

January 2002

SACO VETERANS

OF
THE RICE PADDY NAVY

Sino
American
Cooperative
Organization

Issue No. 23

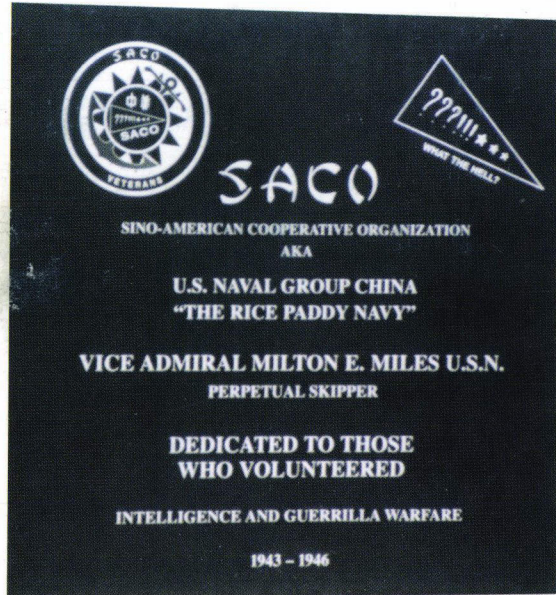
WHAT

Perpetual Skipper

THE

HELL?

VAdm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles



Formal Ceremony
for the Dedication
of our SACO
Plaque at THE
ADM. CHESTER
W. NIMITZ NATI-
ONAL MUSEUM
OF THE PACIFIC
WWII In Freder-
icksburg, Texas on
Friday, 11 May 2001
during the 47th An-
nual SACO reunion.



SACO NEWS

SACO HISTORY

SACO (*pronounced "SOCKO" stands for Sino-American Cooperative Organization*) and was established during WWII by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Highly secret, originally known as U.S. Naval Group, China, it was placed under the joint command of General Tai Li (Head of BIS (Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, i.e., *Intelligence*) as Director of SACO and VAdm. Milton Edward "Mary" Miles as Deputy Director. The Chinese and American members of SACO joined in combined effort to perform intelligence and guerrilla operations. We soon became known by the sobriquet "*THE RICE PADDY NAVY.*" "*SACO TIGERS,*" as they were, and *are*, popularly known, served hundreds of miles behind enemy lines, establishing vital weather stations, coast-watching to report on enemy shipping, intercepting Japanese code, rescuing downed allied airmen and being involved in numerous other military, medical and humanitarian endeavors. The American personnel numbering in excess of 2,500, were *each and everyone a volunteer* from several branches of service, but for the most part, Navy and Marine men.

(Another note of interest: It has been noted that this group may have the unique distinction of being the first American Military Group to ever serve under a foreign leader in time of war????!***

