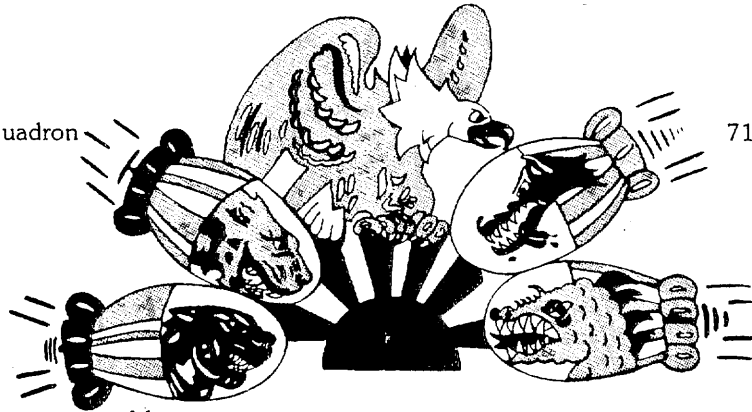


823rd Squadron

71st Squadron

822nd Squadron

405th Squadron



## "The Sun Setters"

38th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII)

MAY 1988

### The President's Memo:



Harry E. Terrell,  
President

It is indeed a great pleasure to report that the 38th Bomb Group Association (WWII) is a "going concern" — we have met the objectives established at Reunion 86! The California Secretary of State has accepted our Articles of Incorporation and now we are awaiting approval of our "non-profit" status. *THE SUN SETTERS* has been in publication for a year. From all indications it has stimulated a lot of interest in the activities of the Association as evidenced by the efforts of members in locating many "lost members" and by your contributing fine material for use in the newsletter. Keep up the good work, fellows!

We are encouraged by the fine response to our Reunion 88 mailing. Looks like we are well on our way to a really great reunion! Another high point, *SAGA OF THE SUN SETTERS* is coming down the home stretch. Larry Hickey has gathered many outstanding accounts, photographs and paintings for the book; however, quite a bit of data is still needed so please check Larry's form enclosed herein and keep the material flowing in so we can show "that other straffer outfit" what the *Sun Setters* accomplished out there. There's a great story to be told!

Got to tell you that seeing old buddies with whom you shared a great adventure is an experience that defies description. Would you believe one member was so impressed by his first reunion that he volunteered to be the chairman of the next one! For those of you who have not shared this experience, come to Nashville and see for yourself how great it is. I guarantee you will have the time of your life! SEE YOU ALL THERE!

**SEE YOU AT  
REUNION '88!**

### Music City, U.S.A., Anxiously Awaits ...

... your arrival for the 1988 38th Bomb Group (WWII) Reunion. Results of the survey for activities are not known at this time but all indications from previous contacts lead us to expect an attendance in the neighborhood of 400. We know there will be "first timers" to see and old acquaintances to renew.

A hospitality room with a bar and memorabilia will be set up along with a room for each squadron to get together and renew old acquaintances. Be sure to bring any memorabilia or pictures you may have and check them in at the group hospitality room for other members to share and enjoy. Larry Hickey, who is publishing the book about the 38th Bomb Group, would also be interested in pictures you may have.

Since there are many diverse choices of things to do in Nashville, individuals will be able to choose from a variety of activities. There are tours of many kinds. Tours of country music star's homes, and displays, Music City Hall of Fame and Opryland, Opryland Hotel, etc. (See enclosed list of optional activities.) Tours can be set up from the Hotel lobby and information will be available at our Reunion information booth.

Most of the correspondence and queries received by the Committee has been about Opryland and The Grand Old Opry. To that end, we are intending to obtain tickets for the Opry. Tickets have to be purchased far in advance to insure obtaining them.

For those arriving by air in Nashville, bus service is furnished free by the Marriott. The schedule runs every 30 minutes from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. After 11:00 a.m., service is by request.

Our Nashville Reunion Committee has devoted many hours to make Reunion '88 a great occasion. Members of the committee include Ken Houston, Dorothy Jackson, Tom King, Les Mondelli, Robert Plummer, Alonzo Rushing, Almon Suedekum and Betty Moyers, an associate volunteer. The Committee is also appreciative of all the members who have volunteered their help during the

Reunion. They will be contacted upon arrival at the reunion for various duties and help.

In case you did not know or realize it, support by the Association has been terrific. Harry Terrell, Jim Gilliam and Lew Pavel deserve a lot of credit for keeping the Association and the Reunion moving along on course. Be sure to give them all the support they deserve.

For the Reunion Committee,  
"Suedy"

### "Would You Care To Be A Zoomie?"

(An abbreviated version of a USS Blackfish news bulletin circulated to the submarine crew July 6, 1945 — Editor.)

A wave of 48 B-25s of the 38th Bomb Group, 5th Air Force (Green Dragons) left Okinawa air strip enroute to Taramisu. Mission — Fire Bomb Factory workers quarters. In plane #302 was Everett P. Brady, Jr., pilot; Ira B. Baker, co-pilot; Merle L. Meacham, navigator; Doyle E. Anderson, engineer/gunner; Ted Q. Wilson, radioman; Ralph R. Lawson, gunner. Plane #302 approached target at 1400 from the sea flying at about 50 feet altitude and 300 MPH through smoke and flames caused by the preceding wave of planes. Occupants of the plane were thrown about quite a bit from the thermo caused by the flames. While top gunner Anderson and tail gunner Lawson strafed the area, radioman Wilson threw leaflets out through the emergency escape hatch. Return fire from cliffs beyond the target was observed.

At 1359 plane #302 was hit and an engine disabled, and engineer Anderson noticed gasoline streaming from a hole in the wing. In 5 to 7 minutes, the flow ceased due to self-sealing gasoline tanks, but oil was noted streaming from the engine. Presently the prop ran away and oil pressure dropped to zero. Two attempts to feather the engine were of no avail due to failure of the feathering motor.

All excess speed was used to get up to 1500 feet. The engine was shut off and the plane began losing altitude. The Wingman was contacted and called the PBY to report the problem and the Wingman circled until it arrived. Pilot Brady passed word for all hands to

## Your Association Contacts

**President:** Harry E. Terrell, 20475 Upper Bay Dr., Santa Ana Heights, CA 92707.

**Vice President:** John Trease, 306 Clay, Broken Bow, OK 74728.

**Secretary-Treasurer:** James Gilliam, 25475 Jaclyn, Moreno Valley, CA 92387.

**71st Sqdn. Rep.:** Alonzo Rushing, 1224 Berwick Trail, Madison, TN 37115.

**405th Sqdn. Rep.:** Lew Pavel, P.O. Box 915204, Longwood, FL 32791.

**822nd Sqdn. Rep.:** Tom King, 100 Baltusrol Rd., Franklin, TN 37064.

**823rd Sqdn. Rep.:** Lawton Howell, 133 Ole Hickory Trail, Carrollton, Georgia 30117.

**Hdq. Rep.:** Harry E. Terrell (see Pres.)

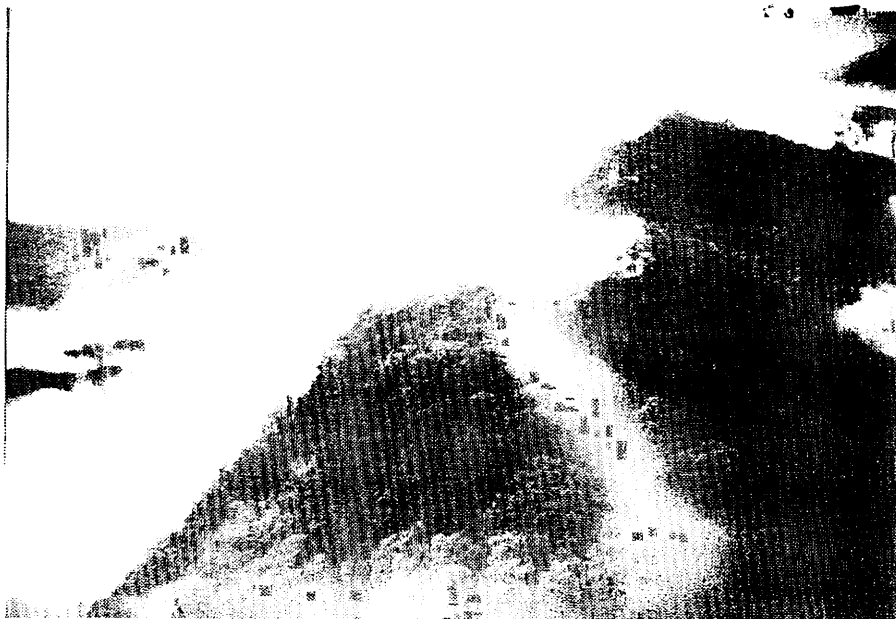
**Reunion '88 Chairman:** Almon W. Suedekum, 1205 Shiloh Drive, Nashville, TN 37205.

"Zoomie" con't.

prepare to "ditch". Radioman Wilson and tail gunner Lawson cut out the waist windows with crash axes, threw out all ammunition and about \$6,000 worth of headache radio equipment to the radioman's delight. In the opinion of the whole B-25 crew, pilot Brady did a very excellent job of keeping the plane up as long as he did as well as getting clear of the bay and near our (Blackfish) position, flying about 50 to 60 miles after being hit, according to navigator Meacham.

As the plane hit, it bounced and then came to what has been defined as a very excellent set-down. Water began to rush in through the windows and it looked like the plane might sink, but it righted itself and stayed afloat until the crew was clear. Tailgunner Lawson and radioman Wilson scrambled to get out through the windows. The radioman had hold of the life raft and Mae Wests, but because of difficulty in getting out the window, he had to let them go. Radioman Wilson swam to the floating first aid kit and he and Pilot Brady put it under the arms of gunner Lawson who was having trouble staying up. Engineer Anderson had a snap loose on his Mae West and it continually wanted to climb over his head, and later his shoes were cut off by co-pilot Baker. As Anderson says in his own words, "The navigator and co-pilot saved by life." As soon as he arrived in the raft, he belched up about 3 quarts of water which helped immensely. The Catalina then came over and dropped their first life raft, which fell too far away; the second fell within 25 feet enabling all hands to reach it and they went together to the first raft, inflated it, and placed three in each raft, picking up the third raft for supplies. The Cat then dropped a message saying the Blackfish would be there in about 1 hour and 45 minutes. According to Anderson, "I felt pretty damn good" when the Blackfish hove into sight, and according to this guests appetite, he is fully recovered from his sickness of the sea.

I know all hands are glad to see these fellas on board and your cooperation in making them feel at home is greatly appreciated. According to them, the chow is the best they've had for some time. It is believed that without too much persuasion, Lt. Brady could be enticed to join up and stay a submariner.

