

# 中華民國的空軍

中華民國一一一年元月號 第九八〇期

中華民國的空軍

ROC AIR FORCE



E-2K型機

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

Afterward, the two made peace and apologized to each other, but because the physical assault on a superior officer by an NCO was a serious offense that could call for a court martial, the incident was referred to higher levels of command. Gen. George E. Stratemeyer, Commanding General of the Army Air Force's India-Burma Sector, paid a visit to Group to deal with the situation personally. Because Du's education had included foreign languages and he was proficient in English, he often acted as an interpreter when it was required, and he was called upon to assist in this case. Stratemeyer first lectured the squadron co-commanders, Maj. Chester M. Conrad and Maj. Wu Ch'ao-chen, on keeping discipline among their subordinates, and then together they discussed what should be done about the occurrence. The NCO was ultimately sent back to the U.S. but not court marshaled. According to Du, the greatest challenge for the Chinese was that they must understand and communicate in English. This incident demonstrated the difficulties caused by differences in language and culture that existed between the Chinese and Americans, but it also showed their willingness to work together to resolve their differences. Air operations continued, usually with mixed-nationality crews participating on missions.

The squadron moved from Moran to Dergaon Field in late July and missions reconvened in early August. On August 7, Capt. Mark T. Seacrest led a two-plane echelon on a low-level bombing and strafing mission to Naba Junction early in the morning. It was one of Hank's earliest missions and he would remember it for many years afterward. The aircraft arrived on target at 0740 and dropped twelve 500-lb. high-explosive bombs on a railroad bridge. Two bounded off but exploded, shifting the rails and damaging the foundation. One direct hit was scored on the adjacent roadbed, while another bomb hit the bridge but did not explode. Crew members reported that it was a dud. After dropping the bomb load, they came across a train. Encountering it was an unexpected bonus since trains usually moved at night. According to the mission report, rolling stock was strafed, damaging approximately fifteen railroad cars. A 40-mm. machine gun post was in operation 300 yards west of the bridge, and a few bursts were sighted behind and above the planes. Both bombers returned safely to base after three and a half hours. (To be continued)



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中華民國二十七年元月一日創刊  
中華民國一一一年元月十日出版

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