

中華民國的空軍

中華民國一一〇年十二月號 第九七九期

中華民國的空軍

ROC AIR FORCE



S-70C-6型救護直升機

ISSN 1996-9973
9 771996 997001
GPN : 2002700002
定價：25元

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 Gen.ly 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)



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