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**THE STUFF OF LEGEND:** Then-Major Edward Rector swings into his P-40 airplane as an original member of the legendary "Flying Tigers" unit in China.

## Fighter Ace Rector Dies

Washington (AP) — Edward Rector, a World War II fighter ace and original member of the legendary "Flying Tigers" unit in China, has died from a heart attack. He was 84.

Rector, a retired Air Force colonel, was credited with downing 10.5 Japanese aircraft in combat. Pilots were given a half credit when two pilots played a role in downing an enemy.

The "Flying Tigers" unit, headed by Brig. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, was credited with destroying 296 Japanese aircraft during seven months between 1941 and 1942.

Rector, a native of Marshall, N.C., began his military career as a naval aviator. He was a carrier pilot in Norfolk, Va., when he was recruited for the American Volunteer Group, the official name for the Flying Tigers. The unit was formed with the financial backing of the Chinese government to help defend Chinese cities from Japanese attack before the United States entered World War II.

After the war, Rector served with the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group in China.

## WWII Air Hero Boyington Dies In California

Fresno, Calif. (AP) — World War II flying ace Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, whose heroics became famous in an autobiography and the television series "Baa Baa Black Sheep," died Monday at age 75.

Boyington, a colonel, was credited with shooting down 28 Japanese planes and won the Navy Cross and Medal of Honor. He died about 4 a.m., said Nancy Hinds, operator of a hospice for terminal cancer patients.

Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery, said Vivian Pardini, a spokeswoman for Chapel of the Light Funeral Home. Other funeral arrangements were pending.

Boyington's 1958 best seller was the basis of an NBC television series from 1976 to 1978 that starred Robert Conrad.

Born Dec. 4, 1912, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Boyington was a war hero even before the United States entered World War II. He was credited with shooting down six Japanese planes in 1941 with the Flying Tigers, Gen. Claire Chennault's American volunteer group in China.

When Marine surgeons told him a broken leg would end his combat flying, Boyington molded a group of pilots rejected by other squadrons into the Black Sheep, a crack unit that operated in the central Solomon Islands during 1943 and 1944.

Boyington spent the final 1½ years of the war as a Japanese prisoner after his plane was riddled by bullets and crashed in the Solomon Islands in January 1944.

"This stuff is all gone, and I'd just as soon let it go and forget it," Boyington said in a 1972 interview with The Associated Press. "I rarely ever talk about it unless someone brings it up. I don't want to bore anybody or give the impression of being a bore."

Boyington was married to the former Josephine Wilson Moseman of Fresno in 1978. It was his fourth marriage.



Boyington







RED HANKS, FLEICHER (CHRISTY) HANKS ROBERT MOSS, DON MCBRIDE TAIPEI  
1964