

As the Veterans Day arrives in November each year, I remember the American veterans who served during World War II, particularly those who served in China. This is becoming closer to my heart because they are at least in their nineties. One of such veterans is my hero, Major General Arthur W. Clark, who served as an intelligence officer for the US Army 14th Air Force in China during 1944-1945. During that time, General Clark was stationed in Yunnanyi and Kunming of Yunnan province, gathering and analyzing photo images of the enemy forces and other targets for bombing, and played an important role in supporting the American and Chinese fighting against the Japanese. Much of his WWII experience in China is documented in his book *Eyes of the Tiger* (2015). General Clark lives close to his sons in North Carolina. He has a kind heart and wishes for friendship between the American and Chinese peoples. As he celebrates his 98th birthday later this month, I want to send him my best wishes as well as that of my family and friends from Yunnan. We are grateful to veterans like General Clark who risked their lives to support the Chinese during WWII.

每當 11 月退伍軍人節來臨時，我和萬里之外的雲南親友都會談論並感激二戰期間到中國參戰的美國老兵。這些還在世的老兵至少都九十多歲，更加令人產生對他們的敬意和牽掛。這些年我認識了好幾位這樣的老兵，疫情期間最令我想念的當屬即將年滿 98 歲的阿瑟·克拉克將軍 (General Arthur Clark)。

感謝二戰英雄 - 向克拉克將軍致敬

Salute to General Arthur W. Clark, Hero of WWII By Kun Shi / 史昆



克拉克將軍與其子 Claiborne M. Clark 和史昆 2019 年夏合影

克拉克將軍於 1922 年 11 月 28 日生於西雅圖市，少年時曾隨父母在歐洲生活過六年，能說流利法語。由於對大自然的愛好，他到北卡

大學主修地質學。1942 年大學畢業即被徵召入伍，接受培訓，然後於 1944 年中旬經過北非和印度到達雲南，先後在駐紮雲南驛和呈貢機場的美

軍第 14 航空隊 (前身是“美國志願航空隊”或稱“飛虎隊”) 飛行情報中隊工作，專門收集並分析轟炸日軍目標的圖片資料，為支援友軍擊潰日軍做出了重要貢獻。

1945 年 7 月之後轉場至南寧、杭州和上海，當年 12 月底乘船返回到美國西雅圖。克拉克將軍在中國期間的細節見於他的回憶錄《飛虎之眼》(Eyes of the Tiger, 2015)。

回想當年，國軍空軍幾乎被日軍覆滅，日軍對中國西南地區的重慶、昆明和保山等地狂轟濫炸，慘不忍睹；如果沒有美國空軍的支持和犧牲，家鄉百姓不知還會有多少生靈塗炭。三年前，我與美國軍事史學者丹尼爾·杰克遜先生在雲南滇西抗戰歷史文化研究會的協助下，到雲南採訪了幾位當年救助過美國飛行員的老人及後人，他們也被美國飛行員當作救命恩人。每當想到這里，我總覺得，無論將來中美國家關係如何發展，我們兩國人民的友誼一定要延續。

前兩年我專門從佛州去看望過克拉克將軍兩次，每次都像久別的親人重逢，友情難忘。他不僅以佳肴招待，講述個人經歷故事，還錄下期待中美青年應該世代友好的視頻。儘管他前半生是軍人，我始終被他的溫和善意所動。他的那句話一直在我耳邊迴響：“戰爭不是好東西……盡力避免戰爭才是上策。為了自衛才是一個國家進入戰爭的唯一正當理由。”(War is not a good thing... Avoiding war when possible is a good thing. The only reason for a country to go to war is in self-defense.)

克拉克將軍的愛妻兩年前過世，目前與二兒子居住在北卡教堂山市。在他 98 歲生日即將到來之際，我僅代表遠在雲南的親友們祝他生日快樂，萬壽無疆！

Arthur W. Clark's "Eyes of the Tiger" | History Straight From the Source

October 13, 2015 By david Comments

Retired Major General Arthur Clark is one of those people for whom when he talks, you listen. I'd heard stories of General Clark from my family long before I met him. While my own personal time with the man has been limited to a few breakfasts or lunches every year when I'm back in North Carolina, I take every opportunity to pick his brain on a subject about which we're both really passionate: China.

His wanderlust and love of exotic foods have taken him (and his camera) to every continent, with expeditions and adventures at both north and south poles. Most importantly however, Major General Arthur W. Clark has spent the majority of his life dedicated to his family. He currently lives with his wife, Mary, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Together they are the parents of three sons, each of them also highly successful.

aircraft. At our Beiting Field we had a single runway less than a mile in length.

We were very much on our own. Hump tonnage was at a premium. For the most part our PX rations were a couple of cartons of cigarettes each month. The cigarettes were handy; they were the currency I used to pay skilled carpenters to build furniture I needed for a little intelligence office on the flight line. Cigarettes were an extremely valuable item on the black market. Even a cigarette butt could fuel one of the small pipes.

To this day, even into his ninth decade on earth, Arthur lives a busy life and is a highly-respected and valued member of several communities. As long as I've known him, he has never forgotten a single detail of any of his many, many stories. That's why I was delighted to learn that last month, Arthur released a book, "Eyes of the Tiger," detailing his time in China, complete with some of his photographs and other primary sources from that time. The book is not yet for sale in China, but can be purchased through several online retailers. You can find the book easily by searching its ISBN10 number: 0692446206

Major General Clark was kind enough to take time out of his schedule to talk to us about his time in the Middle Kingdom and send along a few artifacts too. What you'll read here is a fraction of a fraction of the stories contained in "Eyes of the Tiger." It's a must-read for anyone curious about the long, complicated and often violent history of this country we call home. We're extremely lucky to be able to print, with permission, these rare glimpses into a past that now looks and seems like much more than 70 years prior.

What are the primary experiences outlined in your book?

My book is based on the journal I maintained as circumstances permitted. I avoided including sensitive information, as there was always the risk of a document coming into Japanese hands.

Our experiences during the latter part of 1944 and early 1945 involved operations off a small airfield in western Yunnan province. This was in the successful closing part of the Salween Campaign. It involved Japanese forces in Burma trying to penetrate western China across the Salween River, rather than against Japanese forces in eastern China seeking to extend westward to Kunming. We were a small force, generally of fewer than fifty officers and men and operating three or four photographic reconnaissance P-38 aircraft designated as F-5's. Co-located on the Beiting Airfield were three B-25 medium bombers.

They were, as we, detached from larger squadrons located elsewhere.

We, and they, lived in clusters of tents, improvised extensively and were fed entirely by the Chinese. This was part of the "reverse lend lease" negotiated by T. V. Soong in Washington. We depended, for example, to heating our tents in winter on charcoal made available by Lung, the provincial governor or war lord of Yunnan. A mixture of alcohol and gasoline powered our vehicles. Our aviation fuel was flown across the Himalayan "Hump" in 55 gallon drums, landed at the nearby Yunnanyi airfield and manually pumped into our

The least changed place was along the Bund in Shanghai. Same buildings appearance but of course with motor vehicles instead of rickshaw and power boats on the Huangpu instead of man or wind powered.

We occupied what was the Broadway Mansions; it had been used by Japanese brass. In 1991 it was the Shanghai Mansions and now I her it is the Shanghai Hilton. It is where Suzhou Creek runs into the Huangpu and has a concave curved front. Across the creek was the British embassy building.

Some rural areas I visited were much the same except for roads. When you flew over some areas during the war years there were simply paths or trails radiating out from the villages to