

Flying Tiger Historical Organization

a NON-PROFIT 501 (c) 3 ORGANIZATION EIN #26-1492466



14th AAF



CBI



AVG

HONORING THE PAST
FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE



CATF

June 1, 2024 Volume 12: Issue 2

Cooperation – Understanding - Friendship

The US and China are in a position to exert strong influence on the world's current hostilities in the middle east and Ukraine.

Positioned as the world's two great powers, it is incumbent upon us to work together in cooperation and friendship. What we can accomplish was demonstrated by the success of the Flying Tigers in WWII.

There are signs that the pendulum is swinging towards better relations between our two countries. Something which can only benefit the world at large. Let us look to the history of American and Chinese people in WWII to better understand what that cooperation and friendship can accomplish.

Daily I read of the passing of these people (unsung American and Chinese heroes.) It is interesting to note that their recollections are not so much of the hardships, dangers and deprivations they suffered but more often turn to the everlasting friendships and greater understanding they gained during this time period.

The Flying Tiger Historical Organizations moto "Honoring The Past – Foundation For The Future" is built on the hope that we can reflect on the past to build a better future.

The Flying Tiger Heritage Park in Guilin, China is the result of cooperation and Friendship today. 16,000 square foot museum and 23 acres dedicated to honoring these heroes from WWII.

Pictures from the **Flying Tiger Heritage Park** in Guilin, China



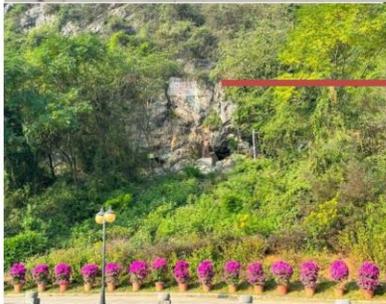
Overview of 23 Acres



Yang Tang as it appeared in 2008
(View from Command Cave)



Entrance to Flying Tiger Heritage Park and Museum

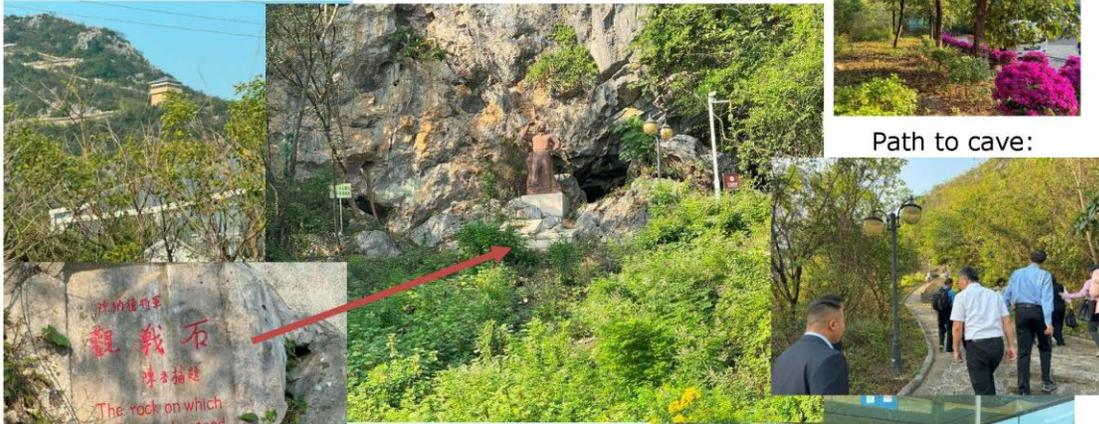


Command cave



Museum from cave:





Path to cave:



Along path to cave



AVG, American, Chinese
Flags Fly Together



Museum Side



Memorial Wall

A call for cooperation at 'My China Album' fete



FTHO Chairman of the Board, General James Whitehead Jr. accepts award at "My China Album" ceremony at Washington DC Chinese Embassy on 5-16-2024.



Ambassador Xie Feng: In the era of war, we fought side by side; in the era of peace, we should be each other's partner.

"China is willing to be a friend and partner of the United States," said Ambassador Xie Feng. "In the era of war, we fought side by side; in the era of peace, we should also be each other's partner."

The ambassador made the remarks at the "My China Album: Sharing Our Stories About China" event at the embassy, attended by more than 200 guests, including Harry Moyer, a Flying Tigers veteran, now age 103 (arrow points to Harry Moyer).

