



The Crow Flight



Eighteenth newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group (M) 7th AF, WWII, issued August 20, 2001

MANCHESTER REUNION...LAST REMINDER!!! DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 09, 2001!!! IF YOU HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED, PLEASE DO IT NOW. CALL THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOLIDAY INN AT (603) 625-1000. 1) Tell them you are with the 41st Bomb Group 2) Confirm rate of \$92 plus tax 3) Get a confirmation number. Then plan on having a wonderful time seeing old friends, making new friends, maybe hearing a war story you haven't yet heard, touring the beautiful New England fall foliage, visiting historic Boston and having a beer at Cheers, or touring equally historic Portsmouth and the Naval Ship Yard and eating a Maine lobster. All the reunion details were outlined in the last newsletter (Seventeen). If the dog ate it or if there are any questions contact the Reunion Coordinator, **Arnold Sayer** at (603) 763-2057, e-mail ACSAYER@aol.com, or any of the folks found in the p.2 masthead. (MORE REUNION INFO. P.3)

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Speaking of trips...An e-mail forwarded by **Robert Brandt, 48th**: I had not really planned on taking a trip this time of year, and yet I found myself packing rather hurriedly. This trip was going to be unpleasant and I knew in advance that no real good would come of it. I'm talking about my annual "Guilt Trip." I got tickets to fly there on "WISHIHAD" airlines. It was an extremely short flight. I got my baggage, which I could not check. I chose to carry it myself all the way. It was weighed down with a thousand memories...of what might have been. No one greeted me as I entered the terminal to the Regret City International Airport. I say international because people from all over the world come to this town.

As I checked into the Last Resort Hotel, I noticed that they would be hosting the year's most important event, the Annual Pity Party. Many of the towns leading citizens would be there. First, there would be the Done family...you know, Should Have, Would Have and Could Have. Then came the I Had family. You probably know ol' Wish and his clan. Of course, the Opportunities would be present, Missed and Lost. The biggest family would be the Yesterday's. There are far too many of them to count, but each one would have a very sad story to share. Then Shattered Dreams would surely make an appearance. And It's Their Fault would regale us with stories (excuses) about how things had failed in his life, and each story would be loudly applauded by Don't Blame Me and I Couldn't Help It. I went to this depressing party, knowing that there would be no real benefit in doing so. But as I thought about all of the stories of failures brought back from the past, it occurred to me that all of this trip and subsequent "pity party" could be canceled by ME! One thing kept going through my mind. I CAN'T CHANGE YESTERDAY, BUT I DO HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE TODAY A WONDERFUL DAY. (**Call Holliday**) I can be happy, joyous, fulfilled, encouraged, as well as encouraging. Knowing this, I left the City of Regret immediately and left no forwarding address.

So if you're planning a trip back to the City of Regret,...please cancel all your reservations now. Instead, take a trip to a place called Starting Again, **New Hampshire**. I liked it so much, that I have now taken up permanent residence there. My neighbors, the Forgive Myself and the New Starts are so very helpful. By the way, you don't have to carry around heavy baggage, because the load is lifted from your shoulders upon arrival. God bless you in finding this great town. If you can find it...it's in your own heart...please look me up. I live on I CAN DO IT Street, **Manchester, New Hampshire**. (Slightly edited version...)



To know her is to love her...

Kem Sitterley informed that Polly, his beloved and devoted wife of fifty-five years, passed away peacefully in his arms on Friday, 3 Aug. 2001. At Polly's side were their daughter, Kallie and granddaughter Karrisa and her boy friend, so as Kem said, "she was surrounded by family and love."

Kem's message referenced, "Eagles In A Storm":

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm. When the storms of life come upon us and all of us will experience them we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them. God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm. Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them. The Bible says, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31

MORE REUNION NEWS.

CORRECTION: "Registration for 41st Bomb Group Reunion, etc." form in #17 NL, under "ITEM PER PERSON": Change "White Mountain Tour, includes Tram," to read "Excludes Tram."

The Tram ride on the Mountain Tour is optional at \$8 extra.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Congratulations to DOROTHY GROBE, the first 47th Sq. Registrant for the reunion. (And her check was good.) Dorothy will be staying a few days before the reunion with Doris & Arnold Sayer. Seems Dorothy and Doris hit it off real well at the Ontario reunion. Now isn't that nice!

Phone call from MARY ZACHOK: The cat (?) ate the 17th NL and Mary needed phone #, etc. for the hotel registration. Mary and Tom will combine the Reunion with a visit with old friends in the Boston area. Now isn't that nice!

WILMER and BETTY DEITRICK are early registrants. Their daughter LINDA FOWLER and husband RODNEY will be driving them to, and attending, the reunion. Now isn't that nice!

A regret note from SKIP TRUNE, 820th, says he will be unable to attend because of conflict with "a family nuptial event" that weekend. "This is one of only a couple we have missed." And we will miss you, Skip and Rene!



