



THE TIGER RAG

FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 1984



1983 AVG-CNAC REUNION

OJAI, CALIFORNIA

1983 OJAI REPORT

The 1983 reunion was very interesting and successful. The gathering and program covered a pretty wide and international spectrum.

Our AVG Pilot Trophy was awarded to Jimmy Doolittle. Jimmy and his wife, Joe, were there, and four members of his Tokyo Raiders were in attendance. We had as a guest, our longtime friend, General Y.T. Loh. In addition, we had two Japanese fighter pilots who had flown against us on the Eastern front from their Hankow base.

Although it was more than forty years ago, they all had a sort of connection with us a long time ago in China. After General Doolittle arrived in China, and visited with General Chennault, he was flown out of China in a CNAC plane. General Loh, in addition to working with Chennault before AVG days, flew with us ferrying P-43's from Karachi to Kunming. The two Japanese pilots, Renzo Aoki and Masaaki Inoue, made contact with us in the Kwelin-Heng Yang-Ling Ling sector back in 1942.

Our Miss Flying Tiger was the gracious and charming June Lockhart. With all her multiple talents, she was one of the most down-to-earth people we have ever had at our reunions. Fortunately, for her, she has a great sense of humor.

We also had our usual golf shoot-out, tennis matches and a bridge tournament. Seems like there is still a lot of vim and vigor left in some of our group, although the telling is getting greater than the doing.

We had a very good turnout, using up all available rooms at the Inn. It is a good thing they have expanded. It is gratifying to see some of the members showing up for their first reunion, after all these years. That should inspire some of those members who have not yet been able to come to one of the reunions.

The 1983 meeting started on Thursday at Ojai, but there was a pretty good pre-reunion in Los Angeles on Wednesday night, with the out-of-town contingent at the Hacienda Hotel. We had quite a gathering there. The bus left the Hacienda on Thursday

morning for the Ojai Valley Inn. Registration took up a big part of the day, and the festivities started with the hayride to Tiger Glen. There had been a fair amount of warm-up among certain members of the group in preparation for this.

At the Tiger Glen, the Boeing Commercial Airplane Company hosted a cocktail party for the gang. A group of executives from the Flying Tiger Line, headed by President John Flynn, and including Larry Nagin, Ned Wallace, Jack Kane and Carl Asmus, joined us at Tiger Glen. Mr. Flynn delivered a short address to the group.

The same Western Combo that played for our first Ojai reunion in 1957 provided the music and dance calling. After the cocktails we had our outdoor steak fry and the dancing and drinking and lying continued on into the night.

The CNAC banquet on Friday night was preceded by a cocktail party sponsored by Johnson & Higgins. It was hosted by Matthew and Rita Gormley, Ron Wilson and Paul Jepson, who had ordered a great array of appetizers, that almost made dinner unnecessary.

Mr. Roger Ray, of Las Vegas, put on a show for us, but the P.A. system was out, so it turned into a fiasco. If you can't hear the jokes, you don't know when to laugh. It was unfortunate for us and him since he had driven over from Las Vegas and was donating his performance and artistry.

On Saturday night, The Flying Tigers Line furnished the AVG banquet with a spread of appetizers and cocktails, hosted by Wayne and Laura Hoffman. The main focal point of the evening was a tribute to Jimmy Doolittle, and awarding him the Flying Tiger Pilot Award. In addition to Jimmy, we had four more of his Tokyo Raiders. They were Brick Holstrom, Dick Knobloch, Roy Stork and Howard Sessler. We had a short address from both Y.T. Loh and Wayne Hoffman. Then, ably and glamorously assisted by Miss Flying Tiger, June Lockhart, we presented our trophy to General Doolittle. Jimmy highlighted the even-

ing with a short talk to the gang.

Following the introduction of the head table, Mr. Inone gave us a short address in Japanese, followed by a speech which he delivered in English. That speech is printed elsewhere in the bulletin. The members of the Japanese Fighter Squadron T-25 will be holding their annual reunion in Tokyo in October of 1984. All AVG members are invited to attend their banquet at that time.

