

SACO NEWS



Veterans of the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, World War II China
aka The Rice Paddy Navy
Perpetual Skipper VAdm. Milton E. "Mary" Miles

October 2013

WHAT THE HELL?

Issue No. 43

60th SACO Reunion 2014

Dearborn, Michigan

August 13-16, 2014

Hosts: Lynn Grabenstein and Richard Terpstra

Highlights: Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, Detroit tour and river cruise
Save the date!

About SACO News

Richard Rutan, SACO News editor for decades, has enlisted the help of the next generation of SACO Veterans. He remains Editor in Chief. Linda Kush (A), serves as Assistant Editor beginning with this issue.

Richard built a wonderful magazine that few organizations can match. He packed every issue with humor, history, memoir, new articles about SACO, and the latest news from SACO veterans.

While the associates could never equal his achievement, we hope to keep members in touch and celebrate the remarkable history of the Rice Paddy Navy under his direction. We plan to publish two issues a year in this new format.

Please send your news and letters to Linda Kush at the address on Page 2.

SACOs Reunite in Neenah, Wisconsin, June 2013

What could be sweeter than a perfect June day in Wisconsin?

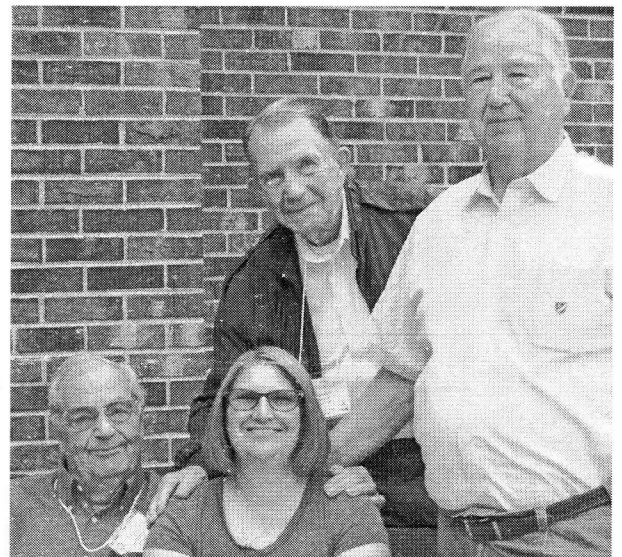
A perfect June day in Wisconsin with dear old friends.

Jack Petersen and his daughter Jodi Petersen hosted more than 40 SACO veterans, their families, and friends at the 59th Annual SACO Veterans Reunion in Neenah, Wis., June 12-15. Participants represented 17 states from Georgia to Washington. A contingent from the Republic of China, including the deputy director of the MIB, came to honor the veterans as they have for decades.

The months Jodi invested in preparation paid off with delightful excursions and lovely accommodations, topped off with a delicious banquet and moving ceremonies.

On Thursday, the group toured Lambeau Field, home of the Green Bay Packers. The historic, old-fashioned stadium stands in stark contrast to the ultra-modern Atrium, the Packers' new, five-story shopping and entertainment complex, where we had lunch, shopped for souvenirs, and visited the Hall of Fame.

Friday began with a tour of Neenah, from the grand homes of the 19th-century paper barons to the unusual, octagonal Hiram Smith House, built in 1856 and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After a lunch stop at Friar Tuck's, we spent the afternoon at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh, a world-class air museum that recounts more than a century of aircraft development, including many planes from World War II.



Left to right: Mel Goguy, Reunion Host Jodi Petersen, Mike Cannon, and Guy Purvis at Lambeau Field, Green Bay

see Neenah Reunion, continued on page 3

SACO Officers 2013-2014

President: Jack Petersen
Vice President: Jim Kelly
Membership Chairman: Jack Coyle
Assistant Membership Chairman: Jodi Petersen
Treasurer: Judy Barbieri
Assistant Treasurer: Mel Goguey
Legal Counsel: Robert Dormer
Secretary: Carolyn Inman Arnold
Assistant Secretary: Judy Maurice
Historian: Jack Coyle
Assistant Historian: Jodi Petersen
Reunion Coordinator: Richard Rutan
Assistant Reunion Coordinator: Jodi Petersen
Editor-in-Chief SACO News: Richard Rutan
Assistant Editor SACO News: Linda Kush

Trustees:

Richard Maurice
Richard Rutan
Kenneth Brown
Mel Goguey
Frances Reynnet
Jack Petersen

SPECIAL THANKS

Richard Rutan, Editor in Chief of SACO News, devoted hundreds of hours to the publication and set a high standard for excellence and creativity. As our Perpetual Skipper would have said, Well done!! This first issue of the new format of the SACO News was a group effort under Richard's direction.

Thanks to:

Carolyn Inman Arnold
Judy Barbieri
Mike Cannon, who contributed wonderful photos
Jack Coyle
Charles Miles
Jerry Levendowski
Jodi Petersen

SACO Annual Dues

Payment is due January 1 each year.

Annual dues: \$35.00

Please remit to:

Judy Barbieri
244 Silver Creek Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

SACO News

is a periodical published by and for WWII veterans of SACO (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 members, their families, and friends.

Please send your comments, news, and memories (along with clear, sharp pictures, if available) to the

Assistant Editor:

Linda Kush
57 Brighton Ave. #9
Boston MA 02134
linda.kush@verizon.net

Keep your SACO News coming!

If it has been more than two years since you paid your dues, this is the last issue you will receive, as voted by the Trustees in June.

Please keep your dues current to stay on the mailing list.

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Nennah Reunion, continued from page 1

Saturday morning was devoted to SACO business meetings. The afternoon schedule was free, followed by the SACO Veterans Banquet Saturday night.

As much as everyone enjoyed and appreciated the planned activities, the highlight of the reunion was sitting together in the hospitality suite each evening catching up and sharing memories.

Attendees of the 59th SACO Veterans Reunion 2013:

Judith and Pete Barbieri
Ken and Lillie Brown
Michael P. and Betty Cannon, Jr.
Jerry F. Coats
Penny Coates
Robert Coats
Jack W. and Cean Coyle
Robert R. Dormer
Wilbert W. Edwards
Mel and Helen Goguy
Edward and Lynn Grabenstein
Bob and Valerie Griffith
Jordan Hill
Robert G. and Lola Hill
Robert W. Hill, Jr.
James B. Hunnicutt
Lilma Huntley
Carolyn Inman-Arnold
John and Barbara Jones
Joseph D. Keenan, Jr.
James F. Kelly
Linda S. Kush
Richard A. and Judy Maurice
Sue Meier
Charles H. Miles
Dan C Miller
Amanda Park
Jack M. Petersen
Jodi M. Petersen
Guy Purvis
Darius F. and Angela Reynnet
Francis D. and Caroline Reynnet
Mary H. Tanner
Richard I. Terpstra
Robert G. Thomas
Bruce and Marilyn Westphal

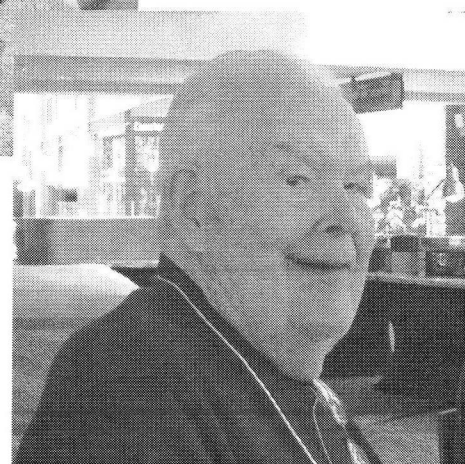
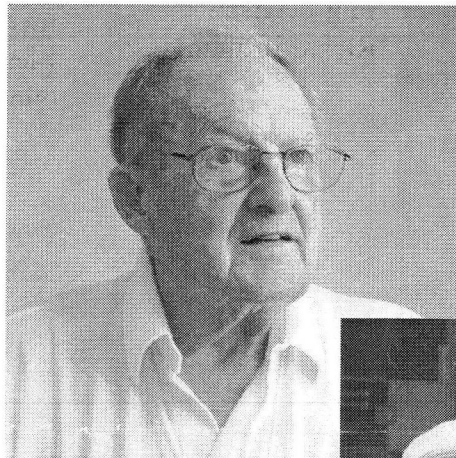
Honored Guests from the Republic of China:

Maj. Gen. Liu Te-Liang, Deputy Dir., MIB
Lt. Col. Howard Wang

Maj. Vinece Fu
Capt. Carol Tu
Maj. Gen. Kuo Rong-Charng

Assistant Editor's Note: We made diligent effort to report this list accurately. If there are any omissions, I request with advance apologies that you let me know.

Photos from top: Reunion host Jack Peterson. Mary Tanner. Lilma Huntley. Joe Keenan.

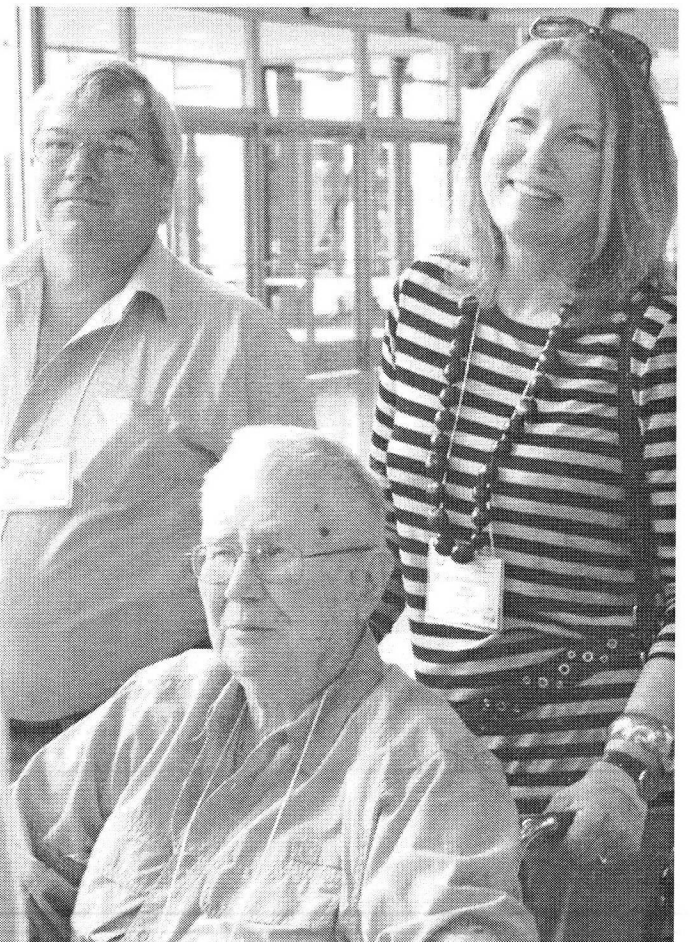
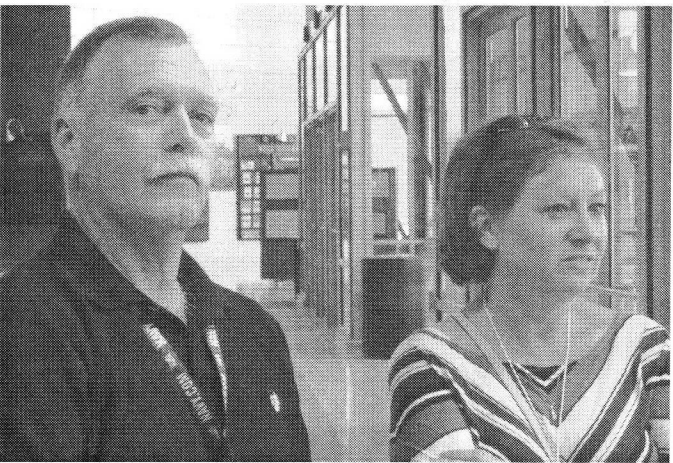
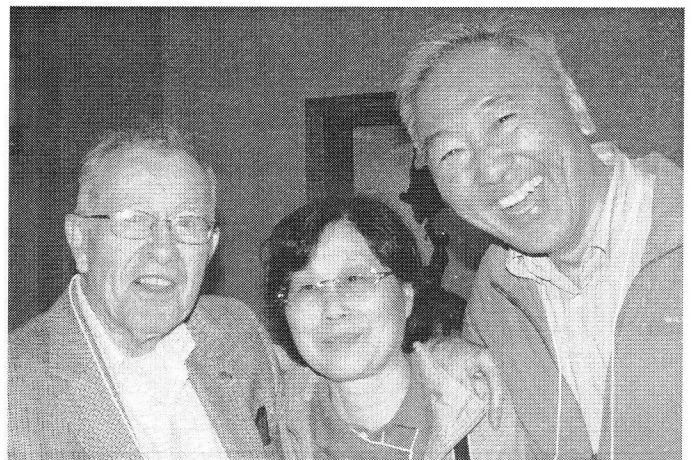
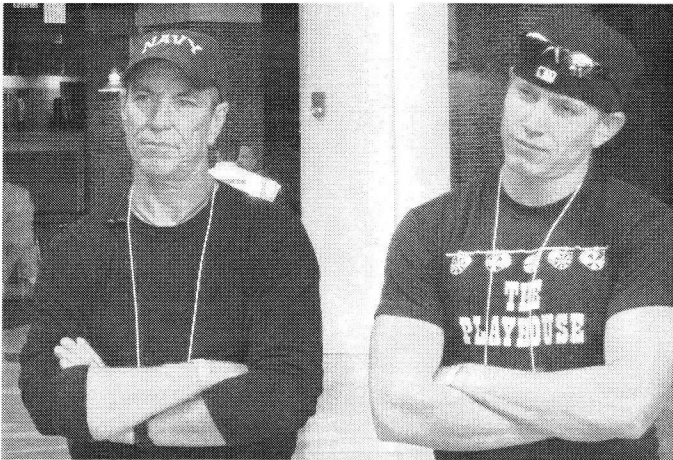
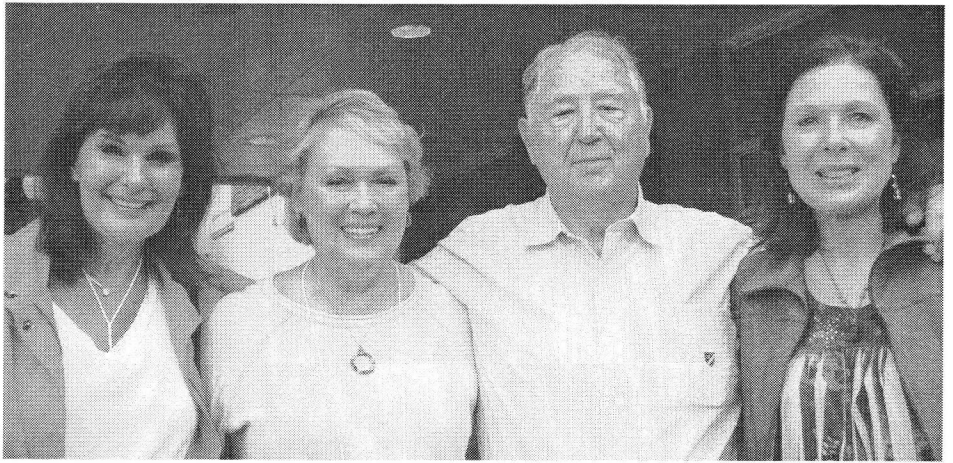


Scenes from the 59th SACO Reunion in Neenah, Wisconsin

This page, clockwise, from upper right. Pete Barbieri shows off the SACO quilt, highlight of the Hospitality Room. Maj. Gen. Liu, Te-Liang, Deputy Director of the MIB. Barbara Jones and Judy Barbieri at the Green Bay Packers Atrium. Dan Miller.

Next page, clockwise, from upper left. Cean and Jack Coyle. Pat Sanders and Guy Purvis with Pat's daughters. Jim Kelly, Mrs. Kuo, and Maj. Gen Kuo. Edward and Lynn Graberstien with Dick Terpstra. Francis Reynnet and Charles Miles. Jim Hunnicut. Bob and Jordan Hill.





General Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2013

Neenah, Wisconsin

Meeting brought to order by Dan Miller at 10:37 a.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance –
Richard Maurice

Old Business

2012 Minutes read – Carolyn Inman Arnold

Treasurer's Report – Judy Barbieri

Discussion of gifts received.

The SACO treasury increased because of donations and the fact that the organization did not send out quarterly newsletters.

Linda Kush will be publishing next newsletter about 16 pages in length.

Questions and discussion from the floor.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report – Carolyn Inman Arnold

Seconded by Lilma Huntley.

Motion passes

Membership Report – Jack Coyle

Numbers of current veterans and associate members given.

Mr. Coyle thanks Jodi Petersen for her work on the website – saconavy.com

Discussion of who should receive newsletter.

Motion: That a member has to be two years delinquent in dues before they stop receiving the newsletter – Francis Reynett

Seconded: Mel Goguey

Motion passes

Motion to accept Membership Report – Guy Purvis

Seconded: Francis Reynett

Historian Report – Jack Coyle

Discussion of items to be sent to Nimitz Museum
Linda Chu's husband was an interpreter. We have a medal of his. Discussion whether or not to give this to the Military Intelligence Bureau of Taiwan (MIB)

Motion: To give SACO medal to the Taiwanese for the MIB museum – Mel Goguey

Seconded: Francis Reynett

Motion passes

Necrology – Carolyn Inman Arnold, Secretary reads
Necrology

Legal Report – Robert Dormer, Legal Counsel

Discussion of disbanding SACO and succession procedures including proper filing of tax returns.

New Business

Election for Positions – Richard Maurice, Trustees
Chairman

Current List of positions

Incoming President – Jack Petersen

Vice President – Jim Kelly

Membership Chairman – Jack Coyle

Assistant Membership Chairman – Jodi Petersen

Treasurer – Judy Barbieri

Assistant Treasurer – Mel Goguey

Legal Counsel – Robert Dormer

Secretary – Carolyn Inman Arnold

Assistant Secretary – Judy Maurice

Historian – Jack Coyle

Assistant Historian – Jodi Petersen

Reunion Coordinator – Richard Rutan

Assistant Reunion Coordinator – Jodi Petersen

Motion to make outgoing President the Assistant

Reunion Coordinator – James Kelly

Seconded: Pete Barbieri

Motion passes

Richard Maurice: Are there any additional nominations for current positions?

Motion made to accept current positions – Francis Reynett

Seconded: Joe Keenan

Motion passes

Richard Maurice: There are six Trustees total. We need to vote on two Trustee positions.

Motion to re-nominate Ken Brown for Trustee – Judy Maurice

Seconded: Guy Purvis

Motion passes

Motion to re-nominate Mel Goguey for Trustee (completing term for John Waters) – Jack Coyle

Seconded: Carolyn Inman Arnold

Motion passes

New Associates – Jack Coyle

New associates were recognized

Future reunions – Dan Miller

Annapolis

Grand Rapids

Open floor for discussion

Lynn Grabenstein (Daughter of veteran Dick Terpstra) proposed Dearborne, MI for the 2014 SACO reunion.

James Kelly offered to conduct a reunion in Philadelphia. "If the 60th SACO reunion is to be the last, we would be honored to host it."

For future reunions, Mel Goguey offers to help Richard Rutan in one last reunion to take place in Palm Springs.

Motion to hold SACO's 60th reunion in 2014 in Dearborne, MI followed by a Philadelphia reunion in 2015 - Judy Barbieri

Seconded: Guy Purvis

Motion passes

Convention Chairman recognition

Standing ovation for Jodi Petersen and Jack Coyle for their contribution to SACO.

Nimitz Museum - \$500 donation - Richard Maurice

Motion to donate \$500 to the Nimitz Museum

- Richard Maurice

Seconded: Pete Barbieri

Motion passes

Update on Newsletter - Linda Kush

Proposal from MIB to form a Foundation funded by the MIB - general discussion

Motion to adjourn - Jordan Hill

Seconded: Helen Goguey

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Inman Arnold

SACO Veterans Contributors

These individuals made contributions to SACO Veterans in 2012-2013 in addition to their membership dues. Thank you for your support.

Charles Bonnett
Allen Larsen
John Demmer
Guy Tressler
H.W. Weskamp
Dorothy Zuck
Vernard Dalrymple
Irving Floress
Robert Stoll
Salvatore Ciaccio
Ken Wilson
B. Tedesco
Jerry Levendowski
Paul Baroff
Charles Tether
Don Hardenbrook
Robert Lear
Roger Moore
Margaret Felmly
S.D. Tresler
S. Shepherd Tate
Robert Thomas
John Pisarick
Mary Tanner
Kathryn Petersen
Darius Reynnet
Mary Hill
Donald Huber
Debbie Chung
Cecil Johnson
Ted Bartee
John Piserick Sr.
Brooks Ambros
Terry Hanson
Tim Masternbrook
Lynn Harper
Anson Hockett
R. Banner
Guy Purvis
Gregroy B. Skinner
Tzu Li Ching
Wilbert Edwards
Keith Allen
Joseph Keenan

Edward J. Socha
Pete and Judy Barbieri
Linda Kush
Jennie Zuzek
Geraldine Delaney
Janet Johnson
John Ray Peplu
Judith Gallagher
Robert Dormer

Poetry Corner

A SACO Prayer

By Bill Bartee

Hello, God, it's us again,
The boisterous ones called SACO men.
We're here today to laugh and play;
To remember You aren't far away.

We're older now with a bit more sense
Than years ago, when without recompense,
We all stepped forward; yelled out our "Here"
In response to the call for volunteers.

You made us part of MILES' Navy;
Home port China — Big Boss, TAI LI.
You protected us, then brought us home;
Turned us loose and let us roam.

But, at that time, You waved your wand,
And among us all was forged a bond
That half a century has not changed,
Even though our lives were rearranged.

So, at this time, we feel we must
Say, "Thank You, God, for picking us."
And thank You, too, for standing fast
To receive our Mates whose time has passed.

And if there ever comes a time
The world goes nuts and You're in a bind,
Just remember that here below,
SACO Tigers volunteer to go.

And so this Psalm we will now end;
But prior to our big Amen,
To You, OH! God, we salute and bow;
To You, from SACO, A BIG "TING HAO!"

Bill Bartee composed this poem in November 1996.

Just a Common Soldier

By A. Lawrence Vaincourt

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

Randy Vaincourt, son of the late A. Lawrence Vaincourt, is honored to grant the SACO News permission to publish this poem, which has been printed thousands of times worldwide.

SACOs at the Double-Ten Centennial

More stories about the trip of a lifetime

On October 10, 2011, eleven SACO veterans sat in the open air with family and friends on a lovely, flag-snapping day in Taipei, Taiwan. As guests of the Republic of China's Military Intelligence Bureau, they had prime seats in the reviewing stand in front of the regal Presidential Office Building to watch the pageantry celebrating the centennial of the founding of the republic.

The date marked the 100th anniversary of the Wuchang Uprising, a local rebellion that grew into a nationwide revolt and paved the way for the birth of the republic in 1912. Double-Ten Day, also called National Day of the Republic of China, is the ROC equivalent to the Fourth of July in the United States.

To open the Double-Ten Centennial festivities, ROC President Ma Ying-jeou delivered a speech to his country surrounded by SACO veterans Mike Cannon, Mel Goguey, Jim Kelly, Roger Moore, Jack Petersen, Guy Purvis, Francis Reynett, Richard Rutan, Henry Scurlock, Dick Terpstra, and Herman Wescamp. A spectacle of military drills, airplane flyovers, dragon dances, and music worthy of a national celebration followed.

The Double-Ten observance was the high point of an unforgettable trip. The veterans and their entourage felt like so many princes and princesses throughout their visit as people showered them with gifts, friendship, and lavish hospitality, from luxury hotel suites to elaborate banquets. Military Intelligence Bureau staff-

ers served as guides, and no detail was overlooked. ROC officials, in deference to the advanced age of their guests, retained a physician and a nurse to accompany the SACOs throughout their ten-day stay.

The group's plane had barely touched down in Taiwan when they were whisked to a ceremony releasing a SACO oral history book, a series of interviews with the veterans recorded by the MIB at a SACO reunion. Journalists and photographers from all over Asia attended.

SACO Veterans Associate Carolyn Inman Arnold, U.S. travel coordinator for the SACO trip, was honored to accompany the veterans. She carried a laptop



Left to Right: Mike Cannon, Roger Moore, Jim Kelly, Francis Reynett, Mel Goguey, Richard Rutan, Henry Scurlock, Jack Petersen, Guy Purvis, Dick Terpstra, and Herman Wescamp in Taipei

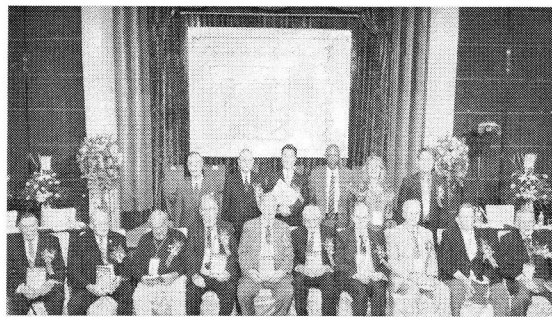
containing scans of the group's travel documents and medical histories, ready for any emergency. Her most treasured moment of the tour occurred at the end a banquet hosted by the ROC Minister of Defense. As the guests said their good-byes, the minister clung to her hand and seemed reluctant to let go. Having learned that she had given up her job to serve the veterans on the trip, he presented her with a medal and a watch to express his gratitude.

Roger Moore hoped to see a Buddhist temple,

but it was not included on the group's busy schedule. To fulfill his wish, a guide escorted him for a private temple tour one evening. Moore admired the architecture and learned the most intimate details of spiritual practice. He even visited a special station where young singles meditate on finding a soulmate.

Although the MIB hosts were too young to remember World War II, as institutional heirs to Tai Li, they inherited the memory of SACO. They honored the American veterans as heroes who fought side by side with their Chinese brothers against a common enemy when the rest of the world seemed indifferent to China's plight.

At the end of the centennial visit, the MIB guides walked with their American friends to the airport security gate. They paused for a round of hugs, warm wishes, and tears, a final farewell to the men who had stood by their country seven decades ago.



The book release ceremony

Analy Students Give Back to WWII Vets

Wood shop recognizes men who served on mission in China

By Kerry Benefield

The Press Democrat, November 10, 2012

Enclosed in the thank-you note from Francis “Pete” Reynnet was a photo of a pen propped against Reynnet’s military medals from his service in World War II.

But it wasn’t just any pen.

Handcrafted by sophomore Riley Swift, the cherry-wood writing implement was one of 21 pens handmade by Analy High School wood-shop students and given to veterans of the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, a group of about 2,500 mostly Navy personnel who worked in occupied China after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in World War II.

“It was just a little pen that I made, ranking up there with his war medals that he got. It was really, really great,” Swift said of the photo Reynnet sent along with his words of thanks.

The gifting of the handcrafted pens came about through Judy Barbieri of Santa Rose whose father, the late John McAfee, served in the SACO project as a naval storekeeper. He never attended the annual reunions that SACO veterans have been organizing for nearly six decades, but Barbieri began attending to get a better sense of what her father went through during the war.

“It was such a part of my father’s history,” she said. “They are all like dads to me. They are just wonderful men.”

Barbieri served as the SACO alumni group’s president last year and organized a reunion in Sonoma County. This summer, the group went to Indianapolis, where they were presented with the Analy students’ pens.

“I was a little surprised,” the 87-year-old Reynnet said. “I really appreciated it. To remember an old guy from 60 years ago.”

“It’s really a nice piece of work,” said Ken Brown, 89, of Laramie, Wyo.

Sophomore Jordan Padilla said it was a meaningful project.

“I thought it was really a great gift,” he said. “It was something like a token of our appreciation that we could give to them for what they did.”

The SACO sailors and Marines worked largely in areas of China occupied by the Japanese and were taking orders from a joint Chinese-U.S. command.

“The purpose of the group was to gather intelligence and train Chinese troops in guerrilla warfare and more or less to cause trouble for the Japanese,” Brown said. “Our group, we would gather intelligence on troop movements, shipping and all kinds of information and we would pass the information on to the Pacific fleet and the 14th Air Force so they could bomb their shipments.”

Chinese and Taiwanese officials typically attend the annual SACO reunion and exchange gifts, Brown said.

“They really appreciate us because the SACO group and the 14th Air Force did more to help China than anybody,” Brown said.

When they were discharged, they were sworn to secrecy about the operation. That order was lifted in the mid-1970s, but even today Reynnet is not eager to give too many details about the work of SACO.

“There were a lot of reasons (for the secrecy), but I won’t go into that,” he said.

For Analy wood-shop teacher Joe Maloney, the project provided an opportunity for an unexpected history lesson.

“It was something to get these students to start thinking outside the classroom,” he said. “It was a project that really pulled students out of themselves and seeing what young men were called to do when the nation really needed them.”

The thank-you letters from the veterans were moving, he said.

“It was really touching,” he said. “I’m going to try to keep reading them in class.”



Riley Swift, 15, shows the pens he and his classmates made.

Bella, a “Working Girl”

By Jerry Levendowski



Bella, all dressed up and ready for work.

Meet Bella, a nine-year-old, blond retriever-lab and SACO Veterans mascot.

Bella received training from Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), a nationwide organization that prepares Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers, and crosses of the two like Bella to provide companionship and service to disabled persons. Attendees of the 2011 SACO Reunion in 2011 may recall our visit to CCI's Santa Rosa campus.

The career of a CCI dog begins at the home of a volunteer puppy raiser. Jerry Levendowski, SACO Associate of Sacramento, Calif., and nephew of the late SACO veteran Vern Herberg, welcomed Bella as a two-month-old ball of fur and devoted 14 months to her care and preliminary training. She was then ready for her next step.

She returned to CCI for nine months of advanced training. At the end of the course, with no disabled person “match” for Bella, she came home to Jerry. Her unique poise and temperament made it possible for her to make a seamless transition into her new “therapy dog” role. She is now a “working girl.” She visits veterans living in assisted living homes, hospitals, and rehabilitation centers, and meets with members of veterans organizations.

She proudly wears a SACO cape and WWII dog tags that read: Bella, U.S. Navy, SACO, Scouts/Raiders.

New Book of Interest— The Forgotten Ally: China's World War II, 1937-1945

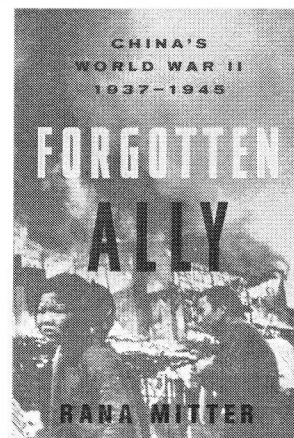
by Rana Mitter

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Published September 10, 2013

from the publisher

**The epic, untold story of
China's devastating eight-year
war of resistance against Japan**



For decades, a major piece of World War II history has gone virtually unwritten. The war began in China, two years before Hitler invaded Poland, and China eventually became the fourth great ally, partner to the United States, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain. Yet its drama of invasion, resistance, slaughter, and political intrigue remains little known in the West.

Rana Mitter focuses his gripping narrative on three towering leaders: Chiang Kai-shek, the politically gifted but tragically flawed head of China's Nationalist government; Mao Zedong, the Communists' fiery ideological stalwart, seen here at the beginning of his epochal career; and the lesser-known Wang Jingwei, who collaborated with the Japanese to form a puppet state in occupied China. Drawing on Chinese archives that have only been unsealed in the past ten years, he brings to vivid new life such characters as Chiang's American chief of staff, the unforgettable “Vinegar Joe” Stilwell, and such horrific events as the Rape of Nanking and the bombing of China's wartime capital, Chongqing. Throughout, *Forgotten Ally* shows how the Chinese people played an essential role in the wider war effort, at great political and personal sacrifice.

Forgotten Ally rewrites the entire history of World War II. Yet it also offers surprising insights into contemporary China. No twentieth-century event was as crucial in shaping China's worldview, and no one can understand China, and its relationship with America today, without this definitive work.

DAY IS DONE ... GONE THE SUN...
 FROM THE LAKES, FROM THE HILLS,
 FROM THE SKIES.
 ALL IS WELL ... SAFELY REST.
 GOD IS NIGH.

Taps

Membership Chairman Jack Coyle regrets to report the following deaths since SACO News Issue 41 in April 2012, as of September 1, 2013. Locations of service are in chronological order.

Dayton Lee Alverson, 2013
 Calcutta, Kunming, Camp 6, Changchow,
 Hwaan, Shanghai

James E. Blackwell, 2010
 Calcutta, Ma Pi, Camp 2, Tung Ting Lake,
 Mah Chee

Wade J. Brightbill, 2011
 Calcutta

Edward E. Bush, 1989
 Kunming, Chungking, Kunming, Shanghai

Martin W. Caulfield, 2012
 Chungking

A. W. "Red" Duperrault
 Kunming, Chungking

Frank Joseph Flynn, 2012
 Calcutta, Chungking, Shanghai

Lillian Rebecca Gilroy, 2012
 Washington, D.C.

Alfred R. Goggin, 1989
 Calcutta

Robert McCary Grace, 2013
 Chungking, Shanghai

Walter Cobb Hamlin, 2013
 Calcutta

James J. Hanley, Jr, 2008
 Chungking, Camp 3, Liutung, Sian

Vernon Herberg, 2013
 Calcutta, Kunming, Foochow

Albert Hintzen, 2000
 Kienyang, Kunming, 14th Air Force, Chungking,
 Kunming, Canton

Robert Blair Hornberger, 2010
 Calcutta, Chungking, Calcutta

Henry John Mastenbrook, 2010
 Chungking, Laohekow, Pai Ho, Kwang Yuan,
 Chungking

Bruno A. Paglia, Jr, 1974
 Chungking, Camp 3, Paoki, Sian, Kanchow,
 Yangtze Unit, Chihkiang, Kunming

Charles M. Parkin, Jr, 2005
 Chungking, Camp 1, Calcutta, Camp 1, Kunming,
 Chungking, New Delhi, Camp 1, Calcutta

Stewart L. Pittman, 2013
 Chungking, Camp 2, Camp 8, Kienyang, Camp 8,
 Shanghai

Edward E. Porter, 2011
 Chungking, Camp 10, Hsifeng, Changsha,
 Shanghai

Elmer C. Radmer
 Calcutta, Camp 3, Liutung, Chungking

Harrison James Rainey, 2012
 Camp 1, Camp 6, Hwaan

Burnell Krug Rebert, 2012
 Calcutta, Kunming, Camp 2, Chenyuan, Changsha,
 Shanghai

Ambrose Edward Vasold, 2012
 Chungking, Ansi, Suchow, Lanchow, Suchow,
 Shanghai

John Calvin Waters, 2012
 Calcutta, Chungking

John Kip Webber
 Kunming, 14th Air Force, Chungking, Kunming,
 Canton

Jerome Jackson Wills, 2011
 Calcutta, Kunming, Chungking, Shanghai

Lyle E. Wood, 2012
 Chungking

Slim Gilroy passed away Monday, June 25, 2012 in Mobile, Alabama. She was 91 years old.

During the Summer of 1942, Yeoman 1st Class Lillian Rebecca Gilroy, WAVE, reported for duty as secretary to CAPT Jeffrey C. Metzler in Room 2732 of the Old Navy Department. She stood five feet and eleven inches high and was svelte (she actually blushed when I referred to her as *svelte*). Her new boss surveyed her from foot to head and announced "You are a tall drink of water. I'll call you 'Slim'." She proudly recounted that story in 1990 as if it were a current event.

It was in Room 2732 during the Fall of 1941 that "Project Friendship" – a joint Chinese-and-American effort to acquire essential weather information for the Pacific Fleet – was conceived. By the end of June, 1942, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek had proposed that Project Friendship, redefined and expanded in concept by Gen. Tai Li and CDR Miles, be given a more distinguished and encompassing name. Thus SACO (Sino-American Cooperative Organization) became an official entity; in America throughout the war the outfit continued to be referred to as Project Friendship.

On July 5, 1942, CAPT Metzler was transferred to Room 2732 and became Project Officer for "Friendship" as well as Head of the Readiness Section in the newly formed Readiness Division. The responsibilities of "Readiness" were too massive to be itemized here but included the planning and preparing for Naval operations in the Pacific. As a civilian Slim was a very proficient legal secretary. In her Washington billet she toiled late into the nights and weekends for CAPT Metzler. She called him "Cap'n Jeff" in non-official surroundings. Slim was the only female veteran member of SACO.

Almost all men, as well as most orders for supplies, heading for SACO passed through Room 2732. After June 1943, all personnel were required to score high on the Acceptance Test (designed by LT William D. Glenn, a psychologist, it measured one's ability to cope with different living conditions and cultures) before being accepted into SACO. Then the men received their shots (usually at the Navy Dispensary down the street), arranged for passports, signed papers to send their paychecks home, brought their wills up to date, and were sworn to secrecy concerning all SACO activities.

Most recall encountering Yeoman James Hotard (not a SACO hand) as they passed through Room 2732; few remembered meeting Slim. But she knew them and affectionately called them "the boys". At one convention Bill Bartee wondered why he did not remember her and Slim replied "I remember you. I was supposed to be a one-way looking glass."

While visiting Taiwan during the 1985 SACO reunion, Slim was ushered into the MIB museum with great fanfare and showed the SACO agreement. "You typed that" the General proudly stated. As a matter of record she also typed the Admiral's book, *A Different Kind of War*.

Slim and my mother, "Billy" Miles, roomed together at the SACO conventions, both in the U.S. and Taiwan. Slim always packed a coffee pot; I was tasked with producing sweet rolls (almost non-existent in Taipei) which were my price of admission to their breakfast.

Slim hosted the 1990 convention at Gulf Shores, Alabama. After choosing the Quality Inn Beachside, she called in Hal Bonin who negotiated a real sweet group rate and a complimentary director's suite; one could easily spit into the Gulf from the windows. Slim then arranged for a shrimp boil (huge pots were part of the suite's



Yeoman 1st Class L.R. Gilroy, 1943. Photo courtesy of David M. Knapp

William O. Pettit, Jr.

William O. (Bill) Pettit, Jr., 91, died peacefully February 20, 2013, at UMASS Memorial Hospital after a short illness.

Bill was born in 1921 in New Brunswick, N.J. In 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy serving first on a sub chaser in the Mediterranean supporting four landings in Italy and France. The last year of the war he was stationed in Chunking, China, with the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, mapping the coast of China for the erstwhile invasion of Japan.

Bill and Sally Daniels were married on Dec. 23, 1946. The couple settled in Worcester, Mass., in 1947. Bill went to work for the Gaychrome Company, which he purchased in 1957. He retired in 1981.

During his retirement, Bill enjoyed being out on Nantucket Sound in sail or motor boats. He also was an artist at making museum-quality ship models. He would carve the hull and outfit each meticulously.

Bill is survived by Sally, his wife of 66 years, two children, Sarah and Billy, and four grandchildren.

from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette

Slim Gilroy, continued from Page 13

kitchen) to which were invited the visiting Chinese, led by Gen. Huang Shih-chung. It was a first for the guests – fresh-caught (and bought dockside) peel-and-eat shrimp, beer in the bottle, and newspapers as tablecloths. That party lasted til midnight.

Slim faithfully attended every SACO convention until that of 2004. I telephoned and pleaded for her to reconsider skipping the Seattle event but she remained unwavering. “C-going, I neither see nor get about well. I do not want to be a burden on the boys.”

Her nephew, David M. Knapp, emailed “. . . [The F]ourth of July was always spent watching the fireworks over Mobile Bay bursting above the USS Alabama and Drum. When the National Anthem played she was first on her feet with hand over heart. When she could no longer stand she still had her hand over her heart. How she loved America and her time of service.”

Dr. Charles Miles
August 19, 2012

Vernon E. Herberg

By Jerry Levendowski

Vernon E. Herberg died on August 15, 2013, in Farmington, Minn., at age 97.

Born March 16, 1916, in Minneapolis, Vern married his wife Louise on October 29, 1938. With WWII ongoing, he felt obligated to serve his country and enlisted in the Navy in 1943. He and Louise had two young children at the time of his enlistment.

He volunteered to serve with the Navy's Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO) in China. One of his most memorable moments was flying over the “Hump” across the Himalayas into China.

After the war, Vern returned home in January 1946.

Prior to enlisting, Vern became a member of the Minnesota Highway Patrol in August 1942. He was assigned Officer Number 68, and the number was retired upon his death. He retired in August 1976 with the rank of Corporal and was the second-oldest retired trooper in the state.

He was honored as the Farmington Citizen of the Year for his active involvement in the community, church, American Legion, and VFW activities. He was awarded the WCCO (local radio station) Good Neighbor Award for serving Meals on Wheels one day a week for 35 years. He served one of the governors of Minnesota as a driver in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Vern, “The Swede” to his friends, had the honor of being a driver for the King of Sweden during the monarch's visit to Minnesota.

His retirement days were filled with activities shared with family and friends. Vern, who was an avid card player, claimed a level of expertise with such games as bridge, eunhre, cribbage, 500, pinochle, and poker. Not all those who played against him would agree with his assessment.

Vern was preceded in death by his wife Louise, son Roger, and son-in-law John Marschall. He is survived by children Marlys Marschall, Patricia (Marvin) Alexander, Douglas (Colleen) Herberg, and Michael (Nancy) Herberg, a brother, James Herberg, daughter-in-law Eileen Herberg, sister-in-law MaryAnn Herberg, 16 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren.

Vernon will be remembered as the consummate “SACO Tiger.”

Robert Grace

Robert McCary "Bob" Grace died March 27, 2013, in San Antonio, Tex., surrounded by his family.

Bob was born April 20, 1924, in Montgomery, Ala., the second of three children. He was raised in Birmingham, Ala., a fifth-generation descendant of the pioneer settlers of that region.

He joined the Navy in World War II and served in China as a Photographer's Mate with the Sino-American Cooperative Organization (SACO). He was an active member of the SACO veterans organization, and hosted the 55th reunion of SACO in Midland in 2010.

He received a masters degree in geology from the University of Wyoming in 1951, where he met Betty Lou Chandler, from Corbin, Ky. He always said it must have been fate that a girl from Kentucky and a boy from Alabama would meet in Laramie, Wyo.

Bob married Betty Lou in 1950. His career as a geologist in the oil industry brought them to Midland, Tex., in 1958. On the drive to Midland, while approaching Levelland, Tex., Betty Lou, who had yet to set foot in Midland, asked if Midland was "this flat," to which Bob replied, "This is hilly compared to Midland." Betty Lou cried. But they grew to love Midland and remained proud residents for the next 50 years. In the 1960s, Bob began a 40-year career as an independent geologist. He continued to prospect for oil and gas until a few years ago, when he began showing signs of Alzheimer's.

Bob was a member of many professional geology societies. The West Texas Geological Society honored him with its Pioneer Award. He also served as Editor of *Oil & Gas Fields of West Texas Volume V*.

Bob and Betty Lou were members of St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church, where he held numerous leadership and volunteer teaching positions. Bob was an active leader in the Boy Scouts, serving as Scout Master of Troop 85. He taught the Geology Merit Badge at Buffalo Trails Scout Ranch for many years. Philmont Scout Ranch honored him with the Walking Wood-badger award. Bob swam a mile every day until only a few years ago.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Betty Lou Chandler Grace, his sister Betty Anne Bowles, five children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

from the Midland Reporter-Telegram

Burnell K. Rebert

Burnell K. Rebert, 93, of Lancaster, Pa., and formerly of Westminster, Md., passed peacefully at the Mennonite Home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on July 30, 2012. He was the husband of Mary Helen (Stauffer) Rebert who died December 2, 2000.

Born December 9, 1918 in Hanover, Pa., Burnell was the son of the late Roy C. and Mary Kate (Krug) Rebert.

After graduating from Spring Grove High School, Burnell joined the U.S. Navy during WWII and served as a Pharmacist's mate. He was a member of the Sino American Cooperative Organization, or SACO, an intelligence unit in India and China. They provided the Allies with crucial information on enemy troop movements and weather reports in support of air, land and sea strikes. Due to his remote and secret location, he was not aware the war was over until several weeks after the fact. He made his own way out via the Yangtze River to Shanghai.

After returning to the states, Burnell graduated from Elizabethtown College in 1947. He went on to become a self-employed Erie Insurance agent for many years in Westminster, Md. He was a member of the Roaring Run Lions Club, Westminster, Md. He was also an active member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Westminster, Md., until moving to Lancaster where he became a member of Church of the Apostles.

Mr. Rebert is survived by a daughter, Holly R. Kleimo and her husband John of Lancaster; a son Andrew R. Rebert and his wife Cynthia of Cockeysville, Md.; a granddaughter, Emily E. Kleimo, Philadelphia, and three sisters: Anna Johnson, Surfside, S. C., Katie Robirds, Austin, Tex., and Mary Miller, Harrisonburg, Va.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful staff at the Mennonite Home for their loving care and for always making sure Burnell had plenty of ice cream.

from the Lancaster New Era/Intelligencer Journal/Sunday News

SACO NEWS

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SACO History

SACO (pronounced "Socko"), the Sino-American Cooperative Organization, was established during WWII with the approval of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. This highly secret military operation was commanded by General Tai Li (Head of BIS, Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, i.e. intelligence), as Director and then-Commander (later to become Vice Admiral) Milton Edward "Mary" Miles as Deputy Director. The Chinese and American members of SACO joined in a combined effort to perform intelligence and guerrilla operations. The group became known as "The Rice Paddy Navy."

The SACO men served hundreds of miles behind enemy lines in China. They established weather stations and provided vital weather information for the

Pacific Fleet. Their coast-watchers reported on enemy shipping and, often with the aid of friendly pirates, rescued downed Allied airmen. They were involved in numerous military, medical, and humanitarian endeavors. The approximately 2,500 American personnel were mostly from the Navy; a small but important percentage were Marines. These men were and are known as "SACO Tigers."

Three books: *The Rice Paddy Navy*, *A Different Kind of War*, and *The Army Navy Game*, as well as a movie, *Destination Gobi* starring Richard Widmark, relate the story of SACO.

Note of interest: This group probably holds the distinction of being the first American military unit to ever serve under a foreign leader in time of war.