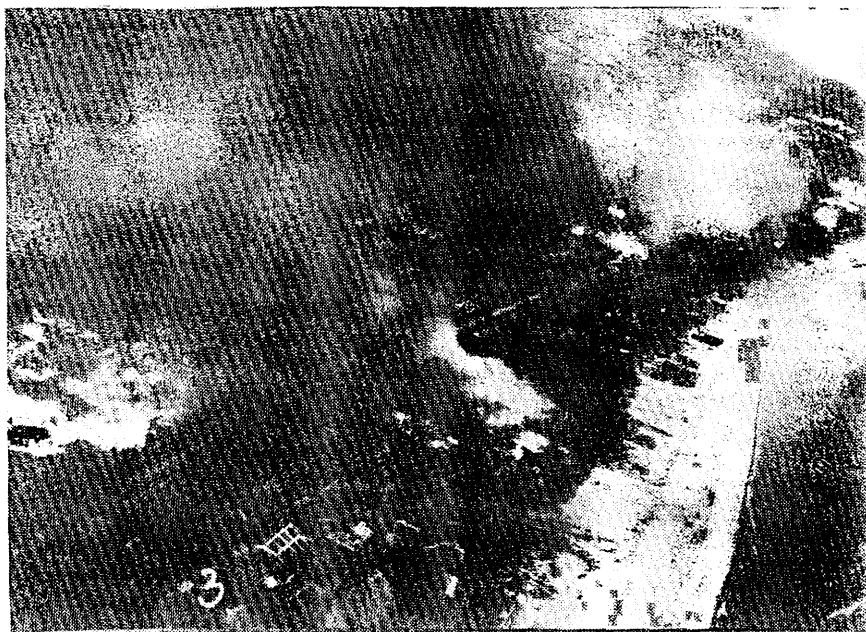


**FROM SHAGGY RIDGE. Dumpu, New Guinea —**

where the 38th lent support to the Aussie ground-gridders creeping along a narrow jungle path, only a narrow strip of white cloth laid across the path a few feet in front of the lead unit, and a mountain wall as a reminder to pull up fast (one didn't make it) —

**— TO TARAMIZU, Kyusho, Japan**

where the target was substantially better defined and more visible but also substantially better defended (see "Zoomies" elsewhere in this issue), B-25 strafers were one of the most versatile and durable armaments of World War II. (Photos courtesy of Everett Brady.)



## THE RETURN OF THE EAGLES

Negotiations are underway with QANTAS Airways for special fares for veterans joining in a tour to the Southwest Pacific, with its focus on the Bicentennial Air Show/EXPO 88 in October.

The Diggers are staging the Air Show in Sydney October 15 while EXPO 88 continues to run in Brisbane until 30 October. the tour

also offers an opportunity to visit Nadzab or to continue on to New Zealand for 10 days.

Anyone interested in participating in Australia's Bicentenary Celebrations should contact Lt. Col Barney Dobbs (USAF Ret), The Return of the Eagles Organizing Committee, 150 Powell St. #307, San Francisco, CA 94102, for further information.

**REGISTER NOW FOR REUNION '88!**

## EDITOR'S NOTES:

Everett Brady (405th), Camden, SC stopped by in March to loan us his photo album and other items for "The Sun Setter". Material from this historical gem will be rationed out in future issues, but the USS Blackfish news bulletin (they pulled his crew out of the ocean) appears herein.

Bill Hanrahan (823rd), Mentor, OH sent us 3 pages of memories of early days at 17-Mile Strip and Nadzab. What we can't handle in this issue will be picked up later, and will be especially appreciated by those with a passion for purple.

Al Behrens (822nd), Jensen Beach, FL, identified George Cobb in January's 405th Mess photo and came through with his St. Petersburg address as well. A note to George was all it took to gain another Life Member — he was simply unaware of the Association.

The above items typify the cooperation THE SUN SETTER needs if it is to fulfill its purpose of helping reestablish some of those bonds which were so important to us in the Pacific. The January issue generated some good information for the future.

With this issue members will receive a list of all known veterans of the 38th BG (WWII). Check it carefully — if you see an old buddy's name, write or call urging him to meet you at Reunion '88. If he's not a member, suggest he join if only for the newsletter and his own copy of the 38th roster. If you note an omission, send it along to Secretary Jim Gilliam, who has made the roster possible.

Keep those cards and letters coming, folks! We need material.

