

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



OUR PRESIDENT WANTS YOU TO KNOW — —

Our **2010 REUNION: STEVE KASELAK** has planned a super Reunion in the Washington, DC area during 29 September to 3 October 2010. It will be held in "The, Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites", 625 First Street, Alexandria, VA. 22314, Ph: 703-548-6300. The schedule has three days of super tours, which you do not want to miss. So even if you are registering late, it will be worth it. These are once in a life time tours and we are hoping to see you there.

Our **38th Bomb Group Meeting** will include: election of officers, a briefing on the status of our 38th Bomb Group book and a discussion on our next reunion. Please have your suggestions ready and send me any items you would like to have on the agenda:
jackdet@hawaii.rr.com

38th BG Newsletters continue to be super. **David Gunn** with the help of **Orland Gage** continues to do a great job of helping to perpetuate the significant contribution the 38th BG made in winning WW II. They have completed writing the 38th BG WW II history, 1941 – 1945, published in our newsletter from 2005 thru 2008 and are now writing interesting history and stories of World War II. So, continue to send your stories to David:
pappygnk@juno.com

Project Legacy 38th BG is our effort to help perpetuate the history of the 38th BG's contribution to winning WW II. We are hoping to obtain Video Tape or DVD stories, as told by our Association members and place them on our "Web Site". If you have a tape or DVD of a 38th BG story, please send them to **Tom Behrens** or bring them to the Reunion. Tom Behrens address is: **11206 Mist Moor Ct., Riverview, FL. 33569.**

Secretary/Treasurer: Orland Gage continues to keep our finances as solid as possible, during these turbulent times. He also does many other important support functions for the Association; such as, maintaining rosters, collecting the dues, and printing & posting the newsletters.

38th BG WEBSITE: **Tom Behrens** with the help of **Orland Gage** continues to produce one of the best sites on the web. The site rating continues to be high and we know people are reading the website, because I receiving an average of two or three e-mails or phone calls a week - usually asking about a family member who was (Continued page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

Our President page 1

THE EDITOR page 2

 V-J Day

 Thanks for stories

 Did You Know Him?

Status of Our Book

 page 3

Secretary/Treasurer

 page 3

Another . Native Story

 page 3

Target: Shipping page 3

V-E Day and V-J Day

 Remembered

 page 4

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".

Robert W. Blair Sr.	71 st Squadron	TOTAL TO DATE	
Harry A Rosengard,	405 th Squadron	Headquarters	19
James B Thoren ,	822 nd Squadron	69 th Squadron	3
Charles T. Conner,	823 rd Squadron	70 th Squadron	62
Alfred J. Sarofeen ,	823 rd Squadron	71 st Squadron	178
		89 th Squadron	1
		405 th Squadron	201
		822 nd Squadron	105
		823 rd Squadron	109
		Honorary	1
		Unit unknown	2

**WE WILL
 BE
 LOOKING
 FOR YOU
 IN
 WASHINGTON
 SEPTEMBER 29**

YOUR 2009 - 2010 ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

President Jack DeTour
 98-1108 Malualua St., Aiea, HI, 96701
 808-487-2842 jacketdet@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@ebarqmail.com

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

71st Sqdn. Alt. Paul Johnson
 1054 New McNeil Ave., Lawrence, NY, 11559
 516-371-3490

405th Sqdn. Rep.

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

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

822nd Sqdn. Alt. Sam Yarid
 205 Dwyer Ln. Lewisburg, WV, 24901
 304-645-3765 myarid@suddenlink.net

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

823rd Sqdn. Alt. 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

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 38th Bomb Group Association (WW II), 337 W. Reservoir Dr., Lewiston, ID 83501. Copyright 2010, The 38th 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.

OUR PRESIDENT WANTS YOU TO KNOW — — (From page 1) in the 38th BG during WW II. You'll like it. Also, please continue to send tapes and DVDs to Tom. Check the site out at: www.sunsetters38bg.com

38th BG Sun Setters Book status: See Page 3 for the book status.

Address Project: We need your help to find a valid address for members who paid for our "Sun-Setter" book, but are not on our current up to date roster. Please check the list on the insert to this news letter and help validate the addresses. If the member is deceased, we want the book to go to the wife or a family member.

In closing, let us all remember to say a prayer for our troops who are currently in harms way fighting for this great country of ours. May they return home safely.

See you in Washington, DC 29 September 2010.

Jack DeTour

From the Editor's Desk

V-J DAY: A few days ago, a local newspaper reported that there were celebrations of the day Japan agreed to give up in 1945 — sixty five years ago! But even V-E Day does not get the same celebration that it used to get. Well, face it. We live in another time and a couple generations later.

The San Diego Union-Tribune gave about 2/3rds of a page on August 15 to report on a local celebration with four large pictures. The article reported that a southern California congressman has introduced legislation to "raise public awareness of the anniversary." A local organization called, "**Keep the Spirit**" will promote local and national events to commemorate the event throughout this 65th year anniversary.

"Participants say it's time to give the date its due, saying it is overshadowed each year by the Dec. 7 anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the annual marking of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. V-J Day should be a special day in all of our hearts."

Roy Lee Grover always marks V-J Day in September with messages complaining that people celebrate V-E Day but never celebrate V-J Day. Perhaps he can, at last, take some satisfaction that he, seemingly alone, has not called attention to this failure of remembrance in vane.

I have written the story of those never to be forgotten days as they happened to me. See page 4.

We would like to share your story of those days. Send them in!!

Our pleas, as well as those of President Jack DeTour, over the past few years, for members to send stories have not often born fruit. But since the May issue of the newsletter, we received **two** responses. Not only that, but the two responses came from the same Squadron. And to make it even more unusual, they came from two men on the same crew. Now that is a record which will probably not be broken—ever!!

George Kuhner, a navigator, sent us a story about Bill Griffin, his co-pilot, which you will find across the page. Bill Griffin called me and sent an envelope containing stories and several pictures. You will find some of what Bill sent to me starting below George's story. edited for space.

That is the kind of response we would like more often.

DID YOU KNOW HIM? James Tieken, 71st Sqdm. Tail Gunner. I recently received an e-mail from Jim's nephew. He says Jim lost his wife last October and speaks of his old Wolf Pack buddies longingly and often. If you knew Jim, please get in touch with your Editor. Jim's brother and nephew are retired Air Force comrades.

We wish to thank Mrs. Don Snyder and Kathy Morgan of Lewiston Printing who help make THE SUN SETTERS the best among similar news letters. They also get it mailed to all our members as soon as they can get it printed after your editor and Orland get it to them.

STATUS OF OUR BOOK

Your committee has been very busy during the last several weeks in an effort to bring our book into being and into your hands.

It is anticipated that more information will be available at the Reunion.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Our Secretary has made a breakdown of our membership

Membership Breakdown

Headquarters Squadron	8
70th Squadron	2
71st Squadron	48
89th Squadron	2
405th	65
822nd Squadron	37
823rd Squadron	41
Editor of another WW II Magazine	1
Friends of the 38th	34
Life Friends	11
Honorary Life Friend	6
Widow Friends	59
Total	314
Wartime Members	203
Total Friends	111

FINANCIAL REPORT

Quarter Ending July 19, 2010

AMERIPRIZE

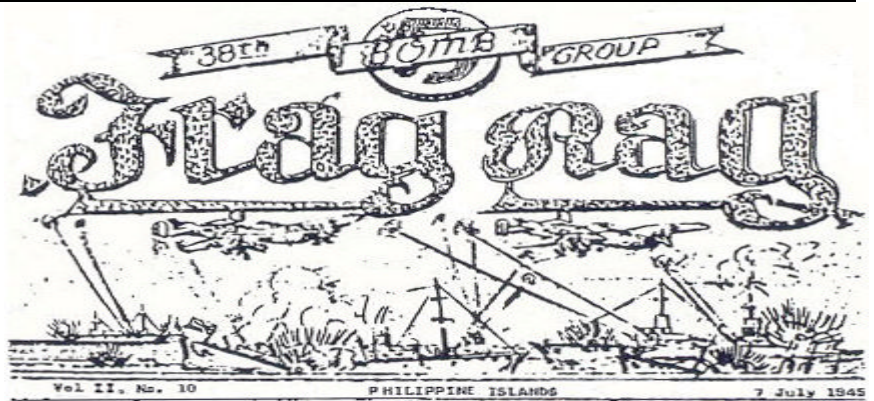
Balance, 4/20/2010	\$64,781.10
Interest for 2nd Quarter	99.62
Net Change	<2,885.49>
Balance 7/19/2010	62,210.82