During World War II, Captain Moyer fought shoulder to shoulder with Chinese soldiers to defend against invading Japanese forces.

Xie said that the foundation of the China-US relationship was laid by the two peoples, and its future will be created by them.

"Currently, China-US relations are still facing serious challenges. We need to forge a closer bond between our peoples and open our hearts to each other, so as to inject more warmth and impetus into this relationship," he said.

Melvin McMullen and Harry Moyer both served in China during World War II. They were members of a United States Army Air Forces unit called the "Flying Tigers," at a time when the US and China were allies. They returned to China last autumn, likely for the last time. Wherever they went they were honored. They even met with Chinese Vice President Han Zheng, and US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns.

All of this took place during a period of intensifying US and Chinese military activity in the South China Sea. Yet, it didn't detract from the genuine affection shown to the two, now aged, veterans. How is it these American heroes are largely forgotten at home, yet still celebrated in China?

Chinese children are taught very early in their schooling about the Flying Tigers, a term the Chinese apply to anyone who fought to help them defeat the Japanese. The bond built by these men and women has survived political upheaval and the test of time. Their legacy and the lesson it teaches us can allow us to work together for a better world.

Every day the Harry Moyer's of this world are passing on. It is time we teach our own children about them, while there are still a few left to pass their history on.

Emmy winner shines light on Flying Tigers

Documentary tells stories of veterans famous in China but forgotten at home



A three-time Emmy Award-winning film producer is telling the stories of World War II veterans from the United States who "are famous in China but forgotten at home".

In October 2023, during his visit to China for a documentary screening, producer Bill Einreinhofer noticed continuous coverage of two elderly US military veterans on Chinese TV. They appeared on both local and national television, known to almost every Chinese person. However, Einreinhofer, a TV producer, had never heard of them.

They were Harry Moyer, 103, and Mel McMullen, 98. The two were part of a delegation visiting China to honor US military pilots who helped China battle Japan during the war.

In his new documentary "Valor and Memory," set to be released on the upcoming Veterans Day in the US, Einreinhofer explores the shared experience between the two countries during the war.

"It's a story that has been told a lot in the US, but not recently. When I asked my students who the Flying Tigers were, they thought it was a rock 'n' roll band. They are remembered in China,

but they're forgotten at home," said Einreinhofer, who is also the emeritus chair of the broadcast journalism department at the New York Film Academy.

"I want to remind Americans who these guys were, what they did, and why what they did was important. At the same time, I want an American audience to know they didn't fight alone, because they literally were fighting side by side with Chinese pilots," he said.

The Flying Tigers began to arrive in China in 1941, with about 100 military pilots from the US Navy, Army Air Corps and Marine Corps, along with about 200 support crew. About a dozen of them were Chinese Americans, as the military needed their Chinese linguistic and cultural skills, according to Einreinhofer.

In 1942, some Chinese pilots began to come to the US to train so they could fly fighter aircraft and bombers, and then they would return home to defend their country, said Einreinhofer. Data shows that more than 2,000 Flying Tigers airmen gave their lives during the war.

Shared history

"Let's face it, America and China, we have a shared history. It's a very contentious history. We often disagree, even when we were allies back during World War II, we disagreed, and the cultures are different. But at the end of the day, people are people," said Einreinhofer.

Audiences today still will "respond to stories that have strong human characters, people who are doing interesting things, people who are doing important things. And for me, China is an unending source of fascinating people," he said.

The documentary comes as the current relations between China and the US have deteriorated. "This is an incredibly exciting story to tell, especially right now, because the clock is ticking. These men are elderly. ... We need to tell the story now while some of them are still around, to realize how much they are appreciated," he said.

Einreinhofer, who has been filming documentaries in and about China for more than 30 years, said there are certainly profound and deep differences between the US and China.

"And primarily, those differences are between the governments. But on a person-to-person level, I think there's a lot of commonality." He cited the Flying Tigers as an example of such personal exchanges. For the Chinese military pilots who went to the US for training, each was paired with a US pilot.

Lot of commonality

"When you're looking at the world today, the US and China, they are portrayed as rivals. But that's just one area of conversation. There are so many other areas where there is a commonality between the American people and the Chinese people.

"And I really think it is through person-to-person communication that each side starts to get to know the other. And that's critical. Because however deep our differences may be, I think people on both sides, they don't want a war. They don't want chaos. That's not their goal," he said.

Decades after the story of the Flying Tigers, Einreinhofer continues to feel the bond between people from the two countries working side by side, just as the Flying Tigers had experienced. "These people were incredibly generous, and in sharing their lives with me. And in doing so, I got a priceless education. And it really helped to make me unique as an American producer and American director, who at least has a degree of understanding of what is going on around me when I'm in China," he said.

Link to documentary information:

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202405/22/WS664cd161a31082fc043c85e9.html>

His documentary "Valor and Memory" explores the history of China and the US as they fought together against the enemy during World War II, bridging the gap between cultures.

FTHO introduces new Board Members

The **FTHO** lost two Board members due to death and health.

Phil VanZandt passed away during the COVID pandemic. He will be sorely missed.

Joe Eng is experiencing health issues. We wish him a speedy and full recovery.

Judge Michael Ward, our newsletter editor, has agreed to again become a member of the board, having served in that capacity during the organization's inception.

We are excited to welcome our newest board member, **Lydia Rossi**.

Lydia is Executive Director of the **American Volunteer Group Flying Tigers Association (AVGFT)**.



Lydia Rossi was born and raised in southern California where she has lived most of her life. Lydia attended art college after high school and worked as a commercial artist in Los Angeles before going to work as a Flight Attendant for United Airlines and later for the Flying Tiger Airline.

John Richard "**Dick**" **Rossi** was a founder and captain of the airline, which is where she met her future husband. They were married in 1966. As an ACE and one of the first pilots to see action over China in WW II, Dick Rossi was the president of the **American Volunteer Group Flying Tigers Association**, a post he held for 60 years. Dick Rossi stayed in China for many years after the AVGFT was disbanded. He went to work for China National Airways Corporation (**CNAC**) where he holds the record for the most one-way missions over the Hump, flying supplies and passengers between China and India; 735 trips. The AVGFTA had annual reunions and Lydia and Dick never missed them. They have one son and three grandchildren living in San Diego.

Over the years, Lydia got to know the AVGFT members well and met with them often. The AVGFT were invited to many functions such as airshows, award ceremonies, social gatherings, symposiums, as well as several visits to China.

The first time the Rossis were invited to China was in 1995. Since that time, they traveled throughout China many times at the invitation of the PRC. In 2005, they attended a large gathering of veterans of WW II in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, where President Hu Jintao and other PRC officials and dignitaries toasted Rossi and thanked him for what the Flying Tigers had done for China.

Since Dick Rossi passed away in 2008, Lydia has been very involved in continuing the legacy and history of the AVGFT, serving as Executive Director. She plans many of the events, keeps in communication with members and constant general-public emails, keeps the sales shop, manages the website, speaks about the AVGFT at events, has been interviewed many times for TV, documentaries, books, articles, and has attended PRC events when invited.

Lydia is also involved in several other organizations and serves on the Board of Directors of three of them. She owned her own graphic design business for twenty years and has stayed interested in art all her life. Watercolor painting is a hobby.

Appeal for artifacts and written histories

The FTTHO is always seeking artifacts and written histories for inclusion in **the Flying Tiger Heritage Park Museum** in Guilin, China. If you have anything you are willing to donate or written histories you can pass along, we would love to have them. Please mail them to the address at the bottom of the FTTHO Board of Directors page. Email or call Larry Jobe.



Katharine Kerr shares the story of her grandfather Donald Kerr at a recent commemoration in Los Angeles.

To commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and the United States, Catharine Kerr joined other descendants of World War II heroes to share their stories.

"The cooperation between Chinese and Americans during the difficult wartime is strongly remembered in my family," said the granddaughter of Flying Tigers lieutenant Donald Kerr at a recent commemoration hosted by the American Flying Tigers Communication Association. "I hope that the friendships (that started) 80 years ago continue forever."

On Feb 11, 1944, Flying Tigers pilot Donald Kerr was part of a mission to bomb Kai Tak airport in Hong Kong.

He downed a Japanese aircraft before finding himself being pursued by three Japanese fighter planes. His aircraft was hit and caught fire. He then parachuted and landed in Sha Tin Au in the New Territories of Hong Kong.

Facing the imminent danger of the Japanese military's extensive manhunt, Kerr was saved through the efforts of the Dongjiang (East River) Column and the Hong Kong-Kowloon Independence Brigade.