HOW I WON THE WAR

**A reminder to all about the reunion in old Manchester town
There will be toasting, lying and laughter with nary a frown
So pack up all your pills, crutches, wheel chairs and all
Forget all those aches and pains, let's go and have a ball**

**Lots of work and effort has gone into publishing a newsletter
Hoping to stimulate interest in getting to know everyone better
But the input from members has been much less than desired
Telling of experiences during the war and after you retired**

**Now with your permission, I shall rant and reminiscence
Although my thoughts and ideas are hardly worth two cents
I've enjoyed all the reunions starting with the Orlando show
Attrition has taken its toll, and only a few ever attend any mo'**

**We picked up brand new B-25s during the month of May 1944
Was a relief to finish all that training that started 11 months before
Eighteen crews headed west with torpedoes to help win the war
Took off heading for Hawaii and eleven hours later we were thar**

**Soon we were assigned to the rear echelon of the 41st Bomb Group
More training, gunnery school and rocket firing, I could almost poop
Finally arrived on Makin, a combat zone the war had already passed by
Bombed Nauru a few times which provided a thrill as flak filled the sky**

**Arrived back on Oahu about four months later around Thanksgiving day
Drank and played basketball at Wheeler Field until the following May
Finally we were off for Okinawa to battle the Japanese until their surrender
So this is the sad story of how I won the war as best that I can remember**

**When my grandchildren asked what I did during the war, I just up and lied
Oh my dears, I did a lot but all of my accomplishments are still classified
Now take the time to think and think about the war as only you remember
Write it down and forward it and I hope to see you soon in NH this September**

george tolbert

REUNION CALENDAR

47TH, 48, 396TH - Sept 27- Oct 1, 2001, AT MANCHESTER, N.H. Contact - ARNOLD SAYER (603) 763-2057, e-mail ACSAYER@aol.com

820TH - MAY 2-5, 2002 AT MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. - Contact - NORMAN GERIL (203) 262-1860, e-mail ngeril@snet.net

47TH, 48TH, (396TH Tentative - depends on vote), Sept. or Oct, 2002 AT BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI.

Another gem from **Bob Brandt, 48th**. If you are interested in history and statistics on military aircraft, including all versions of the B-25, go to website:<http://home.csd.uwo.ca/~pettypilelevonbaugher.us/> (There is a space before us/). The name is "Joe Baugh's Encyclopedia of American Military Aircraft."

*****WHY THE AMERICAN FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES. *****

We have all meticulous and ceremony of flag of the America after



watched the mesmerizing the folding of the United States of it is lowered or before presentation to the next of kin at the burial of a veteran. The symbolic meaning attributed to each fold is listed below.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country and to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for his divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right; but it is still our country, right our wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit/

The last fold leaves the stars uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God WE Trust."

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were

followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

The next time you see a flag ceremony honoring someone that has served our country, either in the Armed Forces or in our civilian services such as the Police Force or Fire Department, keep in mind all the important reasons behind each and every movement. They have paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us by honoring our flag and our Country.

~~Author Unknown~~

(Above received by e-mail with no reference to authenticity.)

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~~~~~RE MEMBER STORIES~~~~~

I (Gutts) was enjoying some nice e-mail exchanges with the **47th's Herb Locke** who lives winter times with his wife, Fritzie, in Delray Beach, FL. Then no more e-mail. Herb explained in a snail mail note: his computer was electrocuted by a bolt of lightning. (In "The Land Of Sunshine?")

Do you remember the softball field we had on Okinawa? Herb said he had it built "for the sum of a bottle of CC. I was the rec officer only because I had some booze and could get things done with the engineers."

Remember? Those who were smart enough not to spend all their money on leis while we were at Hawaii could purchase a "liquor allotment" I think it was called, of about a dozen quarts of booze, delivered postpaid to the purchaser at his Okinawa address.

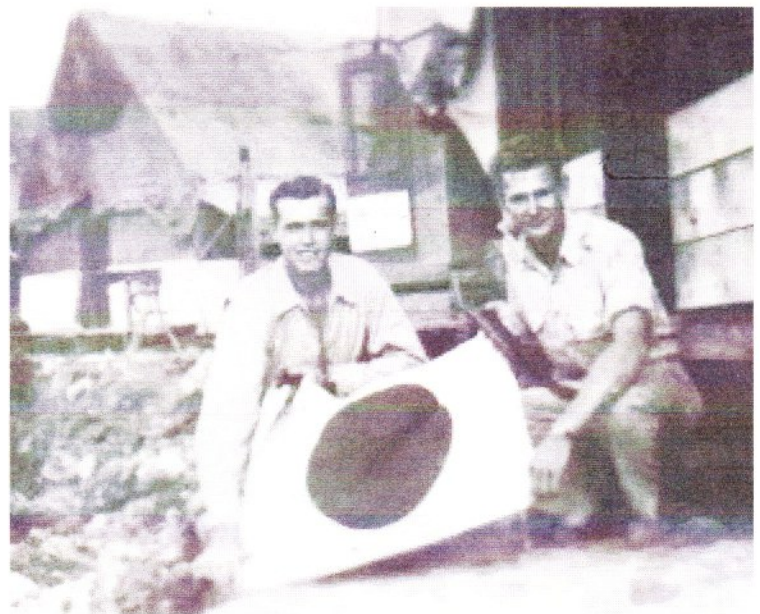
That booze was more valuable than gold! Kem Sitterley, navigator extraordinary on our crew (Hayward, Gutting, Sitterley, Kutenkuler, Lomac, Ellis), was one of the wise ones. Kem bartered his booze for living enhancements at our Machinato, Okinawa digs for things like a record player with a bunch of records (including 'Smoke Gets In Your Eyes,' one of my all time favorites), a propane three burner stove and a refrigerator.

With Kem in the lead, we would visit various U.S. Navy ships, befriend the purser and, after a usual invite to dine on board, disembark with loads of fresh eggs, vegetables, real meat, etc. Can't really recall who did the cooking, but I know we seldom had need to go to the mess hall for that reconstituted stuff. We even feasted over time on a crate of prime New York cut steaks that some GI sold to me for \$10 off the back end of a 6x he drove into our tent area. That sort of, I hope, made up for my "squandering" Kem's last bottle of booze that he had entrusted to me while he was away on a TDY assignment. A friend I grew up with in St. Louis had hitchhiked to Okinawa from his Marine base on Iwo Jima. While nearby engagement with Japanese on Okinawa was still going on my friend hiked the back roads of Oki to reach our 41st encampment. So you can guess the fate of Kem's last bottle of booze. God! We had one grand hangover! It is a memory that will last forever. Kem's comment upon his return? Best I can remember it was something like, "That was a worthy use, I would have done the same."

Surely, **you** have some ~~~RE MEMBER STORIES~~~to share with us. **Send 'em in!**

MY BUDDY, JIM MAGUIRE AND ME (GUTTS)

Ages: 20 & 21. Remember? Submit your vote for the handsomest & you may win a prize---if you vote correctly! (Be advised, as Asst. Nerd Editor I count the vote(s).)





**FILL OUT YOUR FORM**

What will make this newsletter informative and fun to read is input from--- and about--- you guys out there, and that includes the distaff side.

Admit it, they probably know more about us than we do. And maybe just know more, period.

Scan to the bottom of the masthead on p.2 and you will read an invitation to request and return a form.

Fill it out, revealing your life's innermost secrets, return, and we will publish it. Feel free to emend, add to, whatever.

And send pictures! of then, between, and now. We would like this to be YOUR publication.

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A crusty old B-25 pilot named George T., while attending a Military Ball, was approached by a young lady who said, "Excuse me, sir, but you seem to be a very serious man. Is something bothering you?" "No, just serious by nature," he replied. Eyeing his awards & decorations, she said, "It looks like you've seen a lot of action." "Yes, a lot," George answered. She said, "You should lighten up a little - relax and enjoy yourself. You know, I hope you don't take this the wrong way, but when is the last time you had sex?" Colonel George replied, "1955." She said, "Well there you go - I mean, no sex since 1955, isn't that a little extreme?" "Not really, it's only 2130 now."

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Just In!! Registration from **JOHN AND TONI MAHAN** of Spring Hill, FL. John indicated on the form: "1 Steak Rare." Good luck, John! That's a combo I think, but since Toni ordered salmon only, could you work a swap? Also want to thank John for adding his 2001 Crow Flight dues contribution.

**RICK AND MARILYN RONDINELLI** from Jackson, TN are now entered on the reunion manifest. Welcome aboard!

**ARNOLD AND DORIS SAYER**, our Coordinating Couple, submitted their registration before departing on a Maine hunting and fishing trip. They got rained out on a similar trip last month, so we wish them better luck this time. (And watch out for those damn iron-jawed black flies up there!) Arnold checked with Mrs. Silva at the Manchester Holliday Inn. All is well except they have not as yet received **your** phone call to make **your reservation**. (Please disregard if you have.)

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**There are three kinds of men. The one that learns by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves. From 'The Wisdom of Will Rogers.'**

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**"3/28/00 Better late than never. I appreciate your, Tolbert, Haskell, Sitterley~and others efforts to keep organized. JOHN HYDE."** The only "late" for old guys is "never." Look how long it took to respond. Thank you, John, for the moral and dues support. **"Organized?"**

"April 4, 2001 Dear Urb Just a note to mention that I have received your newsletter and have enjoyed it along with my wife Arlene. I thought I had better send you some money to help defray the expenses - membership dues, etc. I don't know whether you have had news of the passing of our bombardier-navigator in 1999 - Robert A. Laut. (We did, but thanks, Joe) Keep up the good work & take care. Sincerely & many thanks, **JOE KISELESKI.**"

**WE NEED TO LOOK THIS GUY UP!**

The police in Willoughby Co., NH recently busted a man selling "secret formula" tablets he claimed gave eternal youth. It was the fifth time he was arrested for committing this exact same medical fraud. Previous arrests were in 1794, 1856, 1928 and 1983. (Where's Willoughby Co., Arnold?)