Sunday was a more relaxed day. The tales continued, and seemed to grow a little taller. The cocktail party was sponsored by the Hungry Tiger Restaurants. Dinner was buffet style with the Ojai Valley Inn orchestra playing for the dining and dancing following dinner. The prizes for the golf, tennis and bridge winners were presented. Then the younger members of the gang wandered into the lounge for more dancing, drinking, and visiting.

The hardy survivors made it to breakfast on Monday morning. The bus departed at 1:00 PM for Los Angeles, as the group dispersed for their various destinations and another one was wrapped up.

At the CNAC business meeting, the officers for the next two years were elected, and a report from the new secretary will be sent to CNAC members.

The AVG business meeting held no surprises. The incumbents were slated for another term. The only new development was the election of Al Kaelin as Assistant Secretary.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This issue of the Tiger Rag was typeset, composed and printed by the Palm Springs High School VICA (Vocational/Industrial Clubs of America) printing class, under the direction of the instructor, Bob Andrade. We want to thank the students and Bob for this fine work.

*To Tom, a fellow
Historian Bob Andrade*

Nick Rossi

Address by former Japanese pilot

Hello, My dear members of Flying Tigers!

It is a great honor me to get a chance to see you again after six years interval. And I would like to say our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Rossi and Mr. Baisden for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

Six years ago I happen to be able to form connection with Mr. Prescott. And through his help at last I could see you whom I had often seen in my dreams.

But, he is not here with us now. I miss him, very much.

By the way, I confess you, I was very scared, when I came here to join you for the first time, I felt as if our only planes had been going to fly, into your base a lot of brave soldiers had gathered. I said to myself, "You may get, a pelting rain of kicks and blows" Of course this is an exaggeration, or a joke, you know. Anyway, I was very tense with anxiety. But you welcomed us, very warmly. While we were with you, we often heard the words "our friends in the sky" from you. And we were very much moved, by those words.

After that, we welcomed Mr. Rossi twice and Mr. Baisden one to our reunion.

Now, all the members of our reunion, have friendships which have no nationalities at all, to both of them. And this means, that all of us, have friendships to every member of Flying Tigers. I think, the friendship, is a very precious one, which was built up after so many years, among the men, who did their best, in their youth, in the same sky.

We are very happy now, because we can spend some days, with you. We would like to say, our thank you again and again to everyone of you, and especially to the chairman, who gave me the chance, of my greeting you. Thank you.



MISS FLYING TIGER, June Lockhart, is flanked by Jimmy Doolittle, this year's Flying Tiger Pilot Award winner and Dick Rossi, Flying Tiger Association member.

June Lockhart
J. H. DOOLITTLE
MUTUAL OF OMAHA INSURANCE CO.
1015 CASS ST. - SUITE 3
MONTEREY, CALIF. 93940

(408) 373-3292

5 July 1983

Mr. John R. Rossi
3038 East Mission Road
Fallbrook, California 92028

Dear Mr. Rossi:

Joe and I want to thank you and your associates for your kindness in inviting us, and the other Tokyo Raiders, to the 1983 Flying Tigers Reunion.

We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was like old times.

Our very best to all.

Very sincerely,

J. H. Doolittle
J. H. Doolittle



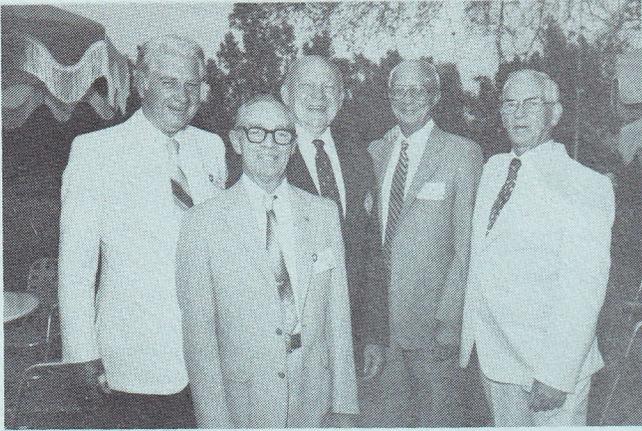
1st SQUADRON



2nd SQUADRON



3rd SQUADRON



Keith Christensen, PJ Perry, Joe Poshefko,
Clarence Riffer, Chuck Baisden.



Cynthia Bowles, Catfish Raine, Dick Stuelke.

Cynthia Bowles



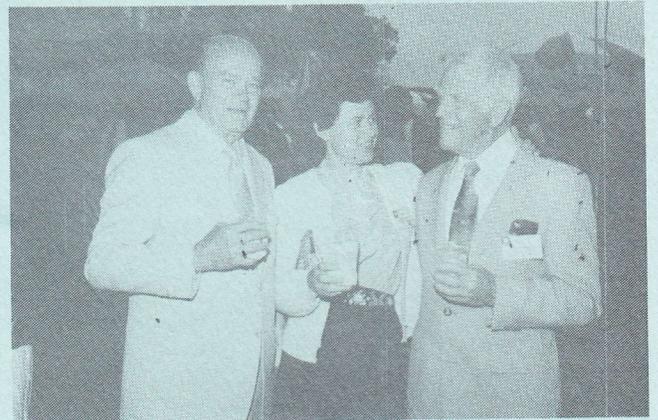
Bus Keeton, Betty and Moose Rumen.



Jo Shurette, Jean Stolet, Joe Doolittle,
Doreen Reynolds



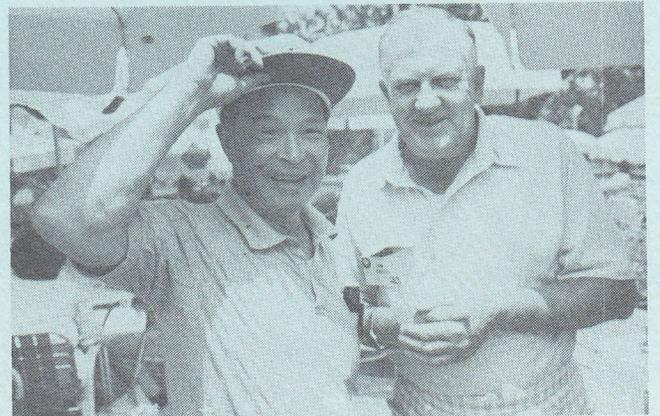
Carey Bowles, Ralph Mitchell, Jim Dalby.



Jules Watson, Ilse and Eric Shilling.



Bob Smith, PJ Greene, Mazie Hill, Keith
Christensen, Catfish Raine



Gen. YT Loh, Jim Cross.



PJ Perry, Duke Hedman, RT Smith,
Colleen Ferguson, PJ Greene.

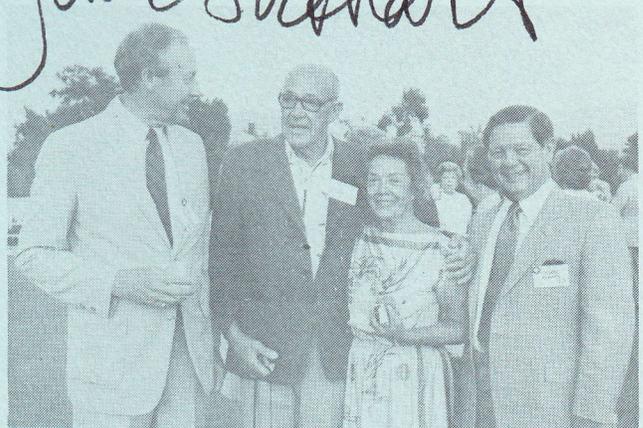


Christy Hanks, June Lockhart, Bill Maher

June Lockhart



Red Hanks, Doc Richards.

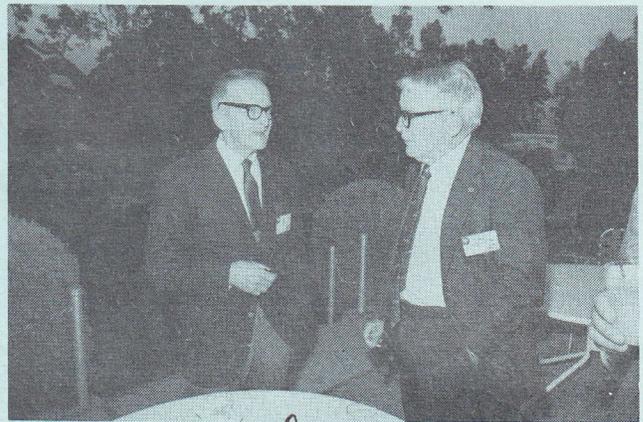


Art Kininmonth, Roy and Marge Farrell,
Robbie Roberts.



