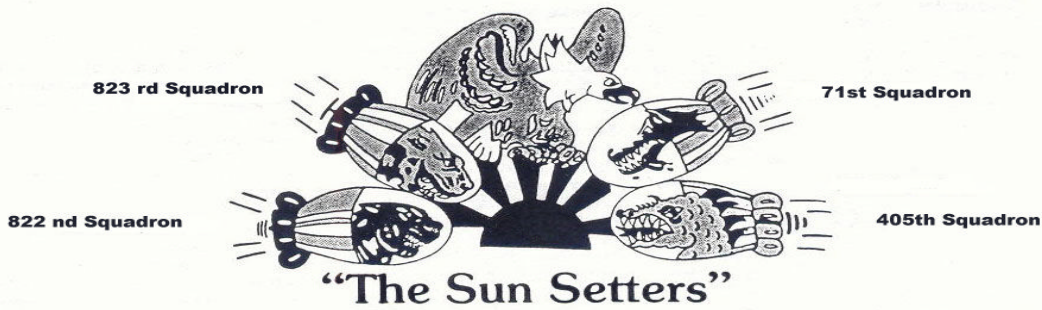


38th Bomb Group



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



**OUR PRESIDENT WANTS YOU TO KNOW:**

**2010 REUNION: STEVE KASELAK** has planned a super Reunion for 2010. This year's 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Alexandria, VA., 29 Sept, to 3 Oct. Make your reservations now! August 20 is the cut off date for our special rate. Remember, you get very little done by waiting until tomorrow. Check the enclosed Reunion Information and registration information sheets. We'll be looking forward to seeing you in Arlington.

Late breaking news about our Reunion can be seen on our website: [www.sunsetters38bg.com](http://www.sunsetters38bg.com)

**38<sup>th</sup> BG "SAGA OF THE SUNSETTERS":** You will recall that we commissioned David Gunn at our October 2009 Reunion, to visit Hickey in Colorado to find out the real status of our book. After three trips to Colorado, it was evident that Larry Hickey was not going to be cooperative. Al Kennedy is now leading in taking the necessary steps to get our book finished, hopefully before the end of 2010, without further interference from Hickey. For more information about our book, see page 3.

**AGENDA FOR BUSINESS MEETING:** It will be time at our Reunion to select the officers to guide our Association for the next two years. We need volunteers to fill the offices of President and Vice President. Let us know if you are willing to serve in these positions. If you have suggestions, please let us know so that we can do a little arm twisting.

If anyone has any agenda items for discussion at the Washington Reunion Business Meeting, please send them to me. My e-mail is [jackdet@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jackdet@hawaii.rr.com)

The Book Committee and officers feel that it would be unwise to consider disbanding the Association until the **Book issue** is resolved.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Orland Gage continues to do a super job handling our finances, arranging for distribution of the Newsletter, placing historical data on our Website and continuing to help complete our book. He is the man for all seasons. See page 4 for his report.

**38<sup>th</sup> BG WEBSITE:** Tom Behrens with the help of Orland Gage continues to produce one of the best sites on the web. You can help to make the website even better by sending, tapes and/or DVD interviews to Tom Behrens. You may email Tom at: [tom@TomBehrensUSA.com](mailto:tom@TomBehrensUSA.com) Check out our website: [www.sunsetters38bg.com](http://www.sunsetters38bg.com) You will like it.

**NEWSLETTER:** David Gunn is now deeply involved with Al Kennedy in writing and publishing our book; plus, he continues to put together our newsletter with special news items of importance and enhancing our legacy by writing interesting stories.

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

**See you in DC at our 2010 reunion! It will be a good one! Be there or be square!**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**OUR PRESIDENT,** page 1

**THE EDITOR** page 2

**\*WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FINISH OUR BOOK**

**\*ON ANOTHER LINE CHARLES MAGGART**

**REUNION 2010 NEWS** page 3

**YOUR MEMORABILIA** page 3

**THE SAGA OF THE "SAGA OF THE SUNSETTERS"** page 3

**A STORY FROM ED GERVASE** page 4

**SEE YOU . . .  
IN DC  
September 29  
to October 3,  
2010  
38<sup>th</sup> BG REUNION**

**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".

Eugene B. Davis	71 <sup>st</sup> Squadron	TOTAL TO DATE	89 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	1
Robert H. Garmoe	71 <sup>st</sup> Squadron	Headquarters	405 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	200
		69 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	822 <sup>nd</sup> Squadron	104
		70 <sup>th</sup> Squadron	823 <sup>rd</sup> Squadron	107
		71 <sup>st</sup> Squadron	Honorary	1

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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.

*Jack DeTour*

**From the Editor’s Desk - -**

Last year Ed Gervase’s daughter Marsha, contacted me. At my suggestion, she sat Ed down on one of his visits and told him to “ramble on.” She transcribed and sent a couple of stories Ed hoped could be included in the book. I have been able to insert one into my edited draft but I am including it in this newsletter on the back page.

We want your stories to include in our newsletter. You can send them to me by e-mail or snail mail. My addresses are in the column to the left.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP ON FINISHING OUR BOOK**

1. If you know anything about the solicitation of money for producing paintings to be used in the book, please send us information as soon as possible and copies of any records you may have of the solicitation and the amounts of money, and how it was to be channeled to Hickey.
2. We want to have a color picture center section. We need good color pictures you may have of get togethers with fellow members as far back as the founding of the Association in the early 1980s. Perhaps you have a color picture of you and a B-25. We need several so don’t be bashful—send it to us.

**DON’T WAIT!! WE NEED IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!**

Al Kennedy’s address is at the bottom of the facing page.

**ON ANOTHER LINE:**

Since I have been working on our book, I found myself intrigued about Charles Maggart, a flying officer, being with our 71st Squadron ground echelon at Batchelor Field in Australia in May of 1942. We reported about his final resting place at Arlington in our last newsletter.

I sent a message to his brother, Col Philip Maggart, who graciously replied with some helpful information. Charles graduated in September, 1941, at Ellington Field and was assigned to the 49th Pursuit Group, 9th Pursuit Squadron, at Morrison Field in Florida. They had one P-40 and two PT-17s for training.

They arrived in San Francisco on January 8, stayed at the Cow Palace, and sailed from San Francisco on the 12th. Charles was on the SS Mariposa. Twice on their voyage to Australia, the ship had steering gear troubles and floated at the mercy of the seas until repairs could be made and it rejoined the convoy.

Things were chaotic in Australia when the convoy arrived in Melbourne on February 1. Aussie stevedores refused to unload their ships. The 49th men did the unloading in three days. Their P-40s arrived in Townsville and Brisbane and were reassembled. But they were immediately diverted to the western coast and loaded onto the old Langley to go to Java. The Langley was shortly torpedoed and sunk with the planes and a number of pilots (not 49th pilots).

Pilots received additional P-40 training at a flight school set up at Brisbane. The 9th Squadron was then ordered to Darwin in March. Planes were ferried across northern Australia and many crashed. It was said you would have no trouble flying to Darwin because P-40 wrecks marked the course very well.

The damage caused by the Japanese raids on Darwin in mid February, led to the Squadron being sent to Batchelor Field. At the end of April, the Squadron was moved to a new field between Darwin and Batchelor Field. It was on the first of May that the ground echelon of the 71st Squadron of the 38th Bomb Group reached Batchelor.

(Continued on page 4, col. 2, “Charles Maggart”)

## 2010 REUNION

**STEVE KASELAK** has planned a super Reunion for 29 September to 3 October, 2010.

This year's "38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Reunion" will be held at the "Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites", 625 First Street, Alexandria, VA. 22314, Ph: 703-548-6300. Check-in is 29 Sep, Check-out is 3 Oct. Rate is \$109 (plus tax) per night - single or double occupancy.

**This special rate includes breakfast served daily in the hotel restaurant and FREE Air Port Shuttle from Washington National Airport.** You can also arrange to arrive three days earlier, and/or depart three days later at the same \$109 rate.

There is much to do and see in DC. There will be three days of "once in a life time" tours - **Military Memorials and Museums**, which are great; **Arlington Cemetery**, where you will see President Kennedy's grave and the impressive "Changing of the Guard" at the "Tomb of the Unknowns" and a **"Drive By Tour"** of the most famous DC building.

Please make your reservations now by calling the hotel directly at 703-548-6300 between 9 am- 4 pm EST and ask for in-house reservations. Also, be sure to tell them you are with the 38<sup>th</sup> BG Reunion to obtain the \$109 special room rate. FYI: **August 20 is the cut off date for our special rate.**

**Remember, you get very little done by waiting until tomorrow.**

Call-in your reservations now. See the enclosed packet for the Registration Form and more Reunion details. For late breaking Reunion news, you should check our web-site:

