Group

823rd Squadron

71st Squadron

405th Squadron

822nd Squadron

"The Sun Setters"

38th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII) JANUARY 1989

THE PRESIDENT'S MEMO

J. D. Johnson

In my first message to the members of the 38th Bomb Group, I would like to pay special tributes to those individuals who have worked so hard and long to make this organization the success that it is. While most of us have been enjoying the newsletter, reunions and camaraderies of each others company, these individuals have carried the work load with very little thanks and a whole lot of headaches. To Harry Terrell, Jim Gilliam, Lew Pavel and Al Suedekum, all of the 405th Squadron. I say Thank You for a job well done!

The enjoyment and success of Reunion Nashville 1988 did not just happen—it happened because of the hard work of these men and countless others. I urge every member to become involved, and remember, the guys who did the cooking and worked on the planes were just as important as the guys who flew the planes.

We need stories and information from all the squadrons. We all served at different times and locations, so we should have some good stories out there. Send them to your Squadron Representative or to Lew Pavel, Editor of "The Sun Setters".

REUNION '90 — DAYTON, OHIO —

Dayton, OH, home of the U.S. Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Base, garnered a unanimous vote as the site of Reunion '90 pursuant to the withdrawal of the bid from Orlando, FL.

Bob Hunter (823rd) of Springfield, OH, and Bob Lamb (823rd) of Kettering, OH, have agreed to serve as Co-Chairmen under the chairmanship of President Jack Johnson, as stipulated by an amendment to the bylaws enacted during Reunion '88.

Pursuant to the selection, both Bobs met with the Board of Directors and an immediate start upon planning for the session. It is their intent to maximize the opportunity attendees will have to visit the outstanding exhibits and facilities at the AF Museum.

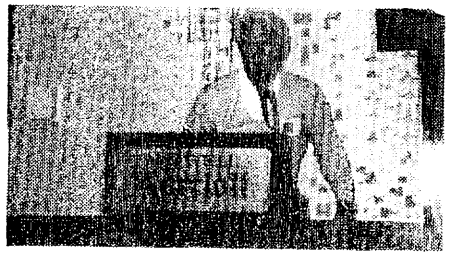
'88 BUSINESS MEETING

The biennial business meeting of the 38th Bomb Group Association (WWII) was held at the Marriott Hotel in Nashville, at 1400 hours, Saturday, October 1, 1988.

To accommodate California and U.S. regulations re incorporating as a not-for-profit organization, President Harry E. Terrell introduced minor changes in the Bylaws; all approved.

An amendment proposed by Terrell stipulating that the President also serve as Reunion Chairman to assure coordination of efforts was also approved.

Upon call for invitations for Reunion '90, Orlando bid chairman Lew Pavel (405th), withdrew believing the new President/Chairman provision would compromise his activity as "The Sun Setters" editor and could also conflict with his activities as a consultant. Bob Hunter and Bob Lamb (823rd) submitted Dayton's bid; which was unanimously accepted.



Harry E. Terrell, Jr.

The following officers were elected, terms effective January 1:

President..... J.D. (Jack) Johnson (823rd), Billings, MT
Vice President..... Robert L. Hunter (823rd), Springfield, OH
Secretary/Treasurer. A. Allen Barbour (823rd), Canoga Park, CA

Squadron board members named at earlier squadron meetings:

71st Squadron..... Charles M. Denbow, Oak Ridge, NC
405th Squadron.... G.G. (Gerry) Carpenter, Mt. Blanchard, OH
822nd Squadron..... Clifford D. Sutherland, Ft. Worth, TX
823rd Squadron..... Alfred C. West, Ottawa, IL

A unanimous vote of thanks was tendered outgoing officers and board, and particularly to President Terrell for his efforts in giving birth to the Association and to Secretary-Treasurer James E. Gilliam for computerizing known veterans of the 38th BG and maintaining association membership records.

DUES ARE DUE — SEE PAGE TWO

REUNION '88 WRAPUP

Chairman Almon "Suedy" Suedekum

The pace in Nashville has slowed to a walk since the 38th Bomb Group Reunion (WWII) ended October 2, and its members departed for their homes.

September 28th to October 2nd at the Marriott was a busy, busy time enjoyed by 450 members, wives and guests.

Things really hummed during these days starting with a reception Wednesday evening attended by 315 people.

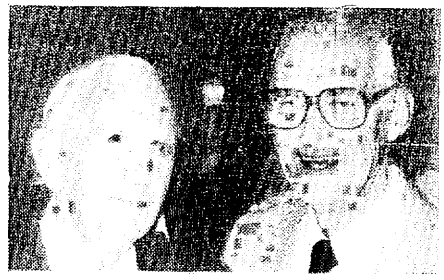
Thursday's shopping tour participants numbered 32, while other members enjoyed tours and sightseeing trips.

