

FLYING TIGER HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION

a NON PROFIT 501c3 ORGANIZATION

EIN # 26-1492466



14th AAF



AVG

GUILIN, CHINA

HONORING THE PAST □ LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Flying Tiger Historical Organization Newsletter

July 25, 2011

Volume 1: Issue 3

Park Progress

FTHO recently received correspondence from our Chinese counterparts in Lingui County, China, confirming commencement of construction. Li Fushen of Lingui People's Government Tourist Office advises as follows:

Hello! Flying Tigers Memorial Hall with the support of you (Director KC Ma) and the help of the Flying Tiger Historical Organization Board of Directors is scheduled to start today. The memorial's main project is expected to be completed by the end of this year. I am sending some pictures taken at the location of the museum spot. Once again, thank you and Board of Directors for your support and help. I wish you good health. (translated from Chinese)



Plans are studied.

Five thousand
Fire crackers
start construction
Cave in
Background



FTHO is planning a flag raising ceremony at the site on our annual trip to China in March, 2012. FTTHO has three Stars and Stripes destined for the park that were flown over the United States Capitol on December 7,

2010. In addition to the Stars and Stripes, we have obtained a copy of the Flying Tiger “V” flag, which will be raised alongside the American and Chinese flags.



Flying Tiger
“V” Flag

Flags in front
of museum.



We have been in discussions about how to best display historical items and honor those who served. Lingui County administrators will be in contact with us to determine how we can also best recognize donors and contributors of artifacts. We are working with the Chinese on an idea that would allow sponsors to recognize an individual or group and honor them at the park. More on this as it is fleshed out.



Kerry Berry Brogan Appointed Flying Tiger Goodwill Ambassador

The Flying Tiger Historical Organization announces the appointment of actress Kerry Berry Brogan as its Goodwill Ambassador. Brogan is an American actress based in Beijing who plays western female characters in Chinese TV dramas and films. She is also well known for her work in promoting Sino-American cultural understanding.

The appointment comes as the Flying Tiger Historical Organization (FTHO) expands efforts to gain support for the Flying Tiger Heritage Park currently under construction and scheduled to open in Guilin, China in the Spring 2012. The Park is a joint development project between the Lingui County government Guangxi Province and the FTHO. The Park commemorates the contributions of all American aviation veterans called Flying Tigers who fought against the Japanese military in China Burma and India during World War II.

The Flying Tiger Heritage Park is being built on a 123-acre site on the former Yang Tang

airfield. The park includes the original command cave used by General Claire Chennault between 1941 and 1945 as his Operations Center. A large museum, memorial plaza and a Walk of Heroes are also being built in the Park. Symbolically, the memorial aims to bring long-lasting awareness to the story of the Flying Tiger legacy and everything they did to bind an enduring friendship between the Chinese and American people.

Brogan was made aware of the FTHO and its mission to build the park by FTHO Director Michael Bianco earlier this year while she was shooting a Chinese TV mini-series based on the story of the Flying Tigers. In "The Great Rescue", the name of the series which aired last month prime-time on CCTV-1, she played the daughter of an American Consul General stationed in Yunnan during the WWII era. Brogan admits she has been a fan of the Flying Tigers since the start of her career in China over eight years ago, "Sometimes when I'm on set and there is a communication breakdown of some sort or I know trying to meet eye-to-eye may be a lost cause, I remember the Flying Tigers and the impossible tasks they faced, as well as the Chinese who risked their lives to bring them to safety time and time again. I think of all the courage they had and it encourages me to move forward in my work with more clairvoyance and patience."

Since becoming aware of the FTHO project she has taken measures to rally support amongst colleagues and various businesses and associations in both the United States and in China for the project.

Although an official ceremony in recognition of the appointment will be held on the opening of the memorial Park next year, Major General James Whitehead, Chairman of the FTHO Board of Directors, issued a statement thanking Brogan for her acceptance of the appointment and welcoming her to the ranks of the FTHO.

In doing so he said: "We are excited to have Kerry Brogan in this role promoting the mission we have to build the FTHO museum, memorial plaza and Walk of Heroes as well as restore General Chennault's Operating Command Cave. We thank you for your efforts in the past and look forward to your continuing support in the future for the FTHO mission."

Brogan first came to China at the age of 16 for four months as part of a cultural exchange program between Newton South High School and the Beijing Jingshan Academy. While earning a degree in Asian Studies from New York's Bard College she also pursued advanced performance studies at the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing. Soon after graduation, the young American actress relocated to Beijing and has since appeared in no fewer than fifty Chinese feature films and television programs, undertaking most of the significant female roles available to non-Chinese performers and rising to be one of the top actresses in China.

Over the course of her career, she has played both comedic and dramatic parts, portraying a broad range of characters: spies, secret agents, students, scientists, revolutionaries, princesses, girls-next-door and femmes-fatal. She has also played renowned historical figures journalist Helen Foster Snow in the film *One Heart* and committed communist Agnes Smedley in the historical drama *The 1937 Coup of Xi'an*. Needless to say, her acting adventures in China have not only taken her on

a journey through the major periods of Chinese history and to nearly every geographic region of China, but have also matched her up with some of the country's most influential present-day A-list actors and award winning directors.

The FTHO appointment is not the first time Brogan's role in front of the camera as an actress has gained her recognition for her off-screen role as a goodwill ambassador in promoting Sino-American friendship. During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a cover article in the Boston Globe praised Kerry for her work as a "Sino-American cultural ambassador". In 2009 she was invited to Athens, Greece to receive the Goddess Artemis Award from the Euro-American Women's Council on behalf of the Greece Ministry of Culture. Also in 2009 in a Lincoln Center, New York ceremony sponsored by the U.S.-China Foundation commemorating 30 years of Sino-US diplomatic relations, Brogan was the youngest recipient of the Sino-American Friendship Award, receiving recognition of her work in promoting East-West cultural understanding. The award was presented to her by Edward Cox, son-in-law of former President Nixon. Cox remarked "I cannot think of anyone better to symbolize the friendship between the United States and the People's Republic of China than you." This year Brogan serves as the "International Green Ambassador" for the 2011 International Horticultural Exposition, which is presently on-going in Xi'An.

The FTHO Board of Directors anticipates Brogan, in her role as a Goodwill Ambassador, to help in promoting the legacy of the Flying Tigers amongst the Chinese youth through her work in the entertainment industry as well as through various outlets of promotion via the internet. Brogan will also participate in a series of high-profile events in the United States to raise awareness about the Flying Tigers and to advocate greater support for the FTHO mission to build an outstanding memorial park.

Brogan expressed her enthusiasm about becoming a part of the FTHO mission : "This is my first goodwill appointment in any organization. It is truly an honor because I am a huge fan of the Flying Tigers and it is a cause I am willing to work for. I know my generation has come a long way in terms of contributing to a positive and healthy development of U.S.-China relations, but I also know we still have a *lot* of work to do. In the face of so many present-day challenges, it is important to turn to periods of strength in U.S.- China relations to draw lessons for how to face obstacles in the future. So, I want to do everything I can to help the legacy of the Flying Tigers live on for future generations in America and China."

Welcome aboard Kerry and best wishes for continued success in your acting career and especially in your new role as Flying Tiger Goodwill Ambassador.



Long Ago and Far Away...Memories Of the First American Volunteer Group

For Americans, December 7, 1941, marked the commencement of war against Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. For the Chinese, the war with Japan had raged on for years prior. Japanese troops and navy had invaded and controlled China's east coast.

