Hello Comrades, I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wishing you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. On January 25th, we will ring in the year of the Rat.

Each new year brings us new opportunities, and this year will be no different. The vision of the future of China Post 1 looks bright, the Post is fiscally sound, our membership renewal rate remains strong with nearly 90% of our members having renewed this year, and the Post enjoys the overwhelming support of the members for our shared vision of the future of the Post. Part of that vision is developing a sound relationship with the owners of the Old Post Home at 209 Fuzhou Lu, Shanghai and establishing a long-term sustainable Post presence in China.

We’ve achieved tangible results in that arena. During the second week of December 2019, Joe Gentile and I traveled to China with the hopes of opening a dialog between the Director of Cultural resources, Shanghai, the U.S. Consulate and China Post 1. This edition of the Poop Sheet contains an abbreviated copy of our trip report detailing our efforts and successes. We will be returning in February to finalize plans for the Post to present the plaque celebrating our 100th anniversary, scheduled for April 20, 2020. We have invited several dignitaries including the C.E.O. of the Chennault Aviation Museum in Monroe, LA and granddaughter of Claire Chennault, Ms. Nell Calloway, to the April 20, 2020 event in Shanghai.
The trip report details our success in locating Frederick Townsend Ward’s monument in Ningbo, China, our cooperative efforts with the local community, and our plans for the future of the monument. Ward’s accomplishments and history are illustrated in a magnificent piece of literary research, described below in this issue of the Poop Sheet, by L.L. Wong, a 28-year member of China Post 1.

Part of my vision for the future of China Post 1 evolves from our solemn obligation to preserve the memory of the Post and those who have gone before us. Toward that end I will be taking the initial steps to create a virtual museum, the development of a Museum Plan, and digitally preserving our historic archives.

Concurrent with that effort we will be addressing the issue of a permanent home for our archives, a self-sustaining facility capable of securing our assets in a climate controlled environment, and allowing for a rotational display of the assets in our possession.

Changes to our online presence is a necessary component to secure the long-term viability of the Post, and Travis Weedman, Post Webmaster, has accomplished so much in consolidating our online presence and reducing costs to the Post.

Coming soon we will have the entire emblems sales store online. Travis has incorporated online store software into the website, created a secure order page, provided a means to verify membership prior to purchase, inventory control, minimum order quantity, fiscal accounting, and modified the code to allow us to adapt the software to our particular purposes. The China Post 1 online store will list everything that is in our inventory for sale to our membership. In addition to purchasing products from our Emblem Sales Store, you will be able to pay your annual dues and make charitable donations to the Dragon Fund and the Museum Fund. This page is currently in the testing phase, and I expect that it will be fully operational during the first quarter of this year.

Lew Barger, the Post Historian, is working diligently to maintain and update the Post History. Lew is bringing to life some of our members who’ve sacrificed and accomplished so much for this country and the Post. He has another great article in this issue of the Poop Sheet. Thanks, Lew.

We are fortunate that we have a core of dedicated people in the Post willing to do everything within their ability to keep this post moving forward. Thank you for all your hard work. China Post 1 would not be the success that it is without all of you. Once again, a special thanks to Hal, Gary, and Toni for their efforts in publishing this Poop Sheet.

And finally, the 2020 China Post 1 reunion will be held at the epicenter of the JSOC community in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Reunion registration and information can be found on the website at https://chinapost1.org/2020-reunion-information/

I look forward to seeing all of you there.

龙老板

Scott Riebel
Commander, China Post 1
Soldiers of Fortune – Operating in Exile
www.Chinapost1.org
China Post 1 Trip to China December 5 – 13, 2019

Trip Report (Abbreviated)

Joe Gentile and I arrived in Beijing on December 6th, 2019; we caught a flight to Nanjing where we would begin our work on behalf of the Post. On December 7th, we visited the Aviation Martyrs Museum, which houses the remains of airmen killed in action from three different countries in support of the liberation of China from Japanese rule during WW II. Included are the remains of six, and possible as many as 15 Flying Tigers.

The secluded complex at the north foot of Zijin Mountain might be the only war monument in the world to commemorate the military alliance of China, Russia, the United States and Korea, (before the North and South split). Two 45-foot-tall stone tablets were built to mourn the 3,305 pilots from these countries who lost their lives, mainly fighting against the Japanese invasion in China during the 1930s and 1940s.

Around them stand 10 ten-foot-tall marble walls, inscribed with the names, hometowns, and years of birth and death of these airmen. The hilltop location overlooking Nanjing is a memorial garden overlooking the city, which consists of polished granite memorials with the names of all the Flying Tigers KIA in country.

The complex also contains two semi-underground museum halls, which presents the remains and backgrounds of these formidable men.

The sign below reads: “Youth Anti-Japanese War Cultural activity Center”. This place is popular with the local schools. We experienced several class field-trips with children leaving white carnations on the graves and memorial gardens inside the facility.

Frederick Townsend Ward

On December 8th, 2019, Joe and I visited the Heavenly Kingdom Museum in Nanjing. The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom History Museum is a museum with a combination of museums and gardens. On the east side, there are five ancient buildings with magnificent presence. Next to the exhibition area, the west side is the famous Jiangnan classical garden, which is known as the first garden of the Jinling. The Taiping Rebellion is little known in the West, though it ranged from about 1837 – 1864. Casualty estimates range from between 20 and 70
million people. Westerners fought on both sides of the Rebellion, and their tombs and mementos are in this museum. Located in the Qing Dynasty Ever Victorious wing of the museum, sits the headstone of Frederick Townsend Ward. This is the original headstone, placed by American Legion General Ward Post, Shanghai, China, aka China Post 1, on Memorial Day, 1921, over the remains of our namesake.

The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom History Museum is the largest collection of Taiping Heavenly Kingdom cultural relics, and the most abundant historical materials. The headstone was discovered in the museums warehouse covered in plaster, probably plastered over by Maoists.

In addition to the headstone, the museum staff acknowledged possessing Ward artifacts numbering in the thousands, and suggested that they may be in possession of Ward’s remains; however, that may be a misunderstanding during the interpretation process.

We were permitted unlimited access to the displayed artifacts, and there was some discussion of allowing us access to some of their archived materials during a future visit. This access is unprecedented, and is a direct result of the tireless efforts of Joe Gentile over the last seven years.

December 9th, 2019

After additional research we decided that Ward's remains are either under the altar located at:

1. "Songjaing Roman Catholic Church" - “The grave of Ward, a Protestant, revered as a Chinese Confucian hero, with a temple in his honor, now lies under the altar of a Roman Catholic church [built in 1982], whilst the land itself is the property of the local Buddhist monastery in a Communist state…. Ward has not been forgotten in Songjiang, and local memory still has Ward's bones under the high altar of the Catholic Church, 120 Puxi Rd, Xu Jia Hui, Xuhui, Shanghai, China is a prominent Songjaing Roman Catholic church in Shanghai."

2. Or at: Battle of Cixi in the city Cixi (Tzeki), ten miles Northwest of Ningbo. According to the history that I'm reading, he succumbed to his wounds on September 20th, 1862 in Cixi, at which time his body was transported from Cixi to the city of Shanghai where we believe he may have been entombed.
This prompted our visit to the ancient town of Cixi. On an 800-meter hill adjacent to a provincial park in the town of Cixi sits a monument dedicated to the memory of Frederick Ward. The monument sits atop a cut stone base that is about 5 meters square and 1 meter tall. There are 5 stairs on the north and south base of the platform. The monument to Ward stands about 3 meters high.

Frederick Townsend Ward was born in November, 1831, the son of a ship captain. He attended Norwich for a semester, served several cruises on clipper ships to China, fought in the Crimean War with the French Army, and was a part of William Walker’s filibuster army in Mexico. In 1859, he arrived again in Shanghai, where the Taiping uprising against Imperial China was intensifying. The 29-year-old Ward saw his chance.

In 1860 and 1861, he recruited and took command of the Shanghai Foreign Volunteer Corps, a company (later battalion)-sized unit of infantry made up of expatriates from Shanghai. After suffering some reverses, and being wounded in the face himself, Ward decided to augment the foreign contingent with Chinese volunteers under the pay of local governments. The Imperial Chinese government gave him a general officer’s rank in the Chinese Army.

Ward soon recruited and equipped a force eventually totaling 5,000 infantry, artillery, and engineers. Aside from a cadre of Western mercenaries and a detachment of Filipinos, the majority of the troops were locals. The Chinese wore western-style uniforms, used American drill, and were equipped with British weapons. Ward named his formation the Ever Victorious Army.

After training much of the last half of 1861, in January, 1862, the Ever Victorious Army went into action. The force lived up to its name, as discipline and modern weaponry proved decisive against the Taiping rebels who had no answer. Ward led 500 of his men into Gungfulin, capturing it from its 20,000 defenders. In February, 1862, Ward held the fortified town of Songjiang with 1,500 men against a force of 20,000, driving the attackers away with artillery fire. Ward then went on the offensive, even creating a small fleet of gunboats to support his troops, and won a succession of victories over the spring and summer.

General Ward’s career came to an abrupt end on 21 September 1862, when Ward led his Ever Victorious forces against Taiping positions at Cixi, a town near the major port of Ningbo. As always, Ward led from the front. He was shot in the abdomen and died the next day; two months shy of his 31st birthday.

Frederick Townsend Ward, an American born Chinese general and veteran of over 70 battles, was buried in China.

The stairs on the path going up to the monument is heavily overgrown and the hilltop location of the monument is almost completely obscured by jungle overgrowth and bamboo “woods”.
Chennault and the Old Post Home

On December 11, 2019, Joe and I met with the Foreign Service Officer (FSO) Christopher Allison at the American Consulate in Shanghai. The purpose of this meeting was to secure his cooperation in dealing with the Director of Culture and Historic Buildings in Shanghai in the formal presentation of the memorial plaque for the old Post home at 209 Fuzhou Lu.

Not only was the FSO familiar with China Post 1 and its history in Shanghai, but he was so enthusiastic about the public relations optics of this presentation that he directed his public affairs officer to give us her “full cooperation”. We set an April 20, 2020 soft deadline for the formal presentation, giving us a full 5 months to gather and assemble the pieces.

In addition, the public affairs people at American Legion National have indicated that this could be a PR coup for the American Legion, and efforts are ongoing to include the National Commander in the upcoming presentation. The exact quote was “Can you imagine a picture of the national Commander inside the old Post home silhouetted between the Chinese and American flags?”

Pootung Prison

The location of the former Pootung Civilian Assembly Center or Pootung POW Camp is 372 Haiphong Road, which is the intersection of Haiphong Rd and Shaanxi Rd, Shanghai. We all already know the history of Pootung Prison Camp and the role this camp played in the history of China Post and Frank D. Mortimer. I will not repeat that entire history here but I want you to know that the site still exists and the following are pictures from the site.

The Old Post Home

Our single greatest achievement was finally getting access to the old Post home. This six-story historical structure remains intact. The foyer is as magnificent today as it was 100 years ago. The building is being used by the Shanghai Court system as a court room for financial based crimes. The second floor kitchen and ballroom, as well as the ball rooms on the sixth floor are in active use. Floors 3 – 5, formerly hotel rooms, have been converted to offices.
The Director of the Financial Court greeted us with a long, productive and friendly discussion about how to effect a presentation to the people of Shanghai. He provided us with the name and address of the official in charge of the building, which we in turn provided to the FSO and the US Consulate public affairs officer.

Persistent personal contact on the part of Joe Gentile has made all this access possible. We now have a tentative date for the plaque presentation to the old Post home in Shanghai. So, where do we go from here?

Our relationship has been defined on the personal level with the people of Shanghai and of Ningbo, and we have established momentum with respect to fulfilling our responsibility to preserve the memory and history of China Post.

At this point, it is time for us to define our role, and the level of contact/preservation of our heritage in China. I envision a long-term relationship with the Heavenly Kingdom Museum, the site of Ward’s death in Ningbo, and the old Post home.

**Recommendations**

**Wards Monument – Ningbo**

Beginning with the Ward monument in Ningbo, I want to have the area around the monument cleared of bamboo and jungle overgrowth for 20 meters on all sides. In addition, I want the stairs on the path cleared, and the bottom three stairs repaired. An interpretive plaque describing the events and the monument should be placed on the path as well. At some point in the future, I can envision gravel being brought in, and a couple of reflection benches located on the site. In effect, awarding an operation and maintenance contract to a local to maintain and improve the site. And in a final step, create a duplicate of the Ward headstone, and place that on the site of the Chinese Ward monument.

1. Clear the Landscape at the Ningbo Monument.
2. Contract for bi-weekly/monthly maintenance of the site.
3. Repair the stairs leading up to the monument.
4. Pressure wash the base of the monument.
5. Install a couple of benches (reflection benches).
6. Lay crushed gravel 20 meters radius around the monument.
7. Install a commemorative plaque at the site.
8. Replicate Ward’s headstone and install on the monument.

**Old Post Home**

1. Work with the consulate in Shanghai to present the plaque on April 20, 2020.
2. Meet with the Director of Cultural Affair and Antiquities during the last week of February.
3. China Central Television has proposed a February 23rd interview in Beijing.
4. Finalize plans with the US Consulate and Chinese authorities for the Executive Committee (those available and willing) to be present at the presentation in April 2020.
5. Evaluate channels that can be opened for our membership to participate and lodge at the former Post home in an annual pilgrimage.
 Heavenly Kingdom Museum

  1. Maintain contact and, if approved by the executive committee,
     a. Investigate the possibility of providing an annual scholarship to the museum for operations and
        maintenance (nominal sum).

But all of that is up to the membership. We will have to define the parameters/level of cooperation that we are
willing to extend to the people of the region. I cannot overemphasize the necessity for additional, predictable
and measured personal contact that has been so carefully nurtured.

The History of China Post 1

From the China Post 1 Archives

By Lewis L. Barger, III, China Post 1 Historian

China Post 1 membership record for Senator Barry Goldwater

Most of China Post’s members have, by the nature of their service, remained relatively unknown. We have had
several well-known members though, and one of those was Senator Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona. He was
recruited for China Post by post commander C.A.S. “CASH” Helseth in 1972 and remained a member until his
death in 1998.
Goldwater began his military career in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Stanton Military Academy in Virginia. He was commissioned in the infantry in 1930 and served in the reserves. Shortly before World War II, while visiting what would become Luke Air Force Base with a delegation from the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, Goldwater offered his services to the commanding officer. The base was still in the process of being built and the base commander, working with limited manpower and supplies, welcomed the offer. In August 1941, Goldwater began a one-year tour on active duty as a training officer teaching gunnery. With the attack on Pearl Harbor, Goldwater, still a lieutenant, lobbied to be transferred to the Army Air Forces. The Air Forces rejected him for fighter training because of his age, 33, and a bad knee, but he was accepted in May 1943 for service in Air Transport Command ferrying planes and supplies.

During his service with Air Transport Command, Goldwater helped fly P-47 Thunderbolts to England, B-29 Superfortresses to India, and supplies over “the hump” into China. By October 1944 he was a major and transferred back to the United States to serve as a training officer in California. By the end of the war he had attained the rank of lieutenant colonel, and after relief from active duty, helped organize the Arizona Air National Guard. Goldwater served in the Air Guard until 1953 when he transferred to the Air Force Reserve. At the time of his retirement in January 1969, Goldwater held the rank of major general, was rated as a command pilot, and was qualified to fly over 50 types of fighters, bombers, trainers, and transports. Among his awards were a campaign star on his Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, earned during World War II flying “the hump” and an air medal.

Goldwater is more famous for his service in the United States Senate and as a presidential candidate. He first won a senate seat in 1952 and continued as a senator until giving up his seat to run for the office of president in 1964. After being defeated by President Johnson, he again ran for senate in 1968, remaining in the upper house until he retired in 1987. His accomplishments were many, but he is perhaps best known as the co-author of the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986, which streamlined the chain of command in the Department of Defense and promoted joint operational capabilities over inter-service rivalry. On a smaller scale, Senator Goldwater was also a friend to China Post 1. Post Commander Cash Helseth had begun a program in 1961 to recognize members with flags flown over the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. A congressman from California initially supported the post’s requests, but when the post headquarters moved to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1963, Senator Goldwater stepped in as sponsor, coordinating the flying of flags through his office. In 1972, Cash sponsored him as a member of China Post 1, and Senator Goldwater remained a member until his death in 1989.

Sources:


Frederick Townsend Ward

A Unique American Military Presence in Mid-19th Century China (Abridged)

By L. L. Wong

Introduction

In December of 2018, an entertainment industry news item announced that a certain American film director was developing an action movie about Frederick Townsend Ward. A previous abortive attempt with Hong Kong director John Woo had failed back in the 1990s. The possibility of a typically bad and inaccurate Hollywood portrayal of the original namesake of China Post 1 immediately came to mind.

American relations with China have never been simple, and in these ongoing affairs, the history of China Post 1 (CP1) is intertwined. This article is a historical snapshot that condenses and highlights the subject to provide some context to the tangled Sino-American relationship that dates as far back as the 18th century. During the mid-19th century, the exploits of one particular American, Frederick Townsend Ward, would gain the respect and admiration of many contemporary observers, and inspire the first Post name of CP1 to honor this man. He was a pioneer of American military involvement in China and his deeds are deeply relevant to the CP1 story.

I. The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom & the Qing Dynasty

The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom was a grass roots rebellion that arose in the years after the first Opium War as a “Christian” mystic sect founded by Hong Xiuquan (Hung Hsiaochuang), 1814-1864. A questionably sane, self-converted Chinese Christian, Hong proclaimed himself as Jesus’ younger brother after contact with Western religious literature and Protestant missionaries. He crowned himself as the Heavenly King on earth and his closest followers were ranked as lesser kings. Hong concocted a mishmash of his own biblical interpretations and condemned Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism and other traditional folk beliefs. Hatred of the Manchu dynasty was also a deeply held feeling among a huge majority of Chinese, and this animosity fit in with the Taiping belief system and the sentiment was actively stimulated. The Taiping religious-ideological movement was the opposing force which Frederick Townsend Ward would face.

II. Frederick Townsend Ward and Western Trade

Frederick Townsend Ward (1831-1862) of Salem, Massachusetts, was a sailor and adventurous soldier-of fortune by 1850. He was unsuccessful at finding his fortune during the California Gold Rush, and while supportive of the Union cause, did not stick around for the American Civil War. Instead he was drawn to the possibilities of more profitable opportunities with increasing trade in China. Britain and China had signed the Treaty of Nanking in 1844, which ended the first Anglo-Chinese Opium War. Shanghai was one of the five treaty ports established to better facilitate trade as concessions to the British. Later that same year, the United States would negotiate with China the Treaty of Wangxia (Wanghsia), to gain the same favorable trade advantages that Britain enjoyed, but without having resorted to war, pushing opium as a government trade policy, making territorial demands, or committing other heavy-handed coercive persuasion in Chinese affairs.

Ward’s previous seagoing days had already taken him to China before, and the exotic country would draw him back. He arrived again in 1858, penniless, but his fortunes in life would take a dramatic turn. Ward brought his
restless entrepreneurial energy to bear to the situation he found. He proposed to local Shanghai merchants, the raising of a security force for the defense of the Shanghai area from the Taipings, who threatened international business interests. Funded by the merchants, he founded the Shanghai Foreign Arms Corps. Originally, it was made up of about two hundred non-Chinese mercenaries drawn from various opportunists in the Shanghai area — mainly foreign sailors — who were willing to bear arms for pay.

III. Building & Leading a Winning Army

The unit evolved into what was then called Ward’s Chinese Corps or even more simply, the Ward Corps by Westerners. These were just two of the names used. Chinese personnel had been recruited to replace the non-Chinese due to the unit’s early military failures, high casualties and desertion. Nowadays it is best known by the name which the Chinese dubbed it in honor of its subsequent battlefield successes: The Ever Victorious Army.

Ward was a courageous man. He went into battle dressed in a simple dark frock coat, unarmed except for a rattan cane, and led from the front. He was wounded in action fifteen times; the last being fatal. Because of his checkered past and independent personality, he was a complicated and mixed bag of contradictions to both Westerners and to his Imperial Chinese employers. As with the European nations, the official U.S. government policy during this Chinese civil war was neutrality. Ward had not come to China as a representative for any American mercantile enterprises, or on behalf of the United States government.

The Ever Victorious Army (EVA) was mainly an infantry formation augmented with an artillery component. It later included numerous river craft as floating gun batteries, and troop transports to provide an amphibious capability on the inland waterways. During its existence, EVA strength and fortunes rose and fell due to factors such as battlefield setbacks, undertrained and unreliable manpower, and political maneuvering between the Western powers and the various cliques and factions within the Chinese government. By the time of Ward’s death, the EVA was multi-ethnic, but still predominantly a Chinese force numbering almost five thousand disciplined men organized into four battalions with light and heavy artillery batteries.

The EVA was regularly at the forefront of the offensives against the rebel attacks in the Shanghai area. As the EVA won battles, other similar units were raised, trained and led by British and French officers. Partly driven by jealousy and also wishing to emulate Ward’s successes, Britain and France felt that their units would have ultimate loyalty specific to their respective Western sponsor governments.

By 1864 the Taiping movement was in its final days after a series of major defeats. Nanking would be re-taken by Imperial forces, and Hong would commit suicide. But the changing circumstances between the European powers relationship with China would lead to the disbandment of the EVA.

IV. Ward’s Legacy

To most of the public, Frederick Townsend Ward is unknown. At best, his place in mainstream history is only a footnote incidental to 19th century China trade. Besides the efforts of China Post 1, his significance has only been preserved by specialized historians. Ward has been long overshadowed by his eventual British successor to the EVA, Major Charles “Chinese” Gordon (later of Khartoum fame), the final commander of the unit until its disbandment in 1864.
Admiral Sir John Hope, the commander of British naval forces in China, was originally highly critical of Ward. He accused Ward of impressing British sailors into mercenary service, and also of being the cause of desertions. The admiral had once even arrested Ward and hoped to prosecute him, but Ward escaped. Admiral Hope would later become a good friend and ally of Ward as Britain’s China policy evolved with changing situations, and Ward was seen as a solution for Western countries caught in the sticky situation of being in the middle of the rebellion. At one time the British had even thought of increasing the size of the EVA to ten thousand men.

Enlightened Americans in China admired Ward’s military talents and uniquely American spirit. He was a charming and popular personality well known, respected and liked in the Western expatriate community. Most saw that he was not driven only by a mercenary profit motive as some skeptics had claimed. Ward treated his Chinese soldiers and their families well. He humanely treated enemy prisoners and civilians caught in the fighting. He respected the Chinese people. This was unlike the age-old practices of treating one’s own troops poorly, and the indiscriminate slaughtering of captured enemy troops and non-combatant civilians.

European governments were wary of Ward because his methods meant defining new ways of diplomatically dealing with China. He was a harbinger of the forces of unstoppable modernization and reforms, particularly military, necessary for China to absorb in order to reform and progress as a nation state acting according to international standards of diplomacy and conduct. The colonial mentality of European nations dominated their respective foreign policies towards China, which was viewed as a failing state ripe for exploitation. It must be recalled that during the Taiping era, the Second Opium War also broke out between the European powers led by the British and French against Imperial China. This conflict ran concurrently from 1856-1860 with the Taiping Rebellion, and further complicated Sino-Western relations.

Ward’s abilities and leadership marked him as a potentially dangerous man to the future of the Qing dynasty and traditional Chinese culture. His successes fighting the Taipings also helped prop up the Manchu rulers. With his independent thinking, American values and ways, he made the possibility of regime change a frightening possible threat to the Qing dynasty and the established order. Just four decades later following the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, the Imperial Court would be driven to flee from Beijing (Peking) by Western Allied forces during the relief of the beleaguered foreign legations. The Qing dynasty collapsed and would be totally swept away by the republican revolution in 1911.
From the Adjutant

By Joe Gentile, China Post 1 Adjutant

Well you can see by the before and after, that renewals picked up. Now I have too many Blue Cards, and have had only three requests the last the three months.