**SEE YOU IN NASHVILLE!**



## 71st REUNION

Matt Gac (left), of Rochester, NY, and John Mutu of Colorado Springs, CO, chat in front of the 5th Air Force Memorial at the U.S. Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Base, Dayton, OH, during the 71st Bomb Squadron Reunion in October, 1987. Mutu served as chairman of the 38th Bomb Group reunion in Colorado Springs in 1984.

Sam Mazzara of Huntington Beach, CA, proudly demonstrates his commitment to the 405th Bomb Squadron Green Dragons with a specially designed license plate frame.

## Life Memberships Continue Growth

The 38th Bomb Group Association (WWII) now boasts an even 50 life members with the addition of seven (\*) since January:

405th: (23)	71st: (10)
Amos, Joseph D.	Adams, Hol
Behrens, Charles A.	Barbour, John B.
Campbell, Delbert	Blair, Robert W.
Canpan, D.W. (Capanoli)	Craig, James W.
*Cobb, George A.	*Drees, Fred W. Jr.
Cooper, Burton S.	Fisk, L.
Crooks, Robert	Horsman, James O.
Daugherthy, Joseph M.	*Lane, Paul R.
Fuqua, Robert	Sankey, Donald E.
Hargis, Horrace P.	Sherrard, Donald E.
Henderson, Robert J.	822nd: (8)
Houston, Kenneth L.	Borla, Harold
Knight, D.T.	Kellogg, Walter E.
Lee, Lynn A.	Mueller, Ernie E.
Lewman, O. Ray	Riehl, Edgar A.
Mazzara, Sam	Thoren, James
Monroe, George	*Wallace, Jack
Pavel, E. Lewis	Ward, Prescott G.
Pittman, Robert C.	*Wilhelm, J.P.
*Roberts, Jacob M.	823rd: (6)
Smith, Charles S.	Darbonne, Harrison
Terrell, Harry E.	*Gage, Orland F.
*Wheeler, Clyde L.	Jones, W.L.
Hdq.: (4)	Lux, L.P.
Craig, William	Trease, John L.
Gavin, E.M.	
Lee, Warren E.	
Tanberg, Lawrence	

(Ed. Note: You counted 8 new members? That's because the editor neglected to list Orland F. Gage in January and extends abject apologies to Orland and the 823rd.)

The \$100 Life Memberships were established at Reunion 86 to assure continued Association viability, and are retained in a special account with only interest reverting to the General Fund.



## A SPECIAL NOTE TO NON-MEMBERS

The May issue of THE SUN SETTERS is being mailed to everyone on the Association's current roster of 38th Bomb Group personnel. Members of the 38th Bomb Group Association (WWII) are receiving the 763-name roster with this issue. Non-members who would like the roster may obtain a copy by submitting the Membership Data form below along with check or money order for dues. As a member, you will be supporting a great organization, receive future issues of THE SUN SETTER as well as other Association information, and be eligible to attend the 38th Bomb Group reunion.

**THE 38TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII)**  
**25475 JACLYN AVE., MORENO VALLEY, CA 92387**

## MEMBERSHIP DATA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ WIFE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ LIFE (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER '88 (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOC '88 (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ WIDOW

WILL ACCEPT NOMINATION AS: \_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT \_\_\_\_\_ VP

\_\_\_\_\_ SEC'Y-TREASURER \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON REP \_\_\_\_\_ REUNION CHAIRMAN '90 (LOCATION) \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS ON THE LETTERHEAD)

## ... AND A REMINDER TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ...

Current members wishing to update their membership data are urged to utilize the above form for that purpose.

## Hanrahan's New Guinea

(W.E. (Bill) Hanrahan (823rd) responded to the plea in the January *SUN SETTER* by passing along some memories of his New Guinea days, which will be particularly meaningful to those who joined the 38th at Port Moresby.)

"Some of the experiences of New Guinea can be recalled with fondness only in respect to the association with great young men whose sense of humor carried them through the living conditions at 17-Mile on the edge of the Waygon (spelling?) Swamp. Moving to Nadzab was moving up-town.

