



The Crow Flight



Thirty-sixth Newsletter of the 47th, 48th, 396th & 820th Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bombardment Group (M), 7th AF, WWII, Issued May 2006

*****Coming Attraction*****

THE TUCSON REUNION

Produced and Directed by Warren "Doc" & Therese "Terry" Eyer

RATED 5 STARS *** MUST SEE - MUST DO**

This significant event is dedicated to the pleasure of members, family and friends of the B-25 Billy Mitchell 41st Bombardment Group (M) WWII and its member Squadrons, the 820th, 396th, 48th and 47th.

Inauguration date is **SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER** and Reunion Festivities will run through **WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER, 2006**. Sunday is Check-in day at the Doubletree Tucson Reid Park Hotel & Thursday 12 October is Departure Day. You may extend your hotel stay at our special rate 3 days prior & post the dates shown above, thus extending your opportunity to explore on your own one of the most singularly unique areas found "From Sea to Shinning Sea."

Those, ala John & Beverly Helmer, who like to add venture to their reunion journey, will find many enchanting attractions in the area; everything from Art to Zoo. E.g., Old Town Artisans (R), Sabino Canyon Tram, Titan Missile Museum, Old Tucson Studios Gunfight/Filming, Old Pueblo Trolley, Saquaro National Park, Missions, Museums, etc., etc.



Scenic beauty to be explored is bountiful. Check out the area and attractions more thoroughly by visiting the Tucson, AZ website at visittucson.org or request a visitor's guide brochure by calling 1-888-288-2766.

THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL TUCSON REID PARK will be our HQ location. Make your reservations early (like now, would be a good time - cancellation without penalty may be made up to 24 hours prior to the day of arrival). Call (800) 222-8733 and identify yourself being with the 41st Bomb. Group to obtain our special rates: \$89 per night single and \$94 double occupancy, **INCLUSIVE** of a \$1 per night housekeeping gratuity **AND THE HOTEL'S ALL AMERICAN BREAKFAST BUFFET**. See TCF #35 p4 for scrumptious buffet details; note also that the then reported single/double room rate of \$94 is now reduced to \$89 for a single: "Doc" is watching out for us. Dreaded taxes bring the rates to \$100.24 and \$105.81 per night. You will need a major credit card to secure the first night. Hotel amenities include an outdoor heated pool & whirlpool, tennis courts, exercise room, massage services, two restaurants, bar, room service and in-room coffee maker, hair drier, iron, USA Today, & cable TV. The hotel also offers *complimentary airport transportation and free self-parking*.



Check in time is 3:00 p.m. but early arrivals will be accommodated as rooms become available. Check-out is 12:00 noon. And "Check-out" the balmy weather!! The Oct. average high is 86, low 55, rainfall .5". In addition, considering our Biloxi & Hot Springs experiences, "Doc" has proclaimed a "Total Refund Guarantee" if a Hurricane officially named "Therese" strikes downtown Tucson while we are there.

THE TOURS:**DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB TOUR OF AMARC
AND THE PIMA AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM**

\$49 per person.

Tuesday 10 Oct. we will board our Gray Line motor coach with guide at 8:45 & will depart from our hotel at 9:00am. **A PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED for admittance to Davis-Monthan AFB.**

After the tour we will stop for lunch at the Golden Corral before returning to the hotel at 2:45 pm. Cost of lunch is on our own and there are several options to choose from.

Davis-Monthan was selected as an Army air base site in 1940. Some of our 41st Gp. troops trained there during WWII. After WWII the Army's San Antonio Air Technical Service Command established a storage facility for B-29 and C-47 "Gooney Bird" aircraft. The area was selected because of its meager rainfall, low humidity and alkaline soil, making it possible to store aircraft indefinitely with a minimum of deterioration and corrosion. It is now called the *Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC)* and has grown to include thousands of aircraft from all the U.S. services. In 1960 I added a WB-50 when our Guam based 54th Weather Reconnaissance Sq. was deactivated.

The Pima Air and Space Museum is home to the largest privately owned collection of historical aircraft in the country. More than 130 military and civilian aircraft, **including our beloved B-25**, are on display, along with engines, flight simulators, uniforms and other aviation memorabilia. Step right into the Douglas DC-6 used by both Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

THE ARIZONA SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

\$44 per person.

On **Wednesday 11 Oct.** our Gray Line motor coach will load at 8:15 for an 8:30am hotel departure to what *The New York Times* called, "The most distinctive zoo in the United States." It is also considered to be Southern Arizona's most popular visitor attraction. Nestled in the Tucson Mountain Park, the Desert Museum exhibits the living, outdoor world of nature found in the Sonoran Desert along with mountain lions, Mexican wolves and black bears in the Mountain Habitat. We'll enjoy close-up views in the walk-in aviaries of the birds and hummingbirds of the Sonoran Desert, a region that has more species of hummingbirds than anywhere in the United States. The Cave and Earth History Room explores 4.6 billion year's of our planet's history. There is a riparian habitat with underwater viewing and aquatic exhibits

in naturalistic habitats displaying rare and endangered aquatic and amphibious animals.

We'll arrive back at the hotel at 1:30 pm after lunch at the Museum. Again, cost of lunch will be on our own and you may order individually.

THE BANQUET:

Will be preceded by the obligatory "happy hour" starting at 5:30 pm on Wed. 11 Oct. with a "pay bar." At 6:30 pm the Banquet will be heralded by a color guard, bugler and chaplain, courtesy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 10188.

Your banquet meal choices are Prime Rib of Beef or Chicken Parmesan (Certainly they will accommodate Fred & Lee Deutsch & other's request for vegetarian). We're going to forego all that "succulent" hotel propaganda and hereby charge the hotel to provide quality por price charged...that is, flavorful and tender (done medium-rare for me) prime-rib and chicken that tastes...well, like tender Chicken Parmesan should. Accompanying dishes were not defined but, again, we'll trust they will be worthy of our discriminating tastes. Our culinary epicure Dick Sternberg, 396th will submit a post-reunion critique.

OUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER is Major General DAVID M. JONES, USAF (Ret). He is one of only 16 survivors of the original 80 Doolittle Raiders. While flying a B-26 over Germany he was shot down and spent the remainder of WWII as a POW in stalag III. He was a test pilot & developed new procedures for testing of advanced aircraft. At age 92 (or so) Gen. Jones is still going strong, having recently toured New Zealand and Australia.

A personal note: It has been my pleasure to play an occasional round of golf with **Brigadier General Harold Confer, USAF (Ret)**, an SR 71 Blackbird reconnaissance pilot at one time in his distinguished career.

"Do you know Gen. David Jones", I recently asked Hal, adding that Gen. Jones will be our featured Tucson Reunion speaker. "Yes, he was my commander in a B-58 [Hustler] unit at Carswell [AFB, TX]. He is someone I've always admired very much. Please extend my greetings to him." Well, who knows: perhaps...at about the time of our reunion would be nice...General Confer will consider trekking out to Tucson to visit with his old friend.

THE HOSPITALITY ROOM will officially open at noon on Sun. 8 Oct. for Sq. Registrations and the endurance of our special camaraderie. Of course, "Doc" will keep it stocked with his favorite libations.

A FEW MORE TUCSON REUNION NOTES

B-25 FLIGHT - "Doc" & Lou Beisser have made arrangements for a B-25H flight on Monday morning 9 Oct. '06. A minimum of 4 people is required and a maximum of six people may sign up. The flight will be of 30 minutes duration and cost is \$350. If you are interested please call Lou Beisser at 1-(480) 807-2112.

GOLF - "Doc" leaned on Lou to also handle arrangements for a golf outing on Monday morning. If you are interested in joining that, again, call Lou at the number above.

"Doc" wrote: You will receive a Registration Packet containing Tucson brochures and hotel and reunion information. There will be more Reunion details for *The Crow Flight* August issue. Indications at this time are for a good turnout of "long-time-no-seeums."

JOHN HELMER FOR THE 48TH BOMB. SQ



On to Tucson! Beverly and I are looking forward to seeing our many friends at our 41st Bombardment Group Reunion.

This past spring Beverly and I were invited to spend a week in Palm Springs, CA. where, once again, we visited the Palm Springs Air Museum. Every visit there has been a thrill, kindling the very rewarding realization of the part that all of us played in the WWII Army Air Corp. Most of the volunteers there are in their 60 and 70s, so they had a great interest in talking to me, a WWII veteran. I have discovered a new benevolent mission. It is *Mission Aviation Fellowship*. Their mission is to fly small planes into third world countries carrying supplies and Christian Missionaries and conducting mercy flights. For more information write to: Mission Aviation Fellowship, P.O. Box 3201 Redlands CA 92373.

820TH BOMB. SQ. NOTES



Emery Tuttle forwarded a note from **David R. Bush**, son of deceased **Grant A. Bush** who was an armament man with the 41st Bomb. Group. David would like to know which Squadron his father was assigned to.

Advised that roster searches were negative, David wrote: Mr. Gutting, Thank you for your response to my inquiry. I have also been corresponding with Mr. Grandstaff. I spent a good portion of today looking over the 41st website. I see that the 47th squadron has a pretty comprehensive roster of who was in the unit. Since my father's name is not listed I have to assume he was in one of the other squadrons. In reading the history of the 41st group, I see that the 48th squadron spent a period of time on Saipan. Dad never mentioned Saipan. As an ex-marine myself, I would have picked up on Saipan since it is embedded in MC history. I can only deduce that Dad was in the 396th or 820th. I know that's kind of thin but that's where I'm at right now. I would be very happy if you

posted my inquiry in the group newsletter. My contact information is as follows: David R. Bush 250 1st Ave Apt 103 Kingston, Pa 18704. Tel. 570-283-2147 e-mail DARBU06@webtv.net Thanks again for your response, and thank you for your service to our country. David Bush

Pancho Rowe, 820th wrote:

Troops- we sang a song, when properly stimulated with alcoholic beverages that went something like:

"You can talk about your heroes and your gd Zeros, I don't want them any more ore ore,

Oh, Distinguished Flying Crosses do not compensate for losses; I don't want them any more ore ore."

Do any of you know any more of this song?

Thanks, Pancho P.S. Would like to have as many verses as possible; a song for reunions?

OTHER SQ. NOTES

Rolf Grandstaff replies to Bob Dorough re "Paper Doll."

