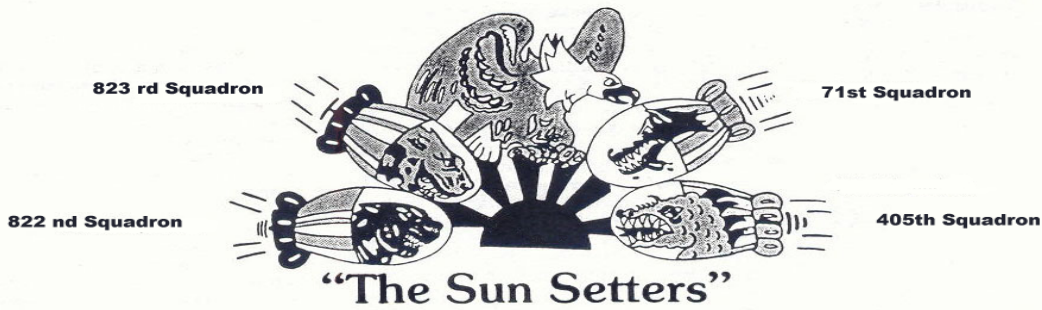


38th Bomb Group



**THE 38TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WW II) January, 2010**



**From our President - - -**

As you can see, this Newsletter is a little late. We decided to delay the letter until we had a clearer understanding on when our book would be published. This is discussed below.

**Our "2009 Reunion" David Gunn** did a super job planning our San Diego, CA. reunion 30 September – 4 October. On arrival evening we enjoyed the "Welcome Dinner", which provided an opportunity to renew old friendships and visit with our WW II buddies. The "Farewell Dinner" and program was enjoyed by all, including the DVD, which showed the 38 Bomb Group in action during WW II. It was a fun time and if you missed it – you missed a good one. For more about our reunion read the report inside by the editor.

**2010 REUNION: YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE!!! Steve Kaselak** has planned a big and enjoyable 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group reunion in Washington, DC. 29 September to 3 October 2010. We will be staying at the "Holiday Inn and Suites, 625 First Street, Alexandria, VA. 22314. Phone 703-548-6300". Call the hotel early to make reservation and be sure to mention 38 BG for our special rate. Dates: Check-in is Sept 29 & Check-out is Oct 3. Rate is \$109.00 per night plus tax for single or double. You can arrive 3 days earlier &/or depart 3 days later at the same rate. The hotel will provide complimentary breakfast and complimentary shuttle service from Ronald Reagan National Airport and metro stations as well as to "Old Town" where there is shopping and restaurants. See the Hotel website for more information on the hotel:  
[www.hioldtownalexandriahotel.com](http://www.hioldtownalexandriahotel.com)

for more information on the hotel. The Registration Form will be in the May Newsletter. FYI: Some of the events in planning are a visit to: Arlington Cemetery with 'Changing of the Guard'; President Kennedy's gravesite; World War II Memorials; and the Air Force Museum, which includes the Smithsonian Institute. This is one you do not want to miss.

**2009 GROUP MEETING:** The major agenda item concerned our book. We had a very serious discussion on actions to take to get the author, Larry Hickey, to expedite publishing the book, which he has promised to do for years – each promise being broken and another promise given. The decision was (with a unanimous yea vote) to have David Gunn travel to Colorado, which he has done three times. He was to review the book progress and report back to the group. David has explained how serious we are about getting the book by next June. He also explained how we are holding requests for refunds from our members, who prepaid for the book; plus, withdrawal of permission to use photos and copyrights to their articles. So, what is the current status on the book? Hickey has a positive attitude about getting the book published. However, he has promised before and broken his promise. In summary, the exact date our book will be published is an "ENIGMA" within an "ENIGMA". However, David Gunn (with the help of others) is still working hard to get the book published ASAP.

**38<sup>th</sup> BG Book.** See discussion in the **2009 GROUP MEETING** paragraph above. (Continued page 2)

**REUNION 2010  
WASHINGTON, DC  
Sept. 29 to Oct. 3  
WW II Memorial  
Arlington Cemetery  
Air Force Museum/  
Smithsonian  
  
SAVE THE DATE**

**IN EVER HONORED MEMORY**

Our President has furnished the following list of named member comrades who have passed on to their final Post as reported to him since our previous listing. Their names have been added to the list of our "Ever Honored Comrades".

William S. Royalty	71 <sup>st</sup>	Raymond B. Wolff	405 <sup>th</sup>
John F. Collins	405 <sup>th</sup>	Glen D. Gustafson	822 <sup>nd</sup>
Herman P. Halbreich	405 <sup>th</sup>	Homer L. Wilson	822 <sup>nd</sup>
Harry E. Terrell	405 <sup>th</sup>	John S. "Jack" Doak	823 <sup>rd</sup>
Clyde L. Wheeler	405 <sup>th</sup>		

**TOTAL TO DATE**

Headquarters	18
69 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	2
70 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	59
71 <sup>st</sup> Squadron	157
89 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	1
405 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	179
822 <sup>nd</sup> Squadron	98
823 <sup>rd</sup> Squadron	98
Unit unknown	2
Honorary	1

## YOUR 2009-10 ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

President ..... Jack DeTour  
98-1108 Malualua St. Aiea, HI, 96701  
808 487-2842 jackdet@hawaii.rr.com

Vice-President ..... Chick Alford  
10 La Grange Cir. Hot Springs, AR, 71909  
501 922-4779 helengene@hsnp.com

Secretary/Treasurer ..... Orland Gage  
337 W. Reservoir Dr. Lewiston, ID, 83501  
208 746-0875 ogage@clearwire.net

Hdq. Rep. .... Burt Erickson  
P. O. Box 687 Page, AZ, 86040  
928 645-5394

Hdq. Alt. Rep. .... Warren E. Lee  
6600 Peppermill Dr. Las Vegas, NV, 89146  
702 221-0699 m-w-lee@earthlink.net

71st Sqdn. Rep. .... Curtis R. Hunt  
21557 Coffee Hollow Rd., Tahlequah, OK, 74464  
918 458-0575 chunt615@dishmail.net

71st Sqdn. Alt. Rep. .... Paul Johnson  
1054 New McNeil Ave. Lawrence, NY, 11559  
516 371-3490 tahlahburin@aol.com

405th Sqdn. Rep. .... Harry E. Terrell, Jr.  
20475 Upper Bay Dr. Newport Beach, CA, 92660  
949 852-8015 heterrell@sbcglobal.net

405th Sqdn. Alt. Rep. .... David Gunn  
19754 Santee Ln. Valley Center, CA, 92082  
760 749-3769 pappygnk@juno.com

822nd Sqdn. Rep. .... John Grady  
2707 George Ct., Rolling Meadows, IL, 60008  
847-255-1223 jgrady@prodigy.net

822nd Sqdn. Alt. Rep. .... Grant W. Nelson  
P.O. Box 696, Ferndale, WA, 98248  
206-384-1788 gwnmin@comcast.net

823rd Sqdn. Rep. .... Charles T. Conner  
4917 Ravenswood Dr., Apt 1010  
210 674-0958 San Antonio, TX, 78227

823rd Sqdn. Alt. Rep. .... Bob Lamb  
1277 Chipmunk Ct. Centerville, OH, 45458  
937 432-9116 b-j.lamb2@donet.com

Editor, "The Sun Setters" ..... David Gunn  
19754 Santee Ln. Valley Center, CA, 92082  
760 749-3769 pappygnk@juno.com

Editorial Advisor ..... Orland Gage  
337 W. Reservoir Dr. Lewiston, ID, 83501  
208 746-0875 ogage@clearwire.net

Assoc. Editor ..... Jim Thoren  
1628 202nd Pl. SW Lynnwood, WA 98036  
425 609-8180 mustang9@comcast.net

Association Web Site:  
**www.sunsetters38bg.com**

Web master ..... Tom Behrens  
11206 Mist Moor Court Riverview, FL 33569  
813 671-9089 tom@TomBehrensUSA.com

"The Sun Setters" is a publication of The 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association (WW II), 337 W. Reservoir Dr., Lewiston, ID 83501. Copyright 2009, The 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association (WW II). No part of the contents may be reproduced in any form without written consent of the Association. All pictures are from 38th BG Association files and are the property of the Association unless otherwise noted.

We solicit your comments or notes of errors and the submittal of your stories or items of interest. We reserve the right to reject items and the right to edit items for space and suitability.

We also reserve the right to alter names or other details that might cause embarrassment to individuals or family members.