John Rossi

Lydia and Dick Rossi, Laura and Wayne Hoffman,
Chuck and Kitty Older.



Irv Gove, Link Laughlin.

June Lockhart



Japanese pilots with FTL executives.



Wayne Hoffman, June Lockhart, Jimmy Doolittle.

Letter from Doolittle Raider

Richard A. Knobloch
1810 Royal Crescent
San Antonio, Texas 78231
10 July 1983

Dear Dick:

What a terrific Reunion you had! Can't thank you enough for your wonderful hospitality inviting the Doolittle Raiders to come. Don't know if you have heard from the others yet but if you didn't, I want to thank you on behalf of all for a most enjoyable time. Most generous of the Flying Tigers to invite us.

We all had a great time and was wonderful to have the chance to visit with old friends and to make so many new ones.

Especially enjoyed being accepted as one of the gang, we all had a great time, and one we shall never forget.

Best regards and thanks to all

Richard A Knobloch
B/Gen USAF Ret
Chairman Doolittle Tokyo Raiders

Thank You

We want to take this opportunity to thank Laura Drouillard for all the help she gave our groups in helping to set-up the 1983 Reunion. Laura had helped us in previous reunions, when she worked at the Flying Tiger Line in the Public Relations Department. However, Laura left the employment of FTL when we were just getting organized. She was the only one there familiar with our set-up, so she continued to help us on her own time, even while breaking in on her new job. The services were invaluable to our reunion. She contacts our cocktail sponsors, sets up the rates and reservations at the Hacienda Hotel for those coming from out of town. She also arranged for June Lockhart to be our Miss Flying Tiger. It is hard to imagine the number of phone calls, trips and details that Laura had to handle for us. This help was before, juring and after the actual reunion.

We all owe Laura a great big
THANK YOU!

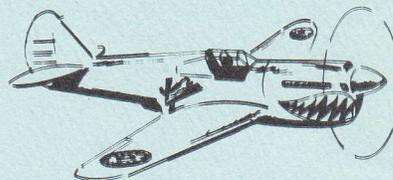


EX-JAPANESE FIGHTER PILOT is posed with the younger generation: Kristin Sharris, granddaughter of Tom Kelly; Tony Rossi, son of Dick Rossi; and Ted Lee, great Grandson of Gen. Claire Chennault.

Kristin Sharris

In Memoriam

We regret that we have to report the loss of two of our members since the reunion. Tom Kelly passed away shortly after attending the reunion. Rocky Roncaglione passed away in August. He had been unable to join us due to his health problems at the time. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their families. We will miss them greatly.



1983 OJAI ATTENDANCE LIST

Members - Family - Guests

AVG/CNAC

Carl and Ann Brown
Robert "Duke" Hedman
Link and Farrell Laughlin
Robert "Moose" Moss
Bob and Shirley Raine
Dr. Lewis J. Richard
Dick and Lydia Rossi and son Tony
Eric and Ilse Shilling

AVG

Chuck and Willa Baisden
Twisty and Roz Bent
Frank and Georgiana Bolden
and daughters Dana and Lisa
Keith and Marge Christensen
Paul and Dorothy Crouthier
Jesse and Bernadine Crookshanks
Jim and Betty Cross
Monita Dorris
Irv Gove and son Steve
P.J. Green
Red Petach Hanks
Tex and Mazie Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hoffman
Dale and Janet Hoffman
Marlys and Duane Hubler
Ed Janski
Ken Jernstedt
Al and Corky Kaelin
Bus and Metha Keeton
Tom and Eileen Kelly and
granddaughter, Kristin Sharris
Steve and Ann Kustay
Bob and Marian Layher
Bob and Kim Layher Jr.
Bob and Peggy Chennault Lee
Bob and Gwynn Locke
Charley and Marian Misenheimer
Will and Julia Musgrove
Jo Neal
Chuck and Kitty Older
Jean Peret
P.J. Perry
Alys Hoffman Phreaner
Joe and Mary Poshefko
Doreen Reynolds
Rich and Dorothy Richardson

