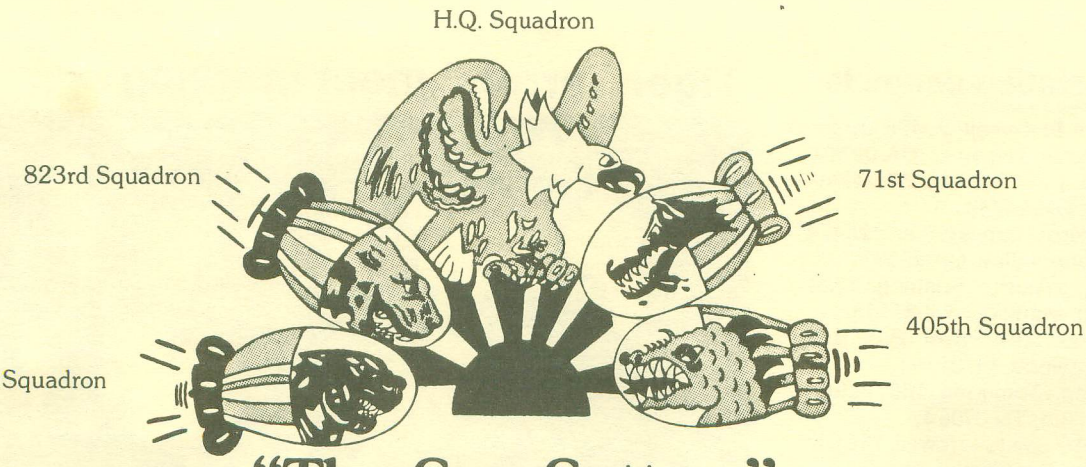


"The Sun Setters"

38th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII) JANUARY, 1988

The President's Memo:

Harry E. Terrell, President

"How sweet it is!" The ranks of the Association keep increasing thanks to efforts of the "Activities" in locating long-lost buddies. As of this writing we have a mailing list of 707 Sun Setters, 299 of which are dues-paying active members. Seventy-seven percent of the membership plan on attending Reunion '88 in Nashville, the number being 232, not including wives. A little later on we will have a tally that includes the wives, so it looks like this reunion has all the earmarks of being the biggest and best ever. Let's keep the ball rolling in finding old friends and buddies—we don't want them to miss out on the fine times in Nashville.

Plans are falling into place for streamlining the Association's "modus operandi." As you know we have professional help in the editing and publishing of this newsletter and we are making arrangements for having the reunions handled by professionals, too. This will take the strain out of being an Association Officer or the Reunion Chairman. Let's face it, few of us are skilled in putting out a newsletter or in organizing all of the elements that make for a successful reunion. It just follows that there should be no shortage of candidates for Association officers, as well as Reunion Chairman, knowing that the workload will be minimal. Lew Pavel, editor and publisher of this fine newsletter, has indicated he would be pleased to take on the reunion responsibilities inasmuch as that has been his career line with Pavel and Associates for many years. A presentation will be made during the Business Meeting at Reunion '88 in Nashville. In the meantime, if anyone has any questions or suggestions along this line, please drop us a line. Our aim is to keep the momentum of the Association going as we approach the "autumn of our years," so a little help can do the trick!

Meanwhile, I would like to urge those members who have not paid their 1988 dues to do so by the end of January. In the interests of minimizing maintenance of memberships and simplifying the budgeting procedure, the month of January has been specified as membership renewal time, we need everyone's help, *thank you*.

A message from the '88 Reunion Committee

REMEMBER!! MUSIC CITY, U.S.A. (Nashville, Tennessee) should be in your plans for Sept. 28, 29, 30 and Oct. 1.

The Reunion Committee urges you to start planning early to attend, especially those wishing to attend the Grand Ole Opry. The Committee will have to obtain tickets early, since seats are sometimes sold out six months in advance.

The Marriott Hotel, headquarters for the Reunion, has included several features or services: (1) Members arriving by air will land at the new Nashville terminal and receive free transportation to the Marriott; (2) parking is free for those driving; and (3) some lucky 38th member will win a free weekend for two at the Marriott Resort Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama.

The Committee extends a special invitation to widows and members of the 38th Bomb Group. We know you will enjoy the program and events we have planned.