RIVERSOURCE FUNDS, Checking

Balance, 4/20/2010	\$18,491.78
Interest for 2nd Quarter	0.73
Net Change	<2,885.49>
Balance 7/19/2010	15,607.02

Note: I have broken out the RIVERSOURCE FUNDS which is our check writing account. The value of this account is included in the Ameriprize balance dated 7/19/2010.

We have only one certificate and it comes due in 5 months. Interest rates on the present certificate are 8/10ths of one percent or 80 cents per \$100.00 per year. Our activities are being supported by the members who pay annual dues of \$10.00 per year. We will need to have a discussion concerning our finances at the business meeting in September.



ANOTHER NEW GUINEA NATIVE STORY

The Sun Setters story from Ed Gervase in the May issue brought back to mind a contact that my co-pilot had in April 1944.

On 2Lt. Chet Perkins' crew 2Lt. Bill Griffin was the co-pilot and I was the navigator. We had flown our B-25 from Sacramento to Townsville, Australia and had been consigned to the personnel processing center at Port Moresby.

The processing center was huge, several acres of tents, chow lines, and, of course, administrative areas. I believe the center processed Australian as well as American personnel. The net impact was boredom! Except for an evening movie, there was no leisure activity and only a limited library.

In an effort for self preservation, Bill made a sling shot for himself and then wandered to the edge of the area to try it out. He was busy shooting stones at bushes and trees when he looked up at a nearby tree and saw a native standing on one leg with his other leg akimbo and a long spear in one hand.

The man was tall, coal black, clad in a loin cloth and a length of cloth thrown loosely over one shoulder.

Bill proceeded with a simple demonstration: "See, pullem.... pullem.... shootem.... shootem."

Looking up at his audience for any reaction, Bill heard this response. "Yeah.... Got any inner tube ?"

George Kuhner

TARGET: SHIPPING, South China Sea - - Bill Griffin

The low level attack planes of the 38th Bomb Group played a primary role in sealing off the flow of raw materials from Borneo, the Netherlands East Indies, and French Indo-China to Japan. The convoys hugged the long China coast from Indo-China to the home islands of Japan.

This was "another routine mission." Six planes from the 822nd and six from the 405th took off from the strip along the beach at Lingayen. We were to intercept a small convoy said to be moving along the China coast toward Japan.

The wide China Sea fell behind us and the barren coast of China was sighted. We were between Amoy and Swatow. Our formation turned south. Then, there they were - three ships headed north. The two freighters were loaded with items desperately needed in Japan. A large destroyer cruised on the seaward side of the merchant ships.

The planes of the two squadrons broke into two-ship elements and positioned themselves to strike from land to sea. The 822nd planes dove to the attack first.

NOW! It was our time to dive toward the cargo ships. Lt. Chester Perkins moved toward the nearest ship. I opened the bomb bay doors. Two 1,000-pound bombs hung on their shackles ready for a drop. Their eight to ten-second delay fuses would give them time to penetrate the hull before exploding.

Just before the nose of our plane, now flying over 300 MPH, passed over the freighter, I released first one, then the second bomb. (Cont. pg. 4)

TARGET: SHIPPING, South China Sea - - (From pg. 3)

The first crashed into the cabin, through it and across the deck. Then it knocked a life boat off its davits and left it dangling over the railing. The second bomb missed the ship completely.

Perk dropped the plane down to the wave tops, skimming along at over 300 indicated air speed. I flipped the bomb bay doors closed and pointed toward the destroyer.

Perk raised the right wing slightly and now our nose guns pointed directly at the deck of the Japanese warship. Its side was alive with exploding guns. Perk pressed his trigger button and the line of our tracers worked their way from one end of the ship to the other as we both worked the rudder pedals.

But there was one large gun among those flashing on the stern of the ship which we never seemed to hit. It fired constantly with its blast of smoke directly at us.

We were flying right into the side of the ship. Perk and I pulled back on the yoke as we climbed almost vertically up the destroyer's side then dumped the wheel forward as we passed over the ship. I saw the masts as we passed over the ship. Then it was down to the waves again.

Off to our right was a 405th plane right down on the water. The destroyer was throwing heavy shells at it. For a split second, I simply watched.

Then Perk was pounding on my shoulder and holding the wheel in his stomach. We had been hit!! A 20-mm shell had passed beside the head of our tail gunner, through the fuselage, and passed out of the plane an inch or two above my head. It had missed everyone.

But our control cables had been severed. At Perk's signal, I took over, holding the wheel in my stomach and working the trim tabs. Perk was out of his seat and shouting toward the back of the plane.

Suddenly, the controls were responding normally. Sgt. McGovern had been able to tie the cables together somehow. We had no other problems returning to base.

Major Ed Maurer was upset after we landed. The two squadrons had suffered heavy losses. One 405th plane was missing, presumably having flown into China. Several of the 822nd planes had been shot down.

We had not sunk the destroyer but we had reported a near miss on one freighter. BUT, when the pictures were developed, they showed that our bomb had knocked out the freighter. Lt. Joe Rose's plane reported one freighter sunk.

The next day, some planes went back to complete the job of destroying the beached ship.



BACK: Bill Griffin, 2nd Pilot and Bombardier; David Moshier, Engineer; Chester Perkins, 1st Pilot and Strafer; George Miller, Radio Man; FRONT: George Kuhner, Navigator; Robert White, Tail Gunner

V-E and V-J DAY REMEMBERED

(The Editor remembers)

I had returned to my wife in Southern California in 1945 on May 1. OH, WHAT A DAY!

It had taken nearly two weeks to get from Lingayen to Hamilton Field by air. I had traveled all night from Hamilton Field to Oceanside by bus and train. I managed to catch a ride from Oceanside in the gray dimness of early morning to the east side of Escondido. My checked luggage on the train could be picked up later in San Diego.

I got out of my ride down at the corner of the orchard and made my way through the trees to the top of the hill where her parent's home was. I carefully scouted around the driveway loop from behind a row of trees. THERE SHE WAS—TAKING A SHORT WALK BEFORE BREAKFAST!

I unfolded my Kodak 616 camera, stepping from behind a tree and called her name. She turned and I snapped a picture from 40 feet.

Then we couldn't get into each other's arms fast enough! In a few minutes we went into the house to surprise the rest of her family. Later in the day, we went to La Jolla and the Casa de Manana, where we had celebrated our honeymoon 20 months earlier, for a second three-day honeymoon.

Just a few days later, the war in Europe ended with wild celebration of V-E Day. But my mind frequently returned to my buddies still flying against the enemy in the far western Pacific. I wrote letters to some of them.

After a 30-day leave and processing at the Santa Monica Relocation Center, I was placed on inactive duty and returned to college for Summer School.

Following Summer School, we both had jobs helping the small college move to Santa Barbara. It was during this time that the Japanese surrendered.

We heard the news on the radio in the morning. A handful of others on the campus decided to make it a day of celebration. We also heard that gasoline rationing had ended!

Kay and I and our friends piled into our car and stopped at a service station. I asked to have the tank filled. The attendant asked if I had sufficient coupons. I said that I had heard on the news that rationing had ended. He said that he hadn't heard that. I shoved my gas ration coupons into his hand and said, "Take 'em and fill my tank."

He did, and then we drove up to Crystal Lake at the top of the San Gabriel Mountains northeast of LA. We had a wonderful day—made even more wonderful by the realization that a lot of our friends would be returning soon.