Our group of veterans maintain close contacts through this publication and annual reunions held in various areas of the United States (still dependent on *volunteers* to host the annual get-togethers. The year 2002 will be our 48th reunion????!***)

~~~~~

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

WE HAVE A POSITION IN OUR ORGANIZATION CLASSIFIED AS "MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN." I THINK MOST OF YOU ARE AWARE OF THIS AND IT WAS *NOT* AT HIS REQUEST THAT I'M SEEKING YOUR COOPERATION. PAUL CASAMAJOR IS "KEEPER OF THE RECORDS OF SACO PERSONNEL," BOTH IN LIFE AND DEATH AND YOU KNOW WHAT AN EXCELLENT JOB HE DOES.

MY SUBJECT IN THIS RESPECT IS DEATH OF OUR MEMBERS. MANY OF US DO NOT USE E-MAIL (PAUL AND I DO NOT). THEREFORE, I RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT YOU NOTIFY MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY, IN THE EVENT OF DEATH, THAT MR. CASAMAJOR BE NOTIFIED EITHER AT HIS ADDRESS: 2605 Saklan Indian Drive #6, Walnut Creek, CA 94595-3035 or PHONE HIM - (925) 934-2552 AND PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THE OBIT FROM YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER TO THE EDITOR OF SACO NEWS, Richard L. Rutan - 45-480 Desert Fox Dr., La Quinta, Ca 92253-4214 PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR RECORDS STRAIGHT AND SLIGHT NO ONE.

Ed.

## SACO DONORS

We are so grateful for those who offer financial support and replenish our treasury that we may continue, with your help, to meet the expense of our *SACO NEWS* publication. Current cost is running approximately \$9.00 per copy, plus bulk mailing fee. We want to recognize *everyone* for their generosity and if we goof, sound off! The treasurer advises this list represents the calendar year 2001. 2002 donors will appear at a later date. Ed

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## SACO NEWS

IS A NONPROFIT PERIODICAL PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WWII VETERANS OF THE SINO-AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION (AKA) *U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA*, AS WELL AS, *THE RICE PADDY NAVY*. The publication is funded by annual dues of the members and their donated subsidies.

Please send your comments and newsworthy items to the editor:

Richard L. Rutan  
45-480 Desert Fox Dr.  
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214  
(760) 360-3800

Sharp, clear photos please (no photo copies will be accepted) and your stories are sought and welcomed. Length and/or editing will have to be at my discretion I have no helper.

Photos to be returned if requested.

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

These have been the most difficult of times for both my mother and I and a long, discouraging summer for the most part.

I am sorry for the extended delay in the publication of this issue which should have been late fall, but as all will agree, one's priorities lie in the home-front when needed and the need has been strong. Our ambulatory functions have become pretty restricted and we've been convinced that "age" is upon us. We strive for improvement and feel we shall be successful. 'Nuf said and hope to get this publication on the road by early 2002.

In the meantime, we manage to keep smiling and hope all of you do the same.

## WHY OUR LICENSE PLATE READS "SACO 13"

My story of how 13 seemed to guide my career in the U. S. Navy is really uncanny as you will see in my attempt to recall all incidents related thereto.

It all began in Great Lakes Naval Training Station 1942-43. During the ten weeks we endured Boot Camp, we had weekly inspection of our quarters. If we were 4.0, a replica of a rooster was placed on the roof of our barracks and we gained a "bonus" day which was added to our 10-day leave following completion of Boot Camp. It was unbelievable the major task it was to earn a "perfect" inspection; cleaning the decks with steel wool under our shoes and seesawing back and forth until there wasn't a blemish left, cleaning all the brass fittings behind the toilets 'til you could almost mirror your face and on and on. One time we failed inspection because whoever had made use of the facility last had left one sheet of toilet paper hanging from the roll rather than tightly wound! (I still find myself rewinding dangling sheets!) I think the most outstanding recall I have of our training was the night after we were all asleep, during a nightly check of our quarters, the inspectors found a chewing gum wrapper on the deck. All hands were ordered to "hit the deck!" Because no one, if anyone knew the litter-bug, would "rat" on him. As a consequence, the members of the entire barracks were ordered to dress, report to a parade ground area, weather below zero, ice on the ground, and



do the "goose-step" (squatting position and "walk.") As I recall, this lasted about half-an-hour as we would slip and slide, victims of cruel and unusual punishment.

To continue with the "13 story," we won the rooster 3 times – thus *Thirteen* days boot leave. At the conclusion of a visit home, we were ordered to Madison, Wisconsin to attend a course at the University of Wisconsin. By the time we attended classes, we were the *Thirteenth* Division to arrive and became known as the "Lucky Thirteen." We were graduated from our schooling on July *Thirteenth*. (My mother came by train to attend the ceremony.)

Our next assignment was the *Thirteenth* Naval District – Seattle. We were stationed on Bainbridge Island in the Puget Sound in a secret portion of the island. Ironically, but true, we were ordered to report to Building *Thirteen* on that Naval Base.

Completing our top secret training in the *Thirteenth* Naval District, a few days at home on leave, and then several weeks of orientation in Washington, D.C., we departed Alameda Naval Base for overseas. This was my *Thirteenth* month in service. Dates and incidents of any significance escape me for the most part of my tour in China so I'm not aware of 13 during that time.

We were promised a return to the USA following fifteen months of volunteer-duty in the CBI Theatre and on my return to Wash, DC for debriefing, was ordered to return to Bainbridge, Island, again reporting to Administration Bldg. *Thirteen* and therefore, once more, back in the *Thirteenth* Naval District. In a short time, we were ordered to secure our own living quarters in Seattle and assigned to complete our enlistment time working in the Hdqtrs of the *Thirteenth* Naval District.

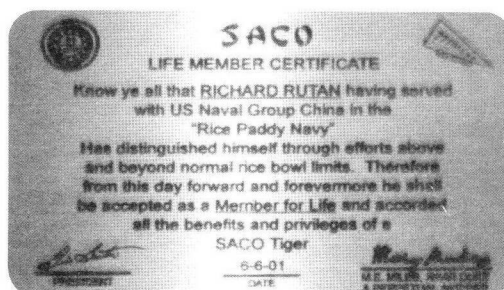
I secured my discharge from the Navy at Bremerton, Washington in the *Thirteenth* Naval District.

When I applied for personalized California license plates, I was informed "SACO" had been previously issued. What would be more fitting than to add *Thirteen*?

Humorous side-note:

Several years ago, while traveling the U.S., my mother and I were checking into a motel in Florida when some people looked closely at the license and remarked, "We're from SACO, Maine, but never knew they had a navy!".

## SINCERE THANKS TO ALL SACO TIGERS



I humbly extend my gratitude to all who offered me life membership in our SACO Organization. I was completely taken by surprise at this action taken by the membership in Fredericksburg, Texas last May and was at a loss for words in expressing my heartfelt reaction by bestowing me this rare honor. Please know that I am deeply touched in that you have extended an apparent affectionate recognition by presenting me a metal lifetime membership "card" (pictured above) to commemorate my participation in support of our great Navy Veterans' group. I accept your distinguished honor in the name of love, for what I have done or shall do, has been and continues as "A Labor of Love." It will always be my pleasure to serve as long as age and health allow. I love all you Tigers????!!\*\*\*

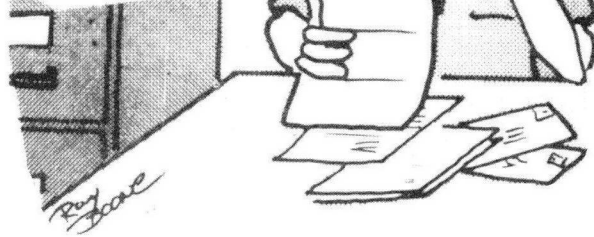
R. L. Rutan

## THANKS TO ALL SHUTTERBUGS

for your pix. I recall Frank Kilmer, Sal Ciaccio, Bill Barte, Jerry Coats, Andy Fleming, as some of the contributors & probably others I've forgotten (I am allowed, am I not, at this stage?). Of course I can always depend on Ellen Booth, whom I think of as SACO's photographer, for volume and always quality photos. Ed.

# MAIL

# CALL



To the editor 7-10-01

This is a very belated thank you for the 5 SACOs (magazines) you sent me. It was so thoughtful of you and meant a lot to me. I sent one to his (Smitty's) brother and a cousin in California, another to a best friend from Smitty's college days and to my brother in Michigan who shares it with nieces and nephews.

Fran Waters wrote a nice long letter telling me all about the reunion in Fredericksburg. Was sorry to read you fell and broke your leg and in hospital for 3 days . . . She says all the women took care of Erma. It's amazing Erma is still able to attend the reunions – she is one grand "lady." Our old lawyer has retired but still helped me in legal matters – even took me out to breakfast and lunch.

Have most of Smitty's clothes packed, but find it hard to call Goodwill to pick them up. So, I have boxes all over the house. Son, Brian, staying with me and is a big help. Had dream about Smitty. I could see him off in a distance with that great smile on his face and I said, "He is so happy, but he's smoking," – a voice said, "It's all right, Elsie, it won't hurt him now – see how happy he is!" Right then I woke up – I miss him, but feeling better knowing he must be with God.

Will keep in touch.

Love, Elsie

????!\*\*\*

To the editor 8-11-01

It has been some little time since the SACO Fredericksburg Reunion – but I hope that your

leg/foot injury has by now healed and you are once again moving about normally.

In June, I had a knee-replacement done and have been "out of commission" for nearly 2 months. Now, it's mending pretty well – another couple of weeks should see me close to "normal."

Please give your mother my regards – hope she's ok, too. It was a pleasure meeting you both.

Best wishes, Frank H. Kilmer

????!\*\*\*

To Erma following reunion in May:

Sure was a pleasure seeing you and visiting with you only a short time. "If friends were flowers, you would be a rose."

Love, Ann Miller

????!\*\*\*

To the editor June 2001

From *NEWS & STUFF* – a publication following the current events of Pilot Dick Rutan:

"Another Richard Rutan? We have a Voyager friend that shares Dick's last name. And his first. He's received calls, letters and requests for interviews over the years, and has passed them along to our office. This Richard Rutan is the editor of a wonderful magazine for SACO (Sino-American Cooperative Organization) Veterans. He ran a wonderful article and photos of Dick and the Voyager in his last issue along with a poem he wrote about being the "other" Rutan."

????!\*\*\*

To the editor 3-27-01

Thank you so very much for sending the copies of the latest edition of SACO NEWS and for your word of support to help our family's effort to secure my father's resting place. . .

My mother was most moved by the lovely and substantial tribute to my father. I didn't know you were going to print both eulogies and devote so much space in Dad's

remembrance. Thank you for this generous memorial.

And thank you for sending that photo to Jack Petersen and identifying the "man on the right" as Thomas L. Chvala. . . I know that Dad and Joe stayed in touch with each other all the way up until the time of Dad's passing, exchanging Christmas cards every year at the very least. . .

Being a media producer, and coming from a long line of Chinese scholars and librarians (and soldiers), I will have tape recorder and video camera in hand to learn as much about Dad through his SACO friends as I can (while in Fredericksburg, Texas). I am also doing research for a motion picture screenplay about SACO, as I have the inroads in the film business to get it moving. . .

I agree with Bill Bartee's letter of Nov. 28: You do a marvelous job in laying out and publishing the SACO NEWS. You indeed deserve a special medal for journalism. Every issue of the *News* is interesting and delightful to read—and this is coming from someone who wasn't "there." . . .

Best regards, Terry Dunn  
????!!!\*\*\*

To the editor 4-6-01

I read issue 22 from cover to cover within 2 hours after I received it. The bad parts were the necrology, including the death of Jimmy Dunn (a fine person), and the reports that some of the gang were having health problems. Who said these were the golden years? The good parts were (1) the kudos to Paul Casamajor (which he richly deserves), (2) the origin of the SACO pennant and the idea they should be made available, (3) Cathy Willis' article on SACO weathermen, Paul's submission on Sailors on Camels, and (4) the pictures.

Over the years, *SACO NEWS* has enable members to recollect with pleasure incidents during their service in World War II of which they can be proud. I cannot adequately express the gratitude each member must feel toward you for devoting so much time and effort to its creation, publication, and distribution.

I am sending a contribution to Wes to defray the expense of future issues. Sorry Dorie and I won't be able to attend the reunion at Fredericksburg, but hopefully, we can do so in 2002.

With best regards, Sincerely, Dave (Clarke)  
????!!!\*\*\*

To the editor summer of 2001:

. . . I have just about finished my book – one hundred-thirty pages about Unit 13. Isn't it strange that *thirteen* of our brothers are deceased? All were members of the Yangtze Unit (Unit 13)

Book publishing is very difficult. I will press ahead, but just now I cannot get copyrights. Lawyers are expensive and go only with the book publishers of note.

We will be going to Alabama soon. We now have six great-great-granddaughters. Their grandfather is my son-in-law, John Ingwersen, USN. He was one of the first atomic sub maker and officer aboard. You can find his name in the Pentagon off and on. I never got around to ask his position; he is very shy; now retired and still brilliant!

Regards to you, Lee Comer  
????!!!\*\*\*

To the editor 4-13-01

Thank you so very much for all your good deeds. The *SACO NEWS* and the write-up entered into the magazine. Also, for returning the picture of Victor playing in the band. If there are any extra copies of the *SACO NEWS*, I would like one more.

Page 53, "The Declaration of Independence" and what happened to the 56 men who signed it was most interesting. Also, the story of James Chieh-ming Dunn. Especially with the recent news of China & U.S. The whole *SACO NEWS* was especially superb – this March 2001 issue. A great job well done. Thank you.

"Hi!" to Erma and my love to you both,  
Priscilla Nichols

????!!!\*\*\*



To the editor 5-31-01

As is obvious, I'm using some of the "ancient" stationery I acquired over the years as a would-be-officer in SACO. I've loads of the stuff, which suggests I didn't do much writing as either an Asst. Secretary or as Vice President. The latter position was stressful as I realized I was but a heartbeat away from what would have been a disaster for SACO. God is good – I never took that beat.

. . . how are you and that leg doing? I just trust you're faring well, that your convalescence has been only positive. I can well imagine how difficult it has been for you . . . but I know you're going to be okay, that you'll literally be up and kicking soon. Just patient yourself – is that a good verb? Don't be harsh when you tell me it isn't. You know how sensitive I am, don't you?

And how's your mother? What a great sport she is! I just love her and that great attitude. I often wonder how my mother would have enjoyed our get-togethers. My mom was quite gregarious and did make friends easily, so she'd have had a good time. Agree? I really think SACO has a great bunch of guys – and their ladies are all right, too.

I keep busy with lots of doings. I volunteer with an outfit that's into helping people with AIDS and their families. I also give Action CARELINE a few four-hour shifts per month – it's a crisis hot line and my role is to listen. Can you imagine me just listening? (I'll do anything to get into heaven.) I also read to a blind lady once per week – this is really a blessing to me since Sandy Smith is just joyful. What a great lady she is! I also care for an elderly cousin who's totally disoriented with senility – she's relatively well-off financially, but her money's spent on keeping her in a nursing home. Of course, I visit the local pub that caters to the likes of myself, Byrne's Tavern (my Living Room).

But enough of me. And of this literary effort. You behave, get better and stay nice. Love to Mom!

Stay nice, Jim Kelly

???!!!\*\*\*

To the editor 3-5-01

. . . I am attempting to do a write-up about our "Kweilin Gang" for use in a book being compiled by Jack Miller. He listed you as one of the people receiving a notice of this endeavor. . .

I think that our group of ten from Calcutta including Lynch, Jansen, and Jerome met the guys from Chungking at the Kunming Airport. We were grounded because of bad weather. After the third day, Harry Day and I went to the Kunming Airport to see if we could possibly get a plane to Kweilin. The person in charge said he would try to find a pilot that would take us. Within the hour after our return to the transient barracks, a weapons carrier arrived to take us to the airport. All was well with a very young pilot and a sergeant until we got over Kweilin when the word was passed that the airport was socked-in and we would have to make a parachute jump. We were fitted with a parachute, lined up inside the plane with our "rip-cords" attached waiting for the big sergeant to release the rear door of the plane. Suddenly, the pilot yelled he spotted an opening in the clouds. He dived through the opening and, once cleared, had to make a sharp turn to avoid a sugar loaf mountain at the end of the landing strip. I believe Harry Day, Bob Geary, Jake Cowan, and Carl Altevogt were the ones in the Chungking Group. With the twelve of us and the four from Chungking, we could maintain a standard watch on the Hallicrafter receivers used to keep a check on the Japanese. . .

Kindest regards, Bill & Bobbie (Hall)

???!!!\*\*\*

To Paul Casamajor 1-25-01

Bill (Durant) was the Supply Officer for SACO in Calcutta. In fact, that's when I met him when I was working for OSS. I remember him doing everything, including begging, borrowing and stealing in an effort to get supplies over the Hump. He was constantly negotiating with Army Transport Command to get supplies on their planes and he cultivated relationships with the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He also organized and sent supplies with convoys going over the Ledo Road. In

Cont'd p.52

## Texas Hill Country Tranquil Setting for 2001 SACO Reunion

Fredericksburg, Texas, a quiet old German Settlement nestled in the area affectionately known as *The Texas Hill Country*, one of Texas' most picturesque sections of the state, was a delightful selection to have an annual gathering. Bob and Delores Sinks, local residents, were terrific hosts in sharing the quaint and most interesting highlights of their hometown and surrounding historic sites. They worked hard (though according to Bob, a true labor of love for him and Delores) as evidenced in all the events that were enjoyed, to see that we would carry with us most fond memories of a peaceful site far removed from the hustle and bustle of major cities. I think we all enjoy the solitude of country-like living especially now that we have somewhat slowed down in these "golden" years. Did I hear a, "Speak for yourself, John?"



And how many civic communities would allow a banner announcing our presence to be displayed across their main street? This must be a "first-timer!" Our thanks and appreciation to the community for allowing us this honor.

Bob and Delores had a well-planned schedule of tours including a visit of the LBJ Ranch near Austin, Wild-Seed Farms, lunch and dancing at Luckenbach, and on Friday May 11, lunch at the Fredericksburg brewery followed by the SACO Plaque dedication at the Admiral Nimitz National Museum.

This was a most exciting, emotional climax to this memorable gathering of the Tigers. Done with full military honors, it was truly a wonderful, solemn program. There was scarcely a dry-eyed Tiger at the conclusion of



L-R: Those of you who served in Kweilin, China will no doubt recall "Tex" Hill, the Flying Ace under command of Gen. "Casey" Vincent of the 68<sup>th</sup> Composite Wing of the U.S. 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force. Vincent was the youngest to make Brigadier General at age 29. Tex has retired as General. To his right is retired RAdm. C. D. Grojean, head of the National Museum of the Pacific in Fredericksburg, TX; most kind and accommodating to our group.

**ceremonies with the playing of Taps. At this point, I would like to again thank RAdm. C. D. Grojean (USN Ret) and his staff at the National Museum of the Pacific War for their kindness and unwavering assistance during our SACO Reunion in their hospitable town.**

**The final night banquet featuring Gen. Hsia Ying-ching, Deputy Director of MIB, as guest speaker and presentation of SACO Medals was enjoyed by all. Final farewells were exchanged as the Hospitality Bar opened following dinner. A special thanks to my buddy, Jack Petersen, for managing the bar in my absence.**

**To Bob and Delores Sinks: Ting Hao! and Si si ni! for a glorious addition in our albums of memories. Ed.**

**REMARKS OF WILLIAM H. SAGER, SACO LEGAL COUNSEL  
AT DEDICATION OF SACO PLAQUE AT ADM. NIMITZ MUSEUM  
OF THE PACIFIC WAR –MEMORIAL WALL  
FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS – 11 MAY 2001**

It is proper that we of SACO gather at this place to honor our organization and to honor the Admiral that all of us know as CINCPAC - - - Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet.

The CBI theatre of war was far removed from Pearl Harbor. In fact, the CBI was almost three times the size of the continental United States. In this vast area of operations there were only three American units that fought the Japanese on the ground. They were OSS Detachment 101 operating in Burma; the 5307<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit better known as Merrill's Marauders also operating in Burma, and the U. S. Naval Group, China (SACO) operating in the interior and on the coast of Mainland China.

Did Admiral Nimitz at his headquarters in Pearl Harbor know that U. S. Naval units existed in China? You bet he did and he was constantly reminded of SACO's activities. Cincpac received weather information and regular skeds from SACO in Mainland China at least six times in a 24 hour period. Cincpac's submarines received communications from SACO's coastwatchers, pinpointing Japanese shipping along the China coast. SACO Navy men were assigned to the Japanese occupied coast of East China to make surveys of potential landing sites for American troops, thus leading the Japanese High Command to believe that a landing on the coast of China was imminent after conclusion of the Okinawa campaign and thus immobilizing a Japanese army of two and half million men in China where they were not available for defense of the Japanese home islands.

The value of U. S. Naval Group, China (SACO) to the American Pacific fleet is inestimable. That is precisely why SACO should have a presence here at this place that honors the Admiral who led our country to victory in the Pacific. The dedication of this plaque likewise honors the men of SACO - - - both American and Chinese - - - who served the Navy. Well done, SACO men!

# BIOGRAPHY OF ADM. MILES WRITTEN AND READ BY SON CHARLES ("C-GOING") MILES AT SACO PLAQUE DEDICATION

Admiral Nimitz Museum, May 11, 2001

Dedication of the SACO commemorative plaque  
Admiral Nimitz Museum, Fredericksburg, Texas  
