

SACO NEWS



ALSACO 57-1

Dear SACO Members:

This is just about my final action on active duty in the Navy. Having accumulated enough "points" to get out of the Navy, according to the doctors, I will be retired about the first of January. Please save my new address as a place where you can reach me after the new year:

Milton E. Miles
6404 Shadow Road
Kenwood
Chevy Chase (15) Maryland
Tel: OLiver 2-1262

The years have been extremely good to me. With the exception of a few bad reverses and humps, this career has been more satisfying than any I could have wished had I been planning every last detail myself. The most gratifying part has been working together with such fine people as those in SACO, Americans and Chinese. From my viewpoint, our work in China, although sometimes very frustrating and often not understood by our friends in the Army, State Department, OSS, or frequently by the Navy, was the greatest and the most unusual experience that I have had in these very busy forty years of Navy life.

I have begun to realize the importance of writing down some of the things that happened to us in China through my eyesight and with my personal memory of what went on. Together with my wife Billy, who has lived with SACO since 1942, we are putting things down in black and white as rapidly as possible. I hope that this will take the form of some magazine articles and end up as a book. It will cover some of the things that have never been printed and probably should not be printed. It is not meant to duplicate anything previously compiled, such as Roy Stratton's excellent volume, or to be a dry chronological history. I will eventually write the official history of Naval Group China for the Office of Naval History. It will be a dry, chronological account and collect dust on the shelves. Right now, I am searching for some of the off-the-path, small episodes that happened to you, episodes that were interesting and should be recounted. If anyone has any of these little untold yarns, I would be pleased to get them in ordinary longhand or otherwise. They might lighten up the published story.

For those who have read Roy Stratton's book, "The Rice Paddy Navy," I urge you to go back and read the foreword that I wrote in it.

The last reunion which was the second one that I attended was very interesting to me. I will come back to the next one to be held sometime in the late summer in 1958 in New York. We hope to have it bigger and better, and with the experience of our organization officers in arranging such a Gombei party, we should have a humdinger.

I hope that we can get more people off the missing list and get their present addresses. Attached is a list of SACO TIGERS whose addresses are still unknown. Please help out in your various travels around the country, your writings to friends, and in every way you can in locating their present addresses, and then drop me a card.

With every best wish for a happy holiday season for you and your family from the Miles Family.

Mary Miles
M. E. MILES
Rear Duke.