After enduring 48 days of uncertainty, Kerr was safely escorted back to the Guilin base in the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. His rescuers gave him a map and ensured that he would get home safe and sound.

This experience left Kerr with a profound appreciation for the friendliness and courage of the Chinese people. "Never be enemies of the Chinese," he once said to his eldest son Andy.

Extensive coverage

The America Magazine extensively covered Kerr's rescue in 1944, publishing the story worldwide. Consequently, the US military headquarters in China established intelligence collaboration with the Dongjiang Column, solidifying its role as a vital component in the global anti-fascist struggle.

Kerr was not the only pilot rescued from Hong Kong during the Japanese occupation. In April 1984, US president Ronald Reagan said at Fudan University in Shanghai: "According

to incomplete statistics, in 1944, in addition to Kerr, the Dongjiang Column also rescued seven Flying Tigers pilots."

Catharine's father David Kerr and uncle Andy Kerr embarked on a profound journey to China since 2007 to fulfill their parents' wishes and express gratitude to those involved in Kerr's rescue.

They have gone on more than 10 trips to Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Dongguan and Hong Kong, tracing Kerr's escape route and seeking out the guerrilla fighters who took part in the rescue. Along the way, they have connected with veteran soldiers and their descendants. Today, Kerr's family are friends with the third generation of Dongjiang Column veterans.

"I (once) went with my father to China in 2008 and met many of the villagers and soldiers who had rescued my grandfather," Catharine said. "We were able to thank the people for the many risks they took to help my grandfather."

Importance of history

Mel McMullen, one of the few surviving members of the Flying Tigers, recounted the bravery of the Chinese people who risked severe punishment by the Japanese invaders to save the lives of hundreds of downed US pilots in the 1940s.

While governments and politics may have shifted, he said the fundamental desire for peace remains unchanged among people.

"We were friends, comrades and partners in war. Why can't we be partners in peace?" the 99-year-old said at the event.

The Flying Tigers witnessed a remarkable chapter in history when China and the US stood shoulder to shoulder against Japanese aggression.

"When American pilots found themselves in dire straits, they were rescued by Chinese troops who risked their own lives to ensure local stability," Wang Qi, a Chinese consul in Los Angeles, said.

"The story of the Flying Tigers is the glorious history of mutual respect, and joint defense for justice and peace by the Chinese and American people.

"We will always remember those who have made huge sacrifices and contributions. The deep friendship between China and the US established in the war should be inherited."

US Congresswoman Judy Chu said cooperation between the two countries has been crucial throughout history, and the story of the Flying Tigers exemplifies this partnership.

"Let us celebrate this deep friendship and ensure we keep the memory of the Flying Tigers alive.

Flying Tiger Historical Organization Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board
Major General James T. Whitehead Jr.,
United States Air Force (Ret.)

President
Larry Jobe
UAL Retired

Vice President
K. C. Ma, President, Asia Holiday Travel

Treasurer
Patti Jobe, Accounts Manager, Bookkeeper

Secretary
David Thuillez, Sr., Retired
Construction Manager & Architect

Newsletter Editor
Judge Michael Ward
Administrative Lawyer

Board Member
Lydia Rossi
AVGFT Association

Advisory Board Members

Dr. Pedro Chan, Collector/Donor
Flying Tiger Items
Michael Little, Author and Historian

Clay Lacy, CEO/Founder – Clay Lacy Aviation

Thomas K. Jue, CPA

Rob Custer, Retired County Officer/Pilot

John M. Brand, O.D. Optometrist

Major General John Stampfli US Army (Res)

Honorary Board Members

Florence Fang, Honorary Board Chairman

Cynthia Chennault, Daughter of General Chennault

Nell Calloway, Granddaughter of General Chennault

Brig. Gen. James P. Hendrickson, USAF (Ret.)

Paul Crawford, 14th Army Air Force Flying Tigers

Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, Granddaughter General Jimmy Doolittle

Lt Col Darren L. Venters USAF (Ret)

Flying Tiger Historical Organization Newsletter is published quarterly by the FTHO
21133 Jimmersall Lane – Groveland, CA - 95321 (209) 768-5508

<http://www.FlyingTigerHistoricalOrganization.com> larryjobe1@gmail.com

Every effort is made to present factual and accurate information; however, there are always some disagreements in areas of history. If you wish to be removed from our E-mail list, please reply to this E-mail Newsletter and type "unsubscribe" in the subject line.