Comments by Dr. Charles Miles, May 11, 2001.

In September, 1945, sick with malaria, exhaustion, dengue fever, and possibly typhoid, Mary Miles entered Shanghai. He had no clothes except some khaki shorts and shirts on which to pin the stars befitting his new promotion to Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy. He also was the senior Chinese officer present in that port city, a Lt. General in the Chinese army. He and General Tai Li were the co-directors of SACO – Sino-American Cooperative Organization – which consisted of about 3,500 U.S. personnel, a sizeable Chinese army, one junk and one launch. He later insisted that his first flagship had been a Chinese junk on the Sinan River in Chekiang Province about 90 miles upstream from the seaport of Hangchow. At that time, he and a handful of Chinese were surrounded by about 7,000 Japanese.

All of you SACO personnel worked for my father, some of you met him, but few of you knew much about him. Today, I thought you might be interested in the early history of the man himself.

My father was born Milton Edward Robbins on April 6, 1900 in Jerome, Arizona. His 17-year-old mother was riding a horse to the grocery store and was attacked by a mountain lion. He was born almost two months premature and was ten months old before he became strong enough to hold up his head, which was too large for his body.

There is a strong Indian belief, adopted by many in the old west, that a child takes on the characteristics of whatever frightens the pregnant mother. Had this been true, perhaps you would have called yourselves the SACO Cougars.

Part of the time he lived in Jerome. In the mornings his uncles would watch him and remark "Milton, you put your stockings on the wrong foot again." They were the knee-high types and a real chore for a small boy to put on. One night he set the sock with a hole in it opposite the foot from which it had come off and the next morning that joke was finished. The family had hauled in, on the back of a mule, a piano for his mother. Unfortunately this, as well as their house, was washed away in a flash flood. Young Milton lost one of his shoes to the water as he and an uncle scrambled up the hillside.

And they lived at his grandfather's ranch in Yaeger Canyon, just off the road to Prescott. A fond memory of his childhood was sneaking into the small, stone, spring-cooled milk house with a bowl and spoon and skimming off the curds, which he ate with sugar. On July 4, 1905 Milton was sitting on the roof of a shed with a straw hat full of fireworks in his lap. Somehow he dropped the lighted punk into the hat. When his family returned from the fireworks display in Jerome, they discovered that not only had he lost his new hat but their house and a second piano as well.

His father then took wife and son to California in search of an easier life. They followed the oil boom from Rialto to Bakersfield and on to Fresno, where, in 1908, the father was shot and killed in a bar-room brawl. A cousin told me it may have been the only one that he did not start.



Milton had returned to Arizona for several summers. When he was about six years old, he built a small range-rider's log cabin with a hand-cut shake roof. His only help was a piece of fatback which he used to grease his ax as well as his pan for cooking flapjacks each morning. He ran horses along Oak Creek, near Sedona, and south to Montezuma's Castle. His grandfather began to build for him a small herd of cattle and some horses and later registered for him a cattle brand – a *J bar C* on the left flank and an *M bar* on the jaw. He did his best to protect his grandson from a life of poverty in the Navy.

His widowed mother sought work as a cook-manager in the lumber camps around Puget Sound. In 1910 she married Corporal George Miles who adopted Milton because it simplified the pay records. One of George's duties was mining the Juan de Fuca Straits against enemy invasion. He treated Milton as a recruit – speak only when spoken to and at meals sit up straight on the edge of the chair.

Milton delivered papers in Fort Ward and later Port Townsend, where early each morning he rowed out to meet a passing ferry and retrieved his bundles of papers as they were thrown into Puget Sound. Milton's free time was spent with his dog in the woods near Fort Worden. He built a cabin and fed himself by hunting ducks and fishing for salmon.

In 1913, he graduated from Lincoln (grammar) School in Port Townsend as the designated class poet and then left home for Seattle, where he worked his way through Broadway High School. He found employment in the town library, local theaters, and the orchards. One summer was spent on a logging crew as water boy and ax sharpener.

Sons of military personnel were eligible to take the Presidential examinations for an appointment to Annapolis and Milton applied. The war started on his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and he immediately joined the Navy. He was sworn in April 10<sup>th</sup>. The letter directing him to take the exams on the 17<sup>th</sup> reached him too late.

His first sea duty was on the cruiser *Saratoga* as an Apprentice Seaman. In the Gulf of Tehuantepec they captured the German vessel *Sierra*, carrying radio supplies and operators. A party of Marines was dispatched ashore to seize a hidden wireless station. This was his introduction to the spy business.

Late one night in the winter of 1917 he was stationed over the rudder of a motor launch in order to keep the stern clear of debris. The craft was breaking through ice floes in the Hudson River. During one lurch, he fell overboard unnoticed, skidded across the ice, and sank into the river. He swam to a mooring line of an interned German ship and climbed aboard. Luckily that line did not go through the hawse-hole but over the rail. The caretaker warmed him in the engine room and next morning rowed him to the nearby Jersey shore. He walked a long way to the ferry, begged money for the trip across the river and walked to his ship. His executive officer was quite disgruntled because of the added work of undoing the papers relating to Milton's death as well as his War Risk Insurance.

While crossing the Atlantic, there was a disastrous fire onboard and most of the advanced enlisted rates and officers were killed. The new men had to fill the void and Milton became a Bosun – his first spot promotion.

In 1918 he was in Queenstown, England, where he crammed for, and twice took, the exams for the Naval Academy. The ship carrying the first set had been torpedoed by the Germans. He graduated in the class of '22, having been known by the nicknames *Salty*, *Milo*, *Shakespeare*, as well as, *Mary*.

His first sea duty as an officer was aboard the USS *Huron* at Chefoo (now Yantai), China. The executive officer had a sign at his door showing "mouldy" and "cheery" and Mary wrote "so far I've only seen 'mouldy' showing." The Captain called Mary to supervise the changing of the codes and ordered him to dispose of the outdated ones. Mary wrapped them in heavy paper and mailed them to Washington. When they arrived, he learned that they should have been destroyed in front of witnesses or hand delivered to Washington. A letter of caution was placed in his file. He said that it was the first official recognition of his activity as an officer.

During the 1920's and 30's, the scuttlebutt was that those posted to the Far East were not, perhaps, of the best quality officer material. However, in the late 1940's my father and Admiral Arleigh Burke determined that, by their informal count, all of the current Admirals in the U.S. Navy had seen China service.

You members of SACO were instrumental in shortening World War II. Your duties included coast-watching for military targets, weather reports for the Pacific campaign, and sabotage of the Japanese on the mainland. Had not the war been terminated by the dropping of the atomic bombs, and some of you witnessed the glows, the next step would have been to invade China. In preparation, you had surveyed 80 percent of the possible landing sites. These surveys included detailed photographs of the surface and, in most cases, profiles at 100-foot intervals showing the bottom conditions and underwater defenses.

The plaque being presented today remembers SACO, which was a ship that sailed in uncharted waters and accomplished much. A truth within the Navy is that the success of a ship's mission depends upon the strength, hard work, and capability of the crew.

My father was more than satisfied with the performances of each and every one of you, the crew of SACO, and with your achievements. He said much on the matter and two of his words bear repeating:

"Well done."

# PRESENT AT THE UNVEILING OF SACO PLAQUE AT NIMITZ MUSEUM FREDERICKSBURG, TX 11 MAY 2001



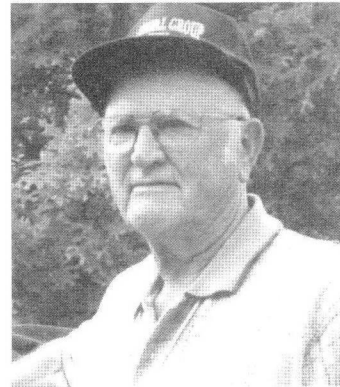
Allen Tanner



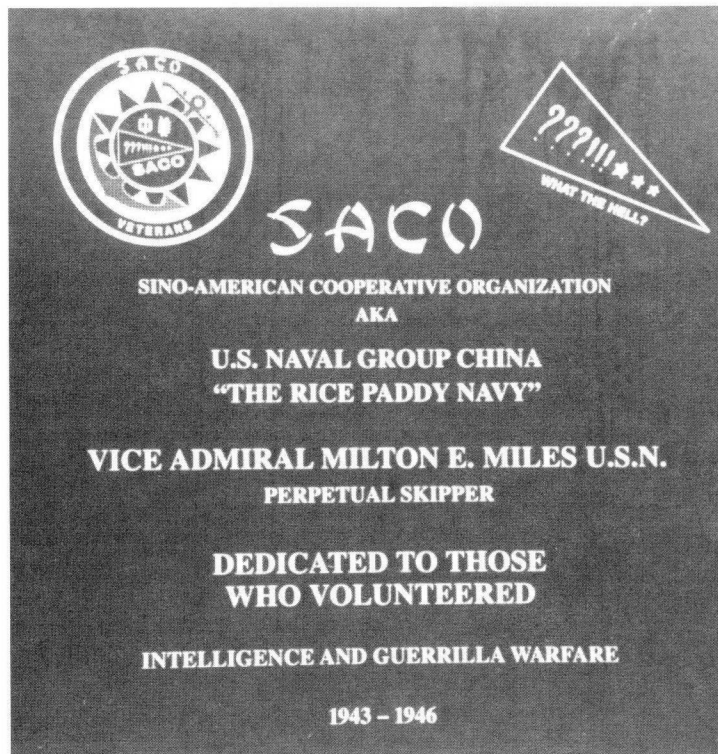
Guy Tressler



Bob Hill



Frank Kilmer



James Whitlock



Terry & Jean Dunn



Richard & Mathilda Bannier



Richard Terpstra



Lola Hill



Bob Hoe



Jack Petersen





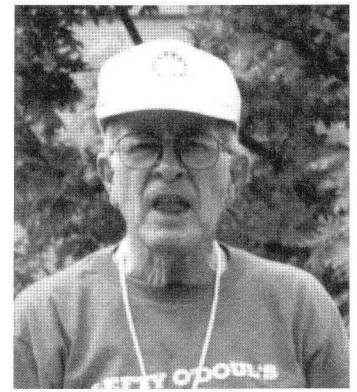
**Bronson "Tex" Howell**



**Gene Huston**



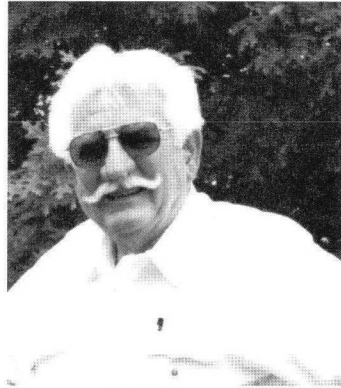
**Dean Warner**



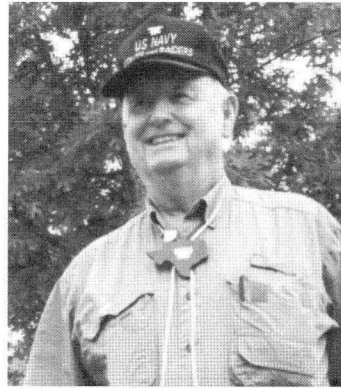
**Jim Kelly**



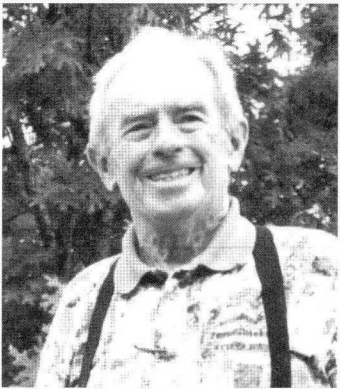
**Bill James**



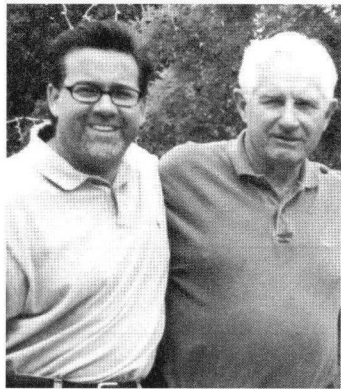
**Bill Bartee**



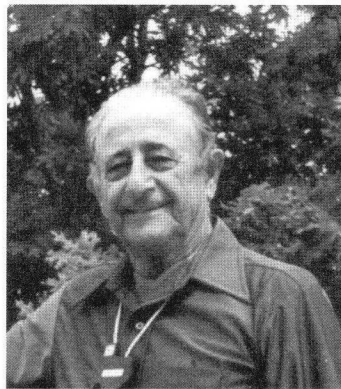
**Charles Sellers**



**George DeMattia**



**Melba Olander**



**Michael Ferguson-LtGen Hsia Ying-ching-Robert Ferguson**





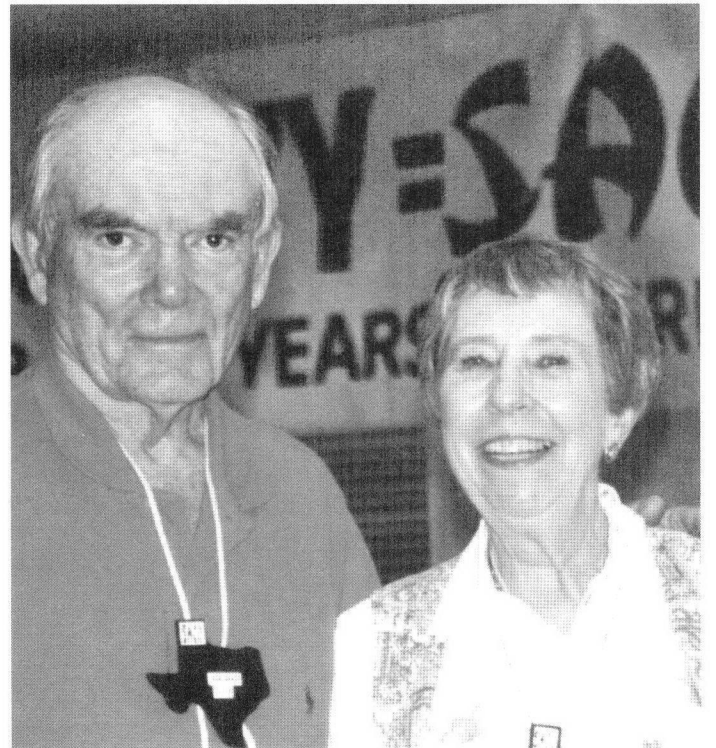
**Guy Tressler-Jean Dunn-Rosemary Tressler**



**"Bud" Booth-Jackie Murphy**



**Ellen Booth-Bob Sinks**



**Bob & Betty Lou Grace**



**Bill White**



**Al Harrison-“Slim” Gilroy**



**Delores,  
son Murray  
& Bob Sinks**



**Gen. "Tex" Hill-Adm. Jeff Metzler**



**Ruby-her cousin Ann McGrath-Lee Alverson**



**George & Doris Barrett**



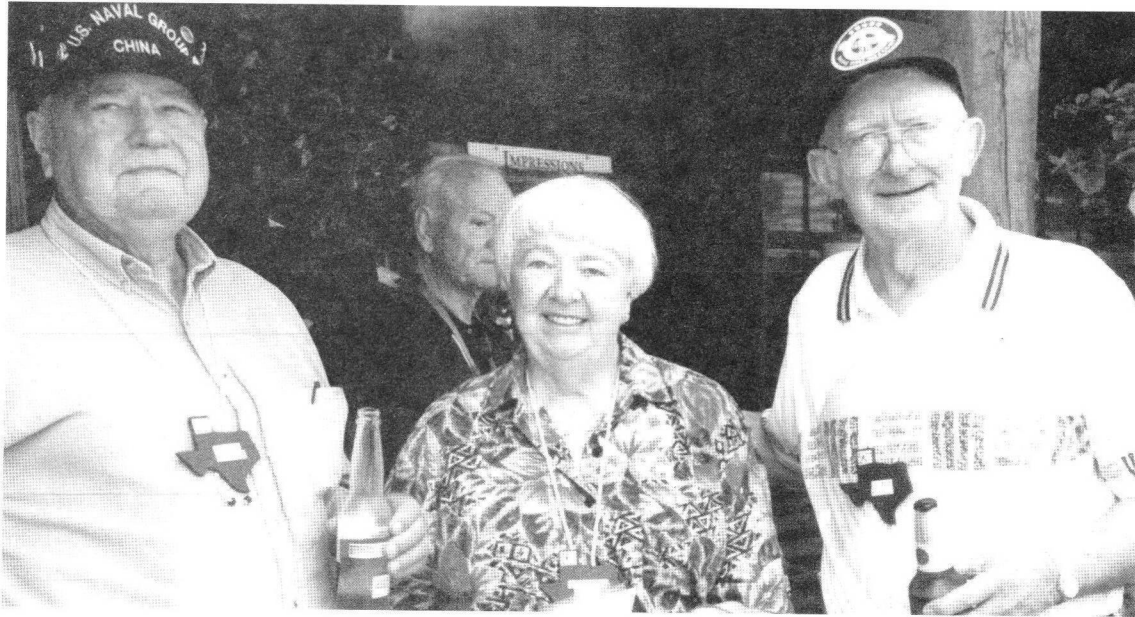
**Jim Kelly-Betty Clark**



**Bud Booth- Jim Kelly**



**Bud Booth-“Tex” Bronson-Sal Ciaccio**



**Gene & Mary Ellen Huston-Bill Miller**



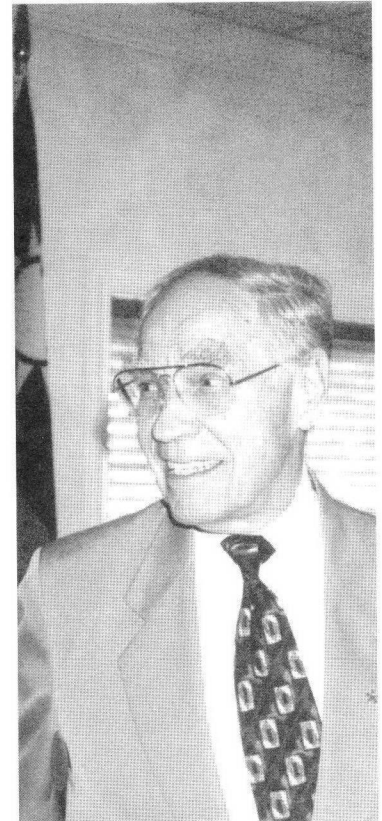
**Priscilla Nichols-**

**Ann Miller-**

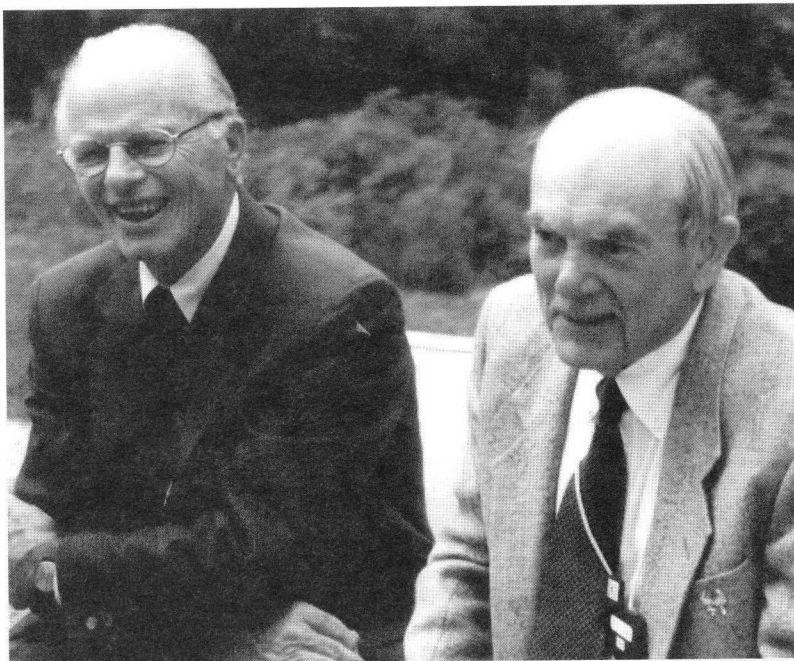
**-Carolyn Inman Arnold**



**Col. Wu Chih-feng - Lt.Gen. Hsia - Maj Wang Pao-sen - Charles Miles**



**RAdm. C.D. Grojean  
USN (Ret)**



**Roger Moore - Robert Grace**



**"Tex" Hill  
Gen. U.S. Air Force (Ret)**



**Maj. Jason Tang**

**Lt.Gen. Hsia Ying-ching MIB ROC**



Registration: Mathilda Banner - Laura Sellers - Beverly Petersen



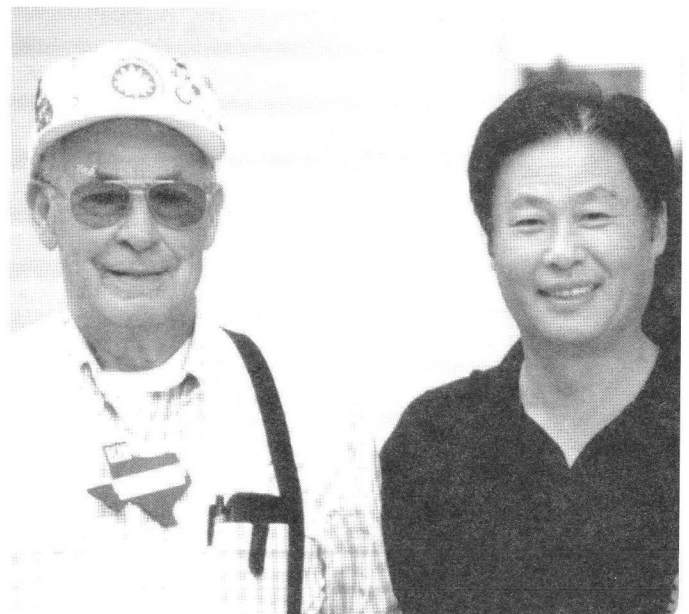
Si & Susie Morris



Ed & Annabeth Carter



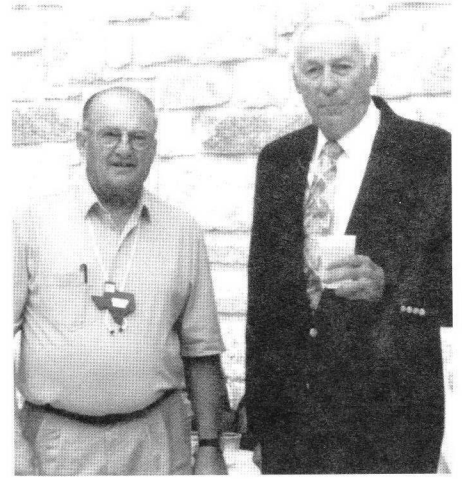
Bill Sager



Bob Clark & Gen. Hsia



**The Charles Groux family  
SACO's largest family gathering**



**Jack Petersen-Joe Fitzgerald**



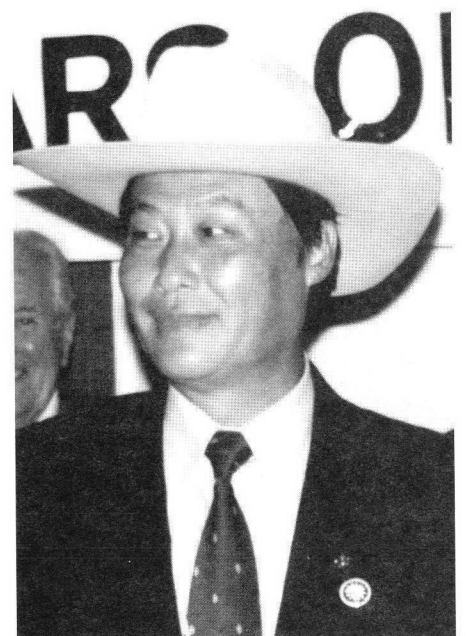
**George DeMattia-Melba Olander-Irene Gats-Willie Baker  
Henry Scurlock-Audrey Baker-Priscilla Nichols-Sue Clance**



**Terry Dunn & mother Jean Dunn**



**Al Harrison-Slim Gilroy**



**Lt. Gen. Hsia**





**Doris & George Barrett**



**Gen. "Tex" Hill & Bob Sinks**



**Peg Fitzgerald**



**Peg Leshner**



**Henry Scurlock & Sue Clance**



**Bob Hoe-George DeMattia-Helen Hoe**



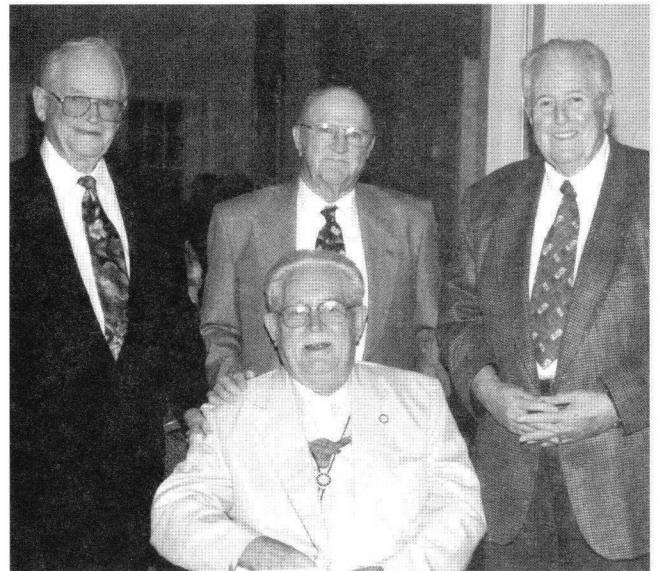
**Betty Lou & Bob Grace**



**Charles "C-Going" Miles**



**Jean & Adm. Jeff Metzels-Slim Gilroy**



**Dean Warner-Bob Hill-Bob Sinks-Hal Bonii**



**Rose Marie & Doug Ray**



Mathilda  
& Richard Banner

Bill Sager

Sissy  
Miller

Sylvia  
Erwin

Jack  
Miller

Bill Bartee

"Wes" Weskamp

Bob &  
Delores Sinks

Bill & Bobbie Hall

Carolyn Inman Arnold



Bill White

Rosemary Tressler

Richard Terpstra

Ed Carter

Charles Miles

Frank & Eunice Gleason

Jim Bash

Doug Ray

Exilda & Charles Groux



Laura Sellers

Bill Hall

Jean & Terry Dunn

Robert Stahlnecker

Andy Fleming

Richard Ceremsak

Bob Thomas

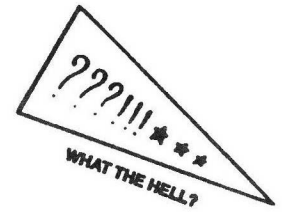
Lee Alverson

Bob Grace



# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION  
U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

## Minutes of the Annual Trustee's Meeting Fredericksburg Inn & Suites Fredericksburg, Texas. May 9, 2001

The SACO Trustee's meeting was convened in room 144 at approximately 2000 hours. Due to the absence of both the president and vice-president, the trustee's appointed the secretary as president Pro-Tem. The meeting was then convened with the following attendees:

|                  |         |                |                   |
|------------------|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| Bill Miller -    | Trustee | Bill Bartee    | President Pro-tem |
| Jack Peterson    | Trustee | Herman Weskamp | Treasurer         |
| Charles Sellers- | Trustee | Jim Kelly      | Asst. Secretary   |
| Jack Miller      | Trustee | Bill Sager -   | Legal Counsel     |
| Robert Hoe       | Trustee | Harold Bonin-  | Historian         |

### OLD BUSINESS

2002 Reunion For purposes of accommodation the 2002 reunion report was presented prior to other agenda items.

Bill Bartee introduced Peg & Joe Fitzgerald who furnished an up-to-date body of information relative to the 2002 reunion set for Cocoa Beach, Fl. October 9 thru 13 have been set as the dates for the 2002 reunion. Joe gave rationale for establishing a fall date in lieu of spring. Peg distributed folders that she and Joe had assembled which contained ch data of interest to attendees of the reunion. They have a tentative agreement to stage the reunion at the Hilton Hotel, Cocoa Beach, having contacted many nearby hotels for rates, accommodations etc. Of significance in this decision is the hotels location on the beach. The room rate is \$85 per room, 70 rooms would be available for SACO. The hotel would make a suite available for the hospitality room and provide meeting rooms and a banquet room, that will easily serve our needs. Joe discussed transportation and a shuttle is available from Orlando airport for \$25 per person. The hotel has a restaurant and café, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily. Two tours are tentatively planned; the Kennedy Space Center is a must. Second tour has yet to be firmed up, Joe assured all that many possibilities exist for SACO's entertainment. Both Peg and Joe answered varied questions from the floor and satisfied the questioners. Joe will make a presentation to the general membership meeting on Saturday.

### MINUTES

Minutes for the 2000 meeting were read by Jim Kelly, assistant secretary. Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes as read with correction to be made on name of associate Patrick M Kelly son of Jim Kelly (correction made).

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** (attachment 1)

Paul Casamajor reported by letter that he has heard from approximately 600 members who have indicated they want to stay active in the organization. He still has 140 outstanding queries from the original 730.

**NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** (Attachment 1)

The following names were submitted to the Trustee's for approval/disapproval as associate members:

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Terence Dunne      | Son of Jimmy Dunn               |
| Bruce Pomahac      | Son of Earl Pomahac             |
| Michael C. Tobin   | Son of Chas Tobin               |
| John A. Bayer      | History Buff                    |
| Richard Maurice    | Jack Miller's Son-in-Law        |
| Joe Wayner         | Robert Stahlnecker's Son-in-Law |
| Alexander Harrison | Friend of Slim Gilroy           |
| James A. Ciaccio   | Son of Sal Ciaccio              |
| Jodi Peterson      | Daughter of Jack Peterson       |

Motion made and seconded that all be recommended to the membership for acceptance as associate members.

**MEDALS**

The following named men were listed as being present to receive medals from the Chinese at the Saturday Night Banquet:

Alex S. Cox  
Robert M. Grace  
Charles M. Groux  
Donald O. Hardenbrook  
Roger D. Moore

Robert E. Stahlnecker was scheduled to receive his medal at the plaque dedication ceremony of Friday. Motion made by Bob Hoe, seconded by Jack Peterson to accept and approve the list as submitted. Motion carried.

**MEDALS FOR NON-ATTENDEE'S TO REUNIONS**

A letter to Casamajor from V. Adm. HSU, M.I.B. (Attachment 2) addresses providing medals to the disabled. In summary the M.I.B. agrees to send those medals, after Casamajor has screened and approved the proposed recipients.

Of the six requests that the membership chairman is now working on only two were approved they are:

Adm. I.J. Galantin  
Kenneth Greene MoMM 1/C

Bob Hoe made a motion that only physically disabled members who were unable to attend a reunion be granted the medal through the mail. Seconded by Jack Miller. (Motion carried)

### NECROLOGY

Paul Casamajor's letter was provided to all and note made that this list was continually changing the older we get. His efforts on the new directory have disclosed many names of deceased shipmates that all were unaware of. An extensive list had just been published in the SACO News. It was agreed that only those shipmates who had passed away since the publication of the SACO News would be read at the membership meeting. They were:

Earl F. Colgrove  
John J. Hortman, Jr.  
Peter J. Hoffert  
Jean Neighbor, M.D.  
Edward J. Russel, Jr.  
Ruben A. Sizemore

### FINANCIAL REPORT

H Weskamp gave the treasurer's report. (Attachment 2)

In summary he reported:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of 1-1-2000   | \$22,360.53 |
| Balance as of 12-31-2000 | \$24,047.76 |

Motion made to accept by Jack Miller, seconded by Chas Sellers. Motion carried.

### REPORT ON COPYRIGHT & REPRINT OF "RICE PADDY NAVY"

Committee member R. Sager reported no more information than noted in his letter dated 10/29/01. He reviewed his efforts to get something done. Bill Miller discussed the committee's work, citing Sager's commendable input. He moved the present committee abandon all efforts to reprint "Rice Paddy Navy" and that the matter be sent to the new board of trustees which would be encouraged to establish a new committee to consider the concept. Miller made a formal motion to "Return the concept of publication of the story of SACO to new board of Trustees for discussion and possible action." Bob Hoe seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Bill Miller made a motion that the \$5,000 previously designated for this project be rescinded, seconded by J. Miller. Motion carried.

### REPORT ON ARMED FORCES REUNIONS

Bill Sager explained the functions of the organization, indicating his positive impressions by his attendance at one reunion of a China Marines organization. He cited costs for use of services incurred when contracted with Armed Forces Reunion, Inc. Sager indicated AFR, Inc generally works with reunions involving approx 400 attendees but felt there might be possibilities for lesser numbers, He told of a situation where a \$20 refund to attendees at the dinner was made after considerable complaints of food were experienced. Sager felt this indicated AFR, Inc. interest in providing satisfactory services. For the present, he suggested SACO should allow reunion chairman to use personal judgment in the use of this approach to conduct of SACO Reunions. Sager will make report to general membership at its meeting on May 12, 2001.



## NEW BUSINESS

Dunn Family Request - A discussion of Terry & Jean Dunn's request for SACO assistance in burial of Jimmie was conducted. The board's sentiments were favorable in providing whatever assistance it could. Ultimately, Bob Hoe volunteered to discuss the situation with Terry Dunn personally since they both live relatively near one another.

## MISCELLANEOUS

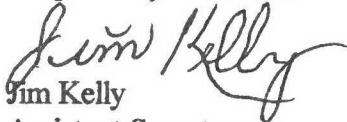
H. Bonin discussed tax implications evolving from SACO dues payments.

A brief discussion of SACO mementos for perpetuation of SACO occurred.

A short discussion relative to the sale of hats, pins, etc. took place with little finalization.

At 0015 hours May 10, 2001. A motion was made by Jack Miller, seconded by Jack Peterson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

  
Jim Kelly  
Assistant Secretary

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## WE CAN ALL USE A LAUGH

How Do You Catch A Unique Rabbit?  
Unique Up On It.

How Do You Catch A Tame Rabbit?  
Tame Way, Unique Up On It.

How Do Crazy People Go Through The Forest?  
They Take The Psycho Path.

How Do You Get Holy Water?  
You Boil The Hell Out Of It.

What Do Fish Say When They Hit A Concrete Wall?  
Dam!

What Do Eskimos Get From Sitting On The Ice too Long?  
Polaroids

What Do You Call A Boomerang That Doesn't Work?  
A Stick.

What Do You Call Cheese That Isn't Yours?  
Nacho Cheese.

What Do You Call Santa's Helpers?  
Subordinate Clauses.

What Do You Call Four Bullfighters In Quicksand?  
Quatro Sinko.

What Do You Get From A Pampered Cow?  
Spoiled Milk.

What Do You Get When You Cross A Snowman With A  
Vampire?  
Frostbite.

What Lies At The Bottom Of The Ocean And Twitches?  
A Nervous Wreck.

What's The Difference Between Roast Beef And Pea Soup?  
Anyone Can Roast Beef.

Where Do You Find A Dog With No Legs?  
Right Where You Left Him.

Why Do Gorillas Have Big Nostrils?  
Because They Have Big Fingers.

Why Don't Blind People Like To Sky Dive?  
Because It Scares The Dog.

Submitted by Jack Petersen

## REGISTERED SACOS AT FREDERICKSBURG REUNION 2001

(Thanks to Jodi Petersen for "deciphering" the SACO Register & forwarding to me on a disc. Ed.)

|                                             |                                                              |                                                          |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Alverson<br/>Dayton (Lee) &amp; Ruby</b> | <b>Clark<br/>Robert &amp; Betty</b>                          | <b>Fleming<br/>Andrew</b>                                | <b>Inman Arnold<br/>Carolyn</b>      |
| <b>Baker<br/>Willie &amp; Audrey</b>        | <b>Coats<br/>Gerald &amp; Mary</b>                           | <b>Fox<br/>Sharon</b>                                    | <b>James<br/>William C</b>           |
| <b>Bannier<br/>Richard &amp; Mathilda</b>   | <b>Coats<br/>Penny &amp; Robert<br/>(Dtr &amp; grandson)</b> | <b>Gats<br/>Irene</b>                                    | <b>Keenan<br/>Joe &amp; Flo</b>      |
| <b>Barrett<br/>George &amp; Doris</b>       | <b>Cox<br/>Alex &amp; Fredda</b>                             | <b>Gilroy<br/>Lillian (Slim)</b>                         | <b>Keller<br/>Paul</b>               |
| <b>Bartee,<br/>L. W. (Bill)</b>             | <b>Demattia<br/>George (friend of<br/>Olander)</b>           | <b>Gleason<br/>Frank &amp; Eunice</b>                    | <b>Keller<br/>John J</b>             |
| <b>Bash<br/>James</b>                       | <b>Dike<br/>Norman &amp; Lyn</b>                             | <b>Grace<br/>Bob &amp; Betty Lou</b>                     | <b>Kelly<br/>Jim</b>                 |
| <b>Bohus<br/>Arthur</b>                     | <b>Dodson<br/>James</b>                                      | <b>Groux<br/>Charles &amp; Exilda</b>                    | <b>Kilmer<br/>Frank</b>              |
| <b>Bonin<br/>Harold</b>                     | <b>Dunn<br/>Terry (son of<br/>Jimmy Dunn)</b>                | <b>Harrison<br/>Alexander(friend<br/>of Slim Gilroy)</b> | <b>Leshner<br/>Peg</b>               |
| <b>Booth<br/>Elwood (Bud) &amp; Ellen</b>   | <b>Dunn<br/>Jean (widow of<br/>Jimmy Dunn)</b>               | <b>Hall<br/>Bill &amp; Bobbie</b>                        | <b>Metzel<br/>Jeff &amp; Jean</b>    |
| <b>Bowman<br/>Nelson</b>                    | <b>Erwin<br/>Sylvia</b>                                      | <b>Hardenbrook<br/>Don &amp; Dorothy</b>                 | <b>Miles<br/>Charles (C-Going)</b>   |
| <b>Brown<br/>Ken &amp; Lillie</b>           | <b>Ferguson<br/>Robert</b>                                   | <b>Hill<br/>Bob &amp; Lola</b>                           | <b>Miller<br/>Bill &amp; sissy</b>   |
| <b>Carter<br/>Ed &amp; Annabeth</b>         | <b>Ferguson<br/>Michael (son of<br/>Robert Ferguson)</b>     | <b>Hoe<br/>Bob &amp; Helen</b>                           | <b>Miller<br/>Jack &amp; Ann</b>     |
| <b>Ceremsak<br/>Richard &amp; Marion</b>    | <b>Fitzgerald<br/>Joseph &amp; Peg</b>                       | <b>Howell<br/>Bronson (Tex)</b>                          | <b>Moore<br/>Roger</b>               |
| <b>Ciaccio<br/>Sal &amp; Jim</b>            |                                                              | <b>Huston<br/>Gene &amp; Mary Ellen</b>                  | <b>Morris<br/>Si &amp; Susie</b>     |
| <b>Clance<br/>Sue(Scurlock friend)</b>      |                                                              |                                                          | <b>Morrison<br/>Bill &amp; Trudy</b> |

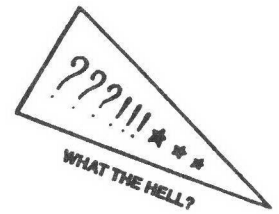
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# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

**Minute of the General Membership Meeting  
Admiral Nimitz Museum Auditorium  
Fredericksburg, Texas  
May 12, 2001**

The annual membership meeting was convened at 0900 hours with approximately 66 members and associates in attendance.

The secretary acting at the pleasure of the trustees as President Pro-Tem called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by our own Reverend Don Hardenbrook, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag by all attendee's.

### MINUTES

Minutes of the 2000 reunion were read by Jim Kelly, assistant secretary. Motion made by W. Baker so approve minutes as read, seconded by Bob Hill. Motion carried.

### TREASURERS REPORT

SACO's financial health was read by treasurer H. Weskamp. A copy of his report was provided to all and is attached herewith as attachment 1.

In summary the report stated:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of 1-1-2000   | \$22,360.53 |
| Balance as of 12-31-2000 | \$24,047.76 |

Motion made to accept the report as read was made by Jim Bash, seconded by Andy Fleming. Motion carried.

### NECROLOGY

The names of six shipmates who have passed on since the last publication of the SACO News was read and a moment of silence was observed in their honor. R. Clark requested that Honeycutt be added to this list. Clark was requested to inform Casamajor of this fact.

### MEMBERSHIP

The efforts of Paul Casamajor on getting a new directory published were announced. The magnitude of the task continues to be compounded by the loss of many shipmates. Casamajor estimates approximately 600 members have indicated their desire to stay active and receive the SACO News. Another 140 have not responded to his inquiries.

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The following persons who had been approved by the trustees as associate members was read:

|                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Terence Dunn       | Jimmy Dunn's, son              |
| Bruce Pomahac      | Earl Pomahac's, son            |
| Michael C. Tobin   | Charles Tobin's, son           |
| Richard Maurice    | Jack Miller's son-in-law       |
| Joe Wayner         | Robert Stahlneker's son-in-law |
| John A. Bayer      | History Buff                   |
| Alexander Harrison | Slim Gilroy's friend           |
| James A. Ciaccio   | Sal Ciaccio's, son             |
| Jodi Peterson      | Jack Peterson's, daughter.     |

Motion made and seconded to accept them to the rolls of SACO. Motion carried.

### MEDALS

The names of the six medal recipients were read with the note that Stahlneker had received his medal at the Plaque dedication ceremony on Friday May 11, 2001 to accommodate his early departure to Guam.

The membership was advised of the trustee's decision that only those individuals who were severely disabled and unable to attend the reunion would receive their medals by mail. It was pointed out that the M.I.B. had congratulated Paul Casamajor in his work in this area and he should continue to filter and approve requests for medals.

Medal Recipients were:

Alex S. Cox  
Robert M. Grace  
Charles P. Groux  
Donald O. Hardenbrook  
Roger D. Moore  
Robert E. Stahlnecker

### TRUSTEES REPORT

Bill Miller gave the report of the trustees meeting. He requested acknowledgment of Bob Sinks great effort and success in this years reunion. Bob was given a standing ovation for a job well done.

Bill Miller then reviewed the trustee's decision to:

1. Pass the concept to renew and reprint "The Rice Paddy Navy" on to the new board of Trustees for discussion and possible action.
2. Rescind the monies (\$5,000) previously allotted for by the trustees for the reprint.

### REPORT ON ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

Bill Sager provided the membership information regarding Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. He gave a thorough talk about the organization's operations, explaining his favorable impressions of its functions. Sager felt that as SACO members got older and less physically capable of doing all the work required of chairing reunions, outfits like Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. might be a favorable source of help to SACO reunion of chairman.

## 2002 REUNION SIGHT

Joe Fitzgerald told the membership of his efforts regarding the 2002 reunion to be staged in Cocoa Beach, Florida. The dates are October 9 thru 13, 2002. He said that fall was chosen rather than spring for a variety of reasons. He indicated that the Hilton Hotel was chosen after he and his wife Peggy had investigated a number of hotels for the reunion. The Hilton's willingness to provide a suite for hospitality room, meeting rooms and banquet facilities and its location on the beach, plus the cost of \$85 was competitive with other hotels in the area. Cocoa Beach is relatively close to Orlando airport where vans are available to transport people to the hotel for \$20 per person. Fitzgerald promised to send relevant information to membership before the reunion, citing a number of activities that can be pursued in Cocoa Beach.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Bob Hill chaired the nomination and election committee in his usual efficient manner.

Election results are as follows:

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Trustee (1 year) | Bill Hall      |
| President        | Bob Sinks      |
| Vice President   | Norm Dike      |
| Secretary        | Bill Bartee    |
| Asst Secretary   | Jim Kelly      |
| Treasurer        | Herman Weskamp |
| Asst. Treasurer  | Willie Baker   |

## MISCELLANEOUS OLD BUSINESS

Bartee announced that C. Miles has copies of Billy Miles' book available for \$30 per copy.

Any alcoholic beverages not used by end of the reunion will be auctioned off to preclude dragging them somewhere to hold for future meetings.

Dick Terpstra discussed availability of flags pennants through a company he identified. He dismissed any possibilities that he would gain through purchase of merchandise from the company. Flags measuring 2'x3' are priced at \$20 (discussion from the floor generated many questions and Dick did his best to answer all in the face of numerous members talking simultaneously.)

## NEW BUSINESS

### Future Reunion Sites

Sites for future reunions have been proposed as follows:

2003 – Indianapolis, IN. (George Barrett, maybe)

Appleton, WI. (Jack Miller)

Secaucus, N.J. (Harold Bonin)

2004 - ????????

2005 - ????????

### FUTURE OF SACO

Bill Sager provided comments re SACO and its future, pointing out the many legal implications that would evolve on SACO's future as a veterans organization. Sager explained some of the ramifications that would develop. The present by-laws would need many changes.

Charlie Miles was recognized and recalled conversations relative to this subject with his mother, Billie Miles. It was the Miles' house consensus that SACO was for and about the men that served in the organization. To that end, it was Mrs. Miles desire that after all survivors were gone the organization would cease to exist thus relieving the organization of any requirement to adjust for that time when no actual members were available. Much discussion took place on the floor relative to this topic. No resolution was made.

To this end Bill Miller has made two elaborate and ornate wooden boxes. One contains two cups made of horn and the other contains cognac to be enjoyed by the last two SACO survivors. A brass plate has been engraved with appropriate words in order that there can be no doubt in the intent and purpose of the sups and cognac. The "*Last Man Club*" is born.

### DUNN FAMILY REPORT

The membership was informed of the Dunn family desire and effort to get Jimmy's remains placed in the Point Loma, CA. veterans cemetery. All attendees were urged to sign the petition to the VA, put together by Terry Dunn. Trustee Robert Hoe will assist the Dunn's in getting to the right people who may be able to help.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

H Weskamp brought up the idea of conferring life membership to Richard Rutan in recognition of all he does for the organization. Robert Sinks made a motion that Rutan be given life membership in SACO, seconded Harold Bonin. Motion carried.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Frank Gleason, close friend of member Charlie Parkin raised the issue of a scholarship fund, allegedly supported by Parkin and its significance to SACO. Barte suggested it be put on the agenda for next years meeting.

Carolyn Inman-Arnold – discussed her progress on the video history of SACO. She acknowledged that it was a larger job than anticipated and the fact that she was a one-man shop made the process even slower. She is making progress and just needs time.

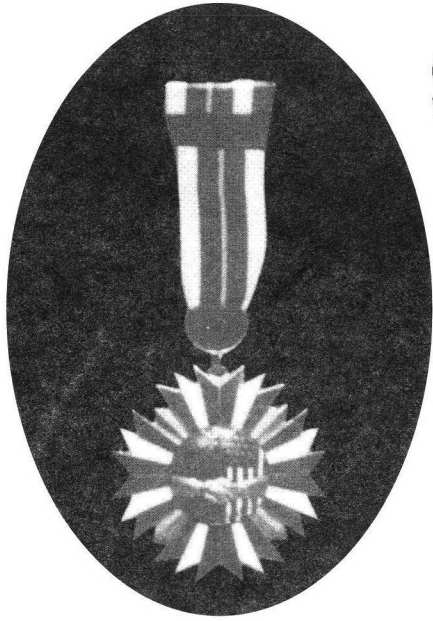
Ellen Booth volunteered to take individual pictures by the SACO Plaque after the meeting.

Robert Sinks took the floor to discuss the bus situation. After receiving much information from members, he promised to let all know what ultimate plans would be taken. He suggested a few alternatives and recommended that pertinent information would be posted on bulletin board in hospitality room.

There being no further business for the good of the order. Dean Warner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Hoe. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 1220 hours May 12, 2001.

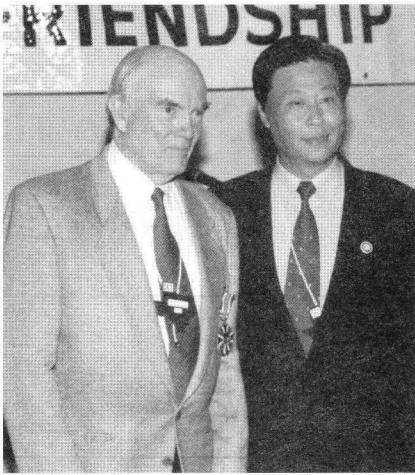
Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jim Kelly  
Assistant Secretary



# SACO MEDALS AWARDED

The night of the SACO banquet in Fredericksburg, TX (12 May 2001), Lt. Gen. Hsia Ying-ching bestowed the SACO Medal upon five of our Veterans present at this reunion. As always, it was a solemn and touching ceremony for these men and those witnessing the event. Robert Stahlnecker of Guam was awarded the medal at the plaque dedication as other commitments did not allow him to attend the banquet.



**Bob Grace**



**Roger Moore**



**Alex Cox**



**Don Hardenbrook**



**Charles Groux**

## BOB HOE DELIGHTS IN EVENTS OF SMALL WORLD

As always, our SACO "reunion" experience at Fredericksburg, Texas was exciting. Although not as exciting as it must have been for you and Erma!! Bob and Delores Sinks deserve an especially strong "Well Done" for their hosting such a successful event! They certainly have made fans of Helen and myself of the great little city of Fredericksburg, Texas! Of course, your accident put a pall on the ceremonies at first, but when we saw how you made such an amazing recovery, at least to the point that you could participate in the last two days, we all enjoyed ourselves much more.

From the large street banner stretched across the main street of Fredericksburg, to the delightful program with its display of the American and Chinese flags, the Hosts did a magnificent job! We were especially impressed with the ceremony at the Nimitz Museum. It was carried out with just the right degree of solemnity for such an occasion and the speeches were apropos and not too long.

Now I must relate several of my personal experiences. As you know, you (Rutan) told me on Saturday that a new SACO reunion attendee, Roger Moore, was looking for me. Roger had been a photographer in SACO during WWII and had taken some photographs in which I was a figure. You told me that Roger was getting a medal so that I could see who he was at that time. After Roger received his medal, I approached him and was greeted with amazement! Roger Moore was a fellow student, football player and fraternity brother at the University of Rochester when we both returned to school after WWII.. I was several years older than Roger, so he began as a freshman while I was returning in the middle of my junior year. I don't ever recall that I knew Roger was in SACO, but I certainly didn't expect to see him again in Fredericksburg, Texas, of all places. . .

The second experience happened at lunch on Saturday at Andy's. There, I met Donald



Hardenbrook and his wife, who were attending the SACO reunion for the first time and who was a medal recipient.. During our conversation, Donald told of his duty after the end of the war when he was assigned to Shanghai, China. Donald had duty on a ship, which was being used to repatriate Japanese back to Japan. I was also assigned to Shanghai as one of the Operations Duty Officers of the Port Directors Office working at the Naval shore headquarters in the Glen Line Building on the Bund. The Port Director maintained communications with ships entering and leaving the port of Shanghai. One night, while I was on duty, a radio message came in reporting that a US Navy sailor had gone berserk on a ship leaving Shanghai and had shot and killed and wounded a number of his shipmates on board as they were sleeping in their bunks.

I asked Donald if he had remembered this event and his reply was that he, if fact, was a member of the ship's crew at the time. He related that he had the experience of looking down the gun-barrel and actually seeing the bullet lodged in the chamber. He and his crewmembers managed to subdue the berserk



sailor, but not before there were a number of the crew killed and wounded. Donald's closest buddy was ripped by a bayonet, also held by the assailant, requiring a large number of stitches to close the wound. The ship was given permission to proceed immediately to the hospital ship "Repose." This was indeed a tragic affair which I know has left a life-long imprint on all those associated with the happening. Donald is now a minister in Idaho, but I don't know whether his experience that night on the Yangtze River had an effect on his chosen profession or not!

Finally, on a less serious note, I had the opportunity of meeting two Admirals, Jeff Metzler, whose father was instrumental in support of SACO from his post in Washington, DC, and Admiral Grojean, who is head of the Nimitz Museum, and a General "Tex" Hill, one of the famous "Flying Tigers" of General Chennault in China during WWII. It turns out that both admirals are friends of a fellow golfer at the La Jolla Country Club - Admiral Ray Peet, original Commanding Officer of the nuclear powered Destroyer Leader, *The Bainbridge*.

I am now trying to help Terry Dunn and his family attain interment of Jimmy Dunn in the Fort Rosecrans Veteran Cemetery on Point Loma in San Diego. I may be looking for some help in confirming Jimmy's record with SACO in WWII if we don't have sufficient documents. I have asked Bill Sager to review our approach and comment on the use of an affidavit to confirm Jimmy's service record. In this regard, if there are any SACO members who served with Jimmy, or have a direct knowledge of his service, I would appreciate if they would let me know so that I can contact them, if necessary.

With kindest regards to you and Erma,



Bob and Helen Hoe

6145 Waverly Ave., La Jolla, CA 92037

e-mail address:

robert.hoe.lajolla.ca@worldnet.att.net

## Jack Miller's Diligent Search For SACO RI's

Jack's endeavors through the years have taken many roads to secure info regarding our Navy buddies. The following is a letter from Philip R. Mayo, Director, Congressional Liaison Services, Wash.,D.C. written to Rep. Thomas E. Petri, House of Representatives, Wash.,D.C. April 25, 2001:

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of Mr. Jack L. Miller, who desires to locate former U.S. Navy personnel.

Under the law, we are unable to disclose the last known address of a veteran to any person unless authorized by the veteran since such information is considered confidential.

It is permissible for us to forward a letter to any veteran for whom we have a current address, provided the letter does not seek to collect a debt. The writer's return address can be included in the body of the letter along with any other information, which the writer wishes to convey.

We regret to inform you that, according to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) records, **Robert F. Jerome and Jack M. Lamke are deceased.**

We have identified an automated VA record for **James E. Miller**. However, that record does not contain any address information for him. Therefore, we are unable to forward a letter to him from Mr. Miller.

We have been unable to identify VA records for **Harry Day** based on the limited information contained in Mr. Miller's letter. We are rarely able to identify a person in VA records by name only. There are over 40 million veterans' names in VA computers and it is generally necessary to have additional information such as the veteran's VA claim number, Social Security number, or Service Serial number.

I am sorry that we cannot be of more assistance at this time.

????!!\*\*\*

## THE U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD IN WWII

The U.S. Navy Armed Guard (NAG) was first formed in World War I, and was deactivated at the end of that conflict.

In 1941, unarmed, neutral American merchant ships were being attacked by German U-boats and aircraft. The 1939 Neutrality Act prohibited Congress from arming U.S. cargo vessels. But after the S.S. Robin Moor was torpedoed and sunk in May 1941, Congress quickly went into action and on November 17, 1941, revised the Act allowing the U.S. to arm its merchant fleet and officially activated the NAG again as a fighting force. Its primary mission was to protect cargo ships and troop transports in theaters of war throughout the world.

Admiral Stark, then the Chief of Naval Operations, placed Commander Edward C. Cleave USNR in charge of the arming program that progressed steadily. The early armament was of WWI vintage. Then, as the sea war continued, the ships began receiving more of the 20mm, 40mm, 3" .50 and 5" .38 caliber guns.

The NAG gunners were trained at Navy gunnery schools established at Little Creek, Virginia; San Diego, California and Gulfport, Mississippi. The Navy radiomen were prepared for additional duties as signalmen at special Communication Pool Schools.

After completing their training, the men were assigned to the Naval Armed Guard Centers at Brooklyn, New York; Treasure Island, California and New Orleans, Louisiana where they would be permanently billeted and received their sea duty assignments.

Then the Armed Guard went to war. Once the merchant ships cleared the torpedo nets, they became vulnerable to attack. Many were sunk in sight of the U.S. coastline. During the voyages, the convoys were endangered by U-Boat wolf-packs, enemy aircraft, surface warships and mines.

On September 27, 1942, the German surface Raider 'J' (Stier, ex-Cairo), while searching for easy prey in the South Atlantic, surprised the outgunned U.S. Liberty ship Stephen Hopkins. In a violent engagement that lasted three hours, both ships went to the bottom. Some easy prey! Forty-two brave American sailors were lost including the gunnery officer Ensign Kenneth M. Willet who was last seen, grievously wounded, helping men to dislodge the life rafts. He was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously. This is just an isolated incident. There were countless others when courageous NAG crewmen and Merchant Marine sailors grudgingly, but unselfishly, gave up their lives delivering much needed supplies to the fighting troops overseas.

On the deadly Murmansk Run, in addition to the U-boats and aircraft, there was the constant threat from the battleship Tirpitz attack group. During one convoy (PQ-17) 23 ships were sunk and 153 men were killed. For their heroism, the Soviet Union awarded guardsmen: Two Orders of Patriots of War, First Degree; two of the Second Degree and six awards of the Order of the Red Star.

According to Official records up to 25 September 1944, the NAG fought in 45 combat engagements for which the men were authorized to wear bronze battle stars on the American, European-African-Middle Eastern; and Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbons. In addition, numerous crewmen received major medals, many posthumously. Also, five U.S. Destroyer Escorts (DE's) bear the names of Armed Guardsmen who gave their lives heroically in battle.

At the end of WWII, the Armed Guard was deactivated. Approximately 144,000 personnel served in the NAG during the war. Of the estimated 6,230 merchant ships they served on, 710 were sunk by enemy action and many more were greatly damaged. The losses could have been much greater if not for the valiant efforts of the U.S. Navy Armed Guard.

*{Forwarded by Harold Bonin who received the story from his friend John C. Shirley, 4128 N. Summercrest Round Rock, TX 78681-1086},*

# SACO MAN AGAIN CAPTURES HEADLINE IN LOCAL PAPER

(From *THE UNION LEADER* - New Hampshire's Daily Newspaper Tuesday, May 29, 2001)

## Veteran recalls secret mission

■ Memorial Day celebrations in Derry, Londonderry and Salem yesterday included parades, wreath-layings and services honoring those who died fighting for their country.

By **TUCKER CORDANI**  
Union Leader Correspondent

**LONDONDERRY** — The only thing soft about Vice Admiral Milton "Mary" Miles was his nickname, World War II veteran Leslie Johnston recalled yesterday.

Now 82, Johnston served under Miles' command in the U.S. Navy during World War II and earned a medal in 1998 from the Chinese Military Intelligence Bureau for his service as an agent with the Chinese Secret Service during the war.

Johnston, who lives on Grove Street in Londonderry, spent yesterday afternoon at American Legion Post No. 27 sharing war stories with fellow veterans.

"You don't see too many medals like this," said Johnston, dressed in the same black naval uniform he wore when stationed in Chunking 60 years ago.

⓪ In fact, only 50 of the 2,500 American servicemen who volunteered with Johnston for the top-secret mission in China received medals for their bravery, he said. The rest of the soldiers and sailors who earned the medals couldn't make it to Washington D.C. when Chinese officials bestowed the medals on the veterans who served in the Sino-American Cooperative Organization.



Tucker Cordani Photo

**LESLIE Johnston of Londonderry, 82, tells the story of his work as an agent with the Chinese Secret Service as part of the United State's "Rice Paddy Navy" during World War II. Behind him is a 1937 Cadillac used as a military staff car.**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Chinese General Chiang Kai-shek established the SACO shortly after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Known in Washington as the U.S. Naval Group in China — and unofficially called the "Rice Paddy Navy" by its members — SACO was placed under the joint command of Miles and General Tai Li, the director of Chinese intelligence during World War II.

⓪ Miles, also known as the "spy who wouldn't die," survived six attempts on his life. At one point, the Japanese put a \$25,000 price on his head, Johnston said.

Johnston recalled how Chinese and American members of SACO performed intelligence and guerrilla operations side by side, several hundred miles behind enemy lines in what was then Japanese-occupied China. The Rice Paddy Navy established weather stations and coastal spy posts from which they intercepted Japanese codes and rescued downed Allied airmen.

"We used to get the American pilots shot down from the aircraft carriers," Johnston said. "They'd crash-land someplace and then they'd see some Ameri-

can with a machine gun over his shoulder saying, 'It's all right. Follow me.'"

Once they were rescued, the downed American pilots were turned into couriers and placed under the direction of Johnston, who sent them back to Washington carrying folders with top-secret information Chinese and American intelligence agents had intercepted from the Japanese.

"We never lost a single package," Johnston said. "The Japanese knew we were there. They knew we were sailors. We could have been shot as spies." But the American servicemen lived in relative safety, he said, undetected by enemy spies because they didn't wear uniforms.

"We never did any saluting, no marching, no parading," Johnston said.

*Editor's Note: (1) I am unaware of an apparent "special award ceremony" in Wash., D.C. in which approx. 2500 SACOs were eligible recipients and their presence anticipated — yet only 50 made the journey. Even 50 is a big number to make it that far from home. Perhaps there*

*Cont'd*

*could have been a misinterpretation in your interview???!!!\*\*\* Also, what medal do have reference to? I'm only aware of the China War Medal and the SACO Medal, both awarded to many at all recent SACO reunions???!!!\*\*\* (2) My recall puts the bounty on Miles" head not at \$25,000 but \$1,000,000.*

***In line with the foregoing article, Les Johnston writes the following in June 2001:***

. . .The activity started after the parade (Memorial Day) when the American Legion invited us members of the VFW to join them at the Legion Hall in the Town Square. Since the Legion members had not been out of the country during a war, (?) they wanted to know our stories.

As I was giving them a rough draft of SACO, the commander of the VFW came to the table with a Union Leader (newspaper) and said, "Les, this is Tucker Cordani and he is looking for the most interesting experience of WWII and since you qualify for that position, you were chosen." We shook hands and I recommended that we go outside where it was quieter and I left my hat on the table. On the way out, I decided to tell Tucker about Vice Admiral Miles rather than what I had done. As I was talking and Tucker was writing as fast as he could, one man in civilian clothes (probably an Am. Legion member) suggested that

Tucker take a picture of me in front of this man's car. It had been a long time since I had seen a 1937 Cadillac and I spread my hands out and asked Tucker how I should pose when the flash went off.

The next day, when I picked up a copy of the newspaper and read the article, I was astounded to see so few errors in the text after all that scribbling and what Tucker had "filled in" back at the office after rushing around town to cover the other assignments. . .

In July, Johnston writes me regarding the Derry, NH "Flying Tigers" - a model airplane club:

Several years ago, I phoned the Flying Tigers to see if any of their members had been in Kunming, China with the actual Flying Tigers. They said that none had, but they just liked the name. When they discovered that I, as a U.S. Navy sailor, had been stationed with them as a member of SACO, they invited me to their next meeting to tell the story

When I inquired as to the number of members

at a business meeting, the reply was, "About 15." When I showed up, there were at least 50 members waiting for the meeting to be over so that I could speak.

I had brought newspapers, SACO NEWS magazines, photos, maps, the Chinese chop given to me by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, ivory chopsticks with my name engraved on them in Chinese and English., the Chinese flag that was sewn inside my flight jacket, etc. Instead of the 15-20 mins. that I had planned, the discussion continued for over 2 hours with plenty of questions from the group and no one left!

When we finished, there was a great round of applause and they all shook my hand. One man wanted to thank all the "Tigers" for what they had accomplished for them in secrecy.

*(I would say Les is proud & happy that he was "discovered" as being the WWII vet with the "most interesting story" Ed.)*

???!!!\*\*\*



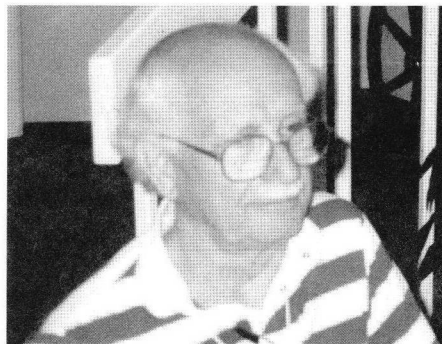
## SACO MAN CAPTURED BY BRITISH

December 1943, it was a so-so day. We had relieved the radio people for lunch and watched the performance of the native Indian whose specialty was a show with two Cobras. Then came someone from the Army. He said the big 6x6 trucks needed drivers and could he recruit some from our station. The job was to move supplies from a ship to a supply depot. The grunt work would be done by the natives, but he needed us to drive the trucks.

I had seen these trucks before. Even rode in many, but I had never been the driver. Due to no experience, I was a bit apprehensive with my decision, but volunteered along with several others. I had the slot from midnight until six a.m. On about my third trip, I discovered I was on a blacktop-road with high revetments extremely close to both sides. Eventually, I came upon some railroad rails planted vertically to stop the progress of anyone who was on the road. Mine was stopped, but I didn't know why nor where I was. My first thought was to back up, however, the view from the rear was obstructed in the mirror by the truck rack. This idea failed. Next, I tried to lean out of the door, look in the side-view mirror and keep my foot on the gas pedal. This was an instant impossibility . . . what to do?

Calcutta was under a blackout at night due to possible air raids. The truck had 'brownout' lights which were virtually useless. I was almost totally in the dark. Obviously, I had to turn around. Anyone having the knowledge of a 6x6 knows that the turning radius of this behemoth of a truck is immense. I had no choice. I had to go for it! I started by closely hugging the right side of the road and turning the steering completely to the left. Then forward a few feet until a revetment was hit. At this point, I cranked the wheels to the right and reversed the truck until a revetment was hit with the rear. I was on a one-lane road. This process was repeated numerous times as the lateral movement of the truck would only be about two feet per cycle. I thought of home and once having to do the same thing with my car. During this totally unplanned adventure, I had no idea that 45 years later, I

would retire from the Engineering Department of the manufacturer of the same kind of truck.



Finally, I made the turn-around and was on my way. After a few moments, I was stopped by three armed military men. The outer two each held a machine gun. The center man wore a .45 revolver and was obviously in charge. I was "ordered" out of the truck. I could see instantly, they were in no mood to converse. Where was I from? They would not believe me. I showed my ID card. They were not convinced. I asked some questions – they would not listen. After more questions from them, with my answers falling on deaf ears, I suggested they call the Provost Marshal's office for my identification. No one on duty there knew of any Navy men stationed in Calcutta. By 3:30a.m., I had been locked in the "brig" for well over an hour. I was beginning to get restless and disgusted. After all, I thought we were on the same side. Two more hours had lapsed and presently an MP appeared. He said that due to this special situation (?) and the importance of my presence in the area (?), a special investigator had made contact with the Navy. Thus, I was properly identified and free to go. There were no apologies as I was the "guilty" person. I was escorted to my truck by the same three armed men. As I stepped on the running-board, I asked, "Just where am I, anyway?" The leader said, "You are in the middle of Fort William, the biggest Ammunition Dump in the Far East!" *I HAD UNKNOWINGLY BREACHED THEIR SECURITY.*

*Jack Miller (1-28-01)*

*Note: There were other drivers for this mission, but I do not know who they were – perhaps someone can refresh me.*

## DAUGHTER OF ARMY AIR FORCE MAN EXPRESSES GRATITUDE TO SACO

(The following is from letters to the editor and Paul Casamajor in May 2001)

To the editor: I have been referred to you by Mike Cannon (one of our own SACOs). I am interested in your publication (SACO). I have been researching my dad's Army Air Force training and overseas duty. He (Richard Peil) was with the 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 58<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, 42nd Bomb Group (Hellbirds), 770<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron. They were based out of Piardoba, India (WWII) with forward bases in the Chengtu area of China.

To Casamajor: This is a request to you for permission to join your organization as an associate member. Enclosed find my check for \$20 to cover the membership fee. My desire to join is to hopefully learn more about all of you. I have read "*A Different Kind Of War*" by VAdm Milton Miles. It is a book that must be read over and over. I am amazed at the detail. On 19 December 1944, my dad was coming back in B-29 #452 on a return trip from a bomb run on Omura (Japan). The aircraft developed a fuel transfer function, which forced the crew of 11 to abandon the plane. They bailed out over occupied China (close to Lo Ho Kow.) I have all the coordinates and daily log of the navigator if you would like me to send that info to you. My dad, the bombardier, was injured in the bailout. He hit one of the rock walls built around the rice paddies and suffered a broken leg and severe concussion. The flight engineer also broke his leg hitting one of the walls. My dad was rescued by a peasant (Chinese) farmer and carried quickly to his house. The flight engineer

and co-pilot were also rescued by a family and taken to their home.

The navigator and pilot were rescued by a unit of Naval Group China.\* Without them they would have been captured by the Japanese troops who were close. It took all of them a few days to get to the field hospital and mission (with a missionary family from Norway) at Lo Ho Kow and a C-46 came in and evacuated the entire camp (Red Ball Alert) – all of the crew got out.

I just found out all of this recently – my dad died in 1991 – out of the country – all his WWII albums and memorabilia have never been found. I have been trying to reconstruct his AAF training and overseas experiences.

\*Naval Group China – no one believed me, so I did my own research and found the book "*A Different Kind of War*" by Milton Miles (Vice Admiral) – I kept asking to find a SACO veteran and finally I "met" Mike Cannon via e-mail and he sent me to you! I hope you allow civilians like me to subscribe to your magazine. I wish more people knew what you did for all of us. I am forever grateful to all of you for rescuing my dad's crew.

Thank you for all the crews you saved and all you sacrificed for us. I will never forget – It is my honor to contact you!

With deep affection and respect,

Jody Smith

6915 E. First St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
(e-mail: fhmjs@earthlink.net)

# Story Of B-29 Bail-out over Jap Occupied China 19 December 1944

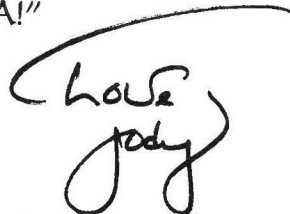
**Love and gratitude of a daughter was the catalyst that urged Jody Smith to pursue and document the events that lead to that fateful day experienced by her father, Bombardier Richard Peil and the other members of the plane crew. Another rescue involving SACO, this is a fascinating, factual report of the crew of the B-29 obtained through the perseverance of Jody.**

A letter to the editor accompanying this story:

"Here's some data on the bail-out and my dad's original crew and the crew on board (w/ a couple of replacements) on 19 Dec 1944. Hope you can make it into something that will work for your newsletter.

"Hope you like the maps (old maps of Far East which accompanied her story). I love maps; I look for old ones all the time.

"Thanks for everything - What a great group of human-beings you all are - NAVY GROUP CHINA!"



On 31 August 1944, AAF crew #43 received special Orders No. 244 from Headquarters, Clovis Army Air Field, Clovis, N.M. These orders sent them packing to Kearney, Nebraska where they would stage for overseas duty and pick up their brand new B-29!

Crew #43

P 1Lt Walter Romaniw  
CP 2Lt Herbert E. Brooks  
B 2 Lt Richard Peil  
N 2Lt Melvin C. Falk  
FE 2Lt Stuart T. Olsen  
RO Sgt Raoul Zavala  
CFC Cpl Thaddeus F. Maliszweski  
RG Sgt Howard L. Anderson  
LG Sgt Royce G. Hostrander  
TG Sgt James O. Robson

On 4 November 1944 they received Operation Order #279 for Overseas Duty from Headquarters, 1103d AAF Base Unit, Caribbean Division; ATC, Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Florida.

*(Itinerary of flight to Piardoba, India omitted. Ed.)*

To continue on with the experiences of my dad (Lt Richard Peil) and the B-29 crew he was Bombardier on in the CBI, we move to 19 December 1944:

So much has happened to them since they landed in Piardoba with their brand new B-29 *CELESTIAL PRINCESS* (#42-244590. I don't know specifics, but according to Mel Falk, the Navigator, they had flown a few Hump missions and missions to Bangkok and Rangoon. As December 19 approached, they had already lost their Radio Operator, Raoul Zavala, who had been pulled on to Walt Huss's crew on Mission #19 to Mukden, Manchuria. This was 7 December 1944 and it turned out to be a horrible day for the 462<sup>nd</sup> BG. There were many losses this day. Walt was one of only two survivors of that B-29 *HUMPIN' HONEY* and he was a POW until the end of the war.

Mission #22 to Omura, Japan had them ready

with a couple of replacements to the crew. John (Bill) Selleck, Jr., had replaced the regular copilot Herb Brooks when Herb took ill. T.Sgt Tom Drew had replaced Raoul (KIA 7 Dec 1944) as radio operator and Sgt. Wade Scantin had been added with the "new" crew position of radar operator.

Crew on B-29 #42-63452 Mission #22 on 19 December 1944

P 1Lt Walter Romaniw  
CP 2Lt John (Bill) Selleck, Jr.  
N 2Lt Melvin C. Falk  
B 2Lt Richard Peil (Jody's dad)  
FE 2Lt Stuart T. Olsen  
RO TSgt Thomas O. Drew  
V Sgt Wade Q. Scantin  
CFC Cpl Thaddeus Maliszewski  
RG Sgt Howard L. Anderson  
LG Sgt Royce G. Hostrander  
TG Sgt James O. Robson

They picked up another new B-29 that had just been ferried over from the US to Piardoba on 18 Dec 1944. It had a fuel transfer problem on the trip overseas, but a Boeing rep had said they had fixed it. They flew over the Hump to A-5, in the Chengtu area of China. Kuinglai was our (462<sup>nd</sup> BG) base there.

Here are Mel Falk's notes:

Set out at 2:00 AM 19 December 1944 from our China base to bomb Omura, Japan aircraft factories. Proceeded as per plan and reached the Rendezvous Point. The target was cloud covered 10/10 so the secondary target of Shanghai was decided upon.

While turning from the IP, we lost the #2 engine. In order to maintain altitude and flying speed, we salvoed all bombs and equipment. We altered course to Liangshan, China. Upon reaching the China coast, we saw four airfields, so we flew north for awhile and then proceeded on course. The fuel transfer problem continued to hamper the plane.

Just before reaching the Han River, #1 & 4

engines started to cut out. The crew bailed out just west of the Han River. I (Mel Falk) landed about 6 miles west of the river and near our pilot, Walt. The 5 enlisted men landed about 4 miles SW and the 4 officers landed NW near Ku-ch-eng. We were rescued by a US Naval Underground unit.

I was taken to the Magistrate's home in Hsiang-Yang (Lat.32N-Long. 112.05W) in Hsiang-Yang. All the village people came to see me and there was a crowd around at all times. They provided plenty of food and water. I managed to Lao-Ho-Kow and informed them of the crash at 6:30PM. I slept at the Magistrate's home that night.

The enlisted men were brought in the next morning 20 Dec 1944. A big feast was prepared before us and we learned to use chopsticks. We were carried through the town in sedan-chairs and the soldiers and all the townspeople cheered us and shot-off firecrackers.

We went across the Han River by boat to Tai-Ping-Tien. There we met the village officials and some Norwegian missionaries. Again, had plenty of food and slept there that evening.

The next day, 21 December 1944, another parade was held for us and we then went by truck to Lao-Ho-Kow. We managed to get a ride on a C-46 to A-1. On 22 December 1944, we picked up a ride on a C-109 to A-5. We stayed at A-5 that day and on the 24th we went with a B-29 crew back to Piardoba, India. I did not see Bill Selleck, Dick Peil or Stuart Olsen during this time...I hoped they were safe.

*Next - the accounts of the other crew members:*

Aircraft #452 took off CST 0225 (1925Z). Aircraft experienced no difficulty until they had turned back from Omura because of cloud cover. The formation headed for Shanghai about one and one-half hours west of Omura. Here #452 left the formation due to #2 engine



Failure (#2 nose oil pressure dropped to zero, pilot feathered the propeller). There was no fluctuation in RPM or manifold pressure, so that proved that the gauges were correct. They lost 30 gallons of oil during this testing and the engine started smoking heavily, so the pilot feathered #2 propeller again. They continued on course of 270 degrees for 15 minutes, then changed to 248 degrees. Held course until they reached the China coast. Here they spotted four (4) airfields near Li-Pao-Chen, they took 320 degrees heading to get away from them, they held this course for 10 minutes, then changed to 268 degrees passing about 23 miles north of Hungtze Lake. Then they flew 248 degrees course to hit Liangshan, because they did not know about Lao-Ho-Kow, which was either omitted from facility chart or was missing due to mimeograph error. Neither the pilot or copilot saw Lao-Ho-Kow on charts even after conferring with the radio operator. They had no navigator's aid chart. They could not contact Liangshan by radio. They requested QDM from them, finally they received 2<sup>nd</sup> Class QDM from A-5.

The ship consumed 1000-1500 gallons of gas, too much for power setting. Tanks were checked before takeoff. Engineer (Lt S. T. Olsen) said, "We're on the right side of the curve," but they did not know the ship very well, since this was their first trip in it. (Just as a side note...this B-29 #452 had had the same fuel-transfer problem when it was ferried over from the U.S. as pointed out earlier in the story).

In addition, the head winds were very strong: at 18,000 feet they were about 80 knots, at 16,000, 63 knots, at 11,000 30 knots.

The engineer used fuel pumps to get the last available gas from the center sing section and bomb bay. One pump burned out at this time, the second burned out when they were trying to transfer from #4 to #1.

At 11,000 feet they could not hold altitude, the air speed dropped to 145 mph indicated (#2 feathered, #1 was "just working" at 1500 rpm

on account of very little gas in #1's tanks). They flew with left wing high and nose down to get gas into #1, using crossed control to keep the plane on course.

At the time when #1 was dropped to 1500 rpm, the pilot gave the order, "Prepare to bail out!" He gave bail out signal to the enlisted men after crossing the Han River where it turns north, 20 miles west of Fan Cheng.

The enlisted men landed on the west bank, just in the foothills. The officers bailed out immediately after the enlisted men and landed farther west and higher in the foothills. The pilot saw that some of the enlisted men had already landed when he bailed out.

The pilot stayed with the ship long enough to pre-set spiral, to make destruction certain. Most of their movable equipment had been jettisoned over the Yellow Sea, with ammunition retained in case of interception. The bomb-sight was jettisoned over the Yellow Sea."

*(signed by John A. Labere, Capt. Air Corps, Intelligence Officer and Bernays K. Thurston, Maj. Air Corp-----*

*Jody continues:*

Mel Falk and the enlisted men were rescued by an underground US Navy Group. . Navy Group China. I am not sure if Walt Romaniw was with them or not. My dad and Stuart hit the 4 ft rock walls on the hills and both had broken legs and my dad had a concussion, also. Bill Selleck came down near Stuart and made a splint for his leg and they were rescued by the Chinese forces and taken into hiding by the Chinese farmers in the area until the next morning. My dad was picked up by a Chinese farmer and taken to his home for the night, also. I think it was Royce that told me that the first night they slept on the floor of a bar in the village.

The next morning, Stuart and Bill met up with my dad on the path to Lao-Ho-Kow. They were both being carried on stretchers handcrafted by the Chinese. They went

through the same villages that Mel mentioned in his notes. They were just a day or two behind the rest of the crew. The Chinese celebrated them along the way with parades and food, etc. When they got to Lao-Ho-Kow there was a Christian mission there.

Stuart remembers seeing this white, blonde lady, Adel Nordstrand, from Norway. She was a missionary there. As they were eating, things got real chaotic.....RED BALL ALERT111.....THE Japanese were about ready to overrun the airfield. A C-46 landed and they evacuated all the people and the US soldiers in the field hospital there. They just got out in time.

This is some of the story!! Stuart and my dad were taken to the hospital in China and then to Calcutta.....they never saw each other again....they were both rotated back to the US...All the crew was safe.

Thank you US NAVY GROUP CHINA and all the Chinese people who gave their lives so that this B-29 crew could be saved.

Love to you all..... Jody

*Editor's note: Elsewhere in this edition, you will find published a letter from Jody Smith wherein she refers to the preceding story. She offered to send me her accomplishments in research of her father and I anxiously accepted. Her promptness in complying allowed me to tell her story in this issue.*

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**Mail Call cont'd:**

fact, he sent the last U.S. Convoy that ever went over the road from Calcutta. In spite of that, when the war ended, he had a warehouse full of supplies, so requested transportation for them to China. In response, a liberty ship was ordered to Calcutta where it was loaded and he boarded it along with the supplies and delivered them to SACO Headquarters in Shanghai.

Analie Durant (widow)

(Bill Durant's obit appears this issue. Ed.)

???!!!\*\*\*

## RI Men will be happy to know Lloyd Acker is still alive and kickin'

And here's proof of the agility of an "old tiger." Jack Miller has been in touch with Lloyd and forwarded this picture he received from him. When are you going to get away from the farm for a few days, Lloyd, and spend some time with us at a SACO reunion?

Lloyd is shown here participating in "barrel racing."

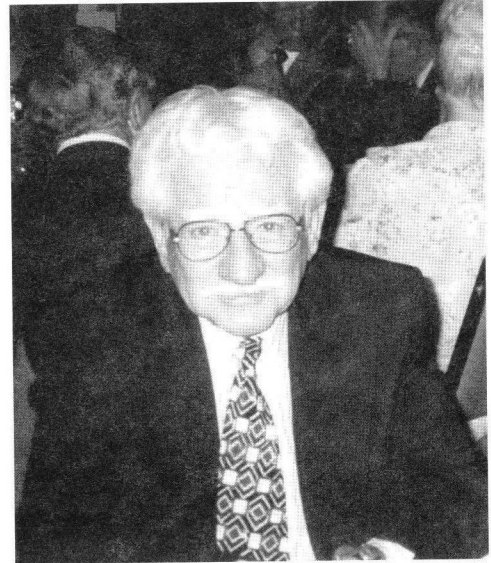


Lloyd L. Acker

# SICK BAY

## Wiley Williamson

In a message to Jack Miller, "Char" Williamson stated her husband had quadruple by-pass surgery and had not recovered as well as was anticipated. He developed lots of problems and has had quite a difficult time of it. "We are being patient," Char reports, "and hope he will begin the process of a good recovery. He was hospitalized on Oct. 4 and had to be readmitted on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. The first time he was in for 9 days and the second - 6."



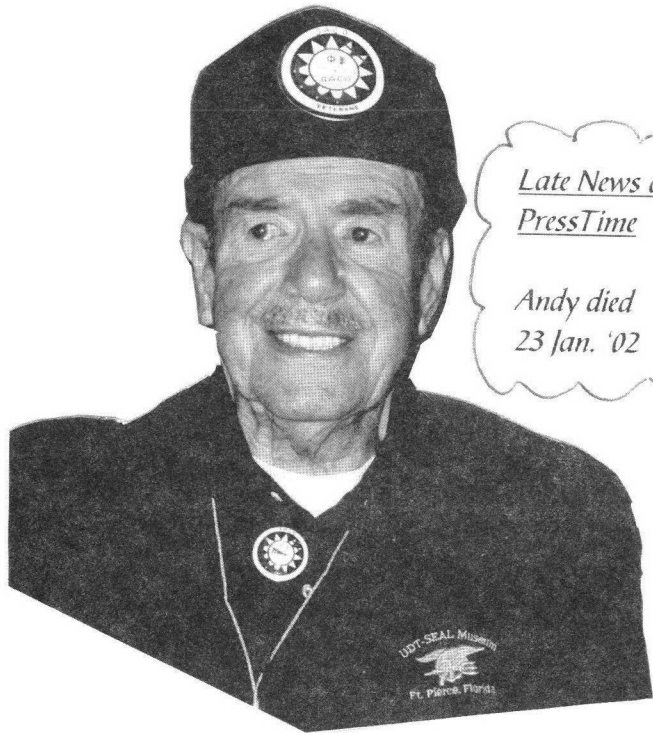
## L. W. "Bill" Bartee

SACO Secretary, Bill Bartee has been a pretty sick guy. He and wife, "Skeeter," met with his brother Ted and family in Las Vegas early this month (Dec. '01) for about a week during rodeo time there. Willie and Audrey Baker met them there and enjoyed a visit at lunch. Later, Bill began not feeling well, and driving home from Las Vegas, he could hardly get his breath. On arrival home, he checked in at hospital emergency and was diagnosed with pneumonia & anemia - believe he stated needing 6 units of blood. He was admitted immediately (stayed I think 5 days). He is to be checked later to determine cause of loss of blood.



### Andrew "Andy" M. Fleming

According to Rosalyn Butcher, (as she states "an unofficial adopted daughter" of Andy), he has been very ill. (You will recall Andy lost his wife several years ago; they had no children.) His appetite had not been good and he was losing much weight. Having been admitted to a VA hospital, doctors, being strongly suspicious of cancer, did a biopsy on his lungs. The procedure involved accidental puncture of a blood vessel and Rosalyn stated he was near death. Unconfirmed thoughts were colon cancer and later a mass surrounding a kidney was detected. A second biopsy was discussed and Andy said he didn't want to endure any more pain such as resulted in the first biopsy attempt. At this point, the consensus is that even if cancer were diagnosed, he wouldn't be able to stand treatment. Andy would like all his friends to know of his illness and would like to hear from you. He is now in Mcquire VA Hospice #106, 1201 Broadrock Rd., Richmond, VA 23249.



*Late News at  
PressTime*

*Andy died  
23 Jan. '02*

### John & Rosie Westphal

Johnnie has been in ill health for some time and last September, had surgery for cancerous tumors of the lining of the bladder. Rosie states the tumors were limited to the lining and they did not invade the bladder. He will remain in observation to ensure no recurrence and has recovered from the surgery quite well. Rosie, like many, is suffering with osteoporosis, says she has shrunk over 2 inches in height. She experiences much back pain and it has affected her right leg and foot.



### Mail Call Cont'd from p.9

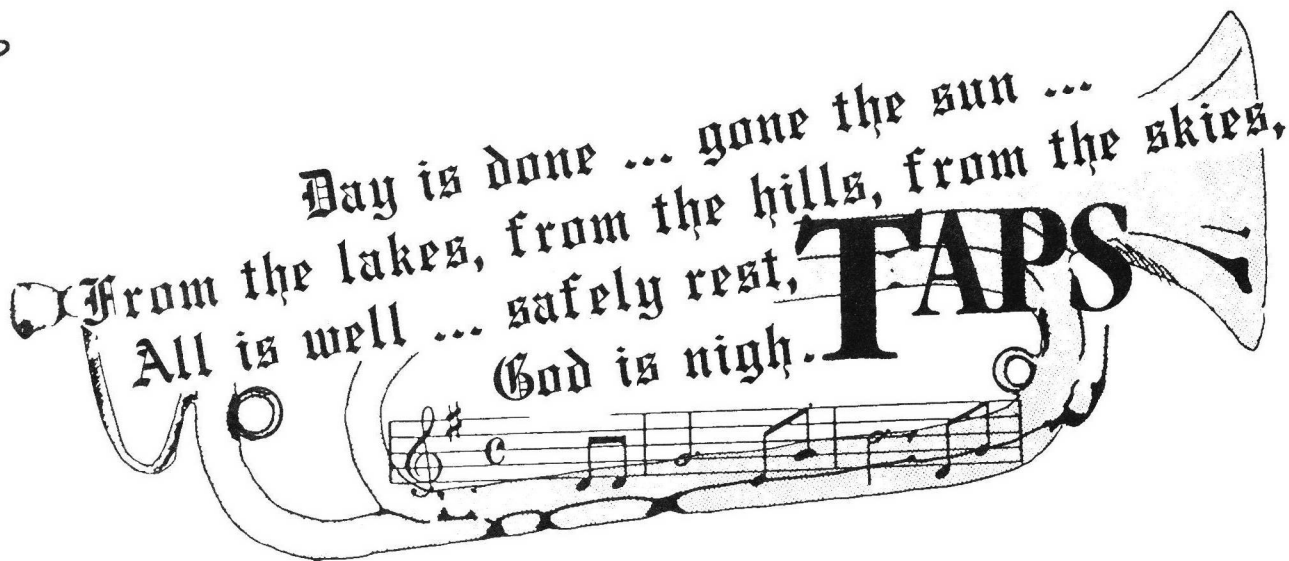
fact, he sent the last U.S. convoy that ever went over the road from Calcutta. In spite of that, when the war ended, he had a warehouse full of supplies so, requested transportation for them to China. In response, a liberty ship was ordered to Calcutta where it was loaded and he boarded it along with the supplies and delivered them to SACO Headquarters in Shanghai.

Analie Durant (Husband's obit in "Taps")

### REMINDER

ANNUAL SACO DUES  
REGULARS, ASSOCIATES &  
LADIES' AUXILIARY

2002 SACO DUES ARE  
NOW PAYABLE



Bob and Arline Sizemore

Robert A. Sizemore

### NO OTHER TIGER IN SACO SERVED SO LONG, SO FAR AS SHANPA IN THE REMOTE GOBI DESERT.

As Paul Casamajor notes: Doc Goodwin recommended to Miles that, "because of the isolation of Shanpa, tours of duty should be shorter there than in mid-China." In his *A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR*, Miles further writes, "Consequently, we took Major Bisceglia back with us, leaving Captain H. T. Hilliard, of the Marines, as camp commander. It is worth noting that the Marines had sent this officer to Chungking when he was relieved of combat duty in the South Pacific. Someone, it appeared, had reached the conclusion that SACO would be restful!

"We left everything we could possibly spare at this sparsely supplied camp. I, personally, contributed my fur-lined jacket, my sleeping bag and even my razor blades. Even the plane made its contribution – the limited supply of toilet paper that it carried.

"As soon as possible, I relieved all of Camp Four's old-timers except able *Weatherman Robert Sizemore*, who had arrived with the first contingent. We needed his experience in order to train a group of educated men from selected neighborhoods of Outer Mongolia all the way north to the Siberian border of the U.S.S.R. These men had been gathered together by Governor Fu and, when their training was completed, they were provided with simple weather procedures and small kits before being returned to their homes. In Outer Mongolia, the populace is likely to be friendly only to its own, but it is a weather-breeding land and we needed reading and reports from there. At the war's end, we still had many of these trained men at work for us in that far country, but General Marshall refused to allow us to continue to supply them." (p.416 of ADKoW)



Robert A. Sizemore, age 81, of Rossford, passed away on Wednesday, December 13, 2000, at St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center. He was born on April 1, 1919, in Rossford to Robert C. and Caroline (Schwab) Sizemore. Robert was a 1936 graduate of Rossford High School and a U.S. Navy veteran during WWII, serving from 1941 to 1947. From 1943 to 1945, he served in China with the U.S. Naval Group at Camp 4 in the Gobi Desert. After leaving the service, he worked at Metcalf Field for the Weather Bureau. He returned to school and received an additional bachelor's degree and a masters degree in education from Toledo University. He then continued in school receiving a doctorate degree from Northwestern University. His first teaching job was in Maumee at Ft. Miami School. He taught at Highland Park in Illinois before becoming an instructor at Toledo University. In 1960, Dr. Sizemore began his career as an administrator with the Toledo Public Schools, serving in many capacities before retiring as the director of libraries and media services in 1982. He was a member of Sino-American Co-operative Organization, The China Bureau India Veteran's Association, St. Pauls Lutheran Church where he has been a member since 1935, and was currently treasurer, Lucas Co. Retired Teachers Association and a former member of the Board of Trustees for the Rossford Library.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Arline (Yaekel); children, John (Vickie) Sizemore of Corona, CA, and Susan (John) Braun of Toledo; grandchildren, Sarah, Jennifer, Katherine, and Caroline Braun; brother, Bill (Edna) Sizemore. He was preceded in death by his sister, Elaine Sherman, and his brother, Richard Sizemore.

**ROBERT A. SIZEMORE, 1919-2000**

# School administrator emphasized reading

Robert A. Sizemore, 81, a retired Toledo Public Schools administrator, died in his sleep of an apparent heart attack yesterday at his home in Rossford.

Mr. Sizemore had heart-bypass surgery after a heart attack in December, 1993. Doctors presumed he was having heart problems again, family members said.

He and his wife, Arline, were married 50 years. She described him as a "quiet and reserved" man, meticulous and organized. "He took his work seriously. He wanted to be sure things were correct all the time," she said.

Their daughter, Susan Braun, a kindergarten teacher at Marshall Elementary School in Toledo, credited her father with being passionate about education and setting her on her career path.

"He was very dedicated, especially to reading," Mrs. Braun said. "I knew I was going to be a teacher; there was no question about that."

Mrs. Braun said her father was so serious about education that she hesitated going into his hospital room one afternoon in 1993, when he was being treated for his first heart attack. He greeted her somewhat sternly. "Who's watching your class?" he asked. She said

he was irritated when she told him she had a substitute that day.

Mr. Sizemore served in a variety of administrative capacities for Toledo schools, starting in 1960 as supervisor of the district's reading improvement program. Four years later, he was named the district's director of reading. When he retired in 1982, he was director of libraries and media services.

A 1936 Rossford High School graduate, Mr. Sizemore served in the Navy from 1941 to 1947. From 1943 to 1945, he was in China with a Navy group in the Gobi Desert.

After leaving the military, he was a forecaster for the National Weather Bureau at Metcalf Field.

He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Toledo and his doctorate degree in education from Northwestern University.

He first taught at Fort Miami Elementary School in Maumee, then in Highland Park and Evans-ton, Ill., before returning to Toledo to be an instructor at UT's college of education for five years.

He was a member of Sino-American Cooperative Organization, the China Burma India Veteran's Association, and the Lucas County Retired Teachers Association, as well as a trustee for Rossford Public Library.

**Casamajor states: Sizemore came aboard SACO 6 Sept 1943 as an AerM2/c. After less than a month in Chungking, he was at Hsifeng, China en route to Shanpa (Camp #4), north of the Yellow River and in the Gobi Desert. Along the way, he was promoted to AerM1/c. From Camp 4, Sizemore made twice-a-day reports of the weather and trained large numbers (four classes totaling 569 were trained in the Camp) of Chinese weather observers for outlying areas. In March 1945, Sizemore was promoted to CAerM. His last paycheck at Camp 4 was 30 June 1945 - 21 months!!! after he left Chungking. He received two promotions while serving - (what I believe to be true) - *the most time of any American military person at the farthest and most isolated outpost in American military history.* And when you stop to think about it, (knowing the importance of weather reporting to our ships at sea) Bob Sizemore's efforts had a most crucial impact on the war in the Pacific in 1944 and 1945, probably more than any other individual known.**

(Another glorious episode in SACO history and in upholding the secrecy of the organization and keeping with the fact that one unit never knew what the other was doing, many held their silence through life and, sadly, some of the heroics then become unveiled only after a Tiger leaves our family. His family has every right to be proud of another extraordinary SACO man whose military life they probably knew little about. Thank you, Bob Sizemore????!!!\*\*\* and Paul Casamajor for the info. Ed.)

## JOHN M. QUESENBERRY

Lieutenant John M. Quesenberry, USN (Ret), NCVA, passed away on 2 June 2001. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full honors. Lieutenant Quesenberry was born on 5 November 1918 in Hansford, West Virginia. He entered Naval service on 14 September 1937 and was retired on 1 November 1967.

Lieutenant Quesenberry served on various ships and stations for his first five years of service. He was then ordered to Chungking, China to serve with the State Department. On 1 June 1943 while still in China he received orders to report to Navy Group China under Commander "Mary" Miles. In September 1944 he received orders to the Naval Radio Station, Imperial Beach, California. From November 1946 until January 1949 he was at Wahiawa, Hawaii. Further transfers took him to Bainbridge Island, Washington; to Naval Training Center San Diego, California as an O Branch instructor, to NSG Headquarters, then to Mandarin Chinese Language school. He further served at Kami Seya, Japan; NSA; NavComSta San Miguel, Philippine Islands, a second tour at NSA and finally at Naval Training Center Bainbridge, Maryland.

In November 1967 he started employment at the National Security Agency and was retired on 1 January 1981. He was married to Biddie Helsel Six Quesenberry who survives. He is also survived by two children.

## JOHN W. PIKE

CTRC John W. Pike, USN (Ret), NCVA, passed away 13 April 2001 in Puyallup, Washington after a long illness. Chief Pike was born on 2 January 1918 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He entered Naval service in July 1936 and underwent basic training in Newport, Rhode Island. He was assigned to the USS BALCH, and to the USS ONTARIO (AT13) at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. He was a Pearl Harbor survivor. Chief Pike entered cryptologic service in June 1942 at the U.S. Naval Radio Station Wahiawa, Hawaii. Additional duty stations were Bainbridge Island, Washington, Naval Group China, Skaggs Island, California, Communication Unit 35 in Yokosuka, Japan; Adak, Alaska; Cheltenham, Maryland and Communication Unit 33 in Recife, Brazil. He transferred to the Fleet Reserve at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in August 1956 and to the retired list in May 1966.

After retirement Mr. Pike worked for the Boeing Company as a schedule planner and for Solano County California as the county clerk.

While serving in Bainbridge Island in early 1945 he received orders to "Proceed to Naval Mission China in Calcutta, India". Arriving in India he joined a party of five navy men who to operate a radio direction finder in a remote location on the edge of the Gobi Desert in Inner Mongolia. After flying over the "HUMP" the little band proceeded through the back door of China by truck. The end of the war saw the end to this duty after four months. Chief Pike said that he would never forge the trip out of Mongolia. It was a hurried affair for as soon as the war ended the Communists started their takeover of China. Three of the group were flown out and three volunteered to truck the supplies out. A broken water pump on the truck brought the trip south to a halt in the middle of the desert. They were able to borrow camels for a 70 mile trip to a radio station where they could call for a new pump. Chief Pike said "we were sailors on camels in the middle of the desert". Chief Pike returned to Bainbridge Island to resume his duties. Note: Ted Wildman and his group were in Mongolia in 1943.

## WILLIAM B. DURANT JR.

HANOVER — William B. Durant Jr., 83, died Saturday at Hanover Terrace HealthCare following an extended illness.

He was born Nov. 26, 1917, in Boston, the son of William Bullard and Barbara (Laighton) Durant. He graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and received a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard College and a master's degree in business administration from George Washington University.

Mr. Durant served in the Navy for 25 years, retiring with the rank of captain. During World War II, he was serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lexington when it was sunk in the battle of the Coral Sea, and was serving aboard the USS New Orleans when a Japanese torpedo split the ship in two. He also served in the China-Burma-India Theater with the Sino American Cooperative Organization, a Navy commando and intelligence organization.

After retiring from the Navy, Mr. Durant enjoyed a second career in college administration, serving as executive officer of the faculty at Dartmouth College until 1984.

He was an avid sportsman who enjoyed skiing, golf, squash and sailing.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Analee (Patterson) Durant of Hanover; three sons, William B. III of Cornish, Peter of Washington, D.C., and David of Woodbine, Md.; a daughter, Judith of Meriden; 11 grandchildren; a sister, Celia Brown of Hellertown, Pa.

## OTHER DEATHS REPORTED SINCE LAST ISSUE

**Chappell, Logan S. 2001**

Lt. — Kharagpur

**Colgrove, Earl F. 2000**

Lt. — Camp 6/Changchow/Camp 1

**Hartman, Jr. John J. 2000**

Lt(jg)-Chungking/Camp 2

**Hoffert, Peter J. 1996**

GM2/c-Calcutta

**Jerome, Robert F. (?)**

RM2/c-Calcutta/Kunming/Kweilin

**Johnson, Jr., James A. 1995**

Ens.-Kunming/Chienou

Jordan, James D. (Col.) 2001  
1stLt. USMC-Chungking/Camps 2, 4, 10/Peiping

Kemp, George W. 2000  
PhoM3/c-Calcutta/Chungking/Shanghai

Lamke, Jack M. (?)  
RM2/c-Calcutta/Kunming/Kweilin

Lasley, John 2001  
Lt.-Kunming/14<sup>th</sup> AF/Shanghai

McGunnigle, Robert F. 1991  
MMG1/c-Jorhat

Morgan, Jon E. 1998  
PhoM1/c-Calcutta/Chungking/Shanghai

Neighbor, Jean, M.D 1999  
Lt.-Camp 4/Chungking/Wash DC

Russell, Jr., Edward J.  
SK3/c-Calcutta/Chungking/Shanghai

Semonovich 2000  
GM2/c-Calcutta/Kunming/Foochow

Snyder, David W. 2000  
CRM-Calcutta/Kunming/14<sup>th</sup> AF

Taylor, Clarence P. (Lt.Cdr.) 1999  
Lt.(jg)-Chungking/Wash DC

Semonovich, Joseph 2000  
GM2/c-Calcutta/Chungking/Shanghai

Snyder, David W. 2000  
CRM-Calcutta/Kunming/14<sup>th</sup> AF

Taylor, Clarence P., LtCdr USN (Ret) '1999  
Lt(jg)Chungking/Wash DC

As I write this issue, the movie "*Love is a Many Splendored Thing*" is playing on TV and one of the lines touched me for it is so true:

"... the greatest tragedy in life is never to have been loved."

Registered SACOs cont'd . . .

Murphy  
Jackie                      Sinks  
                                    Bob & Delores

Nelson  
Hazel                      Stahlnecker  
                                    Robert

Nichols  
Priscilla                      Tanner  
                                    Allen & Mary

Olander  
Melba                      Terpstra  
                                    Dick & Marti

Parrick  
Carl & Joan                      Thomas  
                                    Robert

Petersen  
Kayte                      Tressler  
                                    Guy & Rosemary

Petersen  
Jack & Bev                      Wade  
                                    Betty

Petersen  
Jodi (dtr of  
Jack & Bev)                      Warner  
                                    Dean & Billi

Ray  
Doug & Rose Marie                      Waters  
                                    John & Fran

Reynnet  
Dairus (son of Francis  
& Caroline)                      Wayner  
                                    Joe  
                                    Weskamp  
                                    H.W.(Wes)& Kathryn

Reynnet  
Francis & Caroline                      White  
                                    William

Rivera  
Rosio                      Whitlock  
                                    F. James

Rutan  
Richard & Erma

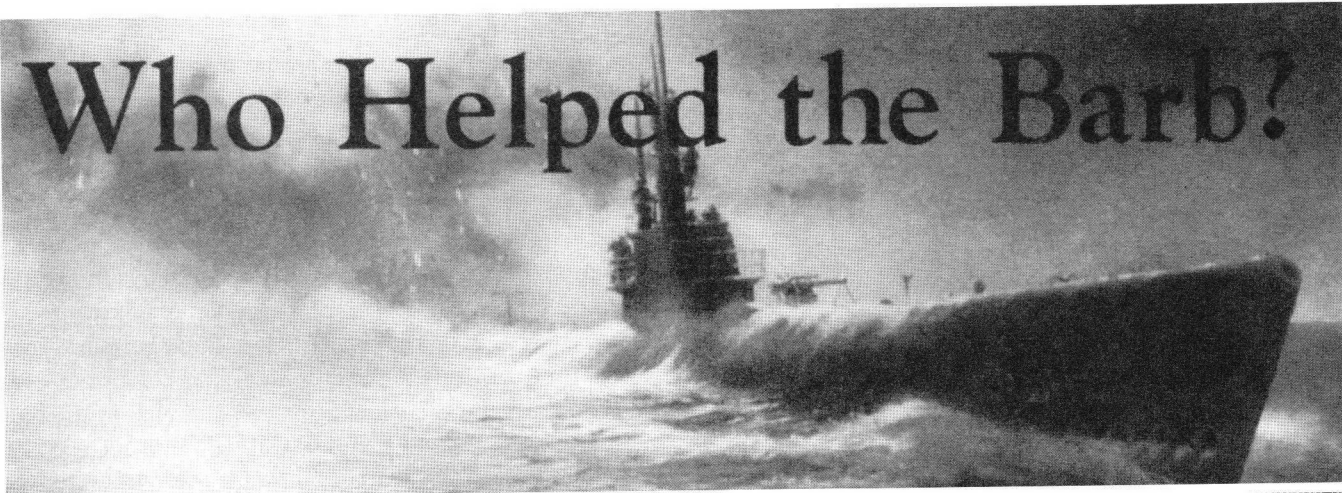
Sager  
Bill                      *Distinguished Guests From  
MIB Republic of China*

Scurlock  
Henry                      *Gen. Hsia Ying-ching  
Col. Wu Chih-feng  
Maj. Wang Pao-sen  
Maj. Jason Tang*

Sellers  
Charles & Laura



# Who Helped the Barb?



U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE/TED WILBUR

Submitted by William Young  
& Paul Casamajor

By CAPTAIN EMIL LEVINE, U.S. Naval Reserve (Retired)

*The Barb had one of the most successful submarine patrols of the Pacific. Did she get help from operational intelligence?*

**O**n the early morning of 23 January 1945, the USS *Barb* (SS-220), under the command of Commander Eugene B. Fluckey, entered Namkwan Harbor, China. According to Fluckey's account, she sank three Japanese ships, probably sank another, and damaged three others. For this action, Fluckey received the Medal of Honor, although he has often said his greatest achievement was that none of his crew ever got a Purple Heart. The war patrols of the *Barb* are detailed in retired Rear Admiral Fluckey's award-winning book *Thunder Below!*<sup>1</sup>

Although Fluckey states that the *Barb* never received operational intelligence support from the U.S. Naval Group China (NavGrp China)/Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO), several accounts insist that these groups provided the tactical intelligence that enabled the *Barb* to attack the convoy.<sup>2</sup> In particular, *A Different Kind of War* by Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles, U.S. Navy, makes this claim.<sup>3</sup>

The actions of the *Barb* will be taught and studied by naval historians for years to come from the standpoint of tactics and leadership, combining daring with knowledge of the enemy to overwhelm a superior force. The mission was described by COMINCH (Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet) as "the greatest patrol ever" in a congratulatory message on 24 February 1945.<sup>4</sup> If NavGrp China/SACO played a part in this historical event, their role should be documented and the obvious contradictions resolved.

## *The Briggs/Stevens View*

In *The Day VADM Yamagata Joined His Honorable Ancestors*, Ralph T. Briggs and Paul F. Stevens describe several NavGrp China operations, including the following:

COMNAVGRP, China transmitted intelligence reports daily to: COMINCH, CINCPAC [Commander-in-Chief, Pacific], COMSOWESPAC [Commander, Southwest Pacific], the 20th Bomber Command, and local commands in China. In addition, Fleet Liaison Officers, attached to SACO Headquarters, relayed China Coast Watcher reports direct to U.S. Fleet units patrolling the China Coast. A case in point occurred on 23-24 January 1945, when SGT Wm. M. Stewart, USMC, stationed at Pin-hai [sic] reported a Japanese convoy of eleven ships—four destroyers, five troop ships, and two tankers anchored in Amoy Bay. CAPT "Wally" Ebert, a SACO Fleet Liaison Officer, transmitted this information to the off-shore fleet. The USS *Barb* (SS-220) commanded by CAPT Eugene B. Fluckey, couldn't resist this juicy target. He took the *Barb* into Amoy Bay about 0400 and, before the convoy could up anchor and move out, had sunk three destroyers, four transports, and damaged one other ship.<sup>5</sup>

Documentary evidence shows several errors in this account:

- The reporting done by Sergeant Stewart took place on 20-21 January 1945, not 23-24 January 1945.
- The *Barb's* attack on the early morning of 23 January 1945 took place not in Amoy Bay (24°-20'N, 118°-05'E), but in Namkwan Harbor (27°-04'N, 120°-27'E).

UNITED STATES NAVAL INSTITUTE

- ▶ Despite the fact that the *Barb* received NavGrp China reports about the convoy, the *Barb* was unable to use this information to make contact.
- ▶ Ebert's rank at this time was commander.
- ▶ Stewart was a Technical Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.
- ▶ Ping-hai reported 12 ships, not 11.
- ▶ The *Barb* sank three Japanese ships, probably sank another, and damaged three others.

#### *The Miles View*

---

Vice Admiral Miles was the commander of NavGrp China and SACO. Unfortunately, the part of his book that relates to the *Barb's* mission (pages 425-426) is in error on several points. Although the coast watcher was in Ping-hai, and the site of the battle was Namkwan Harbor, Miles states: "Those ships had been sunk within easy range of Ping-hai but while it was still too dark for him [Stewart] to take pictures." The radioman mentioned by Miles (Radioman Second Class Charles R. Cosgrove) had been removed from that station after only a few days' duty because of physical problems prior to the battle.<sup>6</sup>

The most glaring error in the Miles account concerns the information reportedly passed to the *Barb*. According to Miles, the Japanese convoy anchored near Ping-hai on 23 January 1945 was planning to leave the following morning at 0600 for Keelung at about eight knots (based on information obtained by Stewart's "pirate friends"). Miles wrote that:

With this information available, Commander Wally Ebert quickly computed the handiest deep spot in the ocean that the convoy would pass, and we sent word to our nearest cruising submarine—the *Barb*—giving the precise spot at which the ships could be intercepted and the hour they would reach it in the morning. It was an exciting potential date, and the meeting place was given as accurately as if we had been able to say "Forty-second and Broadway."

What had happened was that Captain Eugene B. Fluckey of the *Barb* had been unable to resist all those tempting targets bunched together at anchor. So, despite the shallow water and the lack of space in which to maneuver, the *Barb* sneaked in about 4 a.m. and, before the convoy could move, sank three destroyers, damaged one, and sank four other ships.

The battle, however, did not occur as related by Miles or Briggs and Stevens. The *Barb* track chart, the *Barb* and the accompanying wolf pack submarine USS *Picuda* (SS-382) patrol reports, coast watcher reports, and limited communications intelligence reports verify that the date

and location of the battle are wrong. In fact, unless new historical information is discovered, there is no evidence that any such message was sent by Ebert.

At approximately midnight on 20 January 1945, the *Barb* was about 40 miles east of Lam Yit, having just turned on her northeast search leg paralleling the China coast. The report of a convoy anchored at Lam Yit was transmitted by Ping-hai at about 1603 on 20 January 1945, 16 hours after the *Barb* had left this area.

The *Barb* continued searching on this course for the northbound convoy, until sighting a southbound convoy at 1421 on 22 January, which eventually led it into Namkwan Harbor (where the two convoys converged). The convoy reported by Ping-hai at 1603 on 20 January did not head directly to Keelung, but hugged the coast, transiting through the Hai-tan Channel to Namkwan.<sup>7</sup> There was no "Forty-second and Broadway."

#### *The Coast Watcher View*

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Coast watcher Technical Sergeant William M. Stewart played a key role in the *Barb's* story and is truly one of the naval intelligence war heroes of the Pacific. The situation of coast watchers in China at that time was harsh. On 7 March 1945, 11 Navy and Marine officers of NavGrp, China met at the "Number One House" to discuss the coast watcher network. The detailed minutes of this meeting provide a unique insight to the situation and placement of resources at that time. The discussion centered on the problem of maintaining five stations, including lack of qualified personnel, training Chinese in radio, recognition, and weather, and lack of batteries and radios.<sup>8</sup>

Only five coast watcher sites were discussed as being active during this meeting: Ping-hai (P-6-F) (25°-11'N, 119°-16'E); Nan Tai Wu (Amoy); Tungshan Island (Tung-shan Tao) (P-3-C) (23°-40'N, 117°-24'E); Pyramid Point (Tatso) (P-4D) (24°-53'N, 118°-58'E); and Hui-Tau (Wei-t'ou) Point (P-2-B) (24°-31'N, 118°-34'E). The situation was made more serious by the capture of coast watcher Radioman Second Class Alfred Warner Parsons on 21 December 1944 near Amoy.<sup>9</sup> A monthly summary for the period 15-31 January 1945 reported: "Pinghai is operated by Technical Sergeant William M. Stewart, USMCR, and Ralph A. Martin, GM3C."<sup>10</sup>

An extract from the *Daily Log Coast Watcher Station P6F (Pinghai)* provides a summary of activity for the period 5 January 1945-15 April 1945. This is the key document in any discussion of intelligence support provided to the *Barb*.<sup>11</sup>

On 20 January 1945, the coast watcher log entry states: "Sighted Jap convoy . . . Convoy stopped between Yam Lit and Wukiu Sue." This message was then reported at 0800. The *Barb* patrol report for the same day read: "1638 (H) Sighted mine. Lat. 25-57.2, Long. 121-18.8. China re-

ported more ships anchored in LAM YIT. Also another convoy from around there, apparently going through our area. Commenced searching again."

As noted, the *Barb* was heading northeast at this time, having turned to that course shortly before midnight (according to the track chart). She never made contact with the convoy reported at Lam Yit. It can be assumed that the



U.S. NAVY

Rear Admiral Fluckey—pictured here as a commander in 1945—always insisted that he received no intelligence leading to the attack in Namkwan Harbor.

. . . . .

In researching his book, Fluckey attempted to locate Sergeant Stewart, but the Marine had died in 1991. Robert M. Sinks Sr., a meteorologist who served with Stewart, received the messages sent by Ping-hai for relay concerning the ships at Lam Yit. Sinks states: "I remember encoding it to send to headquarters to be sent to the fleet. SACO through its network of contacts with Chinese pirates gained a great deal of information. Every effort was made to substantiate the reports we received."<sup>13</sup>

Coast watcher communications immediately after the *Barb's* attack confirm that they felt they had contributed to the battle. An extract from the Navy Group China War Diary (15-31 January 1945) stated:

During this 16 day period we have reported the movement of 61 Japanese ships. . . . Of this total group we have the extreme single pleasure of being advised that, out of one convoy . . . reported by Ping-hai on the 20th, a submarine later definitely sank 3 of the Destroyers and inflicted damage to 4 other ships in the convoy. Pinghai received a 'hearty well done' from COMNAVGRCHINA [Commander, Naval Group China].<sup>14</sup>

report received by the *Barb* at 1638 of ships at Lam Yit was based on the sighting reported by Ping-hai. The *Barb* had begun her northeasterly track about 16 hours before receiving this report.<sup>12</sup>

After reporting that the convoy in Lam Yit had stayed the night, the coast watcher log for 21 January 1945 states that a destroyer and one other ship stayed behind when the convoy headed out to sea. These two ships soon joined the others heading northeast. From 22-25 January, no combatants were reported by the Ping-hai station.

In researching his book,

A personal letter from Lieutenant Carl Divelbiss, in charge of the coast watcher network in the section, to Lieutenant Si Morris in Kienyang states: "I guess you heard about the Pinghai station paying off in a big way."<sup>15</sup>

Even before the *Barb* arrived back in Pearl Harbor, NavGrp China and the coast watcher network had latched onto this battle with shared pride, and obviously considered the Ping-hai report to be responsible for the *Barb's* success. It represented one of the highlights of their efforts to date and became institutionalized in that culture, especially later in Miles's book.

#### *The Barb View*

In his book, Fluckey elaborated on various NavGrp China reports of convoys which resulted in "No Contact," specifically on 4, 6, 17, and 20 January 1945.<sup>16</sup> This viewpoint is further emphasized in the report of the fifth war patrol of the USS *Picuda* (SS-382):

In most cases of reports originating apparently from coast watchers, information was received too late to allow effective development of contacts . . . Chunking's schedules were faithfully copied. No COMSUB-PAC [Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific] serials were missed.<sup>17</sup>

Fluckey attempted to develop the 20 January 1945 Lam Yit contact reports without success. He realized that the ship must be remaining close to the coast. After studying his charts, he surmised that this could only happen if a channel had been dredged through the Hai-tan Straits. Fluckey requested information about these straits from Commander, Naval Group China and China Air Group. Sometime between 1900 and 2400 on 21 January, the *Barb* received the reply: "Coast watchers report such a channel has been dredged and major warships, even battleships, use it." It should be noted that no U.S. coast watchers were located in the vicinity of the Hai-tan Straits.<sup>18</sup>

A correlation of the *Barb's* track chart, patrol report, and the Ping-hai log shows that Ping-hai's first report was received more than 16 hours after the *Barb* had turned to the northeast on a surface patrol. She continued moving northeast after receiving this report, expecting to intercept the convoy after it left Lam Yit.

Based on the information about the channel, Fluckey assumed that the convoy would not steam at night, but anchor at Foochow and head toward Wechow the following day. His patrol took him north, and at 27°-14'N, 120°-42'E at 1421 on 22 January 1945, the *Barb* spotted smoke from three to six ships moving in a column along the coast on course 225°, speed 10 knots.<sup>19</sup> (This location does not show on the track chart but is listed in Sec-

tion (F) Ship Contacts of the Patrol Report.) This was not the convoy reported by Ping-hai, but one coming from the north. When the *Barb* entered Namkwan Harbor early on 23 January 1945, two convoys were anchored there. Takao-Moji 38 (TAMO-38) was northbound and had been reported by Ping-hai three days before. The other was the southbound Moji-Takao 32 (MOTA-32).<sup>20</sup> The rest is history.

Following the attack, the *Barb* sent a short message to the commander of NavGrp China and China Air:

YOUR LATEST INFO RESULTED EIGHT HITS IN POT OF GOLD X FOUND YOUR CONVOY PLUS OTHERS AND POSSIBLE LARGE WARSHIPS ANCHORED AT NAMKWAN HARBOR LAST NIGHT X THREE SHIPS KNOWN SUNK X TERRIFIC EXPLOSION. . . .<sup>21</sup>

The phrase "YOUR LATEST INFO" might be interpreted to acknowledge the direct tactical support of the Ping-hai messages of 20-21 January 1945. In fact, Fluckey is clear that it refers to the response to the *Barb*'s query concerning the dredging of the Hai-tan Straits.<sup>22</sup>

#### *The Communications Intelligence View*

Communications intelligence (ComInt) support to the *Barb* attack must also be considered a failure, unless further key documents are located. The *Pacific Radio Intelligence Summary, Navy Department, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington*, consists of daily summaries of "the combat radio intelligence received and correlated by OP-20G3."<sup>23</sup>

A report dated 25 January (2021 [JN-147-L]) provides information on the convoy TAMO-38: "A despatch of 20 January reported CONVOY TAMO-38 consisting of 6 vessels and 4 escorts was in position 24-45N, 119-06E at 0930 that date." This is a reference to the Ping-hai report, in-

dicating that TAMO-38 was held in ComInt. Although the report was issued after the *Barb* attack, the context suggests TAMO-38 was previously noted. (Reporting was in Tokyo time, ZULU plus 9.)

A report of 23 January (1324 [JN-147-L]) links the destroyer *Shiokaze* with "CONVOY MOTA-32. . . at. . . (0200-640) on the 23rd. Scheduled to arrive Keelung at. . . (1500-1730)." The report included "GI COMMENT: On January 18 MOTA-32 CONVOY (Moji to Takao) was in position 34-05N., 122-25E. proceeding southward at 8 knots. It has been previously suggested that DD-SHIOKAZE may be escorting this convoy."

Thus it would appear that both convoys were held in ComInt prior to the attack. Fluckey stated that he received no communications intelligence reports concerning the convoys attacked, although he had ULTRA clearances.<sup>24</sup>

#### *Conclusion*

Despite their strong dedication to duty, coast watcher personnel of NavGrp China and SACO did not contribute specific, direct tactical intelligence to the *Barb* attack in Namkwan Harbor on the morning of 23 January 1945. ComInt did not contribute either.

Nothing in this conclusion is meant to minimize the devotion or bravery of NavGrp China coast watchers or SACO. Likewise, it is not meant to reflect on the overall excellent work of Miles, Briggs, and Stevens.

NOTE: Many key documents have not been located. Therefore, this article is not completed research but the basis for additional research. This research was conducted without adequate charts or geographic or Chinese place name reference aids. Place name forms have been retained as reported in source material.

Captain (Cryptology) Levine spent most his career in the reserves and active duty and as a civilian at the Office of Naval Intelligence as an intelligence analyst.

<sup>20</sup>Eugene B. Fluckey, *Thunder Below* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1992).

<sup>21</sup>Ralph T. Briggs and Paul F. Stevens, (Monograph) *The Day VADM Yamagata Joined His Honorable Ancestors* (Las Vegas: 1987); Ralph T. Briggs and Paul F. Stevens, "The Day VADM Yamagata Joined His Honorable Ancestors," *Cryptolog*, Vol. 10, No. 5, Spring 1989.

<sup>22</sup>Milton E. Miles, *A Different Kind of War* (Garden City: New York, 1967), pp. 425-426.

<sup>23</sup>Fluckey, p. 291

<sup>24</sup>Briggs, p. 6.

<sup>25</sup>National Archives (NA), United States Naval Group China [hereafter USNG China], Box 14, Ch. 7, NN3-38-90-3

<sup>26</sup>NA, 370-6/30/4, Box #2808 (*Barb*), pp. 15-16. (*Barb* Eleventh War Patrol [hereafter *Barb* Patrol Report].)

A better copy is available from the U.S. Naval Historical Center; Fluckey, pp. 257-258.

<sup>27</sup>NA, USNG China, Box 14, Ch. 7.6 (NN3-38-90-3) [hereafter *Coast Watcher File*].

<sup>28</sup>NA, USNG China, *Coast Watcher File*.

<sup>29</sup>NA, USNG China, Box 14, *Secret War Diary Section Two Intelligence 15-31 January 1945, Changchow*, Ch. 7.6, (NN3-38-90-3) [hereafter *Secret War Diary Section Two Intelligence*].

<sup>30</sup>*Coast Watcher File*, U.S. Naval Group Eastern China, Changchow Unit, *Daily Log Coast Watch-Weather Station P6F 5 January 1945 to 15 April 1945* [hereafter *Ping-hai Log*].

<sup>31</sup>*Barb* Patrol Report, Track Chart

<sup>32</sup>Sinks, personal communication with author, 2 September 1996.

<sup>33</sup>*Secret War Diary Section Two Intelligence*.

<sup>34</sup>*Secret War Diary Section Two Intelligence*.

<sup>35</sup>Fluckey, detailed personal communications to author, 26 February 1996.

<sup>36</sup>NA, 370-6/31/2, Box #2843 (*Picuda*), *Picuda Fifth War Patrol*, pp. 30, 36.

<sup>37</sup>Fluckey, p. 258.

<sup>38</sup>*Barb* Patrol Report, p. 17, and Section (F).

<sup>39</sup>Fluckey, p. 260.

<sup>40</sup>Fluckey, pp. 272-273; NA, USNG China, RG 38, Box 51, NHC-75 (NN3-38-90-3.)

<sup>41</sup>Fluckey, personal communications to the author, mid-1997. Fluckey explicitly confirmed this key point: "Yes 'LATEST INFO' was report of dredging."

<sup>42</sup>NA, RG38, Box 58, (NN3-038-93001) HM 1995, and 370-6/33/3-4 Boxes 85-91.

<sup>43</sup>Fluckey, personal communications to author, 1 February 1998.

# Howard Samuels Sets Record Straight

*In a letter to the editor, Howard takes exception to a report prepared by Lt Col Crawford.*

*I want to object to the comments made about the Weather Service noted on Page 30 (Issue #22 March 2001) by Lt. Col. Crawford who stated, "service furnished by SACO after July 1944 was of no value. . "*

*I was a Staff Sgt. In the 10<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron/14<sup>th</sup> Air Force under Chennault (Flying Tigers) when I was transferred to SACO in June 1944. I went out east to Camp I, and setup the weather station in my specialty of radiosonde equipment, and while there, until June 1945, trained Naval and U.S. Army personnel. During that year, our station got nothing but commendations as being one of the most important weather stations in the Far East during WWII, both from the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Air Forces in China, Tinian and Saipan. The term used, "It was vital that Camp I must stay operational as it is one of our most important stations."*

*That "so-called executive officer" was probably sitting on his "fanny" in 10<sup>th</sup> Weather Headquarters in Calcutta and never got to China. That Camp I assignment and my duty at the Suichwan*

*Fighter Base for the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force helped me and Warren Reid, Sr. get the Bronze Star Medal.*

*When the Americans invaded the Philippines (at the Battle of Leyte Gulf Oct 22-26, 1944) our weather information helped the Navy Air Force knock out the Japanese planes on Formosa (Taiwan).*

*Lt. Crawford is "all wet."*

*Best regards,*

*Howard.*

*Editor's note: Howard stated he didn't make Texas reunion in May due to recent eye surgery. He said, . . "thank you for the two pictures on Page 55 (May 2001) . This will prove I was once young."*

*"The article on Page 32 (same issue) COMBAT ACTION RIBBON RETROACTIVE TO WWII. I tried with all available information to get the ribbon and was rebuffed."*

*Lesson to be learned: Perhaps you future "professionals" in writing history should contact those that have "been there, done that!" Better hurry, we won't be around too much longer. . .Ed.*

## SUCCESS

*At age 4 success is . . .not peeing your pants.  
At age 12 success is . . .having friends.  
At age 16 success is . . .having a driver's license.  
At age 20 success is . . .having sex.  
At age 35 success is . . .having money.  
At age 50 success is . . .having money.  
At age 60 success is . . .having sex.  
At age 70 success is . . .having a driver's license.  
At age 75 success is . . .having friends.  
At age 80 success is . . .not peeing your pants.*

# POTPOURRI



September 28, 2001

Mr. Bill Bartee  
4624 N. Cheyenne Trl.  
Tucson, AZ 85750-9717  
USA

Dear Mr. Bill Bartee:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I was assigned to the position of the Inspector General of the ROC Navy Headquarters on August 10, 2001. My successor for the Director of the MIB is Lt. Gen. Hsueh, Shih-ming. Please accept my sincere gratitude for the kind assistance and cordial invitations SACO friends extended to me during my tenure as the MIB Director.

The SACO plaque video you sent to me is indeed a very special gift of historic significance. I will recommend the new Director to keep it at the General Tai-Li memorial for our future generations to cherish.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

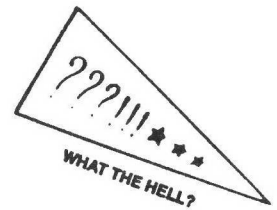
Hsu, Chu-sheng



# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

October 12, 2001

Vice Admiral HSU, Chu-seng R.O.C. Navy  
P.O. Box 3693  
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

RE: Transfer

Dear Admiral HSU,

On behalf of the Officers and Trustee's of SACO, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assignment as Inspector General of the R.O.C. Navy Headquarters. While we can only guess, it follows that a promotion is also involved and for that we are happy. However we all share a bit of disappointment that you were not able to visit and participate in at least one of our SACO Reunions.

Please rest assured that we will continue our close and friendly association with your successor and the M.I.B. We will congratulate General HSUEH, Shing-ming by separate cover.

To you Admiral HSU, may you have fair winds and a following sea during your next assignment. We will not forget you and if per chance you are in the States during our next reunion. Please come by to see us. I guarantee you will be welcomed aboard with open arms.

Sincerely,

Bill Bartee  
SACO Secretary

CC: SACO Officers and Trustee's

Intelligence & Guerrilla Warfare 1943-1946



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BUREAU  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
SHIHLIN, TAIPEI, TAIWAN  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

September 21, 2001

Mr. Robert Sinks, Sr.  
558 Winding Way  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
USA(美國)

Dear Mr. Sinks:

People around the world were unbelievably shocked by the bloody, condemnable act of violence conducted by the terrorists, who hijacked three commercial airplanes and crashed them into the Pentagon in Washington D. C. and the Twin Towers in New York City, killing thousands of innocent people.

On behalf of the Military Intelligence Bureau, I would like to extend our condolences to the victims of this incidence and their family. It is our sincere hope that the American people will stand tough against the devils, launching the anti-terrorism campaign together with those peace-loving peoples around the world.

I am firmly convinced that evil can never prevail over good.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Hsueh, Shih-ming*  
Hsueh, Shih-ming  
Lt. General, ROC Army  
Director, MIB, MND

cc: Mr. Bill Bartee, Secretary of SACO

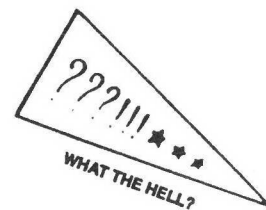




# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

October 12, 2001

Lt. Gen. HSUEH, Shih-ming  
P. O. Box 3693  
Taipei, Taiwan. R.O.C.

RE: Your letter of September 21, 2001

Dear General HSUEH, Shih-ming,

On behalf of the Officers and Trustee's of SACO, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your recent assignment as Director, M.I.B. I'm sure in the short time you have been in this new position you have realized what a demanding position it is. We as a unit, wish you every success in your endeavors.

The kind words you conveyed in your letter of September 21, 2001 relative to the terrorist attack are indeed appreciated by all of us in SACO. During this time of tragedy, it is indeed comforting to know that someone recognizes our pain. If it is possible for any one benefit to arise out of these cowardly attacks, I believe it will be the drawing ever closer of our two countries. In crises such as these you find out who your "**REAL FRIENDS**" are. As usual you and your command are the first to be counted. Thank you again for such **FRIENDSHIP**.

Correspondence will be forwarded to you later relative to our next SACO reunion at Cocoa Beach, Florida October 9 through 13, 2001.

Sincerely,

Bill Bartee  
SACO Secretary

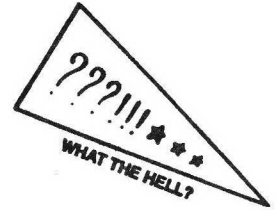
CC: All Officers and Trustee's  
2002 & 2003 SACO Chairmen



# SACO

SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

U. S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS



Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles  
Perpetual Skipper

July 3, 2001

Mr. Robert G. Hill  
863 20<sup>th</sup>. Avenue  
Norwalk, IA 50211

RE: SACO Nominating Chairman

Dear Bob,

Although this letter has not been officially blessed by the officers and trustees, I sincerely believe I speak for all of them plus the general membership when I say *"Thanks for all your hard work this past several years, during which you served as chairman of the nominating committee."*

I am acutely aware that on most occasions you received little, if any, advance notice to put together a slate of designees who were willing to serve our organization. Many times this requirement caused you to miss special trips etc. Coupled with this, the fact that the membership has become increasingly reluctant to serve, the magnitude of the office and the task increases in difficulty.

The fact that you have served as reunion chairman, president, trustee and chaplain, as well as nominating chairman, plainly attest to the fact that you are ready willing and able to serve the SACO Organization.

Although these words will not purchase any item of worldly goods, please believe me when I say they come in all sincerity from the bottom of our hearts. Maybe we should fall back to the Old Navy Standard and say, *"Thanks For a Job Well Done"* Either way please note that we really appreciate your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Bill Bartee  
SACO Secretary

CC: Officers and Trustee's  
2002 and 2003 Reunion Chairmen



# VOYAGER FIRST NON-STOP, UNREFUELED WORLD FLIGHT

VOYAGER AND ITS LIKENESS COPYRIGHT 1981

**DICK RUTAN**  
Voyager Pilot

May 3, 2001

Richard Rutan  
45-480 Desert Fox Drive  
La Quinta, CA 92253-4214

Dear Richard,

I'm sorry you worried for one minute :o) Your work and that entire magazine is just fantastic! I hope your readers appreciate your effort - I know what a production getting News and Stuff out is, so I can't even imagine what you go through for the magazine!

Dick reviewed the magazine as well and he was thrilled! It's always good to see positive stuff in print :o) If you have room in the next issue, feel free to add Dick's web site [www.dickrutan.com](http://www.dickrutan.com) for your readers. I think they would really enjoy re-living some of Dick's adventures on the web site. It has a lot of great info and lots of photos.

Dick, Kris, Pop, my husband, Don, and I went to the Aviation Pioneers Association luncheon last Saturday. What a great group they are, and what history was in that room! Holy cow! They had hired Dick as their speaker, and he did his "An Arctic Adventure" North Pole talk. It was great!

Hope all is well with you. Thanks for keeping in touch.

Blue skies!

Kelly Hall

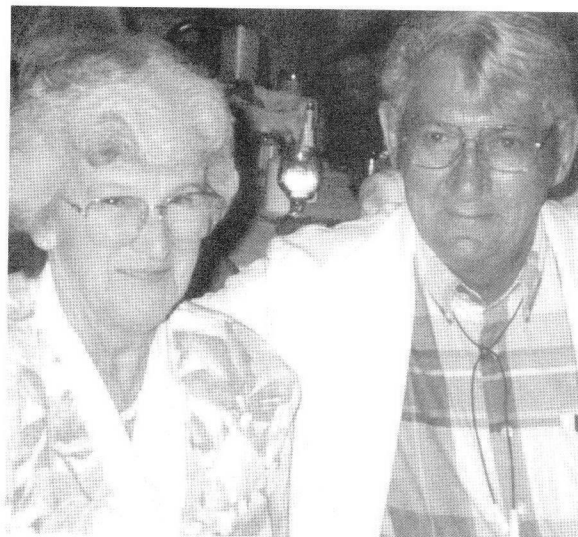
P.O. Box 359, Mojave, California 93502  
2833 Del Mar Avenue, Mojave, California 93501

Phone 661-824-4608  
Fax 661-824-9575  
[ringdove21@aol.com](mailto:ringdove21@aol.com)

### **“Duke” & Dorothy Zucks Choose Adult Living**

Dorothy writes that Duke required the assistance offered in adult living. She states Duke has been diagnosed with ‘demica” and has his good and bad days like the rest of us. As she observes, “It isn’t fun getting old.”

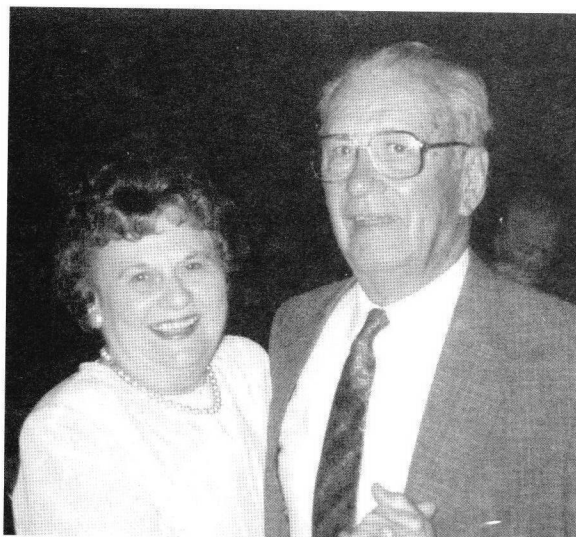
New Address: 300 Golfview Rd #104  
N. Palm Beach, FL 33408  
561-207 6944



### **Frank & Evelyn Buckless In New Residence**

Evelyn says it was time for them to sell their home and move into assisted living quarters. Frank has Alzheimer’s and she felt it was best where they still had privacy, yet help when it was needed. She is happy with their location in the building – one of the higher floors of the tower with a beautiful view and can walk to the shopping area – only a couple blocks, but she says they are tired enough they take a cab back home.

New Address: 800 Southerly Rd. Apt 407  
Towson, MD 21286-8403  
410 823 8666



### **“Buck” & Ellie Dormer Move to SC**

In October, Buck wrote Bill Bartee that he and Ellie had moved to South Carolina stating they had left their home in Sanibel as well as their car, both of which they hope to sell. Buck reminisced as to how long ago SACO started recalling that he was the 1<sup>st</sup> volunteer in Wash.,D.C. and was in the first group (Camp !) in Anwhei Province. He recalled there were 6 who started the Camp and all are gone now except he and “Jungle Jim” Flournoy and he wasn’t aware of where Flournoy is today. Ellie has endured Parkinson’s disease for some time.

New Address: Morningside Assisted Living  
15855 Wells Hiway  
Seneca, SC 29678



**VHS TAPE OF PLAQUE CEREMONY AT ADM.  
NIMITZ MUSEUM IN FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS  
AVAILABLE**

Our own Carolyn Inman Arnold recorded the Dedication Ceremony for the SACO Plaque during the 2001 reunion. Approximately 30 minutes in length, she did an excellent job taping the event and preserving the emotional historic ceremony for us to enjoy.

**ORDERING BLANK  
FOR VIDEO TAPE OF  
PLAQUE CEREMONY, NIMITZ MUSEUM  
FREDERICKSBURG**

**To: Charles & Laura Sellers  
1291 Eastern Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40204**

**From:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the VHS tape of the "SACO Plaque Dedication Ceremony" at a price of \$12.00 each. Includes shipping and handling.**

**I have enclosed my check (or money order) made payable to:**

**"SACO Ceremony Video"**

**in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$12.00 x #of tapes) as payment in full. It is understood that any overage in the above amount will go to the SACO treasury.**

**(Sorry but at this time we must limit these orders to a maximum of two video tapes each until the demand has been determined).**



MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BUREAU  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE  
SHIHLIN, TAIPEI, TAIWAN  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

September 21, 2001

Mr. Robert Sinks, Sr.  
558 Winding Way  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
USA(美國)

Dear Mr. Sinks:

People around the world were disbelievably shocked by the bloody, condemnable act of violence conducted by the terrorists, who hijacked three commercial airplanes and crashed them into the Pentagon in Washington D. C. and the Twin Towers in New York City, killing thousands of innocent people.

On behalf of the Military Intelligence Bureau, I would like to extend our condolences to the victims of this incidence and their family. It is our sincere hope that the American people will stand tough against the devils, launching the anti-terrorism campaign together with those peace-loving peoples around the world.

I am firmly convinced that evil can never prevail over good.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Hsueh, Shih-ming*  
Hsueh, Shih-ming  
Lt. General, ROC Army  
Director, MIB, MND

cc: Mr. Bill Bartee, Secretary of SACO

# NOSTALGIA

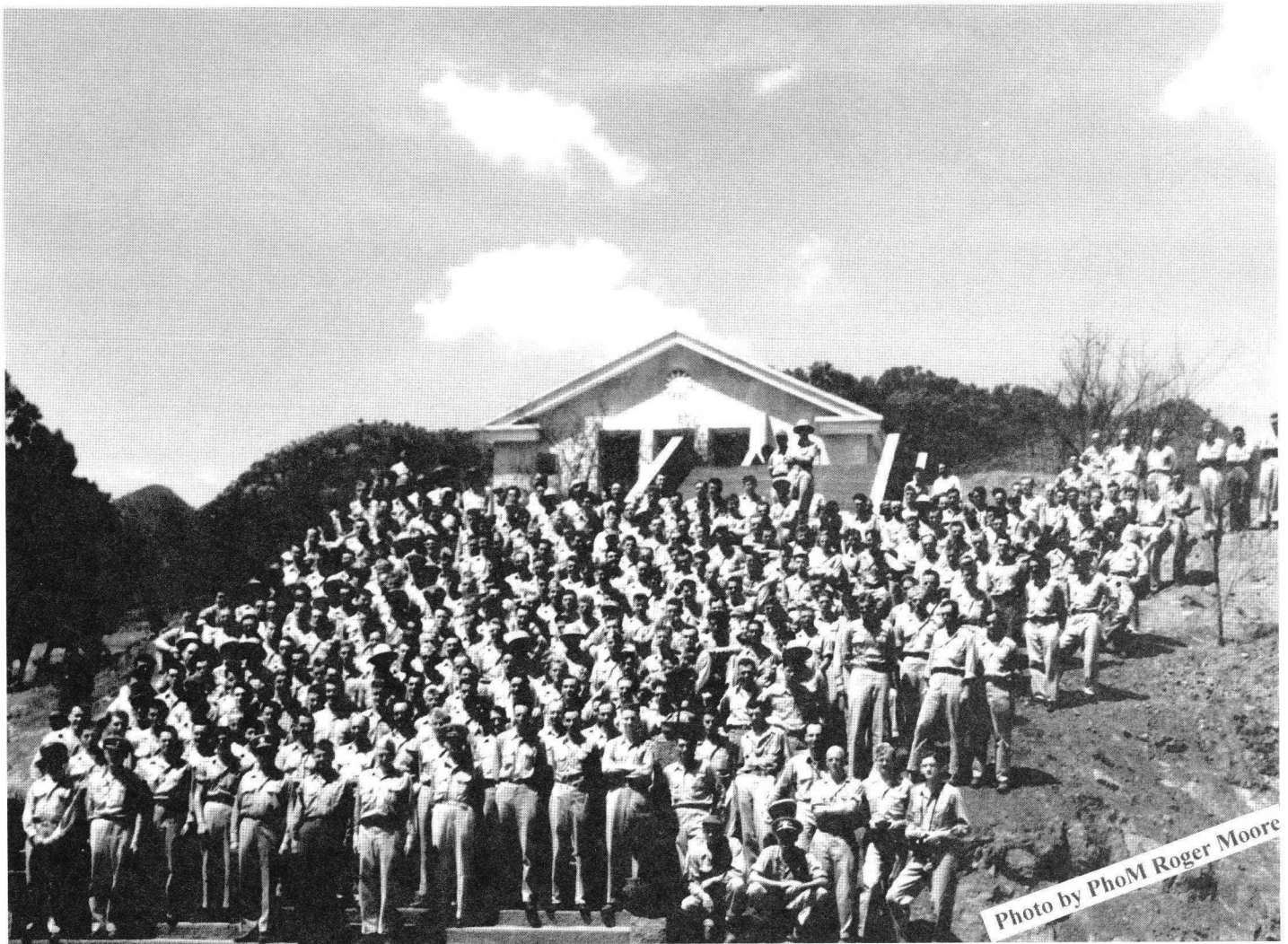


Photo by PhoM Roger Moore

This SACO group photograph was taken in front of SACO Headquarters, Chungking in the spring or early summer of 1945. Our leader, Admiral M. E. Miles is in the foreground wearing dark slacks. All Chungking based SACO personnel were gathered for this photograph, but of course, SACO troops in the outlying camps were not available.



In the winter of 1945-46, I was assigned to accompany General Tai Li on a review of SACO (Chinese) troops in Soochow. This was an overnight train trip from Shanghai and included visiting a Chinese Opera. General Tai was a very hospitable host. Did he assemble these troops to impress the Communists? I do not know. Photo by PhoM Roger Moore





Sager

U.S. Naval Group, China  
Naval Unit Ten, Hsi Feng, China  
Capt. Wm. H. Sager, (USMCR) Commanding

Photo submitted by Bill Sager stating he doesn't know how he came by it nor who took the pic.

remembrance. Thank you for this generous memorial.

And thank you for sending that photo to Jack Petersen and identifying the “man on the right” as Thomas L. Chvala. . . I know that Dad and Joe stayed in touch with each other all the way up until the time of Dad’s passing, exchanging Christmas cards every year at the very least. . .

Being a media producer, and coming from a long line of Chinese scholars and librarians (and soldiers), I will have tape recorder and video camera in hand to learn as much about Dad through his SACO friends as I can (while in Fredericksburg, Texas). I am also doing research for a motion picture screenplay about SACO, as I have the inroads in the film business to get it moving. . .

I agree with Bill Bartee’s letter of Nov. 28: You do a marvelous job in laying out and publishing the SACO NEWS. You indeed deserve a special medal for journalism. Every issue of the *News* is interesting and delightful to read—and this is coming from someone who wasn’t “there.” . .

Best regards, Terry Dunn  
????!!!\*\*\*

To the editor 4-6-01

I read issue 22 from cover to cover within 2 hours after I received it. The bad parts were the necrology, including the death of Jimmy Dunn (a fine person), and the reports that some of the gang were having health problems. Who said these were the golden years? The good parts were (1) the kudos to Paul Casamajor (which he richly deserves), (2) the origin of the SACO pennant and the idea they should be made available, (3) Cathy Willis’ article on SACO weathermen, Paul’s submission on Sailors on Camels, and (4) the pictures.

Over the years, *SACO NEWS* has enable members to recollect with pleasure incidents during their service in World War II of which they can be proud. I cannot adequately express the gratitude each member must feel toward you for devoting so much time and effort to its creation, publication, and distribution.

I am sending a contribution to Wes to defray the expense of future issues. Sorry Dorie and I won’t be able to attend the reunion at Fredericksburg, but hopefully, we can do so in 2002.

With best regards, Sincerely, Dave (Clarke)  
????!!!\*\*\*

To the editor summer of 2001:

. . . I have just about finished my book – one hundred-thirty pages about Unit 13. Isn’t it strange that *thirteen* of our brothers are deceased? All were members of the Yangtze Unit (Unit 13)

Book publishing is very difficult. I will press ahead, but just now I cannot get copyrights. Lawyers are expensive and go only with the book publishers of note.

We will be going to Alabama soon. We now have six great-great-granddaughters. Their grandfather is my son-in-law, John Ingwersen, USN. He was one of the first atomic sub maker and officer aboard. You can find his name in the Pentagon off and on. I never got around to ask his position; he is very shy; now retired and still brilliant!

Regards to you, Lee Comer  
????!!!\*\*\*

To the editor 4-13-01

Thank you so very much for all your good deeds. The *SACO NEWS* and the write-up entered into the magazine. Also, for returning the picture of Victor playing in the band. If there are any extra copies of the *SACO NEWS*, I would like one more.

Page 53, “The Declaration of Independence” and what happened to the 56 men who signed it was most interesting. Also, the story of James Chieh-ming Dunn. Especially with the recent news of China & U.S. The whole *SACO NEWS* was especially superb – this March 2001 issue. A great job well done. Thank you.

“Hi!” to Erma and my love to you both,  
Priscilla Nichols  
????!!!\*\*\*

# IMAGES & MEMORIES

By Lt. Jean E. Neighbor, (MC) USNR

**(Editor's note: For those of us who didn't know – Lt. Neighbor was a doctor on the staff of Admiral Miles in Chungking. He was working for years in retirement compiling his manuscript of his experiences in the Navy in WWII. Unfinished at the time of his sudden death, his son, Eric, vowed to do the best he could to finish the work his father had put together. Through Eric's kindness and generosity, he has sent us a copy of the manuscript as well as many, many historical letters and notes written by our Skipper which Eric states are ours to maintain. Speaking for all of us, Eric, you have granted us one of the treasures of SACO History and we are deeply touched that you would share with us. The following is a letter from Eric Neighbor that accompanied his "Package of SACO History:")**

May 6, 2001

Dear Mr. Rutan,

Thank you for your interest in my father's passing and the information he possessed regarding Adm. Miles. I am including all that he collected, as I found it in his files. I am also including my father's memoirs of his experiences in the war. He had been working on this account for many years, but his effort was cut short by his illness. I completed the compilation of his writings and put them into this form for friends and family. You are welcome to this copy. I should warn you, my father's contact with Adm. Miles was during a stressful and difficult period of the Admiral's career. As you will read, this chapter may or may not be what you want to remember of Adm. Miles. This of course is my father's recollection of events and is subject to his interpretation of history. The pages in the memoir that deal with Adm. Miles are 85-93. I leave this all to you to do with it as you see fit. I would be interested in your thoughts when you feel like writing about them. I do not have any pictures to contribute, but if I should come across some in the future, I will send them on to you. I do not need any of these materials returned.

Again, thank you for your interest. I hope you find something enlightening in these accounts.

Sincerely,



Eric H. Neighbor  
99 Cleveland Rd. #11  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
ehneighbor@home.com

**(The following pages are copies of some of the papers from Lt. Neighbor's files. Ed)**

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek  
 At his home near the tomb of the  
 Chinese Patriot and President  
 Lin Sen Chan Tung  
 Szechwan Province, China

My dear Generalissimo:

I thank you very much for the very kind treatment you granted me during the interview on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 1945 when General Tai Li and I called and Colonel Pea so ably interpreted for us. It was a great pleasure at meeting a great man without any barriers between us, merely for the purpose of trying to solve our troubles and reach a pleasing conclusion.

The doctors say I am a very sick man and I may be returned to my home in America. My men and I have been in China for three years and six months doing our meager best to help stop this war and regain peace. What we have done we do not know, but peace in the end will be international. We, as you can find out very readily, in our group, have always admired your great and untiring efforts in your attempt to unite the bandits, the unfortunates who abscond with the government's money.

As far as I know, you are the only person capable of bringing about the unity of these people.

The doctors say I am very ill and sick, so I have asked to go home. I have asked them to send my wife to get me home. I have asked my closest friends to take me home.

When I leave, I don't want any parties; I ask only two things: first, your permission to come and pay my respects to you together with my friends and my wife and my three oldest friends in China; General Tai Li, Mao Jen Feng and Mr. Pan Chi Wu. I don't wish to talk at that time because, as I say, I am very ill and I am unintelligible. Don't be alarmed; no bones are broken, but I assure you, I am very ill; all I should like to do when I call on you is to drink a cup of tea; a cup of Chinese green tea and then visit the tomb. I know your China worships the tomb of Lin Tung and make great presents to him; then I wish to go home to America with my family where I shall rest and come back and help you bring about a Chinese Navy that you shall be proud of if you still want me to do so.

You would do me a great service if you would allow to accompany me the following Chinese friends: General Tai Li, Mr. Pan Chu Wu, Commander Ling Boo Coo, of my staff, Commander Pan (Peter), of my staff, Commander Lee Boo Coo of my staff. I should also like to take Mao Jen Feng, but business will keep him on in China and as he is one of the most important men to you. Also, to take General Lee Chung Chee of the LPA of Shanghai, but I know his work is too important here to permit him to go with me.

If you will so kindly grant to authorize these people enumerated above to go with me, I am sure it will help me to get over my illness quickly and I should be able to return sooner. In any case, I guarantee that these people I take back will not be kept if their presence is found to be necessary to help you here in China.

On my way back home, I expect to visit Shanghai to call on my very close friends, General Lee Chun Chee and General Tong en Po, one of your able Generals and to visit and talk with the multitude of very close friends General Tai Li and I have and I expect to spend one or two days and then to start home, but I must see them in addition to Tong En Po. I must see Chen Shaw Kwan with whom I have had insufficient opportunity to work closely. I also wish to go by Nanking and call upon General Hoa Yin Chin who

conducted himself with dignity and graciousness at the surrender. I wish to pay my respects to him together with my friends. Then I would like my friends accompanying me to join General Chin and journey to the tomb of Dr. Sun Yet Sen, your George Washington..

I know you will authorize these requests as are possible; I appreciate it.

I again repeat, I am a sick man and must close this letter to you.

Most sincerely,

M. E. Miles  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Dictated but not read

---

26 September 1945

The Honorable President of China  
Generalissimo Chian Kai-shek  
Chungking, China

My dear friend:-

I take the liberty of addressing you so because you indicated your friendship by your smile and the mist in your eyes when I said goodbye at our last interview. Much praise should be rendered to you for the great cooperation spirit by your General Tai Li and I, between his officers and mine, between his men and mine, by your farmers, your fishermen, and your compatriots all over China, which you made possible. In the last three and one-half years, I have traveled in every province except four in the Northwest and I have found nothing but whole-hearted cooperation and greatness from the high down and from the low up. It is true that some places General Tai and I did not have much to eat, but we had the best rate poor farmers planted. I saw the suffering in your country; was out in it most of the time; I was in trouble most of the time, some of it because of the Japs who were chasing me or for other countless reasons which are now of no matter, but in all that time, I saw China.

Today was the happiest day of my life. I, as you now know, was in your house, which was built for you and lying in your bed recuperating. Three great men paid me a visit, C. P. Chen, Consulate General of Calcutta, General Mao Jen Feng of the Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, for General Tai, his most trusted officer and Mr. Pan Chi Wu who has been acting as our Chief of Staff of SACO, who has carried on under all kinds of fire from friends and enemies alike. They called on me, an ill man and to present me with a medal. The medal is worth writing volumes about not on just its intrinsic value and beauty, but for what it stands for. I immediately know what it stood for, and am not a bit ashamed for crying, - - for joy. You can see that the little bit that we did in the Sino-American Cooperative Organization between General Tai Li and me, his officers and mine, his men and mine, have really started things going on the sure road to peace. I have not words enough to thank you for thinking so high of; I enjoyed visiting you the last time, especially, and I enjoyed visiting the late great President Lin Sen's tomb near you after I left you. I think it is a great tribute to him that you live in his house so that all the people may visit both you and General Lin Sen. I am sorry I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Chiang, although Mrs.

Miles has and has told me about her. In a few days, I shall go home and be with Mrs. Miles. I hope someday we can come back to China and have the pleasure of meeting with you both, you and Madame Chiang at that time.

In the meantime, since we have accomplished cooperation a little bit in the SACO organization, General Tai and I have agreed to keep the China and American flags two-blocked where you reviewed the troops at Unit Nine in the Valley and we are going to keep the floodlights installed so that even in the dark they may be visible by artificial means from all around. We are headed for peace and the dove with an olive branch in its beak in America is our symbol of peace. General Tai and I have, with your cooperation and of President Truman, are going to keep the flags flying; we are going to forget the war and look forward to peace.

Again, thank you for the beautiful medal and treatment. Thank you.

Most sincerely,

M. E. Miles

---

*Authorization for a SACO Shoulder Patch*

(The following was among the memoirs of Dr. Neighbor written by Admiral Miles in longhand – does anyone know if this proposed patch ever came to fruition? Ed)

Headquarters U.S. Naval Forces China  
#2 Peking Road  
4 September 1945

**From:** Commander U.S Naval Forces China  
**To:** All Forces under my command.  
**Subject:** Shoulder Patch

1. I hereby authorize the wearing of a shoulder patch for the forces under my command and in accordance with the design as selected by Captain I. F. Beyerly, U.S.Navy, my Chief of Staff.
2. Basically, it should be a Chinese star with an old-fashioned anchor placed at an angle of about 30 degrees from the vertical. It is believed that the anchor should be slightly smaller than the star's diameter to indicate that the Naval Group is inside of China. Inside of the white center of the Chinese 12-pointed star should be a "What the Hell pennant," which was designed at my request by Mrs. Miles in 1934 and first manufactured in the United States Destroyer *WICKES* (Destroyer No. 75). The design of the "What the Hell Pennant" is the same shape, of reduced design, as is required for any other signal pennant similar to the course pennant in the Naval Signal Book specifications. Inscribed upon the pennant should be three groups of characters: three question marks, three exclamation points and three stars in that order from the fly toward the point. The question mark next to the fly should be the largest and the group of questions, exclamation marks and stars, should decrease in size in a pleasing manner toward the small star at the point. This should not be changed since it is the original pennant that I asked Mrs. Miles to design. Also, inside of the circle of

- the Chinese 12-pointed star should be the Chinese character “Chung” and “Mei” (China and America). These character “Chung” and “Mei” should be duplications of those personally written by General Tai Li with his own brush and should be placed in a pleasing manner so they will fill up the space not occupied by the “What The Hell Pennant.”
3. **Colors: Blue background. Chinese 12-pointed star points white Circle dividing center from the star points: blue. Anchor: light gold with a pleasing design similar to that on the cap device of a Chief Petty Officer with shading of darker color as though the light were coming from the upper left hand side. Anchor “rope”: same color as the anchor. The lettering “United States Naval Forces China” around the top should be in white on a blue background. The lettering around the bottom “SACO” should be white on the blue background. The characters “Chung” and “Mei” in the center should be in red to indicate importance. The “What the Hell Pennant” should be outlined in red and the characters should be red.**
  4. **I am proud of this shoulder patch. Please report to Capt. Beyerly anyone you see outside of my command who is wearing one of these patches or one similar thereto.**

(Signed) M. E. Miles

---

### *Miles Records Thoughts Upon Receipt of Shoulder Marks*

1320 – 24 September 1949

I have just opened up the shoulder marks that were sent me. They are Rear Admiral ones. The thought flashed through my mind. I certainly appreciated the high command. We people in the United States have a good one. It is super-duper. Admiral King, George Marshall, Leahy, Roosevelt, Truman, Purnell, Edwards and the plumber that fixed my spigot one day when I was home last; I believe his name is Henderson.

What I appreciated about them immediately, as a result of this should mark opening up, is that they had faith enough in me and they trusted me and thought I had training enough and was representing them enough to honor the uniform and that I would do the best I could.

I remember telling Admiral King, after one of the last battles we had in Washington in which General Donovan and I, unfortunately, came to verbal blows, that I might be wrong, but I certainly would do the best I could. He stated, “I know you will, Miles. That is the best anyone can do.”

I got a letter from Jeff Metzel recently in which he received a telegram from me to the effect, “Don’t you know the war is over? Why did not you block it?” Jeff further said, “I assume you mean promotion. Well, I would have blocked it except Admiral King thought it up himself.”

I am grateful for our high command. They are the high plane level, high up on the asymptotic curve to peace. Close that thought, it is wound up in a complete circle, but I could take parts of it and elaborate for six years on it and have circles within circles.

M. E. Miles

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ARE PAYABLE EACH JANUARY  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR FOR  
REGULAR, ASSOCIATE AND  
AUXILIARY MEMBERS AND TO  
BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING  
TREASURERS:

### REGULAR & ASSOCIATES

\$20

TREASURER HERMAN W. WESKAMP  
3034 LARKWOOD  
WEST COVINA, CA 91791 - 2928  
PHONE: 626 332 - 4978

### LADIES AUXILIARY

\$15

TREASURER LAURA SELLERS  
1291 EASTERN PARKWAY  
LOUISVILLE, KY 502 459 - 4753

### THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE

1. You *believe* in Santa Claus
2. You *don't believe* in Santa Claus
3. You *are* Santa Claus
4. You *look like* Santa Claus



# NATIONAL SACO REUNION

Wednesday 9 Oct– Sunday 13 Oct  
2002

Hilton Hotel Cocoa Beach, FL

Your Hosts: Joe & Peg Fitzgerald  
Ocean Club, Unit #111  
2975 S. Hwy A1A  
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951  
(321) 722-4776

FAX (321) 726-6960  
e-mail: [fitzgrld@digital.net](mailto:fitzgrld@digital.net).



Enjoy:

Tour of Kennedy Space Center  
Hilton Hotel on the Beach  
Presidential Suite for Hospitality Quarters  
Terrific Views  
Rooms \$85 for SACO ( 1-4 persons per room )

(Detailed info forthcoming from Fitzgeralds)