"When the 822nd and 823rd, spinoffs of the 71st & 405th respectively, were formed & trained at Charters Towers, conditions were acceptable, and the food was edible - sheep. "Shanty" O'Neill made his first appearance after his hospital stay, but any form of talking on his part was painful. I am sure you are aware of the lye incident.

"Upon arrival at 17-Mile, where the 71st & 405th were operational, realization of the New Guinea environment hit home. The New Guinea crud, some form of skin eruption, affected some people and the dogs purchased in Australia. The bright purple medication used on the affected areas was enough to scare the Japs out of New Guinea. I have never to this day seen the volume of mosquitoes at 17-Mile even in the Louisiana swamps or Texas rice fields.

"At Nadzab, someone determined that the kuani grass was too high too close to the living area. A 6 x 6 truck was used to tow a wedge through this grass to have some clearance for mosquito control. This made the area more visible from the air and chased snakes into the tents. Since everything seemed to be toxic or poisonous in New Guinea, there were many references to the instigator's heritage.

"In the 823rd, we had a supply sgt. in the chemical warfare tent who was a PhD in zoology. At least this was the rumor. He (I

wish I could recall his name) would go out at night to capture snakes and birds. A green tree python, a 6' lizard and poisonous snakes were his companions in the tent with gas masks and impregnated wool clothing and blankets. He also painted the panthers on patches for our jackets. I do not know whether he painted the cats on our aircraft.

"B-24's operated off the strip at Nadzab. I recall one B-24 exploding on the runway end while we were awaiting takeoff for a mission. Needless to say, we were delayed two hours. While strafing Hansa Bay shores, George Toothman and I witnessed a direct hit on a B-24 3000 feet above the point of land and it just disappeared in a puff. Even though we had very little respect for the B-24 aircraft, one incident at Nadzab amazed everyone and provided some entertainment. The crew could not lower the gear and was ordered to bail out. The aircraft was placed on auto pilot and fighters were ordered up to shoot it down. The weather was CAVU and visibility was excellent. The fighters made pass after pass at that plane and it just would not destruct. I think it finally ran out of fuel. To be continued.



## "In Ever-Honored Memory"

Again, thanks to those who have notified the Association of our departed cohorts, providing an opportunity to render them a final salute:

William D. Beardon .....	71st
Joseph H. Daniel .....	71st
William A. Goppert .....	71st
Joseph M. Zanoiski .....	71st
Carl Dwire .....	405th
Robert E. Glover .....	405th
Ansil W. Hopper .....	405th
Dan W. Jackson, Jr. ....	405th
Harry J. Quiggle .....	405th
Martin Silver .....	405th
Charles W. Stukas .....	405th
Grant E. Tigwell .....	405th
Dorrance L. Van Fleet .....	405th
Art J. Charvonneau .....	822nd
Alfred Degrancomo .....	822nd
James A. Shannon .....	822nd
Leroy M. Gibson .....	823rd
Fred Z. McCartney .....	823rd
Henry S. Hoffman .....	Hdq.
John Stander .....	Hdq.
Daniel J. Sullivan .....	Hdq.
Forrest J. Flack .....	Unk.
Donald R. Latham .....	Unk.

Additional information about departed comrades will be appreciated and should be mailed to James E. Gilliam, Secretary.

### Just a reminder:

If you haven't mailed in your 1988 dues, payment by month's end will facilitate budgeting procedures and will be much appreciated by Treasurer Jim Gilliam.

Larry Hickey, (left) publisher of "Saga of the Sun Setters", shares a table with Larry Tanberg (Hdq.) at Reunion '86 in Anaheim. Hickey will attend Reunion '88 and urges members to bring photos and other historical information for possible usage in the group history.

# REUNION '88 — NASHVILLE — SEPT. 28-OCT. 1

38th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII)



20475 Upper Bay Drive  
Santa Ana Heights  
California 92707-5547