



Attached to
THIS ISSUE

Roster

Ever Honored

Life Members

New members

e-mail addresses

The 38th Bomb Group Assn, WW2

June 2003



In past newsletters we have read about missions to Wewak, Rabaul, Dague, Hollandia, Ormax Bay, Cebu and more. Let me tell you about my mission to Sydney.

June 1944 took off from Nadzab to Port Moresby to Ipswich to Sydney. First time to Sydney and Kings Cross. So many things happened it would fill a book.

Met a friend, Pierre O'Seep and took a room with him in the heart of Kings Cross. In the next few days we took in the sights and attempted to eat all the food in Sydney.

The third night we were in bed asleep when we heard a knock at the door. A voice cried "let me in"! I opened the door and there stood a woman with blood running from her lower leg. She had kicked in the front glass door of the building.

I told Pierre, "we've got to get rid of this bag now". We put on our clothes, drug her out of the building and tried to dump her. She wouldn't go. We finally got rid of her after she called several people 'SOBs'. Back in bed, with the door locked we heard a knock on the door and a voice-- 'let me in'. Pierre, don't you open the door.

Leave was up in Sydney so we piled in a C-47 and headed north. First stop was Ipswich. I'm getting sicker than I have ever been. So cold. I shook so bad I almost fell out of bed. I went on sick call at 2:00AM. It was the morning after D-Day. They put me in an ambulance and took me to a hospital in Toowoombau, Australia, 30 miles from Ipswich. Had Malaria and spent two weeks in the hospital.

Only sixteen people were in the hospital and we were all discharged on the same day. They took me back to Ipswich to catch a plane going north. It took a day and a half to find a plane that wasn't full. I was glad to join the crew the next day and head back to Nadzab.

Took off and at 5000 ft. one engine went out. The pilot couldn't feather the prop. Losing altitude fast we threw out everything including our bags and booze. Attempting to ditch on shore along the ocean, the pilot spotted an Aussie airstrip and set the plane down.

We stayed for two weeks and went out everyday with the Aussies to try to find our bags which we had thrown out. Of course we stopped at each pub to gain strength to go on. Finally, at the town of Caboolture the citizens remembered us going over and saw the bags coming out of the plane. Some of them jumped into the truck and led us to the area in the Outback. We found the bags scattered in a direct line. We found everyones' bag, but mine.

Back to Nadzab to find everyone and all of the equipment gone. So we slept under the stars and joined a B25 crew going to Biak. As we took off one engine backfired. No, not again! Went back to Nadzab. The crew chief fixed the engine and we took off for the second time for Biak. There is much more to each one of these incidents. Ask me about my mission to Sydney and I'll tell you.

Here are the progress reports from both Al Kennedy and Larry Hickey. I think they should be commended for honoring the commitments made at Colorado Springs reunion last October.

Chuck

I have a problem with something called Atrial Fibrillation, which means that the top part of the heart beats at a different rate as the bottom. They shock it to try and bring it back into sync. That's what they did today. No particular cause for it, some people just get it. I had this a year ago, and they had a hell of a time getting rid of it. This time, since I'm in much better physical condition, it went much easier. So, other than being tired as hell from the anesthetic, I'm feeling much better. Just saps about 30% of your energy, although isn't particularly dangerous. You have to be on blood thinners to prevent strokes, which are the major danger with A.T. Anyway, it unexpectedly came back about a month ago, and have been trying to get set up to get it taken care of, which happened today.

In the past month I've hired two additional people to help me with data entry and production on the book projects, including the 38th. They are finishing entering all the diary material from the 38th, and other materials that Al doesn't have. He's got about 2/3 of the material; we're working with the other third. When we put it all together into my "38th Research Draft," the completion of the writing will go smoothly. That is almost exclusively what we've working on now, since almost everything else, artwork, color profile paintings, maps, photo production, etc. are finished or nearly finished for the book. Some text sections of the book are already written, but that is the main remaining thing to do. That about covers it.

Regards,
Larry Hickey

Dear Chuck,

This is my update on the project:

Progress is going steadily and deftly. Three staff members are working regularly on a combination of photos and research material. A total of approximately 60 hours per week are being devoted to these tasks.

Three out of six boxes of photographs have been scanned and placed into an Adobe Photo Shop data base. So far, approximately 1300 photos have been scanned, of which 831 have been cleaned up. These are being annotated and placed into Word Pad documents, so that they may be indexed for content.

All research material for 1944, which was given to us by Lawrence Hickey, has been typed into Microsoft Word. Originals are being retained in exact form as received. An edited version is being developed in chronological order by date. Four months of 1945 are completed in original form.

Sincerely,
Al Kennedy

EDITORS NOTE: This was sent to me by my daughter in North Carolina I thought it would be nice for all of you to know that some of the publicity attempts do not go unchallenged

A LETTER FROM A SERVICE MAN TO MS. CINDY WILLIAMS (FROM LAVERN AND SHIRLEY (TV SHOW)

Date: 1/13/03 4:07:39 AM Pacific Standard Time I find this Airman's response to the Washington Times it should be printed in all newspapers across America. Especially now when the President is calling up more Reserves and National Guardsman. Get this response out to everyone you know. It's time the Jane Fonda's & Shaun Penn's of this country wise up and support the troops that defend them.

Noel Pritzl
1st Vice President USDR

On 12 Nov, Ms Cindy Williams (from Laverne and Shirley TV show) wrote a piece for the Washington Times, denouncing the pay raise(s) coming service members' way this year -- citing that the stated 13% wage was more than they deserve.

"Ms Williams:

I just had the pleasure of reading your column, "Our GIs earn enough" and I am a bit confused. Frankly, I'm wondering where this vaunted overpayment is going, because as far as I can tell, it disappears every month between DFAS (The Defense Finance and Accounting Service) and my bank account. Checking my latest leave and earnings statement (LES), I see that I make \$1,117.80 before taxes. After taxes, I take home \$874.20. When I run that through Windows' Calculator, I come up with an annual salary of \$13,413.60 before taxes, and \$10,490.40 after.

I work in the Air Force Network Control Center (AFNCC), where I am part of the team responsible for the administration of a 5,000-host computer network. I am involved with infrastructure segments, specifically with Cisco Systems equipment. A quick check under jobs for Network Technicians in the Washington, D.C. area reveals a position in my career field, requiring three years experience with my job. Amazingly, this job does NOT pay \$13,413.60 a year, nor does it pay less than this. No, this job is being offered at \$70,000 to \$80,000 per annum. I'm sure you can draw the obvious conclusions.

Also, you tout increases to Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence (housing and food allowances, respectively) as being a further boon to an already overcompensated force. Again, I'm curious as to where this money has gone, as BAH and BAS were both slashed 15% in the Hill AFB area effective in January 00.

Given the tenor of your column, I would assume that you have NEVER had the pleasure of serving your country in her armed forces. Before you take it upon yourself to once more castigate congressional and DOD leadership for attempting to get the families in the military's lowest pay brackets off AFDC, WIC, and food stamps, I suggest that you join a group of deploying soldiers headed for AFGHANISTAN, I leave the choice of service branch up to you. Whatever choice you make, though, opt for the SIX month rotation: it will guarantee you the longest possible time away from your family and friends, thus giving you full "deployment experience."

As your group prepares to board the plane, make sure to note the spouses and children who are saying good-bye to their loved ones. Also take care to note that several families are still unsure of

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WW2 MEMORABILIA

I was very disappointed in the lack of response to my suggestion for disposition of WW2 mementos and other memorabilia. To make it easier to respond I pose the following question. **WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO ARRANGE FOR YOUR COLLECTION TO GO TO A MUSEUM OR BASE THAT HAS A B-25 WITH AN 8-GUN NOSE?**
Please send me a YES or a NO by email, phone or snailmail!

SUNSETTER EDITORIAL POLICY

The Sun Setter is published to provide information historical reports and for the enjoyment of the members and supporters of the 38th Bomb Group Association. Editorial Policy is to avoid any negative statements or personal attacks against or about any member or officer of this Association. The Editor is the sole judge as regards editorials, articles and personal items submitted for publication in the newsletter. The Editor may hold any item for publication at a later date and reject any item for publication for any reason. The Editor will refrain from using the Sun Setter as a means to promote personal, political, religious or other matters that might disrupt the harmony of the 38th Bomb Group Association WWII.

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how they'll be able to make ends meet while the primary breadwinner is gone -- obviously they've been squandering the vast piles of cash the DOD has been giving them.

Try to deploy over a major holiday; Christmas and Thanksgiving are perennial favorites.

And when you're actually over there, sitting in a DFP (Defensive Fire Position, the modern-day foxhole), shivering against the cold desert night; and the flight sergeant tells you that there aren't enough people on shift to relieve you for chow, remember this: trade whatever MRE (meal-ready-to-eat) you manage to get for the tuna noodle casserole or cheese tortellini, and add Tabasco to everything. This gives some flavor.

Talk to your loved ones as often as you are permitted; it won't nearly be long enough or often enough, but take what you can get and be thankful for it.

You may have picked up on the fact that I disagree with most of the points you present in your op-ed piece. But, tomorrow from KABUL, I will defend to the death your right to say it. You see, I am an American fighting man, a guarantor of your First Amendment rights and every other right you cherish. On a daily basis, my brother and sister soldiers worldwide ensure that you and people like you can thumb your collective nose at us, all on a salary that is nothing short of pitiful and under conditions that would make most people cringe.

We hemorrhage our best and brightest into the private sector because we can't offer the stability and pay of civilian companies. And you, Ms Williams, have the gall to say that we make more than we deserve?

Rubbish!

A1C Michael Bragg, Hill AFB AFNCC"

THIS LETTER SHOULD BE APPLAUDED BY ANYONE WHO'S EVER SERVED OR HAD A FAMILY MEMBER SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES! THIS YOUNG MAN DESERVES A MEDAL!

The Sun Setters

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