A questionnaire will be mailed sometime in the latter part of February listing the special events planned for the members to select and return. Members having recreational vehicles will be furnished information and maps of campsite locations.

Be sure to contact any members of the 38th of your acquaintance who have not attended a reunion and urge them to come.

Make your plans early!!

For the '88 Reunion Committee,
Almon "Suedy" Suedekum.

History of the 38th Bombardment Group

The following article is based upon information provided by A.L. Saulsbury, Jr., LTC USAF Ret. (71st Sqdn.), an extraction from Air Force Combat Units of World War II, *published by the USAF Historical Division, Air University, Department of the Air Force.*

Constituted as the 38th Bombardment Group (Medium) on 20 November 1940. Activated on 15 January 1941. Trained with B-18, B-25 and B-26 aircraft. The ground echelon moved to Australia in January-February 1942, while the air echelon remained in the U.S. for further training.

Air echelons of two squadrons arrived in Hawaii in May 1942, and took part in the battle of Midway; they did not rejoin the group and eventually were reassigned. (NOTE: LTC Saulsbury reports that according to "The Army Air Forces in World War II," Vol. 1, two of the B-26 units that made a torpedo attack on the Japanese fleet were from the 69th Squadron, while the other two were from the 18th Reconnaissance Squadron.) Air echelons of the other squadrons arrived in Australia in August 1942.

Assigned to the Fifth Air Force and equipped with B-25s, the group operated from bases in Australia, New Guinea and Biak Sept. 1942-Oct. 1944, attacking Japanese airfields and shipping and supporting ground forces in New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago.

Major Ralph Cheli was awarded the Medal of Honor for action on 18 August 1943. While leading the 405th Squadron to attack a heavily-defended airdrome in New Guinea, his plane was severely hit by enemy fire. Rather than disrupt the formation, Major Cheli remained in position and led the attack on the target before his bomber crashed into the sea.

The group was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for bombing and strafing Japanese troops and fortifications on Cape Gloucester, New Brittain, Dec. 1943,

See "History," Page 3.

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.).
Chairman Reunion '88: Almon W. Suedekum, 1205 Shiloh Drive, Nashville, TN 37205.
Editor: Lew Pavel (see 405th Sqdn.).

Life Memberships double

The number of Life Members of the 38th Bomb Group Association has more than doubled since *The Sun Setters* September issue. Congratulations and thanks to the new life members:

405th: (19)
Charles A. Behrens
D.W. Cappan (Capanoli)
Burton S. Cooper
Robert Crooks
Robert Fuqua
Horrace P. Hargis
D.T. Knight
O.R. Lewman
George Monroe
Robert C. Pittman

823rd: (5)
L.P. Lux

71st: (8)
Hol Adams
John B. Barbour
Charles L. Fisk
James O. Horsman
Robert Sherrard

822nd: (6)
Ernest E. Meuller
Edgar A. Riehl
James B. Thoren
P.G. Ward

Hdq: (3)
Warren E. Lee
Lawrence Tanberg

(Updated squadron totals in parentheses.)

Any member may become a Life Member at any time by mailing dues of $100 to Secretary-Treasurer Gilliam. These dues are not used for current operational expenses, but are held in a separate account to assure a stable financial base for the organization and for any special projects which may be undertaken in the future.

Constitution and Bylaws OK

With the great majority of members approving the Constitution and Bylaws enclosed with the September newsletter, the officers are proceeding with mechanics of incorporating as a not-for-profit organization.

Suggested changes were not inimical to the incorporation, and may be introduced at the '88 Reunion Business Meeting, upon advance request to the President, for inclusion on the agenda. They may then be considered and voted upon by members attending that meeting.

'Tiger Terrors' meet in Irving

FRONT, left to right: Don Hardeman, Bob Hunter, Al Eshelbrenner, Vern Torgerson, Bill Lupardus. BACK, left to right: Tudor Jones, Jim Hailey, Lee Herlacher, John Trease, John Doak, David Aiken, Zane Corbin, Sid Sampson, L.P. Lux, Larry Hickey, Roy Gibson.

April 10-12, 1987, John Trease and Zane Corbin hosted a gathering of 17 'Tiger Terrors' of the 823rd Squadron and one 'Green Dragon Devil' of the 405th in Irving, Texas. In addition to those pictured above were John Irick and Bill Mathe of the 823rd, Ed Maurer of the 405th, Larry Hickey, Associate Member, and David Aiken, Ex-POW, Inc. The purpose of the meeting was to provide more input into the history being compiled by Larry Hickey in the form of *The Saga of the Sunsetters*, which is due for publication in a year or so. Hickey was provided with a great deal of excellent information and photographs as well as leads to others. Since that meeting, Zane Corbin, Ed Maurer and Leroy Gibson flew their last mission.

The Association concerns

Associations succeed in direct proportion to member interest and involvement. If you overlooked the Activities Form in the September newsletter, please review the areas of activity listed below, where you can become a very real part of the Association and make a solid contribution to its well-being and continued growth.

Mark the questionnaire below and mail to: Secretary Jim Gilliam; 38th Bomb Group Association; 25475 Jaclyn Ave.; Moreno Valley, CA 92388.
("Y" for Yes, "N" for No.)

(_____) Do you plan to attend the '88 Renunion?
(_____) Will you assist the Reunion Committee during the Reunion?
(_____) Will you serve as Squadron Representative for squadron functions?
(_____) Are you willing to serve as Reunion Chairman in some future year?
(_____) Would you accept nomination as an Association officer if asked?
(_____) Would you accept nomination as an Associate director if asked?

Name: _____

_____

Address: _____

_____

5th Air Force monument

The 5th Air Force Monument will be dedicated at the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, according to Doug Hagie (822nd) of Atlanta, Ga.

Designed by Daniel W. Millsbaugh, University of North Carolina, the project has been underway for two years. The raised platform for a quarter of the globe supports an obelisk rising from its center on which rests a 4-foot diameter 5th Air Force symbol. Globe, obelisk and symbol are of cast bronze.

The islands and land masses of the Western and Southwestern Pacific are raised above the seas and polished to contrast with the darker color of the seas. The '5' and the edges of the two-sided symbol casting are also raised and polished.

The foundation consists of a concrete footing on which rest a coping of eight octagonal plates of gray Georgia granite set at an angle for easy viewing.

The $17,000 cost of the memorial was covered through contributions and 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation membership fees.

All 38th Bomb Group veterans are invited to attend this memorable event on 24 June 1988, at 2 p.m.

Editor's comments:

Response to our September newsletter request for information, pictures, personal experience, vignettes, clippings, etc., for use in *The Sun Setters* was **UNDER**-WHELMING. We're in fair shape this month, thanks to a few cooperative members, but the May issue promises to be heavily laced with stuff about the 405th (my old outfit). Come on, now! Something *interesting* or memorable must have happened during your overseas assignment. Tell us about it!

The limited response would have been most disturbing had I not come across a feature article in the *Orlando Sentinel*, which kicked off with "Keeping a diary was against Army regulations—it might have fallen into enemy hands . . . ." It reminded me that when I was told at our Hamilton Field debarkation point that diaries and cameras were verboten, I obediently bundled mine and sent them home.

Happily, not everyone was that naive, so I did get a few snapshots to bring back. Unfortunately, unlike the 37th Division veteran in the article, I did not "retain little scraps of paper" to subsequently record in a "scrap paper diary." I hope you did—and that you will share them with us. Photos and other items will be returned.

While we prefer factual material, I'll never forget the taxi driver retained by our three-man ATC ferry crew to show us London. He was fantastic—high, box-like cab, long white robe, thick cockney accent and a magnificent gift of gab. When one of the crew challenged the historical accuracy of a statement, he barely paused to interject "Blimey, Sonny, I never let the truth get in the way of a good story." We will exercise like judgement.

One other note: We need the material as early as possible—as soon as we put this issue to bed, we start on May.

Our other real concern is membership. The September issue went to every known 38th Group veteran, enclosing the Constitution and By-Laws evidencing organizational reality. That we were not satisfied with the number of new memberships generated simply emphasizes that those actively involved in associations are never completely happy unless all eligibles become members. While the response was gratifying, the Association really needs YOU to join in "membership stimulation" by exerting a little gentle pressure on your buddies (nothing more than thumbscrews) to join. In future newsletters, we will list new members AND sponsors—maybe the Board will even pop with some tangible recognition for the best member recruiters.

