

FLYING TIGERS

American Volunteer Group — Chinese Air Force

REPORT ON OJAI FOR 1974

By Dick Rossi

A "local" gathering of the AVG/CNAC gang took place at the Ojai Valley Inn on the 4th, 5th and 6th of July.

The gang enjoyed a very informal and relaxed get together. With guests and families, there was a turn-out of 70 people. So the group pretty well dominated the Inn.

On Friday evening, Mr. Briggs, manager of the Inn, hosted a cocktail party for all the guests. The AVG/CNAC group took full advantage of it. It was complete with hors d'oeuvres and orchestra and there was plenty of drinking, eating and general merrymaking.

There was a bit of golf played, lies told and liquid refreshments consumed.

It was a pleasant surprise to see "Skip" and "Steve" Adair and their daughter, Stephanie Vickery and her husband, Dan. This marked Skip's first visit to Ojai but we hope not his last.

On Friday, after dinner, we ran off a group of slides, taken at the 1973 reunion and Bob Prescott interpreted them for us.

Bob Smith was glad there were no dues or fees to collect. It gave him more bar time.

Little Tony Rossi had a chance to meet a part of the group. He'll probably never get over it. He certainly seemed to approve. Had more volunteer baby-sitters than he ever dreamed possible. He is still trying to decide between Jules Watson and Roy Farrell as to who takes honors in this category.

Jules had another chore, too. After playing with Prescott, he was seen out on the driving range, saying something about having to get his money back.

The following is a list of members, families and friends:

Don and Neil Codrea
George Burgard with Lee and Tim Burgard
and Maryanne Williams
Roy and Marjorie Farrell
Oliver and Rosemary Glenn
Joe Hall and ex-Navy pilot David
(we missed the last name)
Tex and Maizie Hill
Bus and Metha Keeton
Chuck Older
Bob and Anne Marie Prescott
Rick and Barbara Ricketts
Don and Betty Rodewald
Dick and Lydia Rossi and Tony Rossi
Gerry and Angela Shrawder and
daughter Maria Moulton
Bob (Robert M.) Smith
Oakley Smith

Dick and Betty Stuelke
Andy and Soohie Tung
John and Pam Uebele
Jules and Peggy Watson
Mr. and Mrs. Don Whelpley and son Allan
Mrs. Byron O'Hara
Mrs. Lela Soldinski
Bob and Martha Conrath
Mike Kan
Len and Deirdre Kimball
Victor and Tashia Joukoff and son Phillip
Frank Haven
Ray and Dorothy Parker
Dr. and Mrs. J. Chao
Dr. and Mrs. K. Chen
Abbey Estacion
Carlos Osuna
Mr. and Mrs. G. Steve
Mrs. Alma Cussen



MORE ON THE CHENNAULT MEMORIAL SERVICE

We have some additional information about the Memorial Service for General Chennault that was held in Washington in May.

Thanks to Doreen Reynolds, we have a page from the 14th AFA's Jing Bao Journal and a letter from their President, Myron Levy. This will explain the "China War Memorial Decoration" previously mentioned.

Jing Boa Journal of the 14th Air Force Association

HAO BOO HAO!

LOST CHINESE DECORATION OF WORLD WAR II HAS BEEN FOUND!

After thirty years and the remarkable memory of association member, GRAHAM KIDD (14 Hq.), the orders, awarding every person who served in China a decoration, were found.

AMBASSADOR JAMES E. SHEN, Republic of China, and PRESIDENT MYRON LEVY (74 FS) announced this extra-ordinary event after the memorial ceremonies. (PRESIDENT LEVY has provided more detailed information on this matter elsewhere in this issue.)

However, it is to be noted in this report that the 'CHINA WAR MEMORIAL DECORATION' (Kang Chan Chi-nien Chang) will be presented to all AVG, CNAC, CATF and 14th AF members alive and deceased. In addition, the decoration will be so publicized that non-Association members will receive this award.

Plans for the medal's distribution will be explained in Albuquerque.

AMBASSADOR SHEN presented the award postumously to LT. GENERAL CLAIRE LEE CHENNAULT. It was accepted by THOMAS CORCORAN (HON.), representing ANNA CHENNAULT. In a moving moment, seen but by a few, TOM placed the medal, but for a moment, on GENERAL CHENNAULT's tomb stone . . . signifying the awarding of the decoration.

In turn, a symbolic award to the AVG was made through B/GENERAL JAMES HOWARD — AVG (Medal of Honor), representing AVG PRESIDENT DICK ROSSI. Another symbolic award to the 14th Air Force Association was presented by the Ambassador to PRESIDENT MYRON LEVY.

The order for the decoration, awarded in 1945 at the very close of the war, somehow got lost in the confusion of the troops returning home and the political problems confronting the Chinese Nationalist Government at that time.

14TH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Dear Fellow Member of the Fourteenth Air Force Association:

You will soon receive a decoration awarded you almost thirty years ago by the Republic of China, The China War Memorial Badge and Ribbon.

This decoration, commemorating your service in China with our Chinese allies in defeating the Empire of Japan, was authorized by the Chinese Government at the end of World War II; and Circular No. 166, U.S. Forces, China Theatre, Dated 29 September 1945, was prepared for distribution to provide for issuance of the Award. But the hurly-burly at the end of the war, the rush to return to Uncle Sugar, and the hasty demobilization of our armed forces apparently resulted in the circular being misplaced, lost, or otherwise missing-in-action. Thus the Award was not noted on your records and the decoration was not distributed.

However, a persistent member of our 14th AFA, Graham Kidd, had heard of this Award on his way home through India. He made many efforts to find out about it; all the responses to his inquiries were negative; every official source denied any knowledge of The China War Memorial Badge and Ribbon.

But recently Graham tracked down a copy of Circular No. 166, through Stan "Jabby" Jablonski and Clayton Morse, and sent it to Harold Frazier, who sent it to me.

I made phone calls and I sent out letters to see what could be done about finding out about this medal, suggesting a course of action to ascertain, its existence and, if it existed, to arrange for its distribution.

As a result, Anna Chennault (appropriately the head of our Awards Committee) through a friend at the Chinese Embassy, Minister (formerly General) S.K. Hu, has ascertained that there was (and still is) a China War Memorial Badge and Ribbon, and that members of the American Volunteer Group, the China Air Task Force, the Fourteenth Air Force, other U.S. Forces in China, and allied armed services personnel in China are eligible for the Award if they were assigned or stationed in China for not less than thirty days at any time between 8 December 1941 and 2 September 1945.

We expect that by the next issue of the Jing Bao Journal we can enclose a form for you to fill out to furnish information about your China service. And we hope that several months later we can inform you about arrangements for the presentation of the decoration. Inasmuch as there are some thousands of eligible people, it will take a while to accomplish the acquisition, processing, and validation of information for the award of your medal. Please have patience with us, lots of it, and bear with us in this matter. (You have waited almost 30 years for the medal now, so several more months shouldn't matter.)

We all owe a very substantial vote of thanks to Graham Kidd for his persistence, for his original investigations, and for getting us moving on this project, and to Jabby and Clayton for their help. We are deeply grateful to our own Anna Chennault and to her friend, Minister S.K. Hu, for their locating the long-lost Award and for arranging that we receive it at this late date. We are grateful to the Republic of China for remembering our fateful comradeship-in-arms with the Chinese people during World War II.

And we especially thank you for your membership in the Fourteenth Air Force Assn., which greatly simplifies the task of locating many of the eligible recipients of The China War Memorial Badge and Ribbon.

Yours very sincerely,

Myron D. Levy
President
Fourteenth Air Force Assn., Inc.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THESE PICTURES?

There are only four pictures missing from the AVG exhibit in the San Diego Aerospace Museum, which we dedicated at the 1971 reunion.

If you have any of them or know where we can get them, please let Rode know. The missing pictures we need are of:

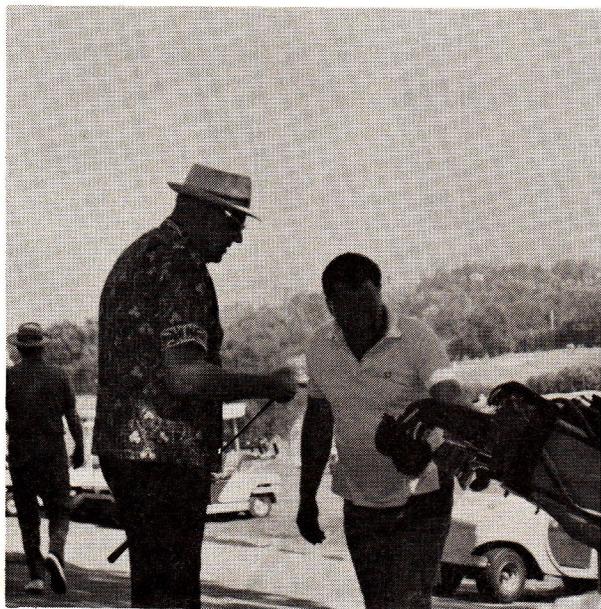
D.W. Danube • G.L. Lum • H.J. Blackwell • I.J. Stolet

ANOTHER OLDTIMER SURFACES

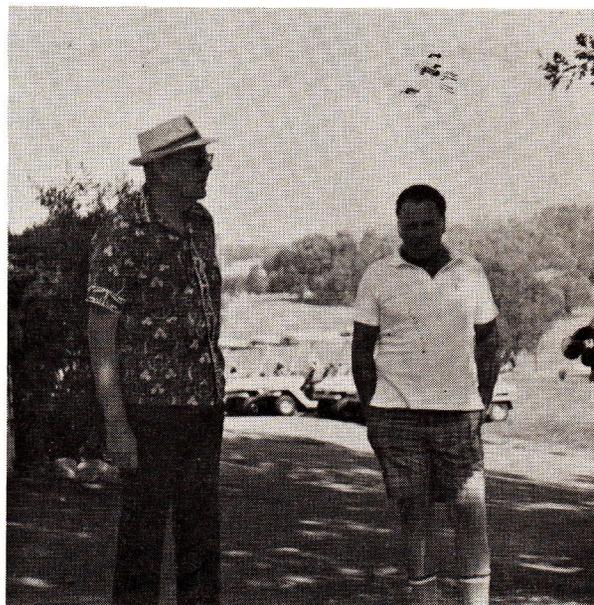
We got a line on John Young and how it happened is, as Joe Rosbert used to say, one of life's little idiosyncrasies. John, who lives at 1016 W. Harvard, Champaign, Ill., 61820, was on vacation in northern Wisconsin. As we got it, he was checking into a motel and laid his wallet on the register. The lady clerk saw his AVG card and remarked that she knew another man who had one of those. The other man was Snuffy Smith. Naturally, they had their own reunion over a toddy or two.

OUT AND OVER AT OJAI

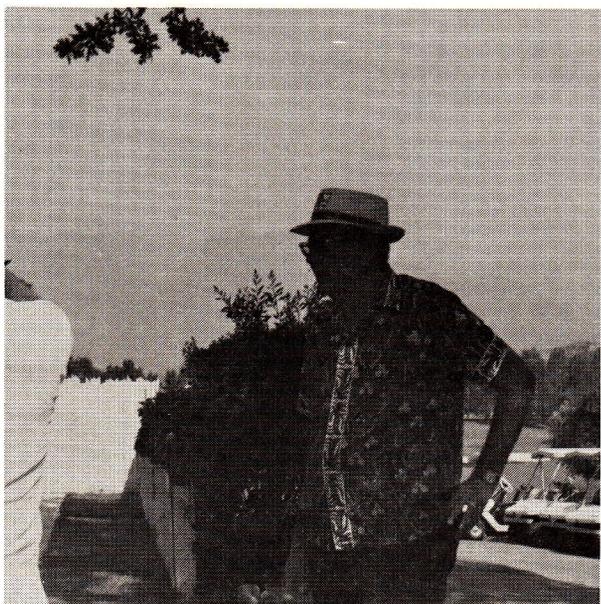
Photos by Rodewald



By God, Tex, it's gone!
↑
TEX HILL ↑
 Bus Keaton



The dirty S-O-B!



Well, Bus, we just gotta go git it!



Yeah, Pam, that's how it was

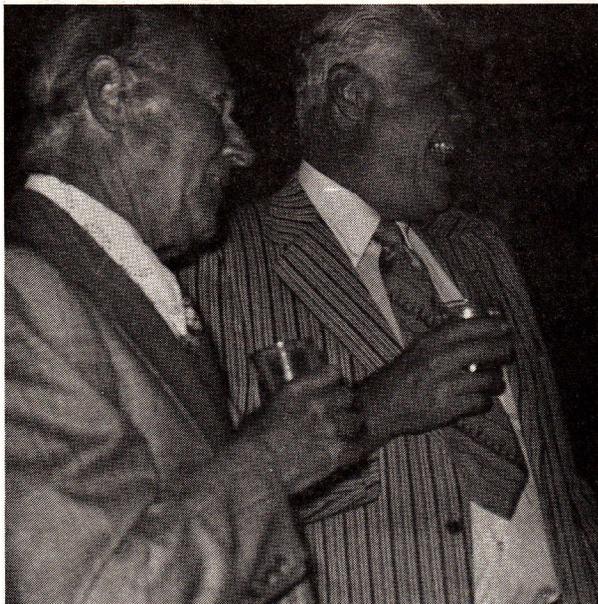


- I know Lydia didn't!

Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly "John" or "Johnnie".



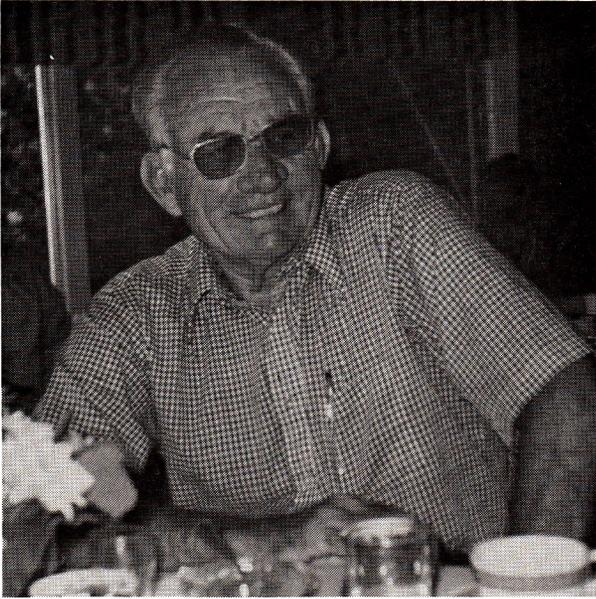
and neither did Jules



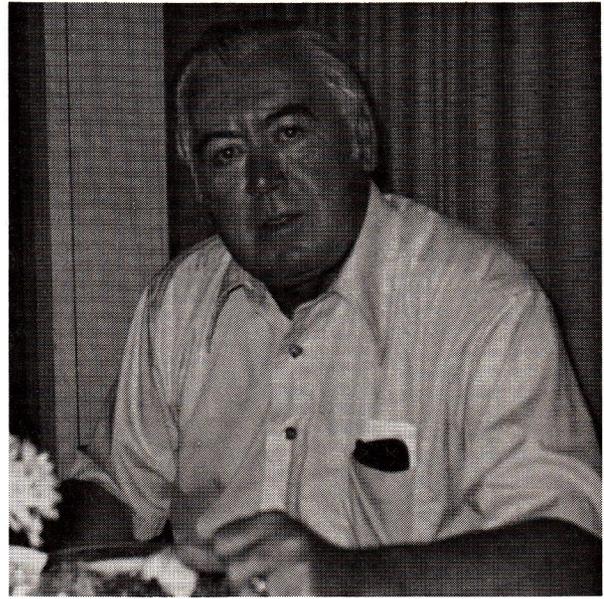
That's a helluva story!



What story?



"Skip" Adair made it



Burgard doesn't believe it



and he brought the whole family, left to right, Skip, son-in-law Dan Vickery, daughter Stephanie Vickery, and "Steve" Adair



Now, who in the hell said that?

*With fond memories of our first AVG reunion.
Don "Rode" Rodewald drove us to our twin Comanche
N8511Y at Santa Paula, CA airport July 6, 1974.
Rode took this photo just before our departure.*

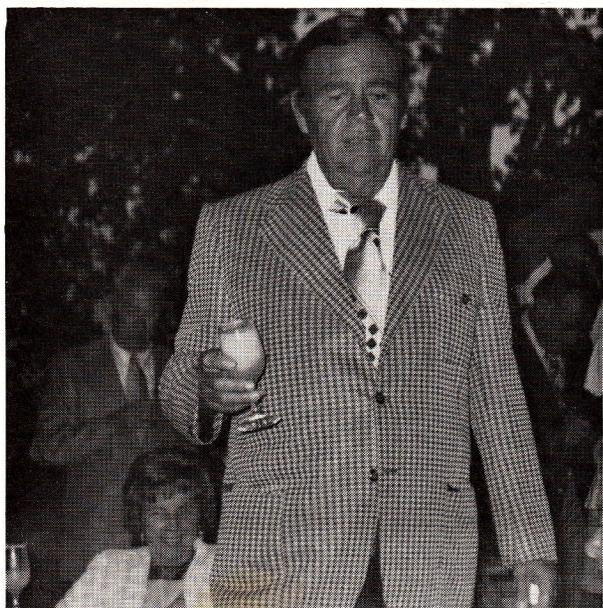
Stephanie Adair Vickery Dan Vickery



Look John, don't kid me!



It was a gasser!



Careful, boy!

Prescott



Good evenin! folks

TEX HILL & MAIZE