



# The Crow Flight



Twentieth newsletter of the 47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadrons, 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (M) 7<sup>th</sup> AF, WWII, issued May, 2002

## THE BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI REUNION IS SHAPING UP!



Our 47th Bomb Sq. Representative pictured above on the left, is keeping close watch on John Helmer and George and Helen Kelly, 48th Bomb Squadron, as they plot pleasures for us at our next reunion. George and Helen are doing all the legwork. Our 47th Rep reports they are doing a fantastic job and that they have firmed up the following recap (Details elsewhere):

- WHERE.....BILOXI, MS, USA
  - HOTEL..... PRESIDENT (Formerly a Hilton & it's on the beach)
  - WHEN.....22 (SUN.) THROUGH 25 (WEN.) SEPTEMBER 2002
  - HOTEL RATES.....\$55 + \$10 Tax + \$10 For OPTIONAL Gulf view room  
(RATES ARE GOOD 3 DAYS BEFORE & 3 DAYS AFTER.)
  - BANQUET.....TUES. (24TH) EVENING
  - TOURS.....MON. (23RD) TO *NEW ORLEANS* WITH OPTIONAL  
'DDAY MUSEUM' TOUR.  
TUES. (24TH) *A VIEW OF BILOXI*
- MANY OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE

**A SPECIAL DEAL!.....WITH EXCEPTION OF THE BANQUET & GROUP BREAKFAST WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR REG. FEE, ALL MEALS PURCHASED AT THE HOTEL CASINO WILL BE TWO FOR ONE OR ONE-HALF PRICE FOR SINGLES!**

Our 47th Rep pictured above wishes to remain anonymous for now, but since she will report reunion planning developments directly to me for relay to you, I need a short alias for her. It will be "BB." Some of you Sexy Senior Citizens may interpret that to mean "Big Boobs." Wrong. Well, she has, but that's the wrong answer. I'll put the correct interpretation in an envelope and "place it on Funk & Wagner's doorstep," etc. Anyone bringing the matching interpretation to the reunion might be rewarded. BB's first request was to remind YOU to mark the reunion dates in your calendar NOW.





**THE CROW FLIGHT** is a publication of the 47TH & 48TH Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group, (M) 7<sup>th</sup> AF WWII.

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#### 48<sup>TH</sup> CORRESPONDENTS: JOHN HELMER

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**DUES NEWS: CALENDAR YEAR DUES FOR THE 47<sup>TH</sup> IS \$12. THE 48<sup>TH</sup> SQUADRON DUES IS \$15. MORE IS ACCEPTED. \$3 EXTRA WILL PURCHASE A RESPECTIVE SQ. ROSTER. MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: URBAN A. GUTTING FOR THE 47<sup>TH</sup> OR JOHN HELMER FOR THE 48<sup>TH</sup> (ADDRESSES ↑↑)**

**\*REQUEST A FORM\* - TO FILL OUT & RETURN FOR PUBLICATION OF YOUR LIFE HIGHLIGHTS SINCE DEACTIVATION. WE REALLY!! ARE INTERESTED. CONTACT "GUTTS."**