**[www.sunsetters38bg.com](http://www.sunsetters38bg.com)**

## DID YOU LOAN OR GIVE HICKEY MEMORABILIA?

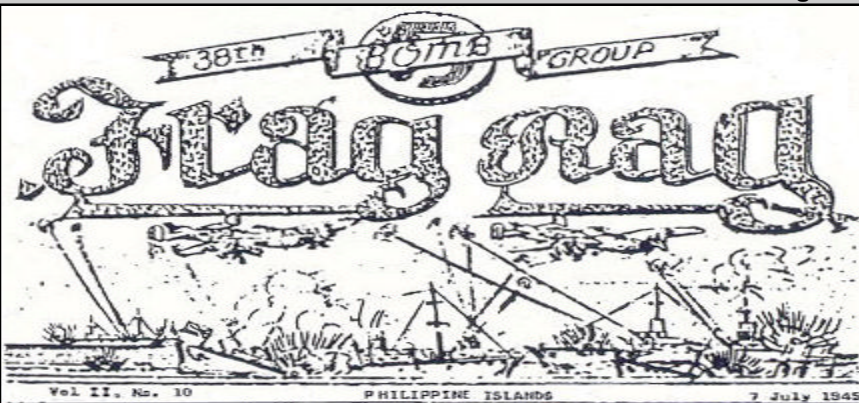
If you loaned or gave Hickey ANY photos, diaries, letters, books, or other memorabilia which has not been returned to you, please contact Al Kennedy immediately.

Provide a list with a description of each item not returned to you. Give the approximate date when the item(s) were given/sent to Hickey.

We will demand that Larry Hickey produce and return the items to you. If he fails to do so, this information will be given to the Police.

### Al Kennedy

127 Kennedy Hollow Ln.  
Hopwood, PN 15445



## THE SAGA OF THE "SAGA OF THE SUN SETTERS":

Based on information obtained by David Gunn during three visits with Hickey in Colorado and follow-up communications, it was evident that he would not cooperate in getting our book finished and published before our Reunion in Washington, D. C. in September.

David demanded and was given a digital copy of the book as it existed on 22 October. It is laid out with photographs but the text is a rough draft. David has done considerable additional research and has thus far edited and rewritten major portions of six chapters. Orland Gage is searching for errors of fact throughout the body of the book and the appendices.

The six-man committee organized at the Reunion in San Diego (Jack DeTour, Chick Alford, Orland Gage, David Gunn, Al Kennedy, and Jim Thoren) has taken the following actions. Following David's efforts, Al Kennedy has taken the lead on this second phase of effort.

He first contacted the Boulder Police Department. Based upon Al's information, they have set up a case file and appointed a detective with whom Al is working. After contacting the Boulder District Attorney, they sent a letter to Hickey to which he has not responded. That line of effort is in suspense because the assigned attorney is on emergency leave.

Al has discussed our problem with his own attorney who is continuing to give advice. Al coordinated the preparation of a "Demand Letter" with the Police and with the Committee which was sent to Hickey by Registered mail in late April which Hickey signed for on 15 April. The letter demanded that because of his failure to publish our book, we have decided to help him and complete the book ourselves. It further demanded that he: (1). return to us all pictures, stories, etc, which our members sent him; (2). Return to us all money prepaid by our members.

Hickey responded by e-mail to Jack on 30 April saying that he was nearly finished with the book and that he had returned all photos and other memorabilia.

Since he has previously made similar claims, a second, more specific Demand Letter was sent by Registered Mail on 5 May, saying (1) He chose to misinterpret our first Demand Letter; (2) He has been replaced and is no longer authorized to work on our book in any fashion; (3) He may not retain or use any materials collected from the 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association members in any book he has written or is proposing to write; (4) He does not own the "Copyright of any aspect of the 38<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group History." (We believe that we have joint ownership of the copyright on some portions of the book.)

He signed for this letter on 10 May. We have received no further response from him at the time of this writing.

Al Kennedy's son, Michael—professor of journalism at a mid-western college, has consented to do a final edit and layout for printing during his summer recess (mid-May to late August). We hope to send the book to a printer in early September and would like to be able to have it ready for distribution by Christmas.

Al Kennedy and Jack Detour are handling the task of disengaging from Hickey. We are seeking a suitable Colorado attorney.

We will keep you advised about our efforts as the project continues.

## A STORY FROM ED GERVASE

### A Meeting to Remember in New Guinea

I joined the Army Air Corps in August of 1941 at the New York Church Street Station. A little more than a year later I found myself in the South Pacific flying out of New Guinea. It was late November 1942 or early December.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Squadron had moved its tents out of the 6-foot-tall Kunai grass with its dense clouds of mosquitoes near the runway at 17-mile Strip, northwest of Port Moresby, to a small hill about a quarter mile away. I was 24 years old at the time, Crew Navigator for our B-25, *Pacific Prowler*.

We had flown out on a night mission to bomb Lae strip. Several other crews were on the same mission. We returned about 2 am and after the usual de-briefing got to sleep around 3 a.m.

For some unknown reason, I woke up early, around 9, dressed and went outside the tent, leaving my crewmates still sleeping. The camp area was very quiet; no one else moved about the camp.

I found a rake and started to do a little bit of quiet cleaning, and after about 15 minutes, I paused in my chore. I turned around to survey my work and there only about 10 feet away was a New Guinea native man standing still, holding his left hand shoulder high, away from his body.

He appeared to be between 25 and 30 years old, about 5'9" tall with the usual native bushy hair, slender to medium build and a pleasant face. He wore a simple cloth around his waist. He extended his left hand toward me. I saw a jagged cut on the first joint of the left index finger.

The cut was not bleeding although a closer look revealed it was almost a quarter inch deep, about a quarter inch wide, and about the length of the finger joint. It looked as if he had cut it on barbed wire.

The native did not say a word as he held his left hand up for me to see. I did not say anything but held my right hand up in a stop sign, and then pointed to the ground. He seemed to understand that I wanted him to remain where he was. I re-entered my tent and picked up my canteen of water, soap, towel, Band-Aid, and a tube of Bactracin. My crew was still sleeping and the camp area remained quiet.

I washed his hand carefully and avoided getting any dirty water in the cut. The native just stood quietly but was very interested in what I was doing. I dried the entire hand, carefully around the cut. To apply the ointment, I locked his left arm under my left elbow holding his arm level and steady. I squeezed out the medicine directly into the wound, and applied the Band-Aid at an angle across the cut so it would cover the entire cut with one strip.

By the time I was finished, the native's face was a big smile. He held his finger up, turning the finger to get an all-around look at the repair. Still no spoken word. He seemed to give a slight bow of his head, held his finger aloft to admire it and, with a broad grin, walked out of the camp area.

It seems no one else witnessed the incident and I did not tell anyone about the visitor. It has always been a very pleasant memory for me.

Edward Mark Gervase

#### AMERIPRISE STATEMENTS FOR 2010 (Investment)

Balance, 1/20/2010 . . .	\$66,781.10
Interest, 1st Quarter . . .	135.57
Total	\$66,916.67
Withdrawal (expenses) \$.1,919.98 . . . . .	
Balance, 4/20/2010	\$64,996.69

The association's checking account is part of the Ameriprise Statement. Our expenses for the three month period were \$1,919.98. Our income will remain stagnant until January of 2011 when the new biennial dues will start arriving.

### Charles Maggart (Cont. from pg. 2)

Just how and when Charles wound up in the 71st Squadron, I do not know. His brother told me, "The P-40s that arrived were impounded by the Australian Air Force and Charles was left without a squadron. From research, stragglers were initially assigned to a provisional squadron for reassignment."

The impounding of the P-40s he mentions is probably the incident when the P-40s were sent to Perth destined for Java. My research differs from Philip's research.

There seem to have been a number of experienced P-40 pilots that had escaped from the Philippines and Java and turned up in Australia that were assigned to the 9th Squadron when it arrived in Darwin. Further, this led to a larger number of pilots in the Squadron than were defined by Army policies.

These more experienced pilots would have been highly desired for the defense of Darwin. But the Squadron now had more pilots than it was entitled to have on its roster. So lesser experienced pilots were sort of shoved off to whatever organizations could take them.

My inclination is that it was at this time that Charles could have been reassigned to the 71st Squadron which was awaiting the arrival of its air echelon and was consequently without qualified air personnel.

There is no mention of other qualified flying personnel being assigned to the 71st but we don't have all the rosters. Whatever the actual story may be, the first qualified pilot of the 38th Bomb Group in Australia seems to have been Lt. Charles Maggart. And the first plane of the 38th Bomb Group in Australia was an A-24 which he found in the brush at the edge of the field.

Charles may have been able to find some of his former comrades when the 49th moved to Port Moresby in October of 1942.

It was at this time that the 38th began regular operations from the airfields around Port Moresby.

There are several sites on the Internet with information about the 49th during those early hectic days of the war in Australia. And my search was fun.

C	U	N
	DC	
9/29	2	10/3
4	38 <sup>TH</sup>	BG
	2010	
	REUNION	

We wish to thank Mrs. Don Snyder and Kathy Morgan of Lewiston Printing whose help is very welcome. They help make our news letter the best among similar news letters. Thank you again.