The national government had relocated to Chungking (Chongqing). China's cities had been subjected to incessant bombing. In 1937, Claire Chennault, a retired captain from the US Army Air Corp., became a military advisor and trainer for the Chinese Air Force. He developed a close working relationship with Chaing Kai-Shek and his wife, Madame Chaing. From the outset he realized China had no effective air force. Its planes were old and obsolete against Japanese bombers and fighters. He worked tirelessly to correct this deficiency, and in 1941, together with several Chinese and American contributors, finally was allowed to recruit pilots from the US military and secured 100 Curtiss-Wright P-40 Tomahawk fighters.

Chungking was a modern Chinese city in 1937 before Japan began bombing it...

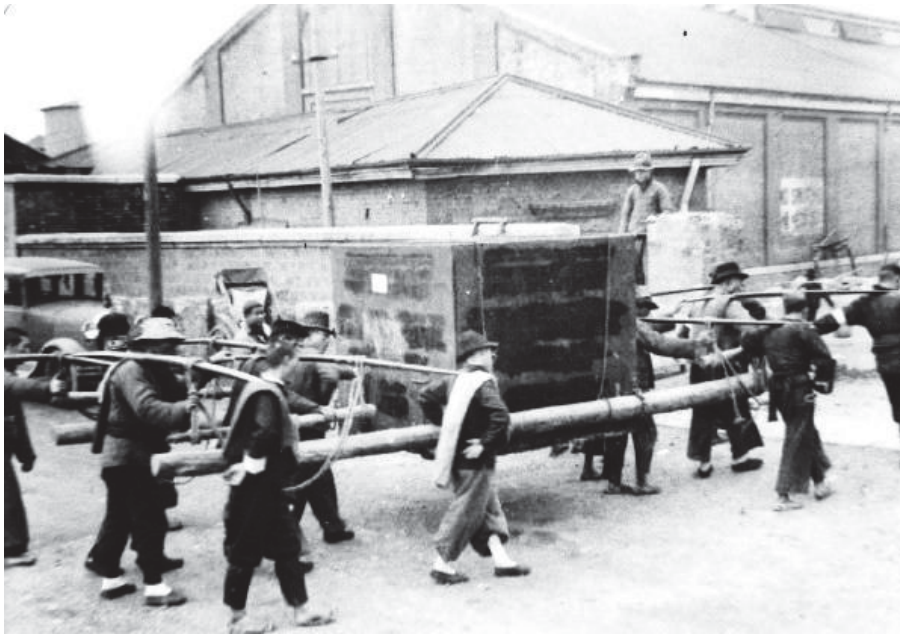


Japanese Bombing of Chungking



In mid 1941, seven merchant vessels under foreign flags set sail from US west coast ports of San Francisco and Los Angeles. Aboard each were men and women of the First American

Volunteer Group, totaling nearly 300 in number. They were discharged at Rangoon, Burma and in neighboring India. A separate vessel would deliver the P-40's and a few spare parts to the Rangoon docks. From there they were removed from crates and assembled in facilities owned by the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMCO) in Rangoon. The planes once assembled were based and training commenced at an air base at Toungoo, near Rangoon. The base at Kunming, China, was to be the headquarters for the AVG, but the air field there due to seasonal monsoons was too muddy for use. Other complications required the AVG to fly missions in Burma as well.



The P-40 of "Duke" Hedman was the last (#99) assembled at CAMCO Rangoon



The signature shark's mouth on the P40's came about when a group of pilots asked Chennault what he thought of it. The pilots had seen shark's mouths in a copy of Illustrated India Weekly, where there was an illustration of a P-40 in North Africa painted with shark's teeth. Chennault saw no harm in the idea and thought it might aid morale. The mechanics painted a leering tiger shark grin, complete with baleful eye, on each plane. (photos here of a P-40 chalk lined for painting, photos of pilots standing by P-40's with the mouth showing, and the North African British version)





While headquartered in Burma, the staff-members and a few pilots wore the "twin peacock's" emblem. It was perhaps the shortest-lived of all, but many photos exist. Photos appeared quite prominently on the cover of LIFE magazine.



The AVG insignia was a Walt Disney creation of the "Flying Tiger"; shown below on the P-40 of R.T. Smith, it was first applied using large decals... the winged tiger fast became a favorite fuselage decoration in 1942 as it embodied the full meaning of the Chinese "Fei Hu" name given to the members of the AVG, however this was not the first use of the tiger motif...



Earlier the winged tiger was to appear in two color variations; first as a "Sweetheart pin" where the tiger had the coloring of the later decal, and then in a hat & shoulder or tunic pin where the tiger assumed a black & gold skin and on the reverse were dated 1941. These were widely worn on garrison caps and uniforms for the remainder of the Tiger's contract... in fact many were worn long afterward, some 'til war's end! Chennault was photographed with one on his garrison-cap and later wore one opposite the CAF wings on his tunic.



The complications mentioned above concerning Burma missions was largely due to Burma's strategic location. The Burma Road was the only road available into Kunming and then Chungking. The Japanese already controlled Indochina and planned to invade Burma to close off that access and perhaps use it themselves. More about the Burma Road in future newsletters.



Chinese mountainous section of the Burma Road.

Flying Tigers training in Burma with the British was classically depicted in the art of Stan Stokes, Flying Tigers and Buffalos.



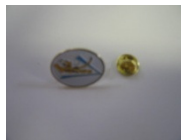
Items Available for Donation to FTHO



Hat \$10.00



Patch \$3.00



Tie Tac \$3.00



Blood Chit
Silk & Leather
\$30.00 to \$40.00



Leather Patches
Different Squadrons
\$20.00 to \$30.00



Back

"T" Shirt \$15.00



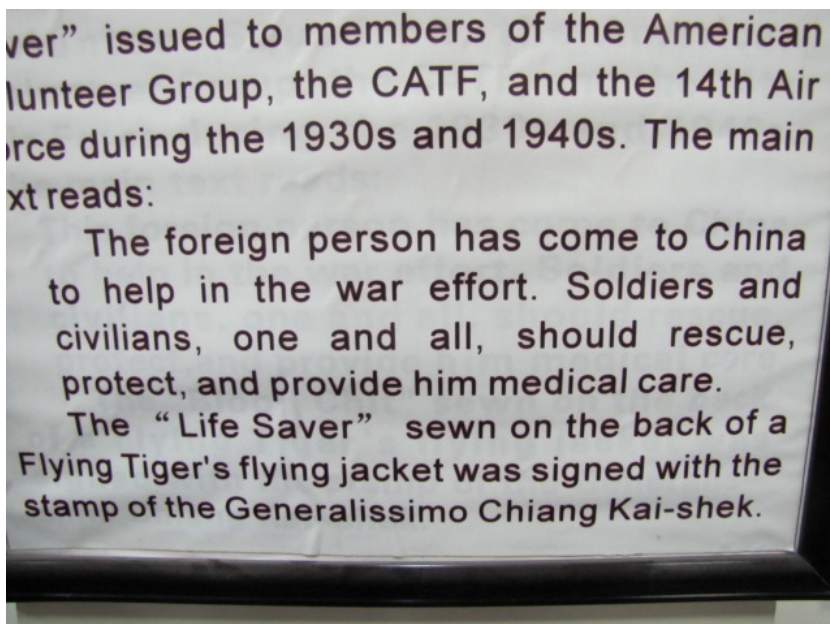
Front

Items may be purchased by sending check or money order to:
FTHO

21133 Jimmerrall Ln., Groveland, CA 95321

Please specify "T" shirt size- S,M,L,XL,XXL. Some women sizes available.
Questions and for list of Blood Chit and Patches available email: larryjobe1@gmail.com.

What does Blood Chit say?



The picture of the blood chit and its interpretation was taken at the Flying Tiger museum in Chongqing. Many Flying Tigers owe their lives to this item which was used extensively in China

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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 at larryjobe1@gmail.com News Letter and type "unsubscribe" in the subject line.