**Thanks to all of you for your financial support of *THE CROW FLIGHT*.**

The 47th BS Crow Flight's USAA Bank Balance as of 30 April 2002 was \$2410.36

**PLEASE NOTE:** The 47th BS dues has been reduced to \$12 per calendar year. We are hoping that this reduction (From \$15) will entice more of our roster members to participate. Regardless, all known 47th BS survivors, widows and friends on our mailing list will continue to receive *The Crow Flight*. E.g., **Dick Sternberg**, 396th Navigator Extraordinary and my hutch-mate in Zamboanga, P.I. (After leaving Okinawa) phoned recently and said, "Hey, I just realized I've been receiving all those **GREAT** *The Crow Flight* newsletters and haven't sent any dues!" "No problem, Dick," said I. "We send *The Crow Flight* to a lot of Good Friends, and you, definitely, are a Good Friend." With that kind of flattery (but definitely sincere) might I expect a dues check from Dick for, what, maybe \$50, \$100? Just kidding, Dick! **Your \$12** --- along with a '**bunch of others**'---will keep *The Crow* fed and flying. However, if we fail to entice more people to join the "**bunch of others**" at \$12 dues, it may be necessary to return to \$15. John Helmer has elected to retain **\$15 for the 48th**, so it will be a contest to see which Sq. comes out ahead. The 48th BS, to my recollection, never beat the 47th BS at anything. Remember how we whopped them at basketball and softball? **Let's do it again, 47TH!** Get your \$12 (MIA) dues in now! (MIA = More Is Accepted)

THE MODEST PROPOSAL for a 911 Pentagon memorial donation, printed in the last newsletter, was voted down. I added the responses twice and both times the total came out to zero.

## \$\$ 47TH FINANCIAL NEWS \$\$

**DUES PAYERS - The GOOD GUYS and GALS** since last report are: **GEORGE & DOROTHY HARRISON - ROBERT & OPLE GOLLNITZ - LEROY & MARY JULIAN - JAMES & BETTY McGRATH - NED & VIRGINIA BURRIS - JOHN HYDE - DOROTHY GROBE - DON & DOROTHY HASKELL - HARRY COURSER - REGINALD GAUTHER - BILL & ELLIE TELEGA - GEORGE TOLBERT - URBAN GUTTING - SUZANNE ST GERMAIN - EILEEN LIGHTHALL (MEMORY OF DON) - PAUL & MARION KENWAY.**



Send us your information below for use in "The Crow Flight"

47<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> Alumni - 50 some years later

NAME GOLLNITZ CALLING NAME ROBERT W  
ADDRESS 228N. PORTAGE ST SPOUSE OPL  
WESTFIELD NY 14787-9738

CHILDREN WADE WESTFIELD NY  
DEAN LUMBERTON N.C.  
MARK WESTFIELD NY

GRANDCHILDREN (NUMBER) 11  
GREAT GRANDCHILDREN 11

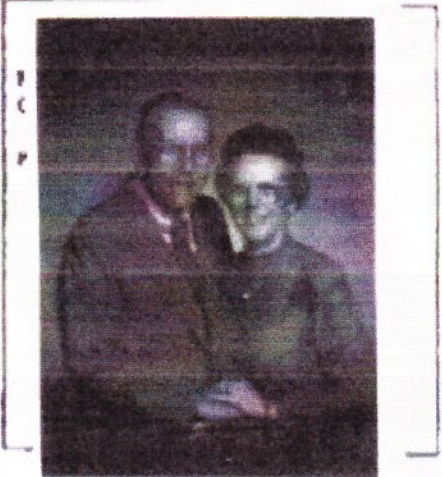
OCCUPATION RETIRED SUPERVISOR WELCH FUNDING

LIFE SINCE 47<sup>th</sup> AND 48<sup>th</sup> RETIRED IN 1981  
GOLF IN SUMMER, BOWL IN WINTER.  
FLY DOWN TO DEAN'S IN LUMBERTON  
EACH FEBRUARY FOR A COUPLE OF  
WEEKS GOLFING THERE.

CONTACT WITH 47<sup>th</sup> AND 48<sup>th</sup> PEOPLE NOT IN YEARS



IN CHICAGO AT RADIO SCHOOL



IN OUR 80'S

Obviously we need a space on the form for "Great Grandchildren." Perhaps ought to add one for "Great-great Grandchildren" also. Yup, we're getting there, aren't we!

Judging from that picture, Bob and Ople are the perfect example of the truth in the health advice axiom, "stay active and stay young." In a note to Bob I suggested that he might have (inadvertently) slipped in an "in our 60's" photo, but he assures me that this is an authentic "in our 80's photo." It sure would be nice to see and talk with these "youngsters" at the Biloxi Reunion.

Some folks are reluctant to attend reunions because they don't know or remember anyone attending. No problem. Walk up to anyone when you get there, strike up a conversation, and you are talking with someone with whom you shared a significant part of your life. If you didn't know them then, get to know them now and you will be enriched.



FALO EVENING NEWS

1944

# JAP FLIERS ROUTED IN BIGGEST AIR FIGHT OF MARSHALLS AREA

By CHARLES H. McMURTRY

PEARL HARBOR, Jan. 28 (AP).—

Strategy seemingly born of desperation drew topflight Japanese fighter pilots into the biggest battle of the mounting United States air offensive against the Marshall Islands and cost the enemy 16 to 22 planes. Not an American plane was lost.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz announced Thursday night that the big action occurred Wednesday, the 21st consecutive day of attack on the invasion-menaced Marshalls.

The fight grew out of a Seventh Army Air Force attack on Taroa Airfield on Maloelap Atoll. Nine Mitchell bombers over the base encountered 20 intercepting Zeroes. Eleven, possibly 12, Zeroes went down. The Mitchells, speedy mediums, retired but another group of

fighters joined with in the ensuing fight. enemy ships were downed and five were listed as

### Yanks Strafe Japs

The Mitchells ran into this significant fight after going in at 25 to 50-foot level and raking the Japanese with 75-mm. shells and machine-guns. It was the first attempt of the Japanese since concentrated raids began on the Marshalls, to pursue retiring aircraft.

An earlier announcement of Admiral Nimitz told of U. S. airmen extending their Marshall raids to the group's northwesternmost atoll, Eniwetok, where Navy fliers severely damaged and may have sunk an oil tanker and sank one of her two escort ships.

Japanese plane losses over the Marshalls are more than 200. American losses are 22. Nearly a third of the Japanese loss was suffered over Maloelap.

### Kwajalein Bombed Again

In the week ending Jan. 25 Mitchell bombers dropped 282½ tons of bombs on the Marshalls. Seventh AAF planes attacked off-bombed Kwajalein, Maloelap and Mili Atolls. Heavy bombers dropped 35 tons on Kwajalein and set installations afire. No enemy planes rose to combat and no U. S. planes were lost.

Medium bombers hit Taroa on Maloelap Tuesday, bombing air-drome facilities and wrecking a grounded enemy bomber. Here about 30 enemy Japanese fighters came up. One was shot down, three more possibly were knocked down and others were damaged. All U. S. planes returned. Dive-bombers and fighters struck at Mili without air opposition and without loss.

Quote from Bob Gollnitz's letter:

"Also enclosed a couple of articles the family cut out, not knowing that yours truly was in one of the nine in the article on the left. What Admiral Nimitz didn't say was that so many of our planes were riddled or shot down on those low level raids that the flight crews went on strike until the top dogs agreed to a different target approach. As we slowly eliminated the Zeroes and gun emplacements the missions got easier and I completed 45 missions

with the 47th and transferred to the 396 for the last 5 scary flights."



## Robert Gollnitz Cited

Atlantic City, N. J.—Fifty missions from the Gilbert and Marshall Islands as a B-25 radio-gunner weren't especially duck soup for Technical Sergeant Robert W. Gollnitz, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Gollnitz of 4 Nixon St., but what he hated about it most was the mosquitoes.

"If I had to chose between a Jap and a mosquito," he says, "I'd take a Jap every time."

The young Westfield radio operator-gunner here at the AAF Redistribution Station awaiting re-assignment, doesn't mean to leave the impression that brushing with the Nips is a pleasant pastime.

On one trip a Zero shot off a tire and they had to make a one-wheel landing. Another time they fought off 40 Zeros for one hour and 17 minutes. Bombing missions usually took nine hours and were generally flown at "wave hopping" level to elude the enemy.

"On one mission I saw the ship on our right catch its propellers in waves twice," he says. "We sweat that pilot out, but he made it—even with his props bent."