Finally, we appreciated the encouraging letters received, but lest complacence set in, we assure you we welcome suggestions and criticisms for the good of the publication.

Who are these guys, anyway? (See Page 4.)

HISTORY, *Continued from Cover.*

preparatory to the Allied invasion. Received another DUC for two missions over New Guinea 16 and 17 June, 1944, against Japanese airfields, merchant ships and naval vessels.

Moved to Moluccas in October, 1944 and bombed airfields, ground installations, harbors and shipping in the southern Philippines in support of U.S. invasion of Leyte. Struck a large enemy convoy in Ormoc Bay in November 1944, to prevent landing of reinforcements, and awarded DUC for the mission.

After moving to the Philippines in January 1945, supported U.S. ground forces on Luzon, bombed industries on Formosa, and attacked shipping along the China coast.

Stationed temporarily on Palawan in June 1945, for participation in the pre-invasion bombing of Japanese installations on Borneo. Moved to Okinawa in July 1945, and conducted several attacks on industries, railways and shipping in southern Japan.

Moved to Japan in November 1945, as part of Far East Air Forces. Redesignated 38th Bombardment Group (Light) in May 1946. Equipped with A-26 aircraft.

Inactivated in the Far East 1 April, 1945.

Newsletter correspondence:

Post office regulations require bulk mailings carry the point of origin address (California); however, the editorial address remains in Florida. Any correspondence relating to the newsletter should be addressed to Lew Pavel, Editor, P.O. Box 915204, Longwood, Fla. 32791. Please mail article material at the earliest possible date.

38th Bomb Group Stations, 1941-1945

The 38th Bomb Group was assigned to the following stations in order as listed:

Langley Field, Virginia	1/41
Jackson AAB, Mississippi	6/41
Doomben Field, Australia	2/42
Ballarat, Australia	3/42
Eagle Farms, Australia	6/42
Breddan Field, Australia	8/42
Townsville, Australia	9/42
Port Moresby, New Guinea	10/42
Nadzab, New Guinea	3/44
Biak, Netherlands New Guinea	/44
Morotai, Indonesia	10/44
Lingayen, Philippines	1/45
Okinawa	6/45
Itazuke, Japan	11/45
Itami, Japan	10/46

38th Bomb Group Commanders, 1941-1945

According to "Air Force Combat Units of World War II," the following officers served as commanders of the 38th Bomb Group:

Lt. Col. Robert D. Knapp, Jan 1941
Col. Fay R. Upthegrove, Jan. 1942
Lt. Col. Brian O'Neill, Oct. 1942
Lt. Col. Lawrence Tanberg, 1943
Lt. Col. Carl C. Lausman, Jul. 1944
Maj. Howard M. Paquin, Aug. 1944
Col. Edward M. Gavin, Nov. 1944
Lt. Col. Edwin H. Haws, Mar. 1945
Lt. Col. Vernon D. Torgerson, Aug. 1945
Lt. Col. Bruce T. Marston, Sept. 1945

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, 25475 Jacklyn Ave., Moreno Valley, CA 92387.

SEE YOU AT REUNION '88!

We don't know them all either!

. . . But the photo is of the 405th Officers' Mess Hall, Durand Drome (17-mile strip), Port Moresby, New Guinea, in late 1943. (Courtesy of Richard Slye, 405th Squadron. Reading the rows from left to right:

R-1: Beale, Andy Beverage, Roy Cohen.
R-2: Bill John, "Big Red" Davis, Bob Crooks, Cobb.

R-3: Apai, Mac MacDermott, Lew Pavel, Denny Fordyce.

R-4: Wicker, Scorchy Steele, Ricks, Harrod.

