American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) Special Collection SDASM.SC.10008

Cindy Chen
San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
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2001 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park
San Diego 92101
URL: http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/
American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) Special Collection

Contributing Institution: San Diego Air and Space Museum Library and Archives
Title: American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) Special Collection
creator: Schreibman, Robert S.
creator: Pentecost, Walter
creator: McKellar, Ed
creator: Pistole, Larry M.
Identifier/Call Number: SDASM.SC.10008
Physical Description: 4.47 Cubic FeetIt contains correspondence, articles, documents, reunion yearbooks, artifacts, etc., relating to the American Volunteer Group (AVG), known as the “Flying Tigers,” the China Air Task Force, the United States 10th Air Force, and the United States 14th Air Force, all of which have used the Flying Tigers designation. The collection consists of seven flip-top archival boxes; three measuring 10.5”x15.5”x7”, two measuring 10.5”x15.5”x5”, and two measuring 10.5”x12.5”x5”.
Date (inclusive): 1927-2000
Abstract: This series contains various correspondences, articles, documents, reunion yearbooks, etc. relating to the American Volunteer Group (AVG), known as the “Flying Tigers.”

Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open to researchers by appointment.
Conditions Governing Use
Some copyright may be reserved. Consult with the library director for more information.
Biographical / Historical
The 1st American Volunteer Group, also known as AVG, and more famously as the Flying Tigers—was a group of volunteer American pilots from various branches of the military, led by Lieutenant General Claire Lee Chennault. Answering a call from Madame Chiang Kai Shek, Chennault initially gathered together the AVG to perform a survey of the Chinese Air Force. The AVG was comprised of 3 squadrons: 1st Adam and Eves, 2nd Panda Bears, and 3rd Hell’s Angels. The group saw combat after Pearl Harbor in 1941, and went on to produce multiple victories against the Japanese, and emerged with multiple Flying Aces. Chennault employed his fighter doctrine, which was based on careful study of the enemy’s tactics, while employing their strengths in altitude. The Flying Tigers were famous too for their successes in the air battle over Rangoon. In addition to their combat victories, the Flying Tiger members and Chennault were highly celebrated, and in 1992, AVG veterans were finally recognized as members of the military services, and all members were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The ground crew were rewarded the Bronze Star. In popular culture, the Flying Tigers are readily recognizable in their iconic shark face nose art. They have also been featured in various movies, books and documentaries.

Scope and Contents
The collection is broken down into pre-war, wartime, and post-war eras, but each era may contain material on the subject from later years. The collection begins with background information on the China-Japanese War in early 1941, prior to the involvement of the AVG, with an emphasis on assessment of Chinese air power. The second section documents the establishment of the AVG, which became known as the Flying Tigers. The third section documents activities of the United States Air Force from July 4, 1942 on, the official date of the disbanding of the AVG. The fourth section covers activities of the AVG Veterans’ associations, including incorporation and the application for veteran status. The last section covers the activities of the 14th Air Force Association, including merchandising, books/brochures/periodicals, and a number of the Flying Tigers reunion booklets. Each section will contain some or all of the Series listings noted below.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The bulk of this collection was donated to the San Diego Air and Space Museum prior to 2007, when it was compiled from existing holdings. The contents of Box 03 and Box 04 were previously known as the Papers of Walter W. Pentecost as of August 2006.

Preferred Citation
[Item], [Filing Unit], [Series Title], [Subgroups], [Record Group Title and Number], [Repository “San Diego Air & Space Museum Library & Archives”]
Other Finding Aids
A more detailed, item level finding aid is available at http://www.sandiegoairandspace.org/collections/collection_item.php?id=139

**Arrangement**
Materials are arranged in an imposed order according to subject and material type.

**Related Materials**
The SDASM library and archives holds many photographs of the Curtiss P-40 Warhawk in its collections as well as multiple books on the subjects listed in the Important Personalities & Subjects section below.

Elwyn Gibbon Personal Papers http://sandiegoairandspace.org/collections/collection_item.php?id=77

Related Research Institutions: The Hoover Institution at Stanford University (http://www.hoover.org/library-archives) holds the papers of Claire L Chennault, commander of the 14th Air Force.


**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Curtiss P-40 Warhawk
China Burma India Theater (CBI)
World War, 1939-1945
Schreibman, Robert S.
United States. Army Air Forces
Pentecost, Walter
Chennault, Claire Lee
McKellar, Ed
United States. Army Air Forces. Air Force, 14th
China National Aviation Corporation
Flying Tigers (AVG), Inc.
China. Kong jun. American Volunteer Group
Pistole, Larry M.

**Box 1 of 7**

**Folder 1 -- Correspondence - Chinese Air Power**

Physical Description: 1. Letter from Tsung Chi Lee to Ray Wagner, with notes on Chinese air force before the war, August 5, 1991. 2. Memo from Naval Attaché, Hankow, China, re: Chinese Air Force, June 17, 1938. 3. Letters between SDASM and C. S. Tien on Flying Tiger history and Chinese air power. 4. Letter from W. D. Pawley, Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company, Federal, Inc., USA, Loiwing, China, to Col. Claire Chennault re: re-activation of the P-40 factory, September 8, 1941. 5. Letter from Byron Glover to Gilbert Clark re: Test pilot's description of planes he is testing and information about planes that are to arrive, October 20, 1941. 6. Letter from Chen Cheng, mechanic, to unnamed pilot instructor asking help getting into Chiang-Yun air branch school, December 7, 1938. 7. Letter from C. L. Chennault to Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company telling of the complaints by AVG staff that their jobs were misrepresented. 8. Letters and telegrams between Kreusser Lett, Allison Division of General Motors, and Arne Butteberg, AVG, re: manufacturing of the P-40 airplanes, July 1942. 9. Miscellaneous correspondence about Chinese air power.
Folder 2 -- Reports on Chinese Air Power

Folder 3 -- Maps
Physical Description: 1. Map of Shanghai showing places of interest, Navy YMCA. 2. Map of China, 1930. 3. Two maps of Shanghai.

Folder 4 -- Newspaper Clippings
Physical Description: 1. Miscellaneous newspaper clippings on China-Japanese war.

Folder 5 -- Articles on China-Japanese War

Folder 6 -- Articles on China-Japanese War (continued)

Folder 7 -- Article

Folder 8 -- Manuscript

Folder 9 -- China-Japan War -- Miscellaneous
Physical Description: 1. Handwritten diary notes of air operations, 1937-1941.
Folder 10 -- Military Correspondence

Folder 11 -- Manuscript

Folder 12 -- Interviews

Folder 13 -- First Person Accounts

Folder 14 -- First Person Account
Physical Description: 1. Arthur T. Chin.

Folder 15 -- Military Documents
Physical Description: 1. Copy, handwritten in Chinese, Chinese Headquarters' report on finding Lt. Mace. 2. Color chart on photo paper of "Organization Chart, Flying Tigers 14th Air Force;" articles and correspondence about alleged raid on Formosa. 3. Actual tape from decoding machine, "109" sent to several fighter squadrons and to Malcolm Rosholt, serving as liaison officer with the 9th War Area Headquarters in Changsha.

Folder 16 -- Operations and Graphs
Physical Description: 1. Graphs of bases and targets in China.

Folder 17 -- Newspaper Clippings
Physical Description: 1. Various newspaper clippings about Flying Tigers during the period 1941 to July 4, 1942.

Folder 18 -- Magazine with AVG Article

Box 2 of 7
Folder 1 -- Articles
Folder 2 -- Articles

Folder 3 -- Articles

Folder 4 -- Articles

Folder 5 -- Articles

Folder 6 -- Scrapbooks

Folder 7 -- Book, "Flying Tigers," Daniel Ford

Folder 8 -- AVG Media Relations on Daniel Ford Book
Physical Description: 1. Correspondence, primarily controversies surrounding facts.

Folder 9 -- Correspondence, post 1942
Folder 10 -- Correspondence -- Disputed Flying Tiger Members

Folder 11 -- Flying Tiger Exhibit
Physical Description: 1. Report, List of Items to be Displayed in AVG Flying Tiger Exhibit at SDASM.

Folder 12 -- Records of Malcolm Rosholt

Folder 13 -- Claire L. Chennault

Folder 14 -- Claire Chennault Commemorative Stamp - September 6, 1990
Physical Description: 1. Correspondence and first day issue notices.

Folder 15 -- Miscellaneous Documents

Folder 16 -- Miscellaneous Articles

Folder 17 -- Miscellaneous Photographs

Folder 18 -- Awards, Certificates of Recognition
Physical Description: Folder 18 --
Box 3 of 7

Folder 1 -- Individual Awards for AVG Members - Correspondence
Physical Description: 1. Correspondence, reports, notes on applications for individual military awards for certain AVG members.