You can renew online at https://www.legion.org/renew or mail in your check and Dragon Fund Donation to our new address below:

https://chinapost1.org/contact-us/

American Legion: China Post 1
13359 North Highway 183 Suite 406-566
Austin, TX 78750

China Post 1 Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Squadron

By Leroy Cockrell, Squadron Commander

2020 is here, and there was a time when I wondered if I’d even live that long! But, looking around the hospitality suite at our last reunion back in September, it looks like I have a fair chance to make it at least a little farther! In fact, quite a bit longer if the Lord’s willin’ and the creeks don’t rise, as somebody a lot older than me used to say.

Ok, enough of that “old” BS because a good number of our SAL membership hasn’t even made it to enlistment age yet. But, thanks to their father or grandfather, they have already been enrolled in the SAL Squadron of China Post 1. Some of them at birth, so their years of membership someday will be the same as their age! Imagine that, and some day they’ll realize the importance of the fatherly gesture that was made for them. Additionally, if they follow the queue to enlist and serve their country, they’ll graduate into the dark blue uniform cap like their father or grandfather wore!

Let’s not forget that the Sons of the American Legion accepts new members of any age. We particularly like to invite patriotic gents who have had a distinguished career in which they developed skills that will enable them to uniquely serve our veterans and their families through a membership in SAL. Many of our members are Dual Members who have chosen to continue honoring their father or grandfather who served before them. Let’s ALL look around our circle of friends and family for additional help in fulfilling the Mission of the American Legion!
So now we have a need to follow suit within our China Post 1 Legion ranks, to pass this heritage along to their sons and grandsons. Nothing could be better than money spent to gift your male offspring with the patriotic gesture of a Sons of the American Legion membership! And this, of course, goes for our existing SAL membership for their sons, if their granddad on either side of the family served in the military of this great country! Just let me know you would like to pursue this opportunity and I will send you the necessary application form. I would love to hear from you at: salcmdr@chinapost1.org.

On a lighter note our Past Commander Ron Burkett and his lovely wife Marlys were passing through Ruidoso recently, after celebrating his Mom’s 102nd birthday in Las Cruces. Some of you might have seen a picture Ron posted on Facebook of her. In fact, I’m not so sure that Ron is as old as he says he is! Nonetheless, since there were five China Post 1 members present in the get-together, which included Mike and Jan Wiley who also live here in Ruidoso, we decided to have a meeting! The happy hour took place at our home before we adjourned to the popular Casa Blanca Restaurant to feed Ron’s and Marlys’ deficient diet of Hatch green chiles! They just don’t get the real stuff down there in San Antonio! Marlys even had to start growing them in pots on their 8th floor veranda!

That’s all for now SAL members…remember to get your dues in ASAP, if you haven’t already. We need to be at 80%+ Renewal Rate by mid-January, and we are just past halfway currently. Any pictures or information about veteran related activities you’ve taken part in are welcomed for future Poop Sheet SAL articles. Just send me what you have, and I’ll edit, if needed. You can also contribute greatly by purchasing the China Post 1 Wine Stoppers, the Qing Flag and Pin, as well as the CP1 Coin Holder from our SAL Fundraiser Project (see ad below).

And, thanks for being a member of this very worthwhile Veterans Organization Family!

TAPS: None reported during the Fall Quarter.
China Post 1 Coin Holder

Pricing

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Checks to: China Post 1

c/o Leroy Cockrell

PO Box 731

Ruidoso, NM 88355

SALCMDR@ChinaPost1.email
China Post 1 Auxiliary

By Linda Cockrell, Auxiliary President

Happy New Year to China Post 1 Legionnaires, CP1 Sons of the American Legion, and China Post Dragon Riders from the CP1 Auxiliary!

Auxiliary President Linda Cockrell would like to remind the Auxiliary members that 2020 dues need to be paid. Membership dues are still $25 but may need to be increased in 2021. National dues went up from $9 to $12 in 2019.

In 2019, the CP1 Auxiliary was saddened by the passing of two members of the Auxiliary. Evelyn Brown from Fort McCoy, FL and Connie Brown from Austin, TX. They are missed.

We added five new members to the Auxiliary in 2019. They are Pamela Cain from Bradenton FL, R. Anne Stone from Pittsburg PA, Cathy Wheat from Colorado Springs CO, Mary Castillo from El Centro CA, and Brigid Gill from East Greenwich RI. Welcome! Welcome!

President Linda Cockrell would like to remind the ladies of the Auxiliary to send in any address, email, and phone number changes to her. Also, send any newsworthy articles and pictures about the Auxiliary and its members. Send via email to: auxpresident@chinapost1.org.

In December, Auxiliary President Linda Cockrell, SAL Commander Leroy Cockrell, and China Post member Bill Parrish represented China Post 1 by helping to lay wreaths on veteran’s graves at Fort Stanton New Mexico.
40 & 8 Voiture 1494

By Janie Miller, Chef de Gare, Grande du France

Bonjour from the Grande du France of the 40&8!

I – like probably any number of you – get many questions not only about Dragon pins (and other China Post insignia), but also about 40&8 pins. For those not familiar with the 40&8, it is interesting to know that: a) the 40&8 used to be the honor society of the American Legion, and b) has always been By Invitation Only, just like the Cooties are for the VFW and, of course, as China Post 1 is by definition. The Grande du France and its subordinate unit Voiture 1494 are attached at the hip to CP1, and generally members are recruited from that pool of members.

Before getting into the numbers, I would like to thank Ron Butts for taking on the position of Chef at the Voiture (local) level since Emmett Sullivan had to step back for health reasons.

Now talking about membership: We closed the 2018-19 year out with 120 members. Through the incomparable efforts of Bill Sparkman, we recruited 18 new members, bringing our current membership total to 136. Considering that the membership of CP1 is 1,583 we should easily acquire more new members in the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, while sending out membership (and Christmas) cards, we found out that a sizable number of members have passed on, meaning that we will have to adjust those numbers once we report those names to Nationale.

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<tr>
<th>2018-19 Membership Year</th>
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<td>Renewed AT Reunion</td>
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<td>Renewed SINCE Reunion</td>
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<td>Life Members</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>STILL OWE DUES</td>
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As is the custom in “France”, so that we shine as “First to make 100%”, we pay the dues owed to the National Organization, hoping that members will “reimburse” us for that cost. Thus, we really depend on folks to ‘shell it out’!
Officially, dues are still $25. However, due to a communications problem, the National organization raised their dues by $5 without our having a chance to raise our dues accordingly. That is why we have been asking for donations so that that shortfall could be recouped. This then, makes it your official notification that there will be a formal motion at the 2020 Promenade to raise the dues to $30. >>> So, if anyone wants to a) join, b) pay his dues, and/or c) make a donation of ANY kind, it would be very much appreciated by all. Please send due (as applicable) plus ‘whatever’ to

Jerry Miller
PO Box 13191
Casa Grande, AZ 85130

Merci Bien and Many Thanks to those who already did!!!!

We all wish you all a wonderful 2020, with the hope that at the end of the year there won’t be too many topics that bring up the ‘Hindsight 20/20’ feeling!

Looking forward to seeing you all in Florida!!!!

Janie Miller
Chef de Gare
Grande du France
Chennault Museum Membership

Commander Riebel has announced that China Post 1 became a Corporate Member of the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum in Monroe, LA (https://chennaultmuseum.org/) as of 10 October 2019 with a contribution of $1,100.00 to the museum. The letter of acknowledgement from the museum is reproduced below:

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Chennault Museum

Friends of the
CHENNAULT AVIATION & MILITARY MUSEUM OF LOUISIANA, INC.
Preserve, Promote and Honor Military and Aviation History

“Sad is the nation that has no heroes.
Unforgivable is the nation that has heroes and forgets them.” ~Anonymous

October 11, 2019

Scott Riebel
American Legion China Post 1
14515 Black Forest Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Dear Scott:

On behalf of the board of directors, staff, and volunteers of the Chennault Museum, we thank the American Legion China Post 1 for its Corporate Membership.