Bob, below is a reply from the folks I told you about yesterday that track vintage aircraft. Doesn't look too promising for "Paper Doll" at this point but who knows for sure... aerovintage@yahoo.com

Rolf, "FEA" is probably the Foreign Economic Administration and I believe "REC" was "Reclaimed" or "Reclamation," thus indicating it was scrapped. It will be difficult to ascertain with certainty that it was in fact scrapped, but 99% of B-25s (as well as other fighters and light/medium bombers) with combat time overseas when the war ended were scrapped in the local theaters. It was cheaper to scrap them there than fly them home and then scrap them. I don't know of any source that will shed more light on the fate of this airplane. Once the U.S. Gov closed the file the record ends. Sorry I can't help more. Good luck, Scott Thompson

GEORGE HARRISON, 47th Bomb. Sq. wrote on Feb. 27, 2006: Guts: Enclosed are 47th dues---Enjoyed reading about our "flyers." I also have a private license but haven't flown in a couple of years---the restrictions in this area (Baltimore/Washington) are tough, Camp David also in our area, adding one more place to avoid and taking the fun out of it.

My brother's (retired AF) granddaughter is to receive her Air Force silver wings next month---I plan on attending her graduation at Columbus, MS AFB. Would you believe this young lady is going to fly the C-5? Her dad, an Air Force B/General also flew the C-5 so I guess Katy might have that big bird in her blood.

If things go as planned, I'll see you in Tucson---I remember when we came to life there back in May of '41---They called it the Tucson Air Base than. Do we have any count of the original members who are still with us? I still have my ID from there. Regards, George Harrison

396TH BOMB. SQ. NEWS FROM "DOC"

Thanks to **Gwen Moody** we've finally mailed out the newly corrected 396th roster. So far only two corrections to make...we're getting better?

Sorry to hear of M. Decote's passing. He was with the 396th's predecessor, the 6th Recon. Sq. as well as Gen. Dwight Montieth, former C.O. of the 6th Recon.

I've received several notes indicating plans to attend the Tucson Reunion.

Lou and Corinne Beisser were down [from Phoenix] for a visit, rendering needed help on the Reunion plans. Good to see them...looking good...handsome. Have also received help by telephone, e-mail or snail-mail from **Urb Gutting, Emery Tuttle, Joe Roop, Kem Sitterley, Jerry Alee and moral support from Walt Winner, Kemmary Sitterley and Terry Eyer**. Thanks to all...hope to see you in Oct.

Bill Scavo (Sqn. Photographer) sent me some interesting pics of one of our sad A-29s, a ground-looping son-of-of a bit--, er...gun. I had the pleasure of getting my time in on one of the last the Sqn. had at Sacramento Muni.

396TH NOTES: Hey Doc. Hope this catches me up. I really enjoy The Crow Flight. Good luck with reunion. Are you enjoying the "forwards" [e-mail] I send time to time? **Fred [Higginbotham of Alpine, CA]**

Doc, Nice talking with you. Looking forward to the convention in Tucson, **Coch** [Custom Clubs by **Louis Cochran**, Clovis, CA.]

Dear Doc, I've enclosed a check for my dues plus some extra for the 396th coffers. Sincerely, **Richard Giordano**, Son-in-law of the late **Paul H. Bower, 396th**, retired Lt. Colonel, USAF Reserve.

MINI REUNION: Once again, **Dick and Pat Sternberg, 396th** folks, extended their warm and generous hospitality to Carolyn and me this past March. In Aug. 2004 we spent a wonderful mini reunion week with them at their Abington, PA home. This visit was to their beautiful new home in Boynton Beach, FL in a retirement community of individual homes featuring landscape care, electronic security and a beautiful clubhouse with an Olympic-size swimming pool.

We took in two of my beloved St. Louis Cardinal baseball spring-training games. Dick arranged two golf outings. We shared a number of delectable lunches and meals mainly featuring FL's scrumptious seafood. I extolled Dick's culinary expertise in the report of our Abington visit, so suffice to say here that he hasn't lost his touch. Especially succulent was his rendition of Veal Scopolamine served at a Sunday evening meal with their daughter **Ann** and her husband **Larry Meador** in attendance. This delightful couple, I'm very happy to report, are planning to accompany Dick and Pat to the Tucson Reunion.

Kem Sitterley and daughter **Kemmary** had planned to join us and that would have made it a grand mini reunion. But, alas, they couldn't make it. Kem sent this beautiful bouquet. In the back-ground is an original hand painted

in oil picture of our B-25 that Dick commissioned by a friend in New York City.

Pat is now a professor emeritus of Hunter College, New York; however, retirement Pat knows not. She is currently involved in writing a stage play scenario in collaboration with a New York song writer, who is also a medical doctor and the son of Dick & Pat's across the street neighbors, Dr. Bill Glazier & spouse Shelley, whom we were privileged to meet at a Dick & Pat "cocktail hour."



In a recent conversation with Dick he said Pat was returning that evening from a symposium in San Francisco. Way to go, Pat! Is it that clubhouse pool that you splash in daily that keeps you so fit and going? My guess is that Dick and his TLC also has a lot to do with it. And last, but not least, we had a nice visit early Sunday afternoon with **Herb and Fritzie Locke, 47th** at their non-assisted living high-rise retirement community apartment in Pompano Beach. They moved in about a year ago. Some recent health issues have slowed Herb a little but at a young 89 he is still doing very well. He extended his greetings to all of you, his WWII comrades, and wished us a wonderful Tucson Reunion. Spouse Fritzie is enjoying both very good health and her hiatus from cooking. She stays happily occupied with her oil-painting hobby and both enjoy attention from their daughter and son-in-law who live close by.

1944 THOMAS DONALD THOMPSON 1st LT. AC (DIARY): A continuation as promised back in TCF #33.

January 5 BELLOWS FIELD

Had 10 hr pass today so I went over to Lani Kai with Doc, Bill and Al. We killed a qt of burgundy there, took one with me along with 2 qts of bourbon. Party was well under way when I called Harry and he sent a carry-all down to take me to Kualoa where the 19th is stationed. We had a few drinks, a good bull session and went to bed. Wonderful breakfast with real cow milk to drink. I had called Casey so he came down to pick me up at 2.30 am. Drank wine whiskey & beer so of course I had a fairly good hangover besides being AWOL for a few hours. Nobody missed me however. Casey buzzed the field on leaving but not anything like I pulled the other day. MacAfee said the boys told him my prop tips were five feet off the runway. That is low enough for me at 300 per.

January 6 BELLOWS FIELD

Spent the day in a haze. Sometimes I wonder if it's worth the effort. The only really good times are always accomplished with the help of John Barleycorn. Might as well drink while I've got the chance. There are only 4 bottles in my footlocker which is already "own under" & I'm afraid that won't last very long. (Cont. P8)



**SQUADRON REGISTRATION FORM
TUCSON, AZ 41ST BOMB. GROUP (M) REUNION**



OCTOBER 8 - 9 - 10- 11, 2006
(Sunday - Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday)

HOSTED BY 396th BOMBARDMENT SQ.
COORDINATORS

WARREN "DOC" & THERESE "TERRY" EYER
3733 CALLE GUAYMAS, TUCSON, AZ 85716
Tel. (520) 881-7229 E-mail - weyer@cox.net

(Please Print)

YOUR NAME(s) - As you wish to appear on Name Tag(s)

Street Address: _____
City, State & Zip: _____
Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____ **Fax:** _____
E-Mail: _____

B-25 Flight? ___ Yes ___ No (If Yes, call Lou Beisser (480) 807-2012)
Playing Golf? ___ Yes ___ No (If Yes, Call Lou Beisser (480) 807-2012)
Transportation: Fly/Rent ___ Fly/Shuttle ___ Driving ___
Planned Arrival date: _____ Departure Date _____
Do You Need Special Assistance? Yes ___ No ___
If "Yes," please give details (Such as: Airline & Flt #, Arr.Time & Date, Nature of Assistance, etc.) in "Your Comments" space below.

HQ. SQ.



PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE
AND MAIL WITH THIS
COMPLETED FORM TO:

Urban A. Gutting
7047 Autumn Chase
San Antonio, TX, 78238-2118

Tel: 1- 210- 647-1651
E-Mail: urbangu@satx.rr.com

REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR DOUBLETREE TUCSON REID HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call 1-800-222-8733

MENTION "41ST Bomb Group" For Preferred Rates (\$89 Single \$94 Double) - No Penalty For Cancellations Made 24 Hours Prior to Date of Arrival - Room Block Reservation Expires 9-24 2006

- NOTES:** 1) This Form is for Sq. Registration Charges Only. Pay Hotel Charges Directly to the Hotel
2) "Banquet & Registration Fee" Below Includes the Cost of Your Entrée Selection (Prime Rib or Chicken Parmesan) and Incidentals, Such as Hospitality Room Supplies, Color Guard Unit Donation, etc.
3) "Banquet Only" below is for Guests Not Able to Attend Other Functions, but You Are Welcome to Sign-on for Any of the Tours / Activities Listed Below That Do Fit Your Schedule

ITEM PER PERSON		PRICE EACH	HOW MANY	TOTAL \$ AMT.
BANQUET & REGISTRATION FEE	PRIME RIB AU JUS	\$ 46		
	CHICKEN PARMESAN			
BANQUET ONLY	PRIME RIB AU JUS	\$ 41		
	CHICKEN PARMESAN			
DAVIS-MONTHAN AFB & PIMA AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM TOUR <u>BRING PHOTO ID</u>		\$ 49		
ARIZONA SENORA DESERT MUSEUM		\$ 44		
GRAND TOTAL				

YOUR COMMENTS:

(New - More Fading Eyesight Friendly Format)



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47TH, 48TH, 396TH & 820TH Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bomb. Group, (M) 7th AF, WWII

Currently, the targeted publication schedule is Feb. – May – Aug. –Nov.

YOU MUST PROVIDE materials for publication. Requests for your “Bio” form should be sent to your Sq. Rep. or Urban A. Gutting, postal, tel. & e-mail addresses below.

47TH UNOFFICIAL OFFICIALS:

Head Guy: GEORGE L. TOLBERT 28455 W. Hwy. 66, Bristow, OK 74010 (918) 367-5988, e-mail geospace@aol.com

Chief Nerd & Honorary (Kem started it) Newsletter Editor-In-Chief Guy: KEMBLE URBAN SITTERLEY, 20449 Blue Mountain Dr., Walnut, CA 91789-1001 (909) 595-4451

Money, Roster & WORKING Nerd Newsletter Publisher Guy: URBAN A. GUTTING 7047 Autumn Chase, San Antonio TX 78238-2118 Tel. (210) 647-1651 e-mail urbangu@satx.rr.com

Info Guy: MAURICE SMITH, 803Vesta Del Rio, Santa Maria, CA 93458 Phone (805) 348-3868.

DON HASKELL'S MEMORIAL WEBSITES:

Don's: <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/>

41st Gp. <http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/bombgroup41/>

Website Manager: ROLF GRANDSTAFF, 228 Chris Ct., Garner, NC 2752 (919) 553-9852; email: rolfgrand@aol.com

48TH CORRESPONDENTS:

JOHN HELMER: 2122 SW Vista Ave, Portland, OR 97201, (503) 222-4614

JESS (RAY) RAMAKER 17217 N.E. 7th Pl., Bellevue, WA 98008-4134 (425) 747-2306 e-mail ramajess@msn.com

396TH CONTACTS: WARREN L. (Doc) EYER 3733 Calle Guaymas, Tucson AZ 85716. Tel: (520) 881-7229 E-mail weyer@cox.net

LOU BEISSER 1074 Leisure World, Mesa AZ 85206 Tel. (480) 807-2012 e-mail: theowls@wmconnect.com

820TH CONTACTS: NORM GERII 130 Colonial Dr., Southbury, CT 06488 Tel: 203-262-1860 E-mail: ngeril@earthlink.net; EMERY TUTTLE, 147 Esqui Rd., Mabank, TX 75156. Tel. (903) 451-3029. E-mail: skypilotem@dctexas.net; BILL CHILDES, 3637 Patsy Ann Dr., Richmond, VA 23234-2951 (804) 275-60

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Contact Your Sq. Representative or “The Crow Flight” Editor & Publisher, Urban A. Gutting, addresses above.

DUES NEWS: 2006 CALENDAR YEAR DUES FOR THE 47TH & 48TH IS \$5, INCLUDING A ROSTER; 396TH DUES IS \$15 + \$3 FOR A ROSTER AND THE 820TH DUES IS \$10.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE & SEND TO: EMERY TUTTLE, 820TH, WARREN EYER, 396TH, JOHN HELMER, 48TH & URBAN A. GUTTING, 47TH. ADDRESSES ABOVE.

\$\$ FINANCIAL REPORTS \$\$

47TH BOMB. SQ. Good Guys and Gals dues and gift contributors SLR (since last report) are: **Rick & Marilyn Rondinelli – George Harrison – Jean Truex (Memory of Marshall M.) – James Bain – Claude Massey – Frankie Bywater (Memory of Murray) – Jim & Kay Land – Dale & Arlene Storms.** The 47th bank balance as of 5-1-2006 was \$2020.30 (+\$500 Reunion Hotel Deposit)

48TH BOMB. SQ. – John Helmer reports dues received SLR from **Joe & Vera Carrion.** Our bank balance as of April 20, 2006 was \$2417.00.

396TH BOMB. SQ. - “Doc” Eyer reports a bank accounts balance of \$980.25 with the latest dues,*

donations and memorials to the cause from: **Fred Higgenbotham – Leo Cavender – Leo Cochran – Bruce Hanson – Lou Beisser – Walt Winner – “Baggy” Baglietto – Bill Scavo – Gilda Loeb for Bob – Dick Giardino for Paul Bowar.**

***Note: If it wasn't for the donations we would not have been able to keep a number of you on the mailing list...Get 'em in fellows, \$15 will do it!**

820th BOMB. SQ. - See masthead left for “dues news.”

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Hopefully, a somewhat overdue presentation of the **Ned Burris, 47th Bomb Sq.** “Bio” will appear in the next *The Crow Flight* issue. As a bit of a head start, here is a note Ned sent with his “Bio:”

As you can see we didn't have any good tours in the AF. So, we are making up for it since my retirement on Jan. 1, '85. Have been to Kona on the big island 33 times, Europe 13 times and Australia 2 times (It's far). We were in France and Germany last year for 4 weeks. We like to rent an apartment there thru a company called Untour. Will not make the reunion. Aloha, Ned

A note from **Frank Lisak, Jr:** My father [**Francis Lisak, 47th Bomb Sq.**] had a great time chatting with you yesterday over the phone. Hope all is well with you and that the Phoenix Reunion will be a success. My Dad and Mom aren't doing too well, physically, but they get around. Your Pal, Frank, Jr.

Again, this note is a lead in to an article planned to be published in the next *The Crow Flight*. The article was obtained by Francis after a personal meeting with the author, Lt Col Fred Olivi USAFR (Ret), the co-pilot on “Bock's Car,” the B-29 that dropped the atomic bomb august 9, 1945 on Nagasaki. The article should be of profound interest to our 41st Bomb Group readers because had not this historic event occurred many of us would have been added to the million plus Allied Force names on the invasion casualty list.

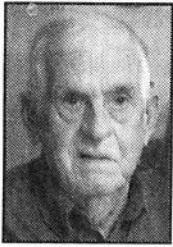
And while we have Frank, Jr. on the line...I'm going to try to also include in the next issue at least some of his insightful summations of a book written by Victor D. Hanson, *Ripples of Battle*. Frank, Jr. wrote: “You ought to get the guys of the 41st Bomb Group (especially those who saw action at Okinawa) to read *Ripples of Battle*. It is informative!!” Well, Frank, you can lead a horse to water....

NOTES: From **Rick Rondinelli** - You continue to do a great job with *The Crow Flight*; love the history of some of our men and their post WWII activities. Maybe I will send some of my history one of these days: Puerto Rico to today! See you in Tucson in October. Golf??? [Yup, see P3 upper left...and, by the way...”please define one of these days.”]

From the desk of **Dale Storms**...Thanks for the regular publication. We appreciate the “history” etc, and realize it takes time and attention to get it done. Expect that not many WWII units have this service. May God bless you all, Dale

Bob McDermott

November 17, 1921 - March 17, 2006



Bob McDermott passed away peacefully in his home on March 17, 2006 surrounded by his wife and children. He was born in Massilon, OH on November 17, 1921 and later grew up in Elyria, OH.

He served in WWII as a gunner and mechanic on the B-25 aircraft and flew in several combat missions. Most of his service in the war was in the Central Pacific Theatre. After the war he worked for many years as a purchasing agent for Thew

Shovel in Lorian, Ohio and later transferred to Chattanooga, TN with Koehring. In 1992 he moved from Hixson, TN to Bainbridge Island, WA.

He and his loving wife Betty were married for 59 years. He is also survived by his three daughters, Diane Toth of Bainbridge Island, WA, Mary Wyman of Poulsbo, WA and Patricia Olschesky of Wilmington, NC. He also has two grandchildren, Jessica Toth of Los Angeles, CA and Kevin Toth of Bainbridge Island, WA. He had two brothers, William, who preceded him in death in WWII, and Richard McDermott who resides in Baltimore, MD. He also has several nieces and nephews in Elyria, OH and Baltimore, MD.

He was an avid enthusiast of airplanes and loved going to air shows and flight museums. He had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed engaging in conversation with people of all ages whenever he had the opportunity. His family and friends will truly miss him.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers his family requests that memorial contributions be made in his name to Hospice of Kitsap County Washington.

Arrangements by Kass & Cook Family Funeral Home.

Pictures below were taken on Makin Island
Spouse Betty identified Bob at front row L
Top R is Frank Foster




Bob on the L with Dick DeLaney



Spouse Betty wrote that Bob was buried in Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA with full military honors. "It was beautiful. I miss him very much. We had nearly 59 years of marriage. Our daughters live nearby and have been a blessing to both Bob and me. Thank you for all the laughs he got from your e-mail. He shared them with a lot of people." Sincerely, Betty McDermott

- Sent by Ralph's daughter, Frances Hund. Ralph was a member of the 48th Bombardment Squadron.

 <p>When I Must Leave You</p> <p>When I must leave you for a little while, Please do not grieve and shed wild tears...and hug your sorrow to you through the years. But start out bravely with a gallant smile; And for my sake and in my name Live on and do all things the same. Feed not your loneliness on empty days, But fill each waking hour in useful ways. Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer ...And I in turn will comfort you And hold you near. And never, never be afraid to die, For I am waiting for you in the sky.</p>	<p>IN MEMORY OF</p> <p>RALPH HUND</p> <p>DATE OF BIRTH <i>January 13, 1922</i></p> <p>DATE OF DEATH <i>August 4, 2004</i></p> <p>GRAVESIDE SERVICE AND INTERMENT <i>Washington County Memory Garden 11:00 A.M. Friday - August 6, 2004</i></p> <p>OFFICIATING <i>Father Dennis Kress</i></p> <p>TETRICK FUNERAL HOME ELIZABETHTON, TENNESSEE</p>
--	--

A WARM NOTE: "Thank you so much for sending me *The Crow Flight*. I really enjoy it...read it cover to cover. Though I don't know them all, I recognize many of the names and met many in Ontario and Las Vegas...and they were all very important to Murray. He showed me a picture in his book of a tree and many benches and he said "you have no idea how many tears I've shed there when I lost members of my group." He was very young when he commanded the 41st, and it was a cross to bear. Even though he didn't know them personally, when they were lost it was very sad to him. He wrote letters to all of those who were related to them...mothers, fathers, and wives.

I was interested in the account of finding his book and how Dianne Lassiter was so happy to have it.
Sincerely, Frankie

ANOTHER WARM NOTE: Hi Urb, Sure was good to talk to you today but sorry that it had to be bad news about my Army Buddy Donald Bettisworth. Not too many of us old guys around anymore and the list keeps getting shorter each day. I live just a couple of miles from the National Cemetery here and see how many take their place there each week. Since My Jo took her place there, there have been hundreds and hundreds that have followed. Keep up the good work on *The Crow Flight*. Wait for each issue. Yours to the end of time. Pappy

OBITUARY: DONALD T. SNYDER, 820TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON

His eldest daughter, Sue Ferrence wrote: Dad died on April 15, 2006, at the age of 83. He had had a number of physical problems and multiple hospitalizations over the last three or four years but prior to that had really enjoyed relatively good health, mobility etc. He was even still able to play golf--and he did--several times a week. Up until the end, he continued to enjoy reading, crossword puzzles, war movies, John Wayne movies, and Benny Hill (preferring the racier English version). Our mother died about seven years ago and soon after Dad moved in with Ginny and Dean. Although he was hospitalized just prior to his death, he got his wish to come home. He longed for an old fashion and a beer and managed to drink a bit of both. Within less than a day and a half, he died peacefully, surrounded by family--just "going to sleep." Who among us could ask for more?

Dad was born and raised in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. In fact, except for his college and military years, he lived there his whole life. He was the only child of A. Russell ("Abe") and Kathryn ("Kit") Snyder. He and our mother graduated from Nazareth High School in the same class but did not begin dating until a few years later. Dad graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Animal Husbandry and our mother, Louise Lehr Snyder, received her nursing training at Abington Hospital (near Philadelphia, PA). After the service, Dad worked with his father in the family business started by his grandfather, Snyder Milling Company. After his father's retirement, Dad continued the business until his own retirement shortly after our mother's death. He was about 78 at the time.

Our parents were married 51 years and had three daughters: "Susie", "Patsy", and "Ginny". There are five adult grandchildren and, to Dad's great joy, one great-grandchild. Unfortunately, little Emily Ferrence lives in Los Angeles and so my dad knew her mainly through pictures and videos. Even so, he was incredibly proud of her and would buttonhole waitresses, nurses, and other total strangers to show off pictures. Luckily, my son and his family were East in September (2005) for my retirement dinner and so Dad got to meet her in person.

As we were growing up, Dad didn't talk much about the war or his time in the service (although we did find some very interesting "souvenirs" hidden in the attic) but in the last ten or fifteen years he began to think and talk about it quite a bit. His memories and old ties, especially with his pilot Jack Audiss (now the only surviving member of his crew), were very special to

him and reconnecting with his plane crew and other members of the 820th Bomb Squadron brought him much joy. Dad started his military service at Selman Field in Monroe, LA. He then was stationed at Roswell, NM, Victorville, CA, and Greenville, NC. He flew with the 820th in B-25 Mitchell in the Pacific Theater. Dad really wanted to become a pilot but because he wore glasses, he trained and served as a navigator. But that dream never died and around the time he turned 70, he started taking flying lessons at a small local airport. At first he did this in secret but eventually realized he had to tell our mother before someone else did. He, despite a less than impressive night flight after which he had to solemnly swear to never fly again at night, earned his long desired pilot's license. After that he flew very little--apparently the real joy was in the achievement. As his daughters, my sisters knew and related to Dad in the usual way. In a household of four females, he faded into the background--perhaps to protect his sanity and/or manhood. And, of course, family dynamics were very different then. One of our mother's favorite sayings was that as one door opened, another door opened. This was certainly true for us and our dad. As we spent more and more time with him, we began to know and appreciate him for the individual that he was. We did more things together and, more importantly, talked more with him. As a result, during the last seven years, we gathered a wealth of special moments and precious memories. We came to appreciate him as loving, kind, compassionate, loyal, honest, honorable and, to our surprise, very, very funny. He was a good father, a good friend, and a good man. Our son spoke at Dad's funeral and of all the things he said, the one that stood out most was that Dad lived a life most marked by an absence of enemies. Sue (nee Susie Snyder) Ferrence

1944 Thomas D. Thompson Diary (Contd. from P 4)

I understand combat makes a guy pretty thirsty. Tappan flew old 825 with Shirley & Kemp (my gunner) to swing the compass this morning while I took a short nap. My darling wife was leading character in my dream entitled "HOME" and I awoke feeling very lost and alone. Tonight I finally got a chance to see "Mr. Lucky" which is Casey's airplane's name. Very good movie. Loraine Day reminds me a lot of Kassy. Bill, Doc & Al haven't shown up yet. Get ready for some wild tales.

January 7 BELLOWS FIELD

Just read a letter from my wonderful wife & as yet she don't know I've been promoted to 1st Lt. It's only been a month and a week now -- one of these days a letter of mine is bound to get through. Flew over Hickam today & on the way I tried feathering each engine. The old rascal really flies like a bird on one engine -- so no worries there. (To Be Continued.)

DON HASKELL'S MEMORIAL 41ST
BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) WEBSITE

As mentioned in prior TCF issues, Don's children, **son Michael and daughter Donna Daulton** have perpetuated Don's site in his honor since his death in 2002.

Also, as reported in the past several issues of this newsletter, maintenance and updating of Don's website is now in the very capable and dedicated hands of **Rolf Grandstaff, son of Jeannette and John (47th Dec.)**.

We, the members and family of the 41st Bombardment Group and its member Squadrons, owe a huge debt of gratitude to, first of all Don for establishing his magnificent website, and then to Don's children and to Rolf Grandstaff, for their dedication to preserving and perpetuating the history, achievements and memories of the WWII units in which we served and the contributions we made to the victorious conclusion of one of the most significant wars in our nation's history.

YOU are urged to visit Don's website (refer the Masthead in this publication for the URL or just type "41st Bomb. Gp." in a search engine). **Click on "View Our Guest Book"** and you might find a message from someone, maybe a descendant of a member of your unit, looking for information that perhaps only you can provide. Following is some correspondence generated by Don's Website, illustrating its significant impact on preserving our history.

Grandpa I found this on the internet

http://www.softcom.net/users/dhaskell/bombgroup41/history_41st.html (Sent to Ed & Jo Danko, 48th)

michael simko md.simko@verizon.net
 father George Simko was radio operator/side gunner. Interested in any info re crew his DFCs, missions, etc. he flew on planes named MARY and TRIP-TEASE. [Have]Picture of crew in front of TRIP-TEASE with 1545 under cockpit and behind nose gun. Would appreciate any info.

Carol Plotnick cplot@bellatlantic.net
 Just Surfed In Laurel, MD

I am a freelance writer and the niece of S/Sgt Ross R Beil. He was a turret gunner and aerial engineer on a B-25 with the 396th during 1944. Ross passed in 1999. I have the correspondence he sent home during the war. He received the Purple Heart and the DFC. I am doing research for a book about him and the 396th. Any help in locating other crew members (Pilot was Capt George M Seemann) and an article written about their plane in June 13, 1944 "7th AAF Brief" would be greatly appreciated. I am glad that sites like this exist. They honor brave men

and women and they give us a window into the past. Thank you for keeping this going.

Paul Krause MCarlo5@aol.com Just Surfed In
 At a site showing the locations of all U.S. forces the morning of Dec 7, 1941, I saw that the 41st BG was stationed here in Tucson at Davis-Monthan Field, which is about a half mile from my house! So I searched for your site and found it. Are there any photos available from group/squadron members taken during their time in the Pacific, etc.?

Don Junk djunk@insight.rr.com Search Engine
 Columbus, Ohio

Harvey was as fine a man as I have ever known. I was a friend of Harvey Calvert, 820th Sq., who passed away in 2003. I greatly enjoyed his stories of the group during the war. He was proud of the men with whom he served, both the living and the dead. He once told me about a plane that returned from an anti-shipping mission with a Japanese naval ensign stuck to one of the engines after the ship exploded. This story, more than any other, illustrated the dangers that the crews faced on every mission.

Donna Haskell Daulton daulton@softcom.net
 Granite Bay, California

I am Donald Haskell's daughter. Dad died in August, 2002. He was very proud of this website and it thrills me that people are still finding it so useful.

Matt Holty holty@eng.utah.edu Salt Lake City, UT
 I'm so glad I found this site. Only wish I had found it a few years ago. I'm looking for information, stories etc about the 396th Bomb Squadron, specifically if someone knew my Grandfather Stanley Holty (he went by "Pete"). Thank you.
 Michelle Marie Huels

ktvanco@juno.com Edinboro, PA (Stoneboro, PA Hometown) Ever so grateful to Mr. Bill Childs & his wife for all of their help and kindness in my search for info. on my grandfather Wallace A. Huels 41st BG 820th SQ. Thank You

MATT HOLLY, longtime resident and owner of a SCUBA business at Majuro Island has for many years been compiling data and searching for lost aircraft of the 41st Bomb Group as well as other unit aircraft that operated in the area. Those of you who save *The Crow Flight* can refer to #33 (The "Paper Doll" issue) for more information. Matt has been in correspondence with Dale Storms, 47th & "Doc" Eyer. Matt wrote: **I am going to make every attempt to be at your reunion in Tucson.** I will try to get my Dad, living in Palm springs, CA to come along; sorry, he was in the Navy! (Officer Pilot in aeronautical engineer school at the end of the war with the Georgia Tech program). I am hopeful my book will be either complete or in final stages at that moment, so another good reason to show up. [Of course, we extend a hearty welcome to Matt and his Dad.]

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
TUCSON, AZ REUNION
47th, 48th, 396th & 820th Squadrons, 41st Bomb Gp. (M)
October 8, 9, 10, 11, 2006**

Questions or Special Assistance? Call "Doc" Eyer at (520) 881-7229

Sunday 8 October

- Airport Complimentary Shuttle Service Provided by Doubletree Hotel
- 12:00 Noon - Open Hospitality Room. Close - ?
- Registration Afternoon and Evening In the Hospitality Room
- Meals Are on Your Own

Monday 9 October

- 6:00 – 9:30 - Complimentary All American Breakfast Buffet
- Golf Available - Call Lou Beisser at (490)-807- 2012
- B-25 Flight Available – Call Lou Beisser (490) 807-2012
- Heated Pool & Whirlpool Available – Mingle in Hosp. Room – Shop to Drop - ?
- 4:00 P.M. – Squadron and Group Meetings in the Hospitality Room
- Lunch and Dinner on Your Own

Tuesday 10 October

- 6:00 – 9:30 - Complimentary All American Breakfast Buffet
- 8:45 A.M. - Board Coach - **PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED FOR EACH PERSON**
- 9:00 A.M. – Coach Departs for Pima Air Museum and AMARC Tour
(Lunch at the Golden Corral will be order and pay per individual.)
- 2:45 P.M. – Return to Doubletree Hotel
- Dinner is on Your Own

Wednesday 11 October

- 6:00 – 9:30 – Complimentary All American Breakfast Buffet
- 8:15 A.M. - Board our Tour Coach
- 8:30 A.M. - Tour Coach Departs for the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum
(We will have lunch at the Museum with order and pay per individual.)
- 1:30 P.M. – Return to Doubletree Hotel
- 5:30 P.M. – Happy Hour in the Banquet Room With Cash Bar
- 6:30 PM – Banquet Commences With Color Guard Flag Presentation. Jacket & Tie for Gentlemen is Recommended.

Thursday 12 October

- Farewells & Plans for 2007: Saddle Up Old Paint and Clip Clop for Home. Do Come Back. There is Always Hay in the Barn, Sunny Days and a Drop of Dew in the Trough to Wet Your Como se Llama. Via con Dios Amigos!

FOR YOUR RECORDS:

Hotel Reservations (1-800-222-8733) Made on (Date)_____ (Room-block Expires 24 Sept. '06)
Hotel Deposit Made on (Credit Card)_____ (Amount)_____
Airline Reservations Made on (Airline)_____ (Date)_____ (Confirmation No)._____
Squadron Registration Form Completed and Mailed (Date)_____ Ck. No._____ Amt._____