Bob: "See by your latest rosters that Cramer is deceased as well our navigator, Bill Doebele, and our co-pilot to pilot E.J. Naylor and tail gunner Jackson are both listed as unknown. That leaves Ed Dawson and myself hanging on from our crew." (Editor: Hey, Ed...you there?)

Many thanks to Bob and his wife, Ople for sharing treasured memorabilia with us. We hope many more of you follow their example because it makes the Newsletters more meaningful and personal.

Gollnitz' gripe is that the Japs will leave a fellow alone once in a while, but the mosquitoes—never.

"They carry dengue fever," he says, "and it can knock you for a loop. The skeeters are there in the daytime, but right after sundown they bring in all their friends and relatives. You can't sit around and read or relax, but have to dope yourself up and get under your net. Then if you brush your net with an arm they chew it off."

Technical Sergeant Gollnitz, a Westfield High School baseball and basketball letterman, holds the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Medal with five clusters.



Northrop Aircraft works hand in hand with Birmingham. Here is Lieutenant Ray Cramer, wounded pilot of a B-25, (1) pointing the long lead-sides hours during emergency work (2) turning a new angle (3) getting paid by Northrop for his work.

Bob: "...picture of our original pilot who had his right leg nearly blown off."





# JOHN HELMER REPORTS FOR THE 48TH BOMBARDMENT SQ

Page 6.



**ON TO BILOXI!! IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT REUNION. WHY? HERE ARE SOME REASONS FOR BEVERLY AND ME: WE HAVE NEVER VISITED THE GULF STATES, A NEW PART OF THE COUNTRY FOR US. ANOTHER REASON IS TO SEE FELLOWS, OUR AIR CORP BUDDIES THAT WE SPENT AN IMPORTANT 4 OR 5 YEARS SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER. WE ALSO WANT TO ENJOY THE COMPANY OF THE LADIES AND FAMILY MEMBERS.**

I HOPE THAT WE WILL SEE SOME NEW FACES AT THIS REUNION. PERHAPS THERE ARE FOLKS FROM THE SOUTH LAND THAT FELT OTHER REUNIONS WERE TOO FAR FOR THEM TO TRAVEL. NOW YOUR CHANCE HAS COME TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND.

**WHY DON'T EACH OF YOU CALL ONE OTHER PERSON (OR MORE) TO INVITE THEM OR TELL THEM THAT YOU ARE GOING TO BILOXI. GET A GOOD THING GOING!**

OUR EXPENSES CONTINUE YEAR AROUND. THE LAST TWO NEWS LETTERS NOS. 18 & 19 COST THE 48TH \$651 FOR OUR SHARE. WE DO NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU WITH YOUR \$15 (MORE ACCEPTED) DUES FOR 2002..

**KEM AND GUTTS ARE DOING A GREAT JOB IN GUTTING THE NEWSLETTERS OUT. IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT AND THEY NEED YOUR INPUT. THANKS TO BOTH OF THEM FOR UNDERTAKING THE PROJECT. 330 LETTERS GO OUT TO THE 47TH & 48TH MEMBERS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS.**

I HAVE RECEIVED DUES AND GIFTS FROM THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER, A TOTAL OF \$310. OUR BANK BALANCE IS \$2001.21.

**ANA SMITH - JOE CARRION - TOM CARSON - DAVID CRANE - BILL CHILSON - ROBERT MURPHY - HILLAND SHANK - ALVIN GAZDA - HAZEL MC COY - GENE OLSON - JOHN HELMER.**

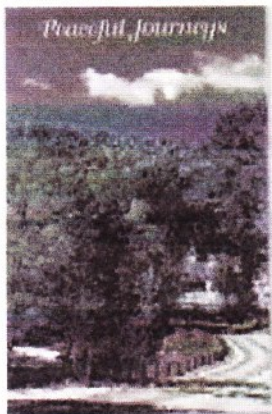
**GEORGE AND HELEN KELLY HAVE BEEN GIVING A LOT OF TIME TO PREPARING EVENTS THAT WILL BE EXCITING FOR ALL OF US. SEE YOU IN BILOXI!!!**

**John and Bev**

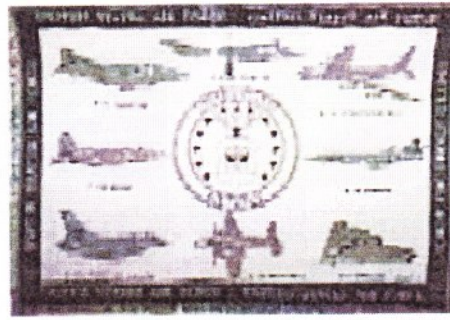


**NOTE FROM EILEEN** - (2-22-02) "Thank you for continuing to send me a copy of *The Crow Flight*. Enclosed are my dues in Don's memory. He has been gone two years on the first of March. We did enjoy all the Reunions we were able to attend. Don loved the old gang and had lots of stories to tell about the old days. I felt close to everyone as we were married **31 Aug. 1943 in Greenville, SC.** some 59 happy years ago, before he was put on a crew. We kept in touch with Marian and Charlie Treakle, Don's copilot, over all these years. We don't hear anything from F. Gordon Allen, the pilot. We were the only ones of the crew that were married and I followed to Savannah and then to Ft. Walton Beach, FL. Oh, to be young again. It is no fun to be alone but such is life, and I have a wonderful daughter and great son---plus 5 grandsons---2 grand daughters---2 great-granddaughters---3 great grandsons and one on the way. Zion is growing in Utah---plus the Olympics are going strong in Salt Lake City. Sincerely, **Eileen Lighthall**" (And sincere thanks to you, Eileen for sharing your memories with us.)

**NOTE FROM ELLIE** - "Dear 'Guts' the Backbone of our Crow Flight, (No way I'll edit that!) When we got back to GA, way back in Oct. '01, this little book was in our mail and to our surprise the beautiful cover of NH. So I ordered a dozen to send to special friends, as another reminder of our reunion. We did enjoy seeing everyone and **BILL IS TALKING BILOXI.** He's slowed at age 87, Nov. 19th, but still enjoys his gardening. Enclosed is check for dues and



whatever. Until next meeting, Sincerely, **Ellie & Bill " (Telega, 47TH)** (Readers who have saved NL #19, see p3 lower left and you will learn Bill's secret to hearty longevity.)



**Personal Note To Bill:** Knowing how much you wanted that "Throw Rug" (Now "Rick's Rug") given as an attendance

prize at NH, I did try to get another but, alas, that was the last, and it is out of production.

**NOTE FROM HARRY COURSER TO G.TOLBERT** - "Our buddy, Waldo (Robert Kyle - Bomb/Nav On Courser's crew) died early Dec.'01. Waldo retired as Major in the USAF. A feat he performed that I specifically remember is when as bombardier he got 3 "shacks" on a practice bombing mission from Kahuku Airfield in Hawaii." Sympathies are extended to Waldo's widow, Frances and family.

**NO POET** - "Gutts: Again---better late than never---enclosed check with request for rosters. Can't write poetry as George Tolbert does. All I can say is [keep doing the "newsy" letters.] Best Regards, John Hyde." Thanks, John. A note of appreciation and encouragement is always welcomed. It helps counteract the frustration when the damn computer does what it wants to do instead of what I want it to do.

**JIM McGRATH, 47TH, SAYS:** (Short version) Betty & I enjoy *The Crow Flight*---especially the NH Reunion pics & disappointed couldn't be there---DO PLAN TO ATTEND BILOXI. Jim wrote *As This Crow Flew* (NL#19p.4). I bought his book, read it, enjoyed it and recommend it. Brings back lots of memories of Cadet days.