Your membership allows thousands of students to visit the museum on field trips for education-oriented enrichment activities, and we are one of the top area attractions on TripAdvisor. We are committed to promoting patriotism and community pride for our area’s rich heritage and military tradition.

Your contribution will help fund our operating budget, veteran programs, exhibits, and events. We are extremely proud of the programs we have established in support of our heroes. We are partnered with the Library of Congress in Washington in their Veterans Oral History program. We have bimonthly PTSD clinics for combat veterans and we have our own Chapter 51 of the Disabled American Veterans Association which puts thousands of dollars back into our community through veterans’ benefits.

Thank you again for your contribution to the museum.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elvis Stout
Chairman, Board of Directors
Friends of the CAMM
Quarterly Feature

By Kit Lavell

Saigon Toni

(One in a series of stories remembering our readers who flew in Vietnam and who have continued their aviation careers with the airlines.)

by Kit Lavell, Staff Writer

If I said Toni Carpenter was a famous Continental Airlines flight attendant nobody would probably accuse me of understatement. Legendary might be a better description. I suspect, for she managed to make an indelible impression on the minds of thousands of passengers and crew during her seventeen years with the carrier.

Toni grew up in an aviation family and her great-aunt, Eleanor Harmon Cowan, one of the original Powder Puff Derby entrants, gave Toni her first flying lesson. She likes to say that had it been possible at the time for a woman to earn her commercial ticket she would have made a career out of flying up from instead of the back of passenger airliners. Almost as soon as she completed stewardess training and probation with Continental in 1966 Toni started flying military contract flights to Southeast Asia for MATS (Military Air Transport Services, which later became MAC (Military Airlift Command). She holds the distinction of having the longest continuous service of any Continental flight attendant with MAC, from June 1966 to the last Continental MAC flight into Travis Air Force Base in March 1973.

Great Aunt Eleanor Harmon Cowan, the woman who gave Toni her first flying lesson, August 1933.

During the height of the Vietnam War, Toni flew in and out of Alasaka, Hawaii, the Philippines, Wake Island, Guam, Okinawa, Japan, Thailand, and various air bases in Vietnam. Her Boeing 707 flights would carry primarily troops, but also USO shows, civilian government employees and others. There were no in-flight movies on those twelve hour flights. “Believe me, we made our own in-flight entertainment,” she said. “We used to put on talent shows, play charades, hold various contests, and generally clown around with the troops who were so afraid to be going off to war, but too proud to show it. Many of these young boys were just that — young boys — and they welcomed the chance to let off some steam, no matter how silly the situation. The sillier, the better, just to get the guys laughing.”

Having flown on a couple of MAC flights to Vietnam, this writer can attest to how joyless they could be. She was Toni’s flights. She wouldn’t have it.
Toni would take charge immediately. “I used to walk up and down the island and there was always a guy who would show off for his friends,” Toni recalled. “I would look at these guys and they would mostly look away until I found one guy who would try and bazoo it out, and I would pick on him. I would get all the other guys on my side and I would start by sitting on the edge of his seat and I would say (shifting into a mock motherly voice), ‘if you aren’t just the cutest little thing I’ve ever seen.’ And I’d carry it on until his friends were all laughing and he was wishing he were somewhere else. But he’d really be enjoying it.”

When the flights carried no civilians, things could get quite silly. Toni would entice some of the guys to help her serve coffee, tea and juice, and then dress them up with a smock with two balloons stuffed in front.

Flights back to the States presented a different challenge. Usually the servicemen would be afraid to talk to a young woman. The soldiers mainly slept, of course, because Toni’s flight picked up a lot of them right out of the field. But they’d soon loosen up. On one flight a Marine colonel fell asleep with his hands folded in front of him. Toni painted fingernail polish on his nails. “It took him 30 minutes to realize that his fingernails were pink.” Toni recalled with a laugh. “Then we began our descent into Travis and he was trying to gnaw the stuff off his nails. It wasn’t until we were taxiing and he was going nuts that I gave him the polish remover.”

In her six years and nine months flying in and out of the war zone Toni logged more than 250 landings and transported several G.I.s three and even four times. “I’ve been shot at and hit and spent time holding the hand of a young man with a ‘Dear John’ letter, and traded quips with Bob Hope in Can Aum Phu. I sat in a bunker in Danang while it was being shelled and visited the control towers in Saigon.” Toni recalled. She has earned official and unofficial accolades. She was the subject of a few of her more talented passengers’ efforts at composing an entire opera on the way to Vietnam. They called it ‘Far East-side Story,’ featuring Mastro and Toni as the star-crossed lovers. She became a mascot for a Marine F-4 squadron, an honorary G.I. (Guy in Back) for an Air Force Squadron, a mascot for a Recon Battalion and also for an Army LRRP (Long Range Recon Patrol) team. Along the way she also earned a letter of commendation.
from the Marine Corps for saving the life of a passenger who suffered an allergic reaction to a medication, and a letter of recognition from the Air Force for her many flights into the war zone.

Among her many mementoes, Toni cherishes a caricature of her drawn in pen and ink on the back side of a set of orders, an ostrich fashioned by a soldier out of the aluminum foil from an in-flight poor boy sandwich, and fatigue with her name on them from both the Army and the Marines.

“They fit like a second skin,” she quipped. “So I guess the guys had plenty of time to take visual measurements during those long flights.”

As we talked, a stream of memories poured forth that ran from the funny to the bittersweet to the poignant.

“A notorious captain who once got into trouble for nude sunbathing had a penchant for tinkering with the equipment,” she recalled with an infectious giggle. She had me laughing too and I wasn’t sure where she was going with this.

“I went up to the cockpit one night and the second officer was asleep, the first officer was asleep, and this captain had the instrument panel apart. I woke up the second and first officers and told the captain, “You put that panel back right now! If I come up here and it’s open again, I’m filing a grievance. This is ridiculous. You don’t do exploratory surgery on the instrument panel at night in the middle of the Pacific.”

Then there was the flight into the war zone when she came down with severe food poisoning. After landing at Danang, a troop handler friend carried her to the field hospital. The soldier later was killed on his last patrol the day before Toni’s flight was to have taken him home.

And finally, Toni recalled how on each flight that left the U.S. they would save unopened cartons of fresh milk and pack them in dry ice.

“This precious commodity was handed over from crew to crew until the flight arrived in Vietnam, or at Clark Air Force base in the Philippines. There was a big burn center and orthopedic unit at the base hospital. We used to take this fresh state-side milk up to the wounded soldiers who were patients there,” she explained.

How did she earn the Saigon Toon moniker? She chuckled when she told me: “Officers who carried side arms would have to give them to me and we’d keep them in the cockpit in those days. So I'd put the first one on just to get the guys’ attention so that they'd give me the rest of them. Someone along the way saw this and christened me Saigon Toon and took a picture of me. It ended up on the front page of Stars and Stripes.”

People have asked Toni why she stayed out in the Pacific so long. “I always said that it was important for me as an American to make sure that the last flight over or the first flight back was as good as I knew how to make it,” she explained. “Some of the most heart-wrenching, yet rewarding experiences came with the hostess’s own cooperative effort. We didn’t have much in the way of amenities to offer the passengers, but I believe we made up for it in good humor and sincere effort.”
Editor’s Note: “Saigon Toni” is reprinted with the permission of the author, Kit Lavell, Executive Vice President, Strategic Operations, Inc. (https://www.strategic-operations.com/). “Kit flew 243 combat missions as a Naval Aviator in Vietnam. He has written extensively on military and technology issues for newspapers and magazines. His book, Flying Black Ponies: the Navy’s Close Air Support Squadron in Vietnam, was published by Naval Institute Press.”

Memorial Division News

Alaska Memorial Division (Former)

By Kevin Gorman, CPP®, PSP®, CPO™

On 21 November 2019 Kevin sent, “On the wall at Jack Henry Post No 1” (Anchorage, AK), but added, “I don’t think it is an active memorial division. The post had it on the wall because it was a part of their history.”

Nevada Memorial Division

By Jim Lint

October 2019 Meeting Report

Anna and I did not make the October Leatherneck Club meeting since I had a total knee replacement at the beginning of the month. The way we go looking for new things to do in China Post!!! Below is what Post Deputy Commander, Jeff Carson, sent about the meeting:

The meeting was held on Saturday, 12 October at the Leatherneck Club with Tom Tatten, Toni Carpenter, Bud Pattengale, Terry Parker, Robert Ault, James Hanke, Jim Davey, Rey Quijano, Jeff Carson, and Jim Barfield present.

Topics discussed included the results of the reunion in Colorado Springs. Rey reported the total for emblem sales ($2,800.00) and the raffle ($810.00). Terry Parker donated beer to the reunion that he bottled as “China Post 1” beer. Jim Barfield talked about the tour of the Air Force Academy and Terry talked about the microbrewery tour. The reunion went well and next year it will be held in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

An article about Toni Carpenter was discussed. It contained some very interesting history of her airline adventures during the Vietnam War. (Editor’s Note: See the Quarterly Feature in this Poop Sheet.)

Pete Cami is recovering from a mild stroke and Don Lloyd is hospitalized. Our prayers are with them and their families for speedy recoveries.

Jim Lint received an email from Lou, their first email from Georgia. It is sad to see them go.

REMINDER: Those not on the Yahoo! email list, may be missing out on information about the NV Memorial Division. See: https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CP1-NV.

November 2019 Meeting Report

The meeting was held at noon on Saturday, 9 November at the Leatherneck Club.

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The Thanksgiving Empty Nesters luncheon at the Chinese restaurant Asian Buffet was scheduled for noon at the same location as the past three events. We do have an interesting tradition!

No December meeting was planned just as during the previous years.

Joe Gentile, Post Adjutant, has asked for someone in the NV Memorial Division to create an NV MemDiv Constitution and Bylaws. I am not up for that. Please contact Joe and create the Constitution and By-Laws for our MemDiv. I have not been sitting at a computer for a while, or out of a recliner.

I did not make either of the November events due to not moving as fast after the knee replacement. I also declined to join the Five Mile Fun Run.

Have a great New Year!

**Northern Virginia Memorial Division**

**Northern Virginia Memorial Division Mid-Year Luncheon**

On Sunday 10 November 2019, about 30 members, friends, and guests of the Northern Virginia Memorial Division got together for a Mid-Year Luncheon at the Harvest Moon Restaurant & Lounge in Falls Church, Virginia.

Although a primary intent of the get-together was to observe the Veterans Day holiday, the United States Marine Corps birthday, (November 10), was also recognized.

Division Vice Commander Peters opened the meeting by thanking all the attendees for their participation. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the Division to Bennett Hart for taking on the responsibilities of the Post Adjutant in place of Mike Evers. He recognized the distinguished guests in attendance, including the featured speaker, Dr. David M. Finkelstein, RADM Mike Baker, and his son, Jacob.

Vice Commander Peters then turned the podium over to Division Commander Jeryl O. “Jerry” Gegan.

Commander Gegan led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a Prayer appropriate for the occasion, and a Moment of Silence for the previous Division Adjutant, Mike Evers (RIP). He then called on Hal Hunt to extend a greeting for the 244th birthday of the Marine Corps.

Hal, a former Marine, mentioned the availability of an on-line video of the Birthday Message of Marine Corps Commandant General David H. Berger and Marine Corps Sergeant Major Troy E. Black, and called on all Marines present to join him with a birthday toast to the Corps.

Commander Gegan announced that he will be stepping down from the post of Division Commander after the next Annual Meeting, (to be held in April or May of 2020).

He then introduced the featured speaker, Dr. David M. Finkelstein, Vice President and Director of CNA China Studies Division, CNA Corporation. After sharing Dr. Finklestein’s biodata with the group and thanking him for his presentation, Commander Gegan handed over the podium to Dr. Finklestein.
Dr. Finklestein’s informative and timely presentation was on the topic of the Indo-Pacific Security Environment. Without going into great detail, his remarks addressed the importance of good relations with our allies and partners because “it’s all about competition with China.”

**Southern California Memorial Division (Organizing)**

*By Paul Curtis*

Paul wrote on 15 December 2019:

“My name is Paul Curtis and I am a member of China Post 1, Nevada Memorial Division. I would like to get in touch with other China Post 1 members here in Southern California because I am contemplating convening a gathering for the purpose of determining what the level of interest might be for a Southern California Memorial Division. If those interested would be kind enough to send me an email at pncurtis@specialty-info.com I will respond as quickly as possible, and, with your permission, will share the information with other China Post 1 members here in Southern California so that we at least know of each other.

I am located in Fallbrook, CA just outside the Naval Weapons Station aboard MCB Camp Pendleton. However, that is no indication of where the meetings will be held, as that will be decided by a consensus of the initial members once the Memorial Division is formed.”

**Thailand Memorial Division (Reorganizing)**

*By Warren Weld*

On 19 October 2019 Warren wrote:

“A few years ago, someone from China Post sent a list of members in Florida which we used to reach out to them. Do you have a list of members beside [Lou] Holub and [Ken] Stein? I am kicking off this campaign on 1 November. I will have a few days in Bangkok on my way home and will research the safe houses.”

On 8 November 2019 Warren wrote again:

“Back in the saddle again. Recruited one new member today, and will seek others at a VFW meeting next week. I did get a chance to spend a few days in Bangkok on the way home. I hope to demonstrate more tug on the rope from this end.”

**Fallen Comrades**

*Ed Connor*

On 15 November 2019 Northern Virginia Memorial Division Adjutant Bennett Hart reported with sorrow “… the passing of our great Companion-in-Arms, Ed Connor. He passed on Tuesday morning, the 12th of November and is survived by his loving wife Sarah and his son Kenneth. Ed was one of our Division Founders, Past Division Commander and Senior Vice Commander of China Post 1. He was a crew member on B-25 Mitchells in World War II, B-47 Stratojets, and with Air America during...
Viet-Nam.”

A memorial service for Ed took place on Friday, December 6th, at 1 p.m. at the Emmaus Church at 900 Maple Ave East in Vienna, Virginia. China Post 1 was well represented by the members of the Northern Virginia Memorial Division who attended the service.


Additionally, a biographical PowerPoint slide presentation that depicts Ed’s impressive career has been prepared by members of the Northern Virginia Memorial Division, and is being uploaded to the In Memoriam Page of the China Post 1 Website at: https://chinapost1.org/in-memoriam/

Ed was a long standing and highly regarded member of China Post 1 and our Northern Virginia Memorial Division. Upon learning of Ed’s demise, Post Commander Scott Riebel’s response was “Ed was a hellava man.”

News from Our Members

Jimmy Jacks

Jimmy let us know on 29 December 2019 that: “An amazing thing happened about three weeks ago. An email arrived from a television documentary producer in London. He had gotten my name from an old Continental Air Service friend. I didn't even know my CAS friend knew I'd flown the World Vision BabyLift Flight out of Phnom Penh, but somehow he knew. From a long string of unlikely events, this London producer got my name and contact info. They are coming to Phnom Penh with their entire crew AND a Cambodian lady who was one of the babies we flew out back in April of 1975. She is trying to learn as much as she can about the flight and any background info she can. One part of the documentary will be when she meets me (one of the pilots who actually flew her out). The other two passed on already.


Will let you know how the documentary works out. We are moving back to Texas at the end of January. Been here since 2011. Still keep our home in Johnson City. Stay Tuned. HAPPY NEW YEAR.”

Ray Kalinik

On 17 October 2019 Ray wrote us: “My name is Ray Kalinik, I live in Pennsylvania. My wife and I went to Virginia Beach, Virginia. While there, we went to the China Post 1 watering hole at the Ravens. Sorry to find out that they are going out of business. How can it be possible to get another watering hole in the north east? Thank you.”

Bert Kurland

Bert sent the following message also on 17 October 2019:
“ALL responsible for the Poop Sheet and for keeping the POST active. I am, and have been, PROUD to be a member of China Post 1 (In Exile). I appreciate what ALL of you do for the membership. I am sorry that I can’t be more active and contribute more than I have and do. I believe there are many members who feel as I do. KEEP UP the POSITIVE actions.”

**Michael LaMar, MD**

We heard from Dr. LaMar on 23 November 2019 that he

“Just spent a month in China...

We stayed at the Fairmont Peace Hotel on The Bund in Shanghai. It was just three blocks from the old American Club where China Post 1 existed till 1948.

I got as far as the foyer before several Chinese cops escorted me out of the building. It is now a municipal court building and tourists are not allowed. A second attempt two days later got me no further. The photo is of me in my CP1 polo, holding my CP1 ID card, in front of the plaque that identifies the American Club.

We also visited the old Shanghai market. It is a maze of streets and alleys and zigzag bridges with all sorts of shops. I was wearing my China Post 1 American Legion polo shirt and two separate times here, a very elderly Chinese gentleman stopped me to very positively address me in Chinese while beaming a smile and to pat me on my shoulder while pointing to the shirt's logo and then giving me a thumbs up.

The Post may be closed now in Shanghai, but it has not been completely forgotten!”

**Joe Li**

Commander Riebel just received this picture from Charlene Fontaine. This is Joe Li, one of the 12 remaining Flying Tigers. He was an aircraft maintenance sergeant with Chennault's Flying Tigers and later with the China Air Transport (CAT).
Kenneth Stein

CP1 Members Lou Holub and Ken Stein from Banchang Thailand Watering Hole visiting Saipan VFW Post 3457…

Richard “Tex” Wandke

On 1 December 2019 Tex shared these Thanksgiving memories with us:

“When I was commanding A Company 1/35th INF, we had established a firebase and I noticed one of my soldiers who appeared very busy in front of his bunker. I decided to see what he was doing. He had a can of C rations that he had converted into a small stove. You take the top off and with a bottle opener that is used to punch holes into a can, he had made several holes on the sides of the can near the bottom that had contained the bread that came in the can. He had placed a small amount of plastic explosive (C-4) on the bottom and ignited it. He had had opened a can of spaghetti, and was heating the spaghetti sauce. He used the sauce and the meat and cheese. The bread he had sliced into two slices. I asked him ‘What are you doing?’ He said, ‘Sir I am making me a Pizza’.

It's all on using your mind to enjoy eating C Rations.

One other time, I was doing a reconnaissance mission. It was on Thanksgiving Day. We heard a helicopter overhead and the pilot said ‘You are in an area where we cannot land. Happy Thanksgiving. We are going to deliver you your Thanksgiving meal.’ Using the canisters that held artillery shells we had our Thanksgiving meal - some canisters had turkey, some had mashed potatoes, some had gravy, some had peas and corn, and some had cranberry sauce. (The Mess Sergeant had to do a lot of work to ensure the containers were clean. The meal was enough to feed a company.) We had not seen any traces of the enemy, but we set up a perimeter, put out security and since we had taken our mess kits with us, we had our Thanksgiving meal.”

On 3 December 2019, Tex sent this follow-up: “The stories are from the Legion of Valor members. I was with the fourth Division in Vietnam. I did have three tours of duty 1965-1966 43rd Ranger Advisor to the Vietnamese Rangers in the Delta. 1968-1969 I commanded A Co 1/35th INF, Commanded the 3rd Brigade LLRPs and Commanded C Co 1/12th INF. I retired in 1988 and taught High School JROTC for 19 years.

When I was teaching JROTC the daughter of my First Sergeant in 1968 (He was killed during one of our fire fights on 13 Nov 1968) contacted me and asked about her father. I told her what he had done and she wrote a poem I would like to share with you”:

    Daddy’s Girls
    We were not born of royalty
    Nor donned a crown or scepter
    Nor did we have the stately robes

Daddy’s Girls

We were not born of royalty
Nor donned a crown or scepter
Nor did we have the stately robes

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Or drink of godly nectar
We were not born of bloodlines
Of famous Dukes or Earls
But we were each a Princess
We were our Daddy’s girls.
We had a humble household,
And Dad you were our King.
We did not lack for food or clothes
Nor any earthly thing
We all bore semblance of you
But with long hair and curls,
Little ones with big round eyes
We were our Daddy’s girls;
We had to grow without you
Because you gave your all –
That we might enjoy blest freedom,
You answered freedom’s call.
So we grew, and now grown up
And though dressed in heels and pearls-
Be not fooled by our appearance,
We’re still our Daddy’s girls.
The blood that flowed within his veins
Lives, and flows in us…
We believe in Liberty,
And the motto “In God we trust”
And when we view Old Glory,
With a breeze, her shape unfurls-
We’re reminded of his sacrifice
And Stand proud ... we’re ‘Daddy’s Girls’.

Zettalee D. Rollins 7/02
Daughter of SFC Dale Rollins, KIA 11/68

Les Wong

On 6 December 2019 Les sent this item of interest on the occasion of Pearl Harbor remembrance: “My father was born and raised in the Waipahu/Pearl City/Honolulu area. He returned to China in the early 1930s to attend St. John's University in Shanghai, an American missionary school aligned with the Anglican Church. He graduated in summer, 1937 and witnessed the Japanese attack on the city. It was a further shock to him when, four years later, the Japanese were bombing his Hawaiian hometown.”
Poop Sheet Contributions Wanted

We welcome contributions to the Poop Sheet from all our members, including links and photos that relate directly to our Post, its members, and their activities and accomplishments. However, please DO NOT send anything classified or sensitive, including topics of a political, sexual or religious nature. Your contributions to the Poop Sheet should be sent to poopsheet@chinapost1.org with the Subject: Poop Sheet Article. Please send all other notices, requests for information or support, and any other messages to the appropriate individual in the directory that follows.

Poop Sheet Editorial Team

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<td>Hal Hunt</td>
<td>Gary Howe</td>
<td>Toni Carpenter</td>
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American Legion China Post 1 Directory

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Webmaster

WEBMASTER: Travis Weedman .......................................................... webmaster@chinapost1.org
China Post 1 2020 Reunion Plans

By 龙老板 Scott Riebel, Commander

China Post 1 2020 Reunion
Fort Walton Beach, FL
17-20 September 2020

This year’s China Post 1 reunion will be held at The Island Hotel, 1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

Our available room rates are:

- Gulf Front (2 Queen beds) $195/night
- Poolside (2 Queen beds) $175/night
- Standard room (2 Double beds) $155/night.

There is no resort fee. Both parking and Wi-Fi are free.

If you will only be staying during the official dates for the reunion, use this link to make your reservation:
American Legion China Post 1 Reunion

IF YOU PLAN TO EXTEND YOUR STAY AND ADD DAYS EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE 17-20 SEPTEMBER WINDOW, YOU MUST CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY AT 850-337-9194 AND BOOK YOUR ROOM DIRECTLY WITH EITHER VENESSA BLACKMON OR JACKIE BLUE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE REDUCED ROOM RATE. Tell them you are with the “American Legion China Post 1” reunion.

Hotel Customer Service can be reached at (850) 243-9161.

NOTICE: The hotel does NOT provide shuttle service to/from the airport nor around the local area. You are responsible for your own transportation. Rental cars, Uber and Lyft are available at the airport and for use while at the reunion. (Alamo and National rental cars offer discounts to American Legion members.) Taxis are also available but will be more expensive ($30-$50 from the airport to the hotel which is about 12 miles).

REUNION REGISTRATION FEE: $60 for members; $40 for spouses/guests. This includes access the free drinks/snacks in the hospitality room. Banquet tickets are an additional $46 per person. Tours/trips/activities may be an additional charge.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday, 17 September
Check into hotel and register. Hospitality Suite will be open from Thursday morning, through Sunday, noonish.

China Post 1 Dragon Riders Ride! – TBD

Friday, 18 September - Sightseeing and touring local attractions

Things to Do – See separate document. You may want to extend your stay.
Saturday, 19 September, meeting locations to be announced.

- 10:30 General membership meeting, all members of the American Legion family are invited, China Post members, Auxiliary members, and Sons of the Legion.
- 13:30 The Auxiliary and the 40&8 meet simultaneously, room assignments will be posted later.
- 1430 S.A.L. meeting.
- 18:00 Cocktails.
- 19:00 Banquet. Plated, choice of entrées: Pork Loin with Pineapple Sauce, OR Red Snapper, OR Vegetarian Served with Rice and Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Salad, Rolls, Key Lime Pie, Coffee and Tea $46.00 a head including tax and gratuity.

Our guest speaker, for the banquet, will be Robert Caron. Bob is the Air America pilot of the Bell 204 (Huey), pictured on the rooftop, in the iconic photo taken by Hugh Van Es, as Saigon fell. An opportunity to find out what really happened, as Operation "Frequent Wind" (the evacuation of Saigon), went into high gear. An exciting story, not to be missed. Learn the real facts direct, from the man, in the pilot's seat...

Suggested attire: While this event takes place in Florida and flip-flops with shorts are considered to be appropriate dress for almost all occasions, in order to render a certain amount of respect to our noble organization, we request that attendees step things up a bit:

Gentlemen – Coat and tie; Ladies – Equivalent garments

21:00 Retire to the Hospitality Suite.

Hotel website: https://www.redlion.com/hotel-rl/fl/fort-walton/island-ft-walton-destin-hotel-rl#contact

LOCAL AIRPORTS
(NEAREST TO FARTHEST)

DESTIN–FORT WALTON BEACH AIRPORT (VPS) (just north of Fort Walton Beach, FL)

GENERAL INFORMATION: Destin–Fort Walton Beach Airport is located approximately 7.0 miles / 11.2 kilometers northeast of Fort Walton Beach. The IATA airport code is VPS. The airport’s website is: https://www.flyvps.com/. There is a USO (United Service Organizations) Center in the airport opposite the Allegiant Airlines ticket counter which is open to active duty and retired military personnel but NOT to veterans due to the USO’s national policy. The USO is open from 5 am to 8 pm daily.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

Rental Cars:
Alamo - (850) 678-0223 / (800) 462-5266
Avis - (850) 651-0819 / (800) 331-1212
Budget - (850) 651-0819 / (800) 527-0700
Destin Jeep Rentals - (850) 687-9262
Dollar Rent A Car - (850)-609-0154 / (866)-434-2226

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Enterprise - (850)-609-8006 / (800) 736-8222
Hertz - (850) 651-0612 / (800) 654-3131
National Car Rental - (850) 678-0223 / (800) 227-7368

Hotel Shuttles: NONE

Taxis, Shuttles, and Limos: Available but expensive ($35 - $63).

Transportation Network Companies/Ridesharing: Uber and Lyft Uber and Lyft are available – check on line for current rates.

**DESTIN EXECUTIVE AIRPORT (DTS) (ALSO KNOWN AS COLEMAN KELLY FIELD)** (in Destin, FL)

The IATA airport code is DTS. This airport is a general aviation airport and is not served by any scheduled airline. If you plan to fly your own airplane, you can use this airport.

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION:**

**Rental Cars:**
- Enterprise - (850)-609-8006 / (800) 736-8222
- Destin Jeep Rentals - (850) 687-9262
- Hotel Shuttles: NONE

Taxis, Shuttles, and Limos: Available but expensive ($35 - $63).

Transportation Network Companies/Ridesharing: Uber and Lyft Uber and Lyft are available – check on line for current rates.

**PENSACOLA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PNS) (Pensacola, FL)**

GENERAL INFORMATION: Distance from Pensacola International Airport to Fort Walton Beach is 34.2 miles / 55.0 kilometers. The IATA airport code is PNS. The airport’s website is: [http://flypensacola.com/](http://flypensacola.com/). There is a USO (United Service Organizations) center in the airport located on 2nd level of the terminal lobby which is open to active duty and retired military personnel but NOT to veterans due to the USO’s national policy. The USO is open 8 am to 8 pm daily.

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION:**

**Rental Cars:**
- Alamo Rent-A-Car - (850) 434-5676 / (877) 222-9075
- Avis Rent-A-Car - (850) 433-5614 / (800) 331-1212
- Budget Rent-A-Car - (850) 432-5499 / (800) 527-0700
- Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental - (850) 434-5432 / (800) 474-9000
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car - (850) 432-0110 / (800) 261-7331
- Guardian – (850) 456-0351
- Hertz Rent-A-Car - (850) 432-2345 / (800) 654-3131
National Rent-A-Car - (850) 432-8338 / (877) 222-9058
Pensacola Jeep & SUV Rentals: (850) 687-9262
Thrifty - (850) 434-5334 / (800) 800-4000

Taxis, Shuttles, and Limos: Available but the cost to get to Fort Walton Beach will be high.

Transportation Network Companies/Ridesharing: Uber and Lyft

NORTHWEST FLORIDA BEACHES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ECP) (just outside Panama City Beach, FL)

GENERAL INFORMATION: Distance from Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport to Fort Walton Beach is 49.2 miles / 79.2 kilometers. The IATA airport code is ECP. The airport’s website is: https://www.iflybeaches.com/ The Military Welcome Center at Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport offers a quiet place for active duty, retired military personnel and Department of Defense employees to relax while waiting for a flight or a ride. It is open daily from 8 am – 8 pm.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION:

Rental Cars:
Alamo Rent-A-Car - (850) 235-0227
Avis Rent-A-Car - (850) 769-1411
Budget Rent-A-Car - (850) 763-0108
Dollar/Thrifty Car Rental - (850) 233-8046
Enterprise Rent-A-Car - (850) 235-3771
Hertz Rent-A-Car - (850) 235-2201
National Rent-A-Car - (850) 235-0227

Taxis, Shuttles, and Limos: Available but the cost to get to Fort Walton Beach will be high.

Transportation Network Companies/Ridesharing: Uber and Lyft
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1, SHANGHAI, CHINA
SEPT 17 – 20, 2020
This year’s China Post 1 reunion will be held at
The Island Hotel, 1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
https://www.theislandfl.com/
EVENT REGISTRATION FORM

If you will be attending the 2020 China Post Convention and Reunion, please complete this form and mail it with your check as indicated below. This form is for China Post meeting events only – not hotel reservations (see below). Send Event Registration and check payable to “China Post 1” to:

Reunion Registration
13359 North Highway 183
Suite 406-566
Austin, TX 78750

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT HAVE IT IN THE MAIL NO LATER THAN SEPT 2nd SO IT CAN BE RECEIVED AND PROCESSED BEFORE THE REUNION.

1. REGISTRATION FEE, $60 PER CHINA POST MEMBER ....................................................... $____________

2. GUEST REGISTRATION, $40 PER GUEST............................................................................... $____________

3. SATURDAY DINNER WITH WINE, $46.00 EACH (all inclusive)........................................... $____________

TOTAL ENCLOSED......................................................................................................................... $____________

Please select your entrée:
- Pork Loin with Pineapple Sauce........_______
- Red Snapper ......................................... _______
- Vegetarian............................................. _______

Each meal is served with Rice and Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Salad, Rolls, Key Lime Pie, Coffee and Tea

***PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION***

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<tr>
<th>Member Name</th>
<th>Member’s Nick Name for Badge</th>
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<th>Spouse / Guest Names</th>
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Intended Arrival Date: _____ Sept -- Intended Departure Date: _____ Sept

HOTEL RESERVATIONS – BOOK EARLY – THIS IS A RESORT AREA. You can use this link: American Legion China Post 1 Reunion or you can call the hotel directly (Venessa Blackmon) at the hotel Monday – Friday between 9 am – 6 pm Central Time. Her direct number is 850-337-9194 Tell her you are with the American Legion, China Post 1. You must book by August 17, 2020 with a credit card to hold your reservation. NOTICE: IF YOU WANT TO STAY OUTSIDE OF THE ACTUAL REUNION DATES YOU MUST BOOK YOUR ROOM WITH VENESSA BLACKMON OR JACKIE BLUE DIRECTLY. THAT MEANS IF YOU WANT A ROOM FOR SEPT. 13, 14, 15 OR 21, 22, 23, CALL THEM DIRECTLY AT 850-337-9176 AND DO NOT USE THE RESERVATION HYPERLINK.