his ankles warm, he walked three miles to work."

There is a sizable selection of walking sticks – one has both a compass and a flask cleverly concealed in the handle – as well as bottles of bay rum, shoe horns, cummerbunds, shirt and collar studs and cuff links. Helmer has linen handkerchiefs – Louis "Satchino" Armstrong used to buy them when he was in Portland – and red work bandannas.

The store carries what may be the only selection of silk ascots in Oregon and also has sock garters.

"People will say they have looked all over, that they can't believe we sell them," Helmer Jr. says of the elastic and leather garters, which sell for \$18 a pair.

There's a stock of cotton-knit nightcaps, in white and light blue, which are popular with bald men, cancer patients and anybody else who likes to keep his head warm at night.

A lot of celebrities have shopped at the store over the 34 years, but the two Helmers just started keeping an autograph book about five years ago. Spike Lee's autograph echoes a popular theme: "Great stuff!" he wrote. "Thanks."



Eldon Ray has always been an active contributor to our newsletter, and we appreciate his activity very much.



28, 1945. (Our planes arrived June 28) They had been in combat since July 13, 1943.

They flew their first mission from Ie Shima July 30, 1945 and their losses over the first 14 days totaled 10 planes and 49 men.

The exploits of this group re fully describee, mission by mission, in this book. It is a 8 x 11 hardcover containing 4348 pages and several hundred truly outstanding photos!

This group was credited with:

Enemy vessels sunk	262
Enemy vessels damaged	275
Enemy planes destroyed on ground	250
Enemy planes destroyed in air	107

The above record at a cost of 712 men dead from all causes, including 89 killed 11-12-44 when their liberty ship was hit by a kamikaze while waitding to unload at Leyte, P. I., 580 on flights and 177aircraft!

Yours truly,
Eldon Ford

Following are some definitions from Eldon from an older note...

As a Radio Operator/Waist Gunner on a B-25... I provided these answers questioned by the occasional "ground troop" passenger:

RELIEF TUBE? – Emergency Intercom direct to the pilot. You talk into the funnel then hold funnel to your ear for reply.

WHY ARE PLEXIGLASS WAIST WINDOWS CUT OUT? – Makes it easier to bail out when plane is hit and spinning out of control.

TRAILING WIRE ANTENNAE? – A defice to lower handwritten messages during "radio silence."

CONDOMS IN PARACHUTE EMERGENCY PACK? – In case natives are friendly.

TROPICAL CHOCOLATE HERSHEY BARS IN SAME PACK? – To make friends with the natives.

Eldon's notes on the back of this picture follow:
7-10-45 Mission No. 47-5; pilot: R. V. Ramstack, RCM; 62 holes; A. D. Hyzer, B/N wounded; L to R, T/Sgt. E. R. Ford, T/Sgt A. Martin, Eng., S/Sgt Hugh Cosgrove, gunner; Our Day in the Radar Jammer

Along with the above photo was a note dated 4-13-01..."The date was July 10, 1945...this is the day Dean Hyzer, our B/N was wounded. I well remember him calmly saying, "We just got some holes here and some of them are in me." It was our crew's turn in the Group Radar Jammer "FILO" First in, last out. We were waiting for the ambulance when I handed my Box Kodak # 116 to a guy to take our picture. An officer I had never seen before grabbed the camera and opened the back causing pictures to be fogged. Ramstack did not know about the holes by his head until after we had landed. The worst holes were below the turret gun barrels where hydraulic fluid was running out." (Editor's note... the holes are really hard to see in this picture. There are a few right behind the pilot's window and many more are hidden behind the foginess.)

"THE OTHER B-25 GROUP ON OKINAWA..."
Excerpts from another interesting letter from Eldon Ray Ford dated April 7, 2001... and we quote...

..."Re "Warpath Across the Pacific" – Third Edition by Lawrence J. Hickey; International Standard Book No. 0 93511 02 1; International Research Puyblishing Co.; Box 3334 High Mar Station, Boulder, CO 80317

"It was the 345th Bomb Group, Fifth Air Force. Their planes arrived at the Ie Shima From Clark Field on July