

Separated by Language and Culture but United by a Common Goal

THE LEGACY OF THE FLYING TIGERS

By Margaret Mills Kincannon

Soon after the year 1922 began, a male child was born on January 30 in a small agricultural community of the American South in Benton County, Arkansas. His parents gave their son the name James Henry Mills, but childhood friends called him by his lifelong nickname of "Hank". His father was a farmer who later became a laborer at a petroleum refinery and his mother, who bore two more sons, cared for their family and small but comfortable home in El Dorado, Arkansas. Hank completed twelve years of public school and graduated from high school in May 1941. Afterward, he took a job as a meatcutter at a locally-owned grocery store.

Half a world away, in Jian County, Andong Province in Manchuria, another boy baby was born on October 29 of the same year that Hank was born but in completely different circumstances. He was called Du Xing-quan by his family, although he would change his name in early adulthood. A fourteenth-generation descendant of Genghis Khan and therefore a member of the nobility, he enjoyed a life of privilege under the care of servants and his aristocratic parents on a grand estate. Following an early-childhood education provided by private tutors, he was enrolled in a western-style school. The Japanese occupied Manchuria when he was in sixth grade, and life changed completely. The family was forced to move to Tianjin in northeastern China and then to Jigongshan, Hubei Province, following the Marco Polo Bridge Incident and outbreak of war in 1937. Xing's father (at that time a university professor teaching law and business), his mother, and younger siblings moved to Xian in northwestern Shaanxi Province, while he went to Tianshui, Gansu Province, to complete high school. After graduating, he studied in the Economics Department at the National Northwest University in Xian and planned to become clerk in a bank after graduation.

It seems impossible that two people who came from such diverse backgrounds could ever meet, and especially that they would cooperate in support of a shared cause, yet the most remarkable set of circumstances would soon intervene to bring them together fighting as brothers in arms to defeat a common enemy.

For Hank, it all began on December 7, 1941, when a distraught radio announcer broke into regular Sunday afternoon programming to provide details of a surprise attack by the Japanese Imperial Navy against the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. Like many thousands of other young Americans, his sense of patriotism and duty compelled him to enlist soon after. He requested placement in the U.S. Army Air Forces, later explaining, "I didn't want to walk on the ground and carry a rifle". His request was granted, and he began training that would qualify him to become a crew chief on B-25 Mitchell bombers. (To be continued)

FROM USA

飛虎傳奇：不同語言文化卻因同一目標 而團結奮戰的兩個人

瑪格麗特追思父親漢克與都凱牧烽火下的堅定友情

在1922年開始不久之後的1月30日，一位小男孩誕生於美國南方阿肯色州班頓郡的一座小型農業社區。小男孩的雙親替他取名為「詹姆斯·亨利·密爾斯」，但是小男孩的童年好友們還是都習慣叫他「漢克」，這個跟了他一輩子的暱稱。漢克的父親是位從農夫轉職為石油精煉廠員工的勞工，母親則成長於阿肯色州艾爾多拉多郡的一個小家庭，並且生了另外兩個兒子。漢克1941年5月時，自高中畢業並完成了12年的公立學校教育，畢業之後，在當地的一間雜貨店獲得了一份擔任切肉工的工作。



然而，在截然不同的狀況下，同年的10月29日，另一位小男孩也誕生於半個世界之外的滿州安東省姜縣。男孩被他的家人喚作「都興權」，雖然他在成年過後沒多久就重新換了名字，但身為成吉思汗的第十四代後裔，依然是貴族成員的一分子，並享受到諸如有僕人們的侍奉以及使用貴族雙親那棟豪華房產的特權。為了接續童年私人家教所提供的教育，他報讀了一所西式學校。然而，日本人卻在他小學六年級的時候佔領了滿州，生活也自此全然轉變。他們全家被迫搬遷至河北省的天津，後又隨著1937年盧溝橋事件以及戰爭的爆發，而落腳於河南省的雞公山。當他為了完成高中學業而到甘肅省天水的時候，他的父親（時任大學教授，教導法律與商業相關知識）、母親及手足們則舉家遷徙至陝西省的西安。高中畢業之後，他進入了位於西安的國立西北大學經濟學系就讀，並規劃在大學畢業之後要成為一位銀行行員。

成長背景差異如此懸殊的兩位，似乎是一輩子不可能會相遇且有任何交集，然而特別的是，他們卻為了共同的原因而合作，並促使他們像兄弟一樣地團結起來，一同拿起武器擊敗共同的敵人。

對漢克而言，一切都源自於1941年12月7日的一個尋常星期日午後，由廣播播報員報導日本帝國海軍對美國位於夏威夷領地，歐胡島上的珍珠港海軍基地進行偷襲開始。正如同其他數以千計的美國年輕人一般，他的愛國心與責任感驅使他於日軍偷襲珍珠港後不久便從軍報國，他請求進入美國陸軍航空部隊，並解釋道：「我不想要帶著步槍在陸地上行軍。」他的請求隨後獲准，並開始接受成為一個合格的B-25米契爾輕型轟炸機組員的相關訓練。（未完待續）



PHOTO CAPTIONS / 圖說：

上：T/Sgt. James H. Mills, B-25 crew chief and aerial gunner
B-25機槍手漢克上士

下：2nd Lt. Du Kai-mu, B-25 pilot
B-25飛行員都凱牧少尉