Folder 2 -- Trademark Application - Seller's Permit
Physical Description: 1. Correspondence and forms for Trademark Application and Seller's Permit.

Folder 3 -- Use of Flying Tigers Name by Others
Physical Description: Use of Flying Tigers Name by Others

Folder 4 -- AVG Mailing Lists
Physical Description: 1. Several versions of member mailing

Folder 5 -- AVG Rosters
Physical Description: 1. Several versions of membership rosters.

Folder 6 -- Inventory of Larry Pistole's AVG Collection, 1987.
Physical Description: Inventory of Larry Pistole's AVG Collection, 1987.

Folder 7 -- John R. Rossi Honorable Discharge Papers
Physical Description: 1. Application form (2 copies). 2. Correspondence and forms for application, including AVG Roster. 3. Copy of Honorable Discharge dated July 7, 1942.

Folder 8 -- Citation
Physical Description: Instructions to complete application for Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, March 15, 1989, pages 7-116.

Folder 9 -- Bill of Rights Requesting Veteran Recognition (2 copies)
Physical Description: Bill of Rights Requesting Veteran Recognition (2 copies)

Folder 10 -- AVG Application for Veteran's Status, #1 of 2

Folder 11 -- AVG Application for Veteran's States, #2 of 2
Physical Description: 1. Correspondence, documents and attachments, June 1, 1991 - December 3, 1996. 2. Background articles and documents.

Folder 12 -- Attachments to Application for Veteran's Status
Physical Description: 1. Photocopies of attachment material.

Folder 13 -- AVG Application for Active Duty Service Status
Physical Description: 1. Complete bound copy of Application.

Folder 14 -- Flying Tigers Incorporation

Box 4 of 7
Folder 1 -- Flying Tigers Tax Exemption
Physical Description: 1. Application for Recognition of Exemption plus various copies of same document. 2. Correspondence, forms, documents, etc.

Folder 2 -- Document
Physical Description: 1. Complete Application for Exemption, IRC.

Folder 3 -- Document

Folder 4 -- Bibliographies
Physical Description: 1. Several different lists of books and articles about the Flying Tigers and aviation in China.

Folder 5 -- Pictorial Magazines and Other Publications

Folder 6 -- Memory of History

Folder 7 -- Americans Valiant and Glorious

Folder 8 -- Legendary Americans - The Flying Tigers

Folder 9 -- Books - Miscellaneous

Box 5 of 7
Folder 1 -- Miscellaneous Correspondence
Folder 2 -- Correspondence of Robert Schrieberman, Attorney for the 14th Air Force Association
Folder 3 -- Flying Tigers Membership Directory
Folder 4 -- Miscellaneous Correspondence - Merchandising.
Folder 5 -- Miscellaneous Vendors
Folder 6 -- Vendor: Bingham Entertainment
Folder 7 -- Vendor: Check Six
Folder 8 -- Vendor: Confederate Air Force / Gordon Johnson
Folder 9 -- Vendor: Fei Hu Films / Frank Boring
Folder 10 -- Vendor: Dave Ferguson / Aerocraft Legendary Prints - Tee Shirts
Folder 11 -- Vendor: Fries Entertainment, Inc. - Movie Proposal
Folder 12 -- Vendor: Ron Goldman, Trademark Attorney / AVG vs. Sophos
Folder 13 -- Vendor: L.L. Bean
Folder 14 -- Vendor: Netter Digital Entertainment
Folder 15 -- Vendor: Now Communications / Showcase Entertainment

Box 6 of 7
Folder 1 -- Vendor: Pacific Artists - Movie Proposal
Folder 2 -- Vendor: Smithsonian / William Denkers / Mil-Time
Folder 3 -- Miscellaneous Periodicals

Physical Description:

Folder 4 -- Patches / Icons / Logos
Folder 5 -- Merchandising - Miscellaneous
Folder 6 -- Correspondence - Reunions
Folder 7 -- Tiger Rag
Folder 8 -- Miscellaneous Association Brochures and Bulletins

Physical Description:

Remainder of box -- AVG and AVG-CNAC Reunion Booklets

Physical Description:

Box 7 of 7
Series VII: Books

Physical Description: