

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

August 3, 2012

Volume 2: Issue 2

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

& SAVE THE DATE

HONOR
VISION
SACRIFICE
INTEGRITY

General
Chennault

SEPTEMBER 21

Help us celebrate and honor those men and women who sacrificed their youth to join with the Chinese defending the world from tyranny.

Where: Golden Dragon Restaurant, Los Angeles, CA
(960 N Broadway)

When: 5:30 PM PDT

What: Dinner-Awards Ceremony-Artifacts Display

Why: Raise funds & Promote *Flying Tiger Heritage Park
*Chennault Aviation & Military Museum.

Who: Flying Tiger Historical Organization, Nell Calloway, General Chennault's Granddaughter,
Chennault Aviation & Military Museum, WW II China Veterans, Widows and Families.

Information: <http://www.FlyingTigerHistoricalOrganization.com>

Flying Tiger Heritage Park Museum Construction Progress

Current Photos record Museum progress

Construction continues on schedule. Interior configurations are taking shape as shown in the following photographs:



FLYING TIGER HISTORICAL ORGANIZATION BOARD **MEMBERS MEET WITH LINGUI COUNTY PROJECT** **MANAGERS**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Travel Aire, at TravelAireTours.com, conducted its 9th Annual American Aviators VIP Tour to China March 22-April 9, 2012. There was a special VIP banquet at Guilin where a Flying Tiger flag and a US flag from the WWII period were specially presented by officers of the Flying Tiger Historical Organization which will be flown at the museum on its future dedication.

Preceding the Flag presentation ceremony in Guilin, General Whitehead, Chairman of the Flying Tiger Historical Organization, President Larry Jobe and board member KC Ma meet with project managers for the museum, which is under construction on the old Yang Tang airfield. Ms. Shu and Mr. Li, project managers, briefed them on the progress of the museum and its expected completion next March.

They expressed a need for artifacts to display in the cavernous building and the FTHO assured them we would make every effort to obtain and supply artifacts. Their plans for the layout and flow of the museum were discussed as well as plans for the completion of the next phase of the project. Cave restoration will be tied to the FTHO raising the American contribution of \$400,000. FTHO has committed to this segment of the Flying Tiger Heritage Park project.

Pictures below of luncheon.



General Whitehead, Ms. Shu, Mr. Li in back ground. This is at the museum site, construction building in back ground.

From left to right Mr. Li, Nina Jobe, Ms. Shu, Larry Jobe, Gen. Whitehead, KC Ma, secretary, after luncheon meeting and discussions.





In front of restaurant meeting participants, FTHO board members and spouse, museum managers and staff, pose for group picture.

FTHO NEW PARTNER

By Major General James T. Whitehead Jr. USAF Ret., Chairman of the Board, FTHO

One of the barriers to our fundraising, comments by prospective donors continually asked the question “what project do you have in the U.S” Of course our answer was our, people to people joint project in China honors the many Americans and Chinese that fought and defeated the Japanese in WWII. That answer never seemed to satisfy the prospective donor. Final result, fundraising has been very difficult.

Approximately two months ago, I was on the internet and came across the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum (CAMP) in Monroe, LA. Immediately I called the Museum and was routed to its director Nell Calloway. After we talked for a few minutes, there was no doubt we were an answer to each other’s need. They needed a China project contact and we needed a U.S. project contact.

Naturally the more we talked, the more excited we became especially when we discovered the FTHO Mission Statement and the Vision of CAMP plus their Traveling Museum project were identical in many ways. The Traveling Museum project will be covered in another article and more than likely written by Nell Calloway.

Nell and I recognized that the Flying Tiger Historical Organization and the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum working together as partners, furthers our common goals of preservation, education and honor past Chinese and American friendships established during WWII. The synergy of this partnership would help strengthen future relationships between our two great nations.

Both Museum Boards were briefed and by unanimous vote the partnership between the Flying Tiger Historical Organization (FTHO) and the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum (CAMP) was established. One point of clarification, CAMP is governed by 2 boards one being a La. State Board chaired by the LA. Secretary of State and also a local Museum Board of Directors.

The memorandum of agreement (MOA) has been signed by all parties.

Joint new, interesting and exciting initiatives are presently being discussed and will be featured in future newsletters.

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

Kunming Awakening

By Phil VanZandt

Kunming was in one sense a wake-up call for the AVG. To be sure the living quarters were a vast improvement over Toungoo and any place in Burma. The weather was pleasant, the climate much drier, and the city a far more vibrant place than even Rangoon. The 4 PM afternoon arrivals on a day when Kunming had suffered two morning bombings suddenly demonstrated a side of war few pilots had witnessed from a thousand feet or more above. The horrible carnage that rained down that morning was now at street-level for all to see... bombed & burned out shops, destroyed homes, and bodies still strewn everywhere – babies, children, mothers, and the elderly who failed to make it to the shelters in time.

The living were only just returning to their almost unrecognizable neighborhoods; to collect their dead; salvage what they could; shovel and sweep the debris, and eventually to repair holes in their streets. Viewing this must have been indelibly stamped upon the minds of each and every American airman & crew-member. However, in post-war exposes by many of the AVG few ever dwelt on or mentioned the effect this produced in them. In a most profound way it affected the psyche of all those original "Flying Tigers" (a name they had not yet earned). There is no doubt it hardened their resolve to defeat a cruel enemy, and for most pilots it triggered a deeply emotional revenge-killer instinct, so necessary to be on the war winning side when outnumbered 10:1 or more.

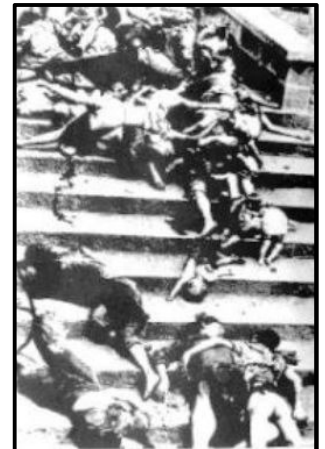
**Kunming children in front
of bomb warning mural**



Japanese "Betty" Bombers Over Kunming



Those who perished



Kunming in late 1941 was a war headquarters in progress.

The old Chinese Agricultural university, a three-floor edifice converted essentially into hostel rooms & suites – yes, suites - and a list of occupants would not be complete if we were to leave out those who had them. The largest belonged to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and his wife Madam Chiang or the “Missimo” as members of the AVG referred to their boss-lady. Then there was one occasionally occupied by a man well known to all, “Vinegar Joe” Stillwell, who brought his driver & cook along generally by Jeep. Finally there was Commander - Colonel Claire L. Chennault awaiting finishing of airfield facilities and an eventual house in Kunming.

It seldom was all smiles!



Near his AVG in temp. office



Last issue we introduced the Greenlaws. There were many other friends of the AVG's. One such was Rose or as most called her “Rosie” Mok. She was one of the earlier arrivals and no stranger to Kunming, but there's also no adequate way to explain her role. She was an ‘old China hand’- the first Chinese & possibly the first woman to wear the Disney-designed “sweetheart pin” – back when the AVG was in Burma... We shall give her the title of “miss popular morale booster” because she kept the AVG – including Chennault and most others- in Booze & cigarettes; she often supplied them transports and trucks.



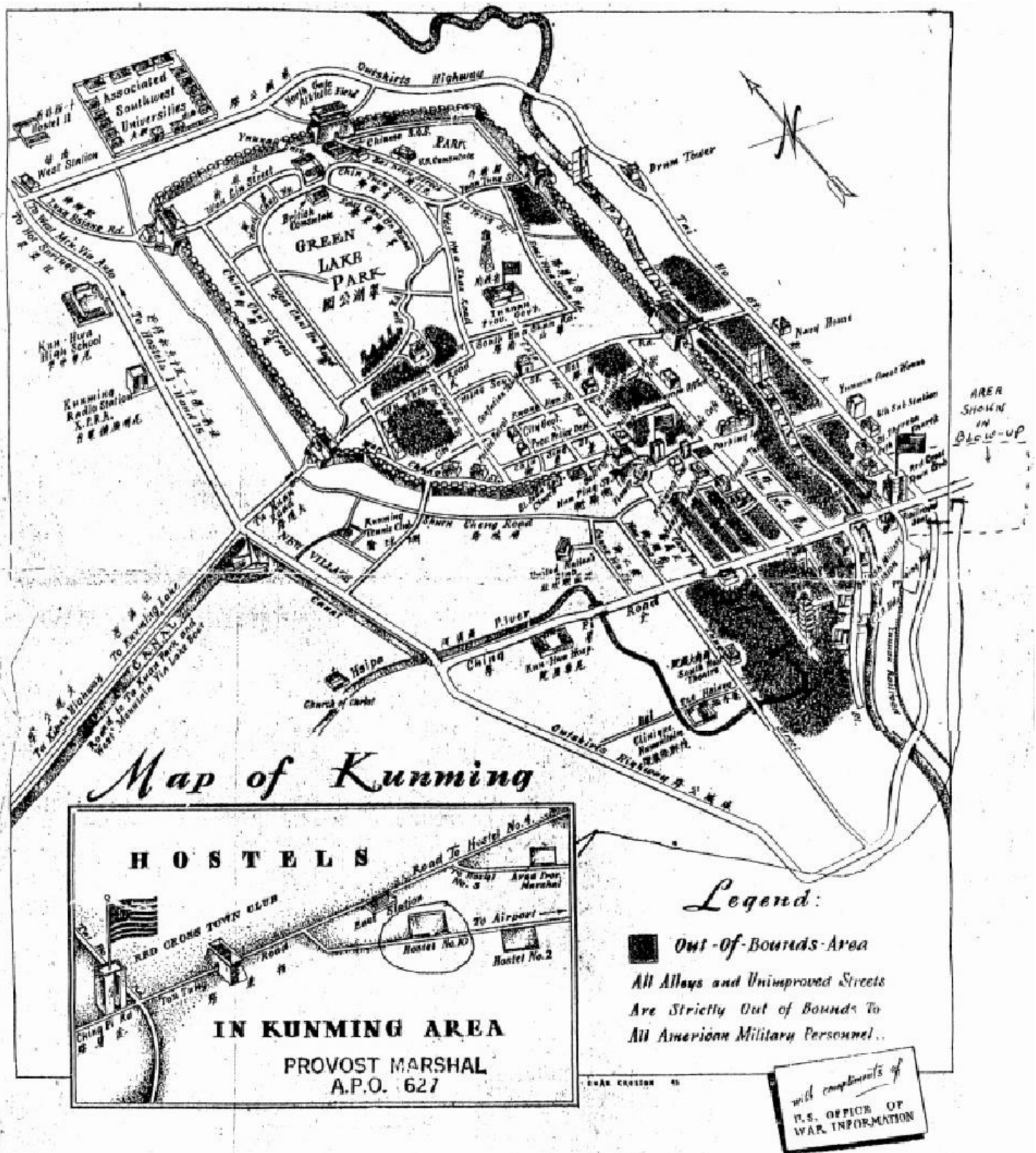
Yes - that's Rosie wearing: Sweetheart pin



Hostel number 1



The map (page 8) hereafter shows in an insert the hostels where the AVG'S were housed. Not all of the AVG enjoyed Hostel #1 as their place of rest like the "Pandas" & "Hells Angels" and while we have no good photos, we should take note that the 1st Squadron, known better as "Adams & Eves" lived out near the airbase at hostel #3, often referred to as a 'guest house' later. To our AVG pilots & crews wearing the 'green apple' this place was better known as "Adobe City" for it's obvious construction of mud-bricks and wooden-raftered tiled roofs. We can all see the grand plan in this – those closest to their P-40s could get airborne faster and fly high-cover while the other squadrons scrambled for altitude against an incoming attack. Good idea, but in their first action against the Japanese bombers it needed some fine tuning. Perhaps this was the reason that Chennault sent the 3rd Squadron back to Mingaladon (after some aircraft swapping) just a day later –or- was it the reports Maj. Harvey Greenlaw brought back about the RAF & the enemy's increased bombing activities. Whatever, they wouldn't be in Kunming for Christmas... but they held 'one hell of a party of their own as the Japs invited themselves' – TO BE CONTINUED –



In the meantime, while Toungoo and Loiwing were both receiving some much-needed patchwork from bomb craters and other damage, final construction of initial Kunming airbase hostels and facilities was to continue well into 1942. We have a few scenes of this as well as various local attractions, AVG members and their Chinese hosts about Kunming and Lake Dianchi countryside to share:



Kunming repair facilities on road to airfield



Kunming Jeep convoy arrives - 1941

Kunming city bus burns charcoal for fuel - 1941



Newly arrived to Kunming – 1941 (near airbase)

Ed Rector

Jim Howard

Bob Neale

Arvid Olson

Adjutant Curtis



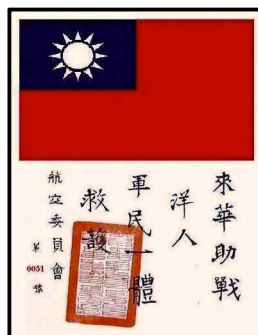
Kunming's Green Lake in the morning stillness - 1941



Old entrance to the Kunming Aerodrome CAF – 1941



Blood-Chits issued all AVG – 1941



How Chinese was read:





*1st Squadron "Adams & Eves"
repair facility near airfield...*

*Flying Tigers
pet Leopard,
"Miss Kitty" -
1941*



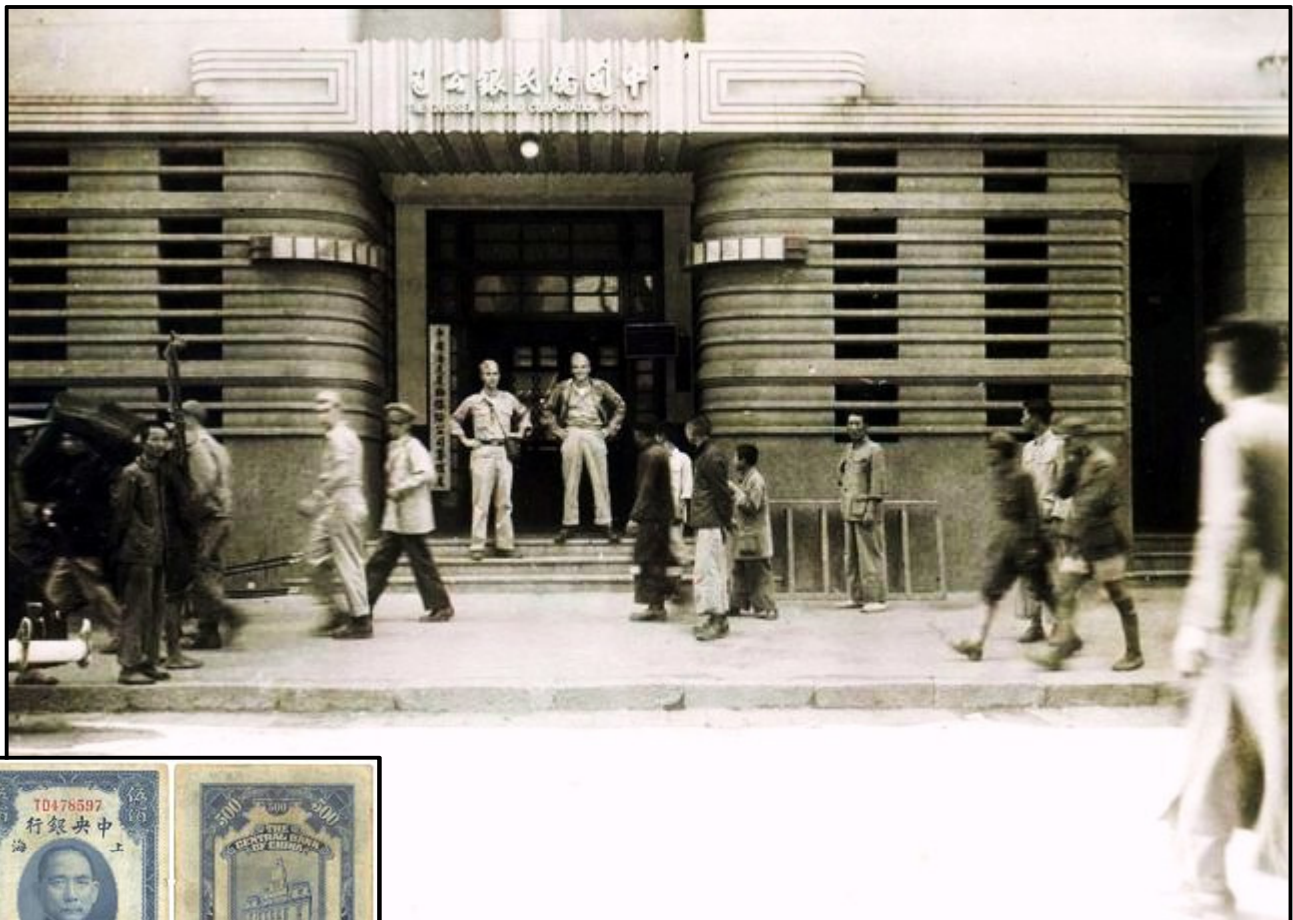
Chennault's staff car

Bank of China – Kunming (nearest airfield) - 1941



Where the AVG “Flying Tigers” cashed their 1930 Central Bank of China – Shanghai Customs Gold Units, each number was worth one US dollar...

Newer modern bank in Kunming downtown center



One 500-CGU was paid for each confirmed enemy aircraft destroyed.

***Lake Dianchi –
west of
Kunming - 1941***



***Airmen
visiting the
Buddhist
Temple –
Kunming
1941***

Comment from the Editor:

Sharkmouth Phoenix

Like the legendary Phoenix, the F8 Crusader shown in the photos rose from its stay in Larsen Park, San Francisco. Graffiti, latex paint, concrete poured in the cockpit--the Pacific Coast Air Museum in Santa Rosa, California, had its hands full in restoration. Sharkmouth, leering eye, and all, it was resurrected, restored, and now has been moved to a hangar for a second restoration. Museum guests can be escorted to the restoration site as long they call in advance to make sure staff is not too busy. *The Flying Tiger lives on.*



From this-

To This



In July, 2012, FTHO welcomed Victor Tong as a new member of the FTHO Advisory Board



Mr. Tong is the founding Managing General Partner of Webplus Ventures, the founder of Webplus, and a “lean” angel investor. Mr. Tong gained his consulting and technical expertise through his experience at Andersen Consulting (now Accenture, NYSE:ACN; airline accounting system development), American Express Financial Advisors (now Ameriprise Financial NYSE:AMP; Strategic Technology Planning), 3M (Part of Medical Imaging Basic Research Lab), and the Superconductivity Center at the University of Minnesota. In 1994, Mr. Tong founded Talent Information Management (“TIM”), a leading internet software and consulting company in Minnesota. In 1997, Mr. Tong successfully sold GoWeb, the internet consulting division of TIM to Dwight and Vance Opperman’s Key Investment. In 1996, the Oppermans sold West Publishing to Thomson Reuters for \$3.4B. Mr. Tong then became the President of Opperman’s KeyTech. In 1999, he was recognized in “City Business 40 Under 40” as the youngest of the 40 future business and community leaders in Minnesota.

After PacificNet was spun off from TIM in 1999, it went public as NASDAQ:PACT in 2000. In 1999, talentsoft sold Web+/Webplus to oati.com. TIM later became *talentsoft* and then reestablished as Webplus. Mr. Tong served as President then CEO of PacificNet until 2008. During his tenure, Mr. Tong acquired many leading Chinese companies such as a few leading telecom service providers and hardware distributors, the largest online mobile and e-commerce site, the largest stock advisory company, the largest Asian slot machine manufacturer in Macau, the largest slot machine and gaming system company in Eastern Europe, Russia, and South America, a large software outsourcing company, and the largest outsourcing call center in HK. He was one of the most active Chinese executives doing bi-monthly road shows in the New York Wall Street and throughout the USA from 2003 to 2007.

Mr. Tong won the Student Commencement Speaker Award and graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science in Physics from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Tong was an adjunct professor at the College of Software of Beihang University, one of the top software colleges in China. Mr. Tong was awarded as one of the 25 people to watch in the 2008 Global Gaming Magazine. He has been a frequent speaker at the Las Vegas and Macau G2E and other gaming conferences, and many IPO/going public, angel investor, Venture Capital, and entrepreneurship conferences in USA and China, including speeches at Harvard Business School, Wharton School, Peking University, Tsinghua University, and Sun Yat-Sen University Business Schools. He has a strong following across Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen hosting monthly 3-hour salons targeting entrepreneurs and angel investors in China!

Mr. Tong is experienced in raising angel, VC, private, PIPE, and public equity and debt financing; leading and advising mergers and acquisitions, due diligence; going public via IPO and RTO, going private; and operating many NASDAQ, OTCBB, and Pink Sheets companies in China. Mr. Tong is very hands on in areas such as corporate strategies, productizing, IT/software, online and traditional marketing/sales, investor relations, road shows presentations, litigations and preventions, SEC filings

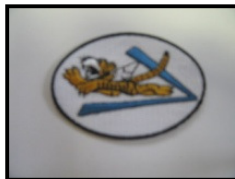
(Ks, Qs), legal structures, commercial contracts, internal and external audit, internal control, and government and security compliances in the USA, Hong Kong, and China. He was awarded as one of the Top Ten New Angel Investor (by "The Founder" magazine) in China. He is the author of a recently published Chinese book "Angel Investment", the first practical guide to startup and Angel Investment in China. Check out his blog at: weibo.com/usavc/.

FTHO Board Chairman Major General James T. Whitehead, Jr. USAF (REt.) expressed particular delight in having Victor Tong join the Advisory Board as he will add considerably to our capability to use social networking and thereby enable us to more effectively broadcast the FTHO mission statement to both America and China. Moreover, FTHO is especially excited to know that he will be able to spread the word about Flying Tiger Heritage Park in Guilin through his excellent networking in China.

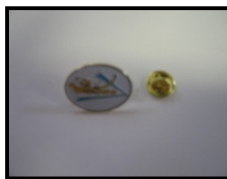
Items Available for Donation to FTHO



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



Patch \$3.00



Tie Tac \$3.00



Hat \$10.00

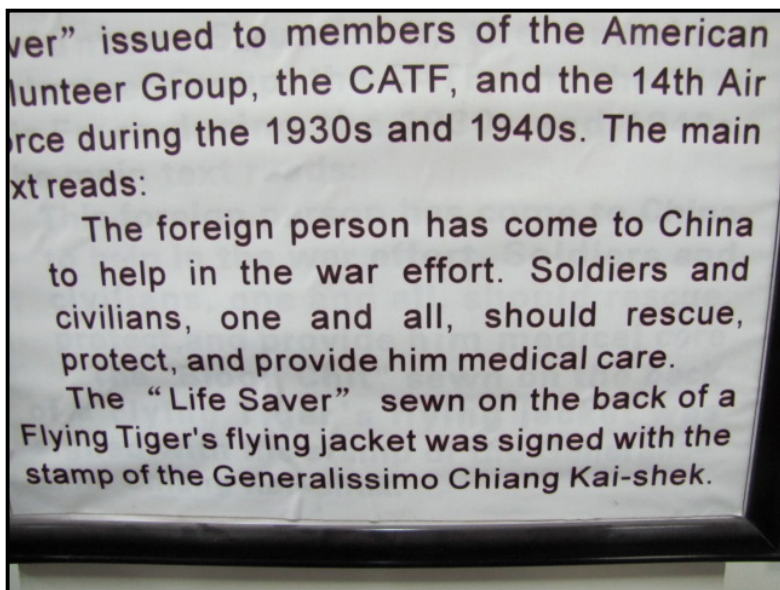


Leather Patches
Different Squadrons
\$20.00 to \$30.00



Back "T" Shirt \$15,00 Front

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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.

Flying Tiger Historical Organization

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