Clarence and June Riffer
Laverne and Jan Hubler Rockwell
Don Rodewald
"Big Moose" and Betty Rumen
and daughter Linda
Bill and Eleanor Schaper
Jo Buckner Shurette
Irv and Jean Stolet
Ed and Edith Stiles
Bob M. Smith
"R.T." Smith
Bill and Hazel Towery
Tom Trumble
John and Pam Uebele
Morgan Vaux
Judy and Henry Wagner
Don Whelpley
John Williams

CNAC

Carey and Cynthia Bowles
Bob and Martha Conrath
Glenn and Shirley Carroll
Harold and Rose Chinn
Jim and Peggy Dalby
Roy and Margie Farrell
Al and Linda Rengo Fischer
Al George
Oliver and Rosemary Glenn
Joe Hall
Christy Hanks
Joe and Anne Hardin
John Kenehan
Art and Cissy Kininmonth
P.T. and Lynette Lee and son Mark
Bill and Mary Lee Maher
Al Mah and daughter Hilary
Ralph and Lisa Mitchell
Al Oldenberg
Fred and Louise Pittenger
Gene Powers
Robert Pottschmidt
Robbie and Lucille Roberts
Gerry and Angela Shrawder
Felix Smith
Dick and Betty Stuelke
Jules and Peggy Watson and Mark
Jeff and Peggy Weiner

Mr. and Mrs. Charles West
Mr. and Mrs. Sid Wilson
Dolly Wong

GUESTS

Renzo Aoki (Japanese Pilot)
Carl Asmus
Richard Blakeley
Alla Brannan
Jeff Chovinard
James Culp
Jimmy and Joe Doolittle
Laura and Bob Drouillard
Colleen Ferguson
John Flynn
Matthew and Rita Gormley
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Harder
Wayne and Laura Hoffman
Gen. & Mrs. Everett Holstrom (Raider)
Masaaki Inoue (Japanese Pilot)
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Jensen
Paul Jepson
Jack Kane
Deirdre Kimball
Gen. R.A. Knobloch
Jack Kruze
June Lockhart
Junie Lockhart
Gen. Y.T. Loh
Dolly Luce
Clare Martinez
Sid Moore
Larry Nagin
Larry Pistole
Roger Ray
Tom Sasaki (Interpreter)
Howard Sessler (Raider)
Sue Shrewsbury
Lewis and Betty Smith
Mary Smith
Dorothy Stanley
N. Royden Stork (Raider)
Lucia Taylor
Starr and Magee Thompson
Rafe Tomsett
Ned Wallace
Opal Williams
Ron Wilson

Personal stories needed for archives

Some time ago, I requested all Flying Tigers to write their own personal AVG experience, and send to me for our files. The response was some what underwhelming. However, I did receive some interesting stories, plus a fine tape cassette from Don Whelpley.

I am going to repeat the request again, and maybe some of you will use 1984 to get with it, and send in your story. It is not too late. Keep one copy for yourself and send one to Dick Rossi, 3038 East Mission Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

You will find it interesting to recall your experiences, and dust off some of those old diaries, notes, letters, etc.



TOGETHER AGAIN—Doreen Reynolds and Tom Trumble, were Gen. Chennault's personal secretaries.



P.J. PERRY DISPLAYS AWARD—presented by the association for his ability of self preservation.

Mini-Reunion in Ojai planned for 1984

Anyone planning to attend the mini-reunion at Ojai this summer should make their reservations now. Mr. Bill Briggs, the manager, said we would be given the same rates we had at the 1983

reunion. So send in your reservation with a one day deposit. The dates are July 4, 5, 6, and 7. The address is: Ojai Valley Inn, Ojai, CA 93023, telephone number (805) 646-5511.

AVG MUGS AND GLASSES AVAILABLE

John Williams advises us that anyone interested in buying the AVG glasses or mugs from the San Diego Aero-Space Museum gift shop may do so by writing to him. Incidentally, John had heart surgery at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. and has recovered. He spent his recovery weeks in Washington, with his daughter, Sandy. The cost of the glasses is \$5.50 each and for the mugs \$4.00 each. Send your orders to John Williams, 4250 -4th Ave, Apt 132, San Diego, CA 92103. Your name will be put on each one, so let John know just how you want it.