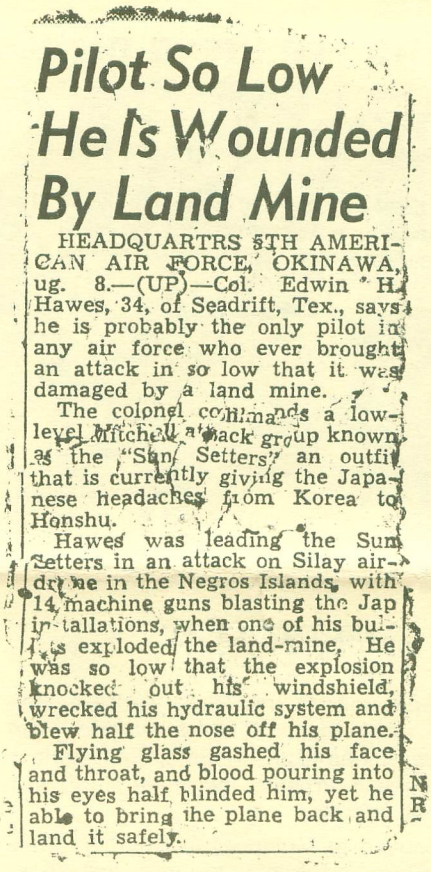
R-5: Carpenter, Carl Dwire, Simmons, ??.

R-6: ??, Kenealy, Doc Murphee, Mac MacCarthy.

R-7: Del Campbell, Burrhead Morris, Jim Watkins, Pat Peartree.

Can you help identify the two "??" or furnish any of the 15 missing first names? Only seven of those identified are on the current 38th BG roster. Any help will be much appreciated—just drop a line to the editor or to Secretary Gilliam.

If you do know any of these guys, we urge you to follow Chairman Suedy's suggestion and drop them a line urging them to attend the '88 Reunion in Nashville.



Pilot So Low He Is Wounded By Land Mine

HEADQUARTRS 5TH AMERICAN AIR FORCE, OKINAWA, ug. 8.—(UP)—Col. Edwin H. Hawes, 34, of Seadrift, Tex., says he is probably the only pilot in any air force who ever brought an attack in so low that it was damaged by a land mine.

The colonel commands a low-level Mitchell attack group known as the "Sun Setters," an outfit that is currently giving the Japanese headaches from Korea to Honshu.

Hawes was leading the Sun Setters in an attack on Silay airdrome in the Negros Islands, with 14 machine guns blasting the Jap installations, when one of his bullets exploded the land-mine. He was so low that the explosion knocked out his windshield, wrecked his hydraulic system and blew half the nose off his plane.

Flying glass gashed his face and throat, and blood pouring into his eyes half blinded him, yet he able to bring the plane back and land it safely.

Thanks to Lawrence G. McCreary, Export, PA, for sharing with us a striking memory of the tree-trimming and wave-making B-25s.

'In Ever-Honored Memory'

Sincere thanks to members of the 38th who forwarded names of friends and cohorts not listed in the September issue:

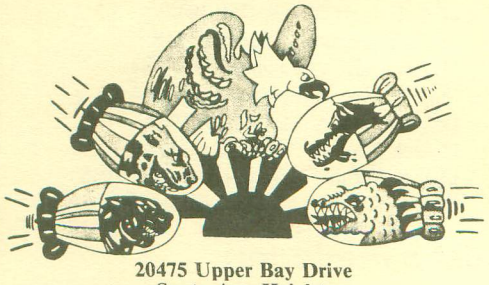
Joe H. Daniel	71st
William R. Felker	71st
Frank Greco	71st
Gordon M. Kelley	71st
Lewis G. Knuckley	71st
William G. McGarvey	71st
Lewis M. Miller	71st
John E. Orr	71st
Howard M. Paquin	71st
Stanley R. Powell	71st
Henry L. Pugh	71st
George M. Sevy	71st
Robert S. Duckworth	405th
Charles E. Hopkins	405th
Joseph R. Petronis	*405th*
Karl Henze	822nd
Bill Massey	822nd
Donald P. Raymond	822nd
Leroy M. Gibson	823rd
Zane Corbin	823rd

The Sun Setters is particularly indebted to Colin Chisholm, Allentown, PA, who reviewed the 71st Squadron master roster to help update the 38th Bomb Group list. Additional information will be much appreciated, since it is planned to honor all of our departed comrades in a future issue. Mail to James E. Gilliam, Secretary.

38th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII) REUNION '88

Marriott Hotel - Nashville, Tennessee
September 28 - October 1

38th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII)



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