

Galveston 1996

The Galveston Reunion went off as scheduled, April 24-28, 1996 with Bill Beck as chairman. The weather was good (?) with gale force winds and a stormy coastline most of the time.

We had contact with several new guys from the 90th. Two and their wives attended the reunion: Bill and Pat Tallon from Williamsburg, VA and Ron and Alma Hubbard from Jacksonville, FL. We had 45 guys and their wives, a girl friend and four widows. In addition, we had 24 sons, daughters and other friends. Among these were Paul and Gwen Gunn, Victor and Julie (Gunn) Bonanno and Connie (Gunn) Minor.

The Lone Star Flight Museum has some great airplanes, but they had not painted the A-20 as "Tobias the Terrible" (H.B.'s aircraft) as promised. They plan to do so, but only after it has been returned to a combat exterior. The Squadron donated \$250.00 to the LSFM. The Galveston Tour included three houses that Dr. Sally Robinson (Robbie's niece) had set up for us. Courtesy of the 89th, Robbie sent Sally and each homeowner a card and a "coffee table" book for opening their homes to us. The golfers (10 of them) played in gale force winds. We had about 35 people enjoy an evening at the dog track. Moody Gardens was most interesting with their Rain Forest and IMAX 3D Theater showing "Wings of Courage." After that we were all able to relax a little on an hour boat ride on the Colonel paddlewheeler in a nearby bayou. The Houston Space Center tour must have been interesting, but no one talked much about it.

Bob Reed conducted the Memorial Service where we remembered Charles Zettlemyer, Bob Dow, Ernie Nennemann, Harvey Brown, Joe Schaltz, Archie Taylor, Bob Meister, Henry Bosch, Jr. and Heinz Bruestle.

The Squadron Dinner went well - we had three great speakers. Ron Hubbard (90th Squadron) told about deploying (from U.S. to P.I.) in November 1941; the frustrations of no aircraft (they were delayed in Hawaii because MacArthur wanted tanks instead of airplanes); escape from the Philippines to Australia and the attempt to return with A-24s. Julie Gunn told of the family's period of captivity in the Philippines; she was 15, Connie was 17, Paul was 13, Nat was 11 and their mother was 39. Julie said it was an honor and a pleasure to be a part of the 89th Reunion. Peter Palmos took us from Hollandia to Atsugi, Japan. The 89th flew interdiction missions to Japan in A-26s prior to a detachment being based at Atsugi. Some say the 3rd Bomb Group was first to land on Japanese soil and the 3rd Group flew over the USS Missouri during the signing of the Peace Treaty.

A special thanks to Lt. Gen. Bob Ruegg, Brig. Gen. Bill Webster and Col. Bob Strickland for visiting with us. In addition to Ruegg and Webster from the 8th Squadron, we had Marty Radnik, who is on our Board of Directors as the 8th Squadron representative. Bill Webster served as Chaplain at our dinner.

And our bartenders Joe Long and Stan Shaban did their usual good job.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING