

Separated by Language and Culture but United by a Common Goal THE LEGACY OF THE FLYING TIGERS

By Margaret Mills Kincannon

Hank recalled that the Chinese and Americans got along well together, and he had become friends with two mechanics with whom he worked: Ho Gui-hung and Ma Tian-you. "They were always teaching me Chinese words," he said, and with their help he learned enough of their language to go into villages and bargain with shopkeepers to make purchases after the squadron moved on to China. While still stationed at Malir, one of his tutors had invited him to dinner at a Chinese restaurant in Karachi, and he remembered, "I was the only American there. All of the rest of them were Chinese, and I was there as the guest of one of those Chinese men." It was an experience that he remembered with pleasure for the rest of his life.

The CACW's intelligence officer who was additionally its historical officer commented, "We mess around a bit in the wide chasm between two languages and two civilizations, but on the whole we get along beautifully and are saved by a sense of humor on both sides for our mutual blunderings." He blamed the contrast between the Americans' drive and need for immediate results and the Chinese tradition of patience and "politeness" for the misunderstandings that did occasionally arise. Both nationalities made efforts to accommodate their counterparts in the interest of achieving a common goal and were generally able to resolve their differences.

However, there were sometimes misunderstandings that resulted from differences in language as well as disparities in ideology, philosophy, and culture. Du later described a serious conflict that occurred during this period. One day a Chinese pilot whose surname was Xu (Sub-Lt. Hsu In-kwei in American records) and an unnamed American "mechanical sergeant" were performing routine maintenance inspections. Because Xu's English was poor, he was unable to communicate effectively with the sergeant, who became more and more annoyed. Tempers flared and voices rose. In his frustration, Xu shouted, "You are a liar!" Because Americans take the accusation of "liar" as a personal insult, the sergeant reacted and struck the first blow. Du and others rushed to break up the fight, but not before Xu was punched in the face, resulting in a black eye and bleeding from the teeth. He gave the American a hard kick before they could be separated.

(To be continued)



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

王威傑 翻譯/陳彥維 後製

漢克回想到當時，雙方人員都相處得非常良好且愉快，而且漢克也和兩位中華民國的技師侯桂宏（音譯）和馬天宇（音譯）成為好友。「他們兩位都一直持續在教我中文。」漢克說道，而且因為他們兩位的幫助，當第3轟炸機中隊移防至中國本土，漢克到鎮上購物時，他的中文字彙量已經足夠到可以和店家討價還價了。當第3轟炸機中隊還駐紮在馬利爾機場時，漢克的其中一位中文家教還邀請他到喀拉蚩的一間中華餐館用晚餐。漢克記得「我是在場唯一的美國人，其他的都是中國人，而我會被邀請到那裡是因為被當作客人招待。」這是他餘生都記得的一個愉快經驗。

中美混合聯隊的情報官（兼任史政官）評論道：「我們在兩種語言及文明間的巨大鴻溝中徘徊，但總體來說，我們相處得非常好，而且多次被彼此的幽默感，拯救了相互造成的錯誤。」他將偶爾出現的誤解歸咎於美國人希望能立竿見影，而中國人傳統上就是比較有耐心和「禮貌」，這也是差異造成的原因。為了實現共同的目標，我們雙方都努力地接納對方，也讓歧異獲得普遍的解決。

然而，有時候誤會並不僅僅是因為語言不同，意識形態、思維理哲與文化同樣會造成誤解。都凱牧描述到在這段期間發生了一件嚴重的衝突，某天，一位姓「徐」的中華民國飛行員（美方紀錄為許英奎【音譯】少尉）與一位不知名的「機械士官」正在執行例行性的維修檢查。因為徐少尉的「菜」英文，使他無法有效地與這位上士溝通，而這位上士也越來越不耐煩了。伴隨著挫折，情緒與聲音逐漸高漲，最後徐少尉吼道：「你這個騙子！」因為美國人在傳統上，將「騙子」的指控視為一種非常嚴重的人身侮辱，所以這位上士出拳打了他第一擊，作為對這項指控的回應。都凱牧與其他人隨後趕到了衝突現場，並且將衝突的雙方分開；然而，在雙方被分開之前，上士的拳頭還是打在了徐少尉的臉上，讓徐少尉黑了眼圈且牙齒滲血。都凱牧於是在雙方分開前，給了這位美國上士狠狠的一腳。（未完待續）

PHOTO CAPTIONS / 圖說：

上：Sgt. Ho Gui-hung, one of two mechanics who taught Hank words and phrases in their language
其中一位教漢克中文的華人技師侯桂宏。

下：Maj. Chester M. Conrad and Maj. Wu Ch'ao-chen, co-commanders of the 3rd Bomb Squadron,
at Malir Field
在馬利爾機場時，第三轟炸機中隊的華美雙方少校協同指揮官。