Of course good use was made of the Hospitality Rooms with the usual tall tales being told and past acquaintances renewed and new ones made.

Larry Hickey's colored presentation Thursday evening was attended by 200+ members and guests.

The Squadron Breakfast Meetings Friday proved popular, with a combined total attendance of 320.

Country Music buffs numbering 300 had a "foot stomping" time at the Grand Ole Opry performance Friday evening.



Almon Suedekum Chester Swenson

Saturday afternoon the Group met in a business session to select the '90 site and elect officers with about 220 members in attendance.

The Banquet and Dance attendance totaled 400, with Eddie Winfrey and his Band bringing nostalgia to us with music of the 40's. More than a few members can still "trip the light fantastic," we noticed.

Sunday morning 214 said their goodbyes until 1990 at the Continental Breakfast.

Our hardworking '88 Reunion Committee members included Ken Houston, Robert Plummer, Les Mondelli, Dot Jackson, Al Rushing, Betty Moyers, Tom and June King

Continued page 2

YOUR ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

President..... **J.D. (Jack) Johnson**
807 Grand Avenue, Billings, MT 59102.
Vice President..... **Robert L. Hunter**
2811 Locust Drive, Springfield, OH 45505
Secretary/Treasurer..... **A. Allen Barbour**
20706 Haynes Street, Canoga Park, CA 91306
71st Sqdn. Rep..... **Charles M. Benbow**
P.O. Box 445, Oak Ridge, NC 27310
405th Sqdn. Rep..... **C.G. (Gerry) Carpenter**
16680 TR 190, Mt. Blanchard, OH 45867
822nd Sqdn. Rep..... **Clifford R. Sutherland**
3413 Wren Avenue, Ft. Worth, TX 76133
823rd Sqdn. Rep..... **Alfred C. West**
1628 Adams, Ottawa, IL 61350
Hdq. Rep..... **Thomas D. Kirby**
P.O. Box 26, Hemet, CA 92343
Editor "The Sun Setters"..... **Lew Pavel**
P.O. Box 915204, Longwood, FL 32791

DUES ARE DUE!!

BIENNIAL DUES OF $20 FOR 1989 AND 1990 ARE NOW DUE!!!

Membership dues of the 38th Bomb Group Association (WWII) remain $10 per year BUT to alleviate an untenable burden upon the Secretary-Treasurer in maintaining accurate member records as required by the Association's not-for-profit status, the Board has directed memberships be paid biennially beginning in 1989.

Your dues make possible publication and distribution of "The Sun Setters", provide underwriting for early promotion and pre-reunion expenses, and maintaining an updated roster.

This issue of "The Sun Setters" is being mailed to all 38th BG Veterans, but future issues will be sent only to dues-paying members.

DUES SHOULD BE MAILED PROMPTLY TO:

A. Allen Barbour, Secretary-Treasurer
38th Bomb Group Association (WWII)
20706 Haynes Street
Canoga Park, CA 91306

Wrapup — Continued from page 1

and Freddie Suedekum.

The Nashville Reunion '88 Committee would like to give special thanks to Jim Gilliam, Harry Terrell, Lew Pavel and volunteer workers for their help with the Reunion. Their expertise and efforts were really appreciated.

Nashville Reunion attendance was great and we are hoping the enthusiasm will carry over to Dayton in 1990, making it the largest Reunion ever for the group, so contact those "buddies" of yours and start planning now to be in Dayton in 1990.

For the Reunion '88 Committee
Thanks, "Suedy".

PLAN NOW.
REUNION '90
SEE YOU IN DAYTON, OHIO

"Saga of the Sun Setters"

During his presentation to the Group as to progress on "The Saga of the Sun Setters", Larry Hickey saluted the members of the Group who signed the four squadron paintings which will be used as illustrations in the book.

"Those 40 people, representing the various squadron specialties, spent literally hours during the Reunion, each signing the limited edition of 500 prints of the squadron with which he served, a total of 20,000 signings to further authenticate these historical sovenirs," Hickey stated.

Funds raised through print sales will help underwrite cost of publication of the group history and will help bring recognition to the 38th Bomb Group internationally, as prints will be sold worldwide as will the history.

Signing the 71st prints were:
Robert W. Blair..... Squadron C.O.
Fred M. Cecil..... Pilot
W. Earl Skinner..... Turret Gunner
Willie J. Turner..... Engineering Officer
Ted Broughton..... Crew Chief
W. Colin Chisholm..... Pilot
James E. Reese..... First Sergeant
Eugene E. Benson..... Pilot
Fred W. Drees, Jr..... Squadron Navigator
William J. Dixon..... Radio Operator

Signing for the 405th:
Jesse R. Foley, Jr..... Squadron C.O.
Robert F. Fugua..... Maintenance Officer
E. M. "Ted" Rich..... Pilot
Charles E. Cummings..... Radio Operator
Johnnie D. Rogers..... Crew Chief
Harry E. Terrell, Jr..... Pilot
Robert J. Henderson..... Pilot
E. Lewis Pavel..... Navigator/Bombardier
Delbert Campbell..... Pilot
Sam A. Mazzara..... Turret Gunner

Signing for the 822nd:
Richard C. Davis..... Squadron C.O.
Albert L. Behrens..... Pilot
Mathew C. Gac..... Photographer
Douglas E. Hagle..... Pilot
Edwin S. Polansky..... Pilot
A.I. Marshall..... Intelligence Officer
Howard S. Smith..... Squadron Navigator
F. Ken Darrow..... Tail Gunner
William C. Fanning..... Turret Gunner
Howard E. Borla..... Airplane Mechanic

Signing for te 823rd:
Jack D. Johnson..... Squadron C.O.
Robert W. Elliott..... Engineering Officer
Sam Zorich..... Pilot
Henry L. Fornwalt..... Flight Chief
Harold Heikes..... Turret Gunner
John L. Trease..... Pilot
Fred L. Paveglio..... Pilot
Robert L. Hunter..... Radio Operator
Albert C. West..... Navigator
Lyle O. Lyon..... Airplane Mechanic

EDITOR'S NOTES

While there are several mentions of Reunion '88 in this issue, it is extremely difficult to convey to those who have never attended one what a truly great experience is — not in the sense of a dramatic extravaganza but in the sense you really never know just who of your old buddies you will bump into and what memories that meeting will stimulate. A case in point is covered in the 405th column.

Incidently, please note the new format for covering material from the squadrons. Members are urged to forward items for "The Sun Setter" — experiences, old clippings, orders, photographs — to their squadron reps to assure inclusion in their column. It's never too early to mail material in. Your reps will be kept posted on deadline dates for the newsletter. We still have a problem getting material which we KNOW is out there — we heard several interesting stories at the Reunion.

As a group of us were coming out of the dining room at the Marriott, the restaurant manager, John Shanks, came up and said, "I am from England and I just want you to know how much we appreciate what you did for our country." One of the fellows commented, "We were on the other side of the world." Shanks responded, "I am aware of that but you were still doing a magnificent job for us. Thank you!" We and our wives were most appreciative of his attitude and somewhat humbled!

The Association is now incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation which will help to assure the continuance of the biennial reunion — BUT it requires a lot of work by elected officers and volunteers. In the interests of reducing the work load on your officers, beginning this year Association dues will be collected on a biennial in January following the reunion — that's this month. Because of the cost of preparation and circulation of the newsletter, for those who do not pay their dues, this will be their final issue. Keep it coming — send in your dues THIS month.

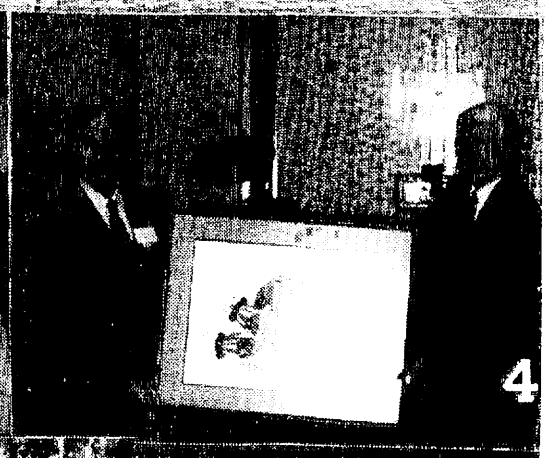
"IN EVER-HONORED MEMORY"

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

Robert J. Born 71st
George F. Gaut 405th
Leon Festrman 822nd
Curtis Willmont 822nd
Clyde G. Fry 823rd
Anton Habich 823rd
John B. Irick 823rd

In the interests of honoring our departed comrades, should you be aware of any other passings, please forward the informaton to Secretary-Treasurer Al Barbour at your earliest convenience.

A complete list of our departed comrades is included with the insert listing all known 38th BG Veterans. Should you be aware of anyone not included in the "Ever-Honored" list, please notify Secretary-Treasurer Al Barbour.



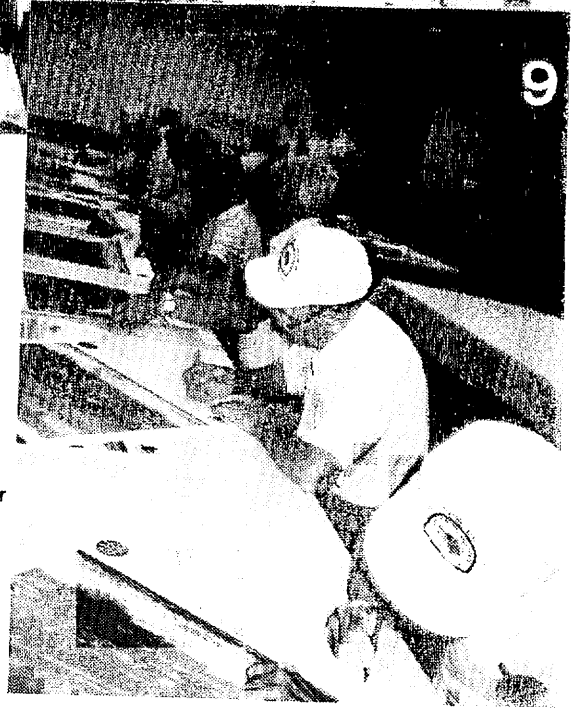


PHOTO INDEX

1) Your new Board.
2) Mat Gac and Committee member Ken Houston.
3) Chow call!
4) Incoming/Outgoing— Pres. Johnson/Terrell.
5) Opryland Hotel Atrium Tour
6) —and some of the tourees.
7) Foley/friend check if it's another bully beef bkfst.
8) Meeting call!
9) Signers at work!

71st Squadron
Charles M. Benbow
Representative

Paul Popma (71st) reports approximately 130 5th Air Force veterans and wives participated in "The Return of the Eagles" to Australia during October, 1988. Included in the group were Dick Fields, Chuck and Harriett Fisk, Carl Gillespie and Popma from the 71st, Barney Barnett and Bob and Katie Crooks from the 405th, and John and Marie Russell from the 822nd.

Crooks delivered letters from the 38th BG to dignitaries in Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns and Port Moresby, and Reserve Service Leagues in Townsville and Cairns rendered special welcomes to the group.

Of the total, 64 went to New Guinea, staying in a high rise Travelodge in Port Moresby. The Papuan Hotel (McArthur's headquarters) still stands in P.M. and the old wreck is still in the harbor. Jackson Strip (7-Mile) serves as the main airport. Ward Strip (4-Mile) boasts a number of new government buildings. The group visited Schwimmer Strip (14-Mile) the old 345th base, the 38th's Durand Strip (17-Mile) is now a swamp and inaccessible by bus.

The Lae Airport is closed because of noise pollution, with air activity transferred to Nadzab. The Lae International Hotel, opened in 1987 was "very nice according and the Markham Valley still beautiful, and though nothing looked familiar, the weather was still hot and sticky", according to Popma. They were informed the native huts all contain refrigerator, TV and VCR. Homes in Port Moresby and Lae are up off the ground with windows are covered with heavy wire mesh.

While New Guinea is a developing nation, it still faces many problems and the group was happy to return to Cairns with its International Airport, many new hotels and the Great Barrier Reef.

The 71st Squadron will hold its 1989 Reunion in Washington, DC. Henry Choate (707-360-4920) will serve as Chairman of the event. The 71st will again meet with the 38th BG in 1990.

MORE LIFE MEMBERS

The Life Membership Roll continues to grow as eight more members submitted their dues:

William J. Dixon (71st)
Charles J. Habgood (822nd)
James Beardsley (405th)
Herman P. Halbreich (405th)
Jackson W. Settles (405th)
Charles J. Habgood (822nd)
Albert C. West (823rd)
Aubrey A. Sweezey (823rd)

Life members help to assure the viability of the 38th Bomb Group Association (WWII) by establishing a reserve, interest from which reverts to the general fund.

A list of all Life Members is included with the insert listing all 38th BG Veterans. If you wish to join this supportive group, mail your $100 check to Al Barbour, Secretary-Treasurer.

405th Squadron
C.G. Carpenter
Representative

One of the great aspects of the biennial reunion is the opportunity of renewing old acquaintances — it helps to shrink the world by setting a destination where the potential can be realized. Lew Pavel makes a case in point.

Upon return from New Guinea in July '44, he was the first combat navigator assigned to the Foreign Ferrying Service, Air Transport Command in Dallas, and spent 18 months delivering aircraft to and recovering them from the various theaters, including an SWPA C-46 delivery to Biak shortly after the 38th's move to Morotai.

In March '45 deadheading back from a C-46 delivery to Agra, India, on an ATC transport, he debarked in New York for a 24-hour layover, and wangled a room at the Commodore Hotel. The next morning at a late breakfast in the coffee shop, a nattily dressed civilian occupied the next stool to his for a coffee break. It took a few moments for recognition to dawn — Harry Rosengard, 405th navigator, released from the 38th a month earlier than Pavel and employed in New York.

During 40 plus years in the tourist and convention field, Pavel frequently used that chance meeting as an illustration of how small the world really is — a 24-hour break in a city of 9 million residents and a chance meeting with an acquaintance from half a world away.

— and 43 years later they relived that experience at Reunion '88, Rosengard's first reunion and Pavel's second.

822nd Squadron
Clifford R. Sutherland
Representative

Matthew C. Gac again demonstrated his interest in and dedication to the 38th Bomb Group Association (WWII). As Ex-Section Chief, Photo Section of the 822nd, Mat has lent his substantial military photo library to Larry Hickey, editor and publisher of "The Saga of the Sun Setters", and has offered to forward material for future issues of "The Sun Setter" upon return.

More recently, upon learning of the need for photos taken at Reunion '88, he forwarded a variety of photos to the newsletter editor for his review and possible utilization.

Members of the 822nd are urged to share their service experiences with their fellow members of the 38th B.G. Association through the squadron representative or by sending them directly to the editor of the newsletter.

Headquarters Squadron
Tom Kirby
Representative

As the newly elected representative of the Headquarters Squadron (including associate members, widows, 69th Squadron and non-aligned members of the 38th BG) to the Board of Directors, I invite your participation in Association activities by submitting items for this column. I am sure countless stories, anecdotes and pictures of interest are out there. According to G.O.I. (17 Jan 42) 2100 personnel left Jackson AFB, MS, including 280 representing HQ Sqdn. That's a sizable pool of interest. We also need up-dated addresses and, on a sadder note, names of those members we hold "In Ever-Honored Memory". Send your material to me at P.O. Box 26, Hemet, CA 92343 (or call 714-925-7014).

If you have not sent in your order for our book "Saga of the Sun Setters", hurry and do so. It will be an exceptionally fine documentation and bring back many memories.

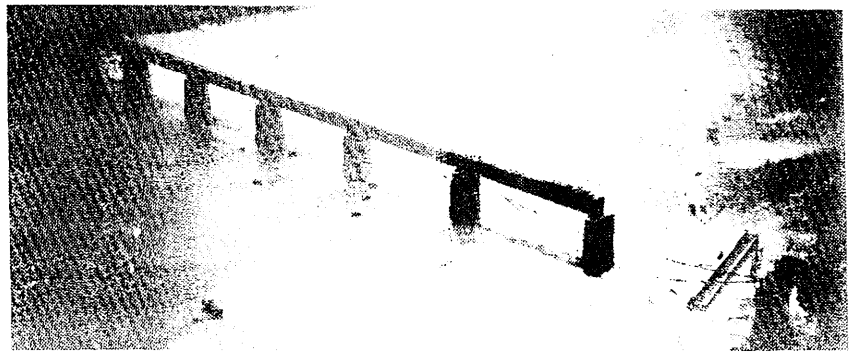
Anyone desiring a copy of General Order No. 1 listing all who sailed on Tasker N. Bliss by Squadron (26 pages), please forward $6.50 for reproduction, postage and handling.

823rd Squadron
Albert C. West
Representative

In the interests of building Reunion '90 attendance in Dayton, Squadron Representative Al West has written a number of 823rd members who did not attend the '88 Nashville event. He states former CO Vern Torgerson regretting missing '88 and looking forward to '90. West has also visited with E. J. (Joe) Werhand (operations) and Ad Hewlett (intellegence) urging their attendance. This kind of personal contact is invaluable in generating Reunion attendance and West urges others to follow through with personal contacts.

Tenative plans are being made to "RETURN TO THE PACIFIC" by 38th Bomb Group members in March, 1989. The tour will include stops in Sydney, Port Moresby/Nadzab, Morotai, Manilla, Okinawa, Tokyo. Anyone interested is urged to contact Jack Doak (823rd), 1550 W. Camino Urbano, Green Valley, AZ 85614.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND REUNION '90!!!

HOW'S YOUR MEMORY?

Can anyone (except Ed Brady who furnished this photo) remember where this action took place?