**From Our President - - -** (Continued from page 1)

**NEWSLETTER:** David Gunn, with the help of Orland Gage and Jim Thoren are still in our Newsletter business. They completed recording our WW II history from 1941 through 1945. They deserve many "ATTA BOYS" for this great job. Now, they are still involved in writing our Newsletter, but, in a much reduced size. Be sure to send your stories and pictures to Dave Gunn at pappygn@juno.com. Some stories are worth telling again.

**S/T:** Orland Gage continues to do a super job handling our finances; plus, he does many other things for us. He is the man for all seasons.

**38<sup>th</sup> BG WEBSITE:** Tom Behrens, our webmaster, has developed one of the best websites on the web. I can attest to the website popularity because once or twice a week I receive email question from people who have been on the website. Their query is usually about a family member, who served with the 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group; but, some times it is from a historian, who is writing a book or an article. You all can help to make the website even better by sending photos &/or articles to Tom;  
**webmaster@sunsetters38bg.com.**

Check our web site: **www.sunsetters38bg.com** - it is super.

**In closing, please remember to say a prayer for our troops who are in harms way fighting for this great country of ours – The United States of America.**

**See you at our 2010 reunion next Fall.**

*Jack DeTour*

**From the Editor - - -**

David Gunn

As Jack mentioned above, I was assigned the mission to conduct a recon of the Larry Hickey office in Boulder, Colorado, as soon as possible. This was to be no high altitude general mission but a low level mission to gain specific information about the status of our book. Jack's previous intelligence, furnished by Hickey, was that the book would be going to the printer at the end of October. The group had said that was no more credible than numerous previous promises he has not kept.

I flew to Denver on 22 October for a quick one day trip and walked into Larry's office unannounced. He told me the date would have to slide to the first of December. I told him I would return the first week of December to check it out. I also insisted on getting a CD with all the book files on it. When Larry asked what I would do with it, I told him that I would check the status in December against the disk. I told him we wanted the book in our hands in the Spring.

In the meantime, your officers, plus Al Kennedy, Jim Thoren and myself, had been able to check the disk. It was a fully laid out book with lots of pictures (impressive) and a good story. Closer examination revealed incorrect information, lack of some information, and a need of careful editing. Meaning WORK, WORK!!

On my second one-day trip, I dropped in unannounced on December 3. Needless to say, no significant progress had been made. We furnished several comments, corrections, and information.

My next trip was scheduled for 7 January but was scratched because of weather conditions. In the mean time we had furnished more information, rewritten parts of the book, and attempted to establish a schedule. Larry resisted, dragged his feet, raised questions. It became obvious that our participation was delaying the completion.

On 28 January, I returned to Hickey's office and delivered a message that I had been directed to deliver, that we wanted the book quickly completed with only minimal editing and no further specific contributions from the 38th BG. We want it in our hands in June. Larry said that could be done but he did not say that it would be done.

That is where we are as we go to press.

"The Sun Setters" is printed and mailed by **Lewiston Printing**, Lewiston, Idaho. Mrs. Snyder and Kathy Morgan go out of their way to help. They fix the Editor's goofs. We couldn't get the job done without them!

## Lt. Charles Maggart and Crew of the "Happy Legend" Returned to Arlington

Our Secretary/Treasurer received the following message from Lt. Col. Philip Maggart in November.

Sir;

I would like to thank all the past and present members of the 38th Bomb Group who provided valuable information in the search for my late brother Lt. Charles L. Maggart and the crew of the "Happy Legend", Missing In Action Dec. 5, 1942. This has been a long arduous trip, but on November 17th, 2009, the saga and mystery of the missing crew members came to an end at Arlington National Cemetery.

This ceremony was a fitting tribute to seven brave souls, lost during a bombing mission on Dec. 5, 1942, and to all those members of the 38th Bomb Group. Attached is a picture of the Flag that was flown over the Capitol at half mast for the crew of the Happy Legend. Also, Congressman Dan Burton read into the Congressional Record the attached Eulogy. During this long search that spanned six decades and seven years contact was made with over 150 individuals from all four points of the United States, Australia, New Guinea and stops in-between.

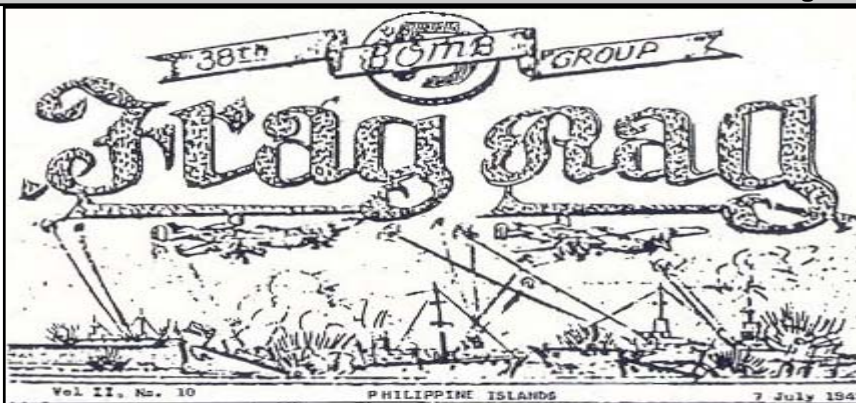
These seven young men sacrificed their future, but now they have been returned to rest in peace in hallowed ground.

God Bless all the members of the 38th Bomb Group who gave so much for the defense of this great nation!

Philip E. Maggart  
Lt. Col., USAF, (Ret)

(Note) This was the 3rd mission flown that day  
Maxwell Field records show that Garrett Middlebrook's plane suffered an engine problem on take-off and he circled back and Lt. PINKSTAFF flying the back-up plane, Happy Legend that day, took off replacing Middlebrook in the formation. The Owen Stanley pass was cloudy as usual and the formation flew into the clouds but the Happy Legend failed to come out on the other side..

CREW of the Happy Legend:	
PINKSTAFF, 1/Lt. Wilson R	Pilot
MAGGART, 1/Lt. Charles L.	Co-pilot
STOCKING, 2/Lt. William N.	Navigator
THOMPSON, 2/Lt. Frank N.	Bombardier
GRUTZA, Cpl. Richard P.	Aerial Gunner
CALDERON, PFC. Antonio P.	Gunner



## REUNION CALLED GREAT SUCCESS

Many of the attendees of the 38th BG Reunion in San Diego expressed much appreciation for the planning of the Reunion and the experience. The final event, actually unscheduled, was the assembly of all the attending veterans at one end of our banquet hall for a picture. It seemed like the dozens of cameras would never finish flashing as the men held their positions for several minutes.

The crowd slowly and reluctantly drifted from the room to begin preparations for checking out of the Hilton in the morning. Final goodbyes were said by many while a few others delayed such expressions because they were staying for another day.

For the editor and his wife, it was a very strange morning on Monday. We had slept late (to catch up on missed sleep during the Reunion), dressed and went down to the lobby about 11. There wasn't a single familiar face in the nearly empty lobby. We walked over to **The Boat House** for breakfast. The door was locked but when they heard us, they opened up. We sat at our window table enjoying an avocado and chicken sandwich and watching a few people in the marina. Before we left, one or two other parties not from the 38th, had arrived for breakfast. The previous days were now only a pleasant memory.

The previous several days had been a busy chain of adventure. On Tuesday, 29 September, early arrivers were anxious to get registered and get reacquainted. On Wednesday we set up the Hospitality Room and Registration Table. Flora and Dorothy began handing out badges to impatient arrivals. Banners, and memorabilia were soon spread on the tables as coffee perked.

Wednesday evening 66 people served their plates from the Buffet and gathered around tables in the large room that would also be our Hospitality Room. A large U. S. Flag hung from the ceiling to the floor behind the Buffet. At the other end of the room were the tables of memorabilia and a 6-foot screen. On the wall were the Squadron Banners.

Following dinner, David Gunn read letters from a couple of the original group that flew to Australia in August of 1942. Roy Lee Grover, one of that group, had planned to be with us but had to cancel at the last minute. We viewed 30 minutes of gun camera film shot from 38th BG planes over Formosa in 1945. A short film taken by Ray Bradley showed our B-25s operating from various air strips up to Morotai, nose art of bombers and fighters operating near our bases, and the pickup by the Catalina of the 405th Bill Smith and David Gunn crews near Tarakan on 1 January 1945.

Thursday morning we boarded our Tour Bus and arrived at the San Diego Air and Space Museum in Balboa Park. Unfortunately, our presentation to the Museum of the Al Kennedy discs and other disks of our newsletters and mission reports had not been adequately coordinated by yours truly and we presented an empty box to the Museum Director in a somewhat humorous mock ceremony. I later delivered the package to the museum in a private meeting.

We enjoyed the exhibits of planes flown by our predecessors during WW I and through the years leading to WW II. The exhibits included planes flown through the years in various commercial and military ac-

tions up to the present. Some of the latest unmanned planes being used were hanging in the large entry rotunda.

Following the museum tour we journeyed to the Bali Hai Restaurant on Shelter Island. An extensive lunch buffet gave us ample opportunity to sample many unusual items and deserts. We feasted at long tables looking out through a broad curved group of windows at much of San Diego Harbor and surround hillsides of the city.

The rest of the day was free for visiting or gadding about. Some took one or another of the tours offered to visitors to the city. In the evening at 2030 hours, Orland and David cut a cake (with a lot of advice on how big the pieces should be) to celebrate their 1 October birthdays. The cake also had Ed Gervase's name on it since he has been one of the 1 October gang in previous years. We only wished that he could be with us again.

Friday morning found the veterans and a few kibitzers in the Hospitality Room for a business meeting, Washington D.C. was selected for the 2010 Reunion. An offer for having a joint reunion with the 345th was deferred to the future. There was some considerable discussion about the future of the Association. The difficulties of finding volunteers willing to be President and Secretary/Treasurer loom as a serious obstacle to the Association's future.

Much of the time at the meeting was given to a somewhat heated discussion about our book. Jack DeTour reiterated Larry Hickey's "promise" that the book would go to the printer by 31 October. Few were of a mind to accept that. Other actions were proposed. The group authorized your editor to visit Hickey in the next couple of weeks to determine if the book was really ready to go to the printer and of a nature we could be proud of. Other proposed actions were deferred until Gunn makes his report to an informal group of officers and members. There was an unstated anticipation that the officers would take any necessary action needed to have a book by our next Reunion.

Following the meeting, we boarded our tour bus and arrived at the Miramar Marine Air Station for the afternoon air show program. We watched various aircraft seemingly mushing slowly through the air at low altitude in front of our box seats. Others took off vertically in front of us and at a few hundred feet moved through the air frontwards, backwards, to the side, you name it. It wasn't only the Harrier that flew backwards. That big jet truck spewed forth a cloud of flame and smoke and darted across our field of vision on the runway at a speed that made us shake our heads.

Several of us old, bold, pilots left our box and walked to a beautiful silver B-25J in the static exhibit area. Members of Pacific Prowler's ground and flight crew engaged visitors in conversation pointing out various features. Us veterans were invited to put our autographs on the frame members or skin in the bomb bay.

The afternoon was a pleasant temperature and brought us a few spatters of rain drops under the broken cloud cover. The amazing action was continuous. In addition to individual displays of amazing skill and per-

formance, there were several flying groups performing dazzling displays of formation flight. The favorite Blue Angels topped off the afternoon. Finally we all joined the exit migration and rode back to the hotel to spend the evening as we chose.

Saturday morning we journeyed to the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery where rows of crosses stood above the green grass and trees raised their leafy arms toward the heavens. The grass carpet draped over the hills of Point Loma. In a short ceremony, we honored our fallen comrades and departed members climaxed with those soul stirring notes of TAPS. We then journeyed to the end of Point Loma where we could view the expanse of San Diego Bay, North Island Naval Air Station, and building-crested hills of San Diego to the east and the broad expanse of endless Pacific seas to the west. Some sat to take in the expansive view while others moved among the exhibits in the National Monument Visitor's Center. An ambitious few walked along the trails that ramble over the hillsides that surround the Cabrillo Lighthouse. Its light once guided seamen over a hundred miles at sea to the safety of San Diego Bay.

We returned to the hotel to relax, rest, and to prepare for our final banquet. The film that Walt Deas created took us back to New Guinea with the rumbling sound of B-25 engines and mountainous jungles and surrounding seas. The story of the fate of Lt. Herry and his crew who ditched at Madang in August of 1943 reminded all of us of how fortunate we are to have survived to this day. Jack Bleuler told us of his remarkable and almost unbelievable encounter last summer with the memorabilia found in a bank vault that related to a crew that was lost in the far western skies of the Pacific. Their crash and sobering end, were witnessed only by him from his tail turret position on a mission.

We missed many of you and hope to see you in Washington next September.



Thanks to Bob Bennett for this picture of the veterans attending REUNION 2009. I know someone has the names as they appear in the picture. Please send the names in the order they appear to the editor.