**A TRIVIA CHALLENGE : MARY ZACHOK (THOM, 47TH)** researched past reunions with the following results:

Nov 1987	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Nov 1988	Orlando, FL
Oct 1989	Long Beach, CA
Oct 1990	Kansas City, MO
Oct 1991	Boston, MA
Oct 1992	Riverside, CA
Nov 1994	Savannah, GA
Oct 1996	San Antonio, TX
Apr 1998	San Antonio, TX
Oct 1999	Ontario, CA
Sep 2000	Las Vegas, NV
Oct 2001	Manchester, NH

There was another, by the 820th, in either 1985 or 6 in Las Vegas. **MARY & THOM** attended all of these with exception of Savannah. Can anyone from the 47th or 48th top their attendance record? Mary invites additions or corrections to her list.

### MORE BILOXI INFORMATION

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** 1. Call **1-800-843-7737**. Have credit card handy for 1st night deposit. May cancel up to 72 hrs. in advance without penalty, so **help out the planners** by reserving your room early. ("**BB**" says **do it now!**) 2. Identify yourself as **41st Bomb Reunion** member to get rates shown on p.1 for two adults; each additional adult is \$10; children under 17 stay free. Cut-off date is Sept.1, 2002.

**TOUR: The "Big Easy"** (New Orleans) is about 5 hrs, including 3 hrs. free time that can be used to tour the "DDay Museum," if desired. Bus with narrator departs our hotel at 0900 Mon. 23rd. Tour of NO begins at the *French Quarter*, with its Jackson Square, featuring musicians, mimes, artists and entertainers; to Cabildo, seat of the Spanish Govt., now the Louisiana State Museum; the Presbytere, built for the French Market, with six blocks of cafes, shops, Farmer's Market and flea markets galore. Then to City Park, home of the

"dueling oaks." You will learn history: NO is built on 365 sq. miles of fill-in swamp; that's why they have above ground crypt cemeteries, other- wise bodies would float to the surface if buried under ground. Travel down posh St. Charles Ave. and six miles of antebellum homes. **Etc., etc., etc.**

**TOUR: A View of Biloxi** is about 4 hrs. Bus departs our hotel at 0900 Tues. 24th. Tour begins in the *Vieux Marche*, a lovely pedestrian promenade area. First stop, the landmark *Magnolia Hotel*, housing the festive *Mardi Gras Museum*; then a visit to the *George Ohr Museum*, where works of George Ohr, Biloxi's *Mad Potter* are displayed. Drive past the picturesque *Biloxi Small Craft Harbor*, beautiful *Deer Island*, & historic *Church of the Redeemer*. Visit the *Seafood Museum* on the *Bay of Biloxi*. Next stop, a tour of the stately *Tullis-Toledano Manor*, one of the south's finest antebellum homes. Pass many historic landmarks on the way to beautiful *Beauvoir*, last home of Jefferson Davis, with acres of moss-covered oaks, magnolias, pines, and lovely gardens; plus a lazy lagoon. All admission prices are included in the tour cost.

**EXCURSIONS:** Since the hotel will honor our room rate 3 days before and after (19 thru 28 Sept. '02), you can be flexible. Remember, most airlines require a **Sat. night** stay to qualify for the best fares, so you may want to check in Sat.21st to take advantage of that. Reunion-wise, Wed.25th is an open day. George and Helen Kelly will have a number of "Excursion" booklets and info on things you may be interested in, such as: A Shrimping Trip; Deep Sea Fishing; Historic *Ship Island; Golf; Biloxi Tour Train; And More.*

**FOR QUESTIONS:** Contact the Reunion Coordinator: **GEORGE (HELEN) KELLY** 220 BOHN ST., BILOXI, MS 39530. TEL. 228-818-2809 or 432-0529. E-mail [Colpk1@aol.com](mailto:Colpk1@aol.com)

The sixth character (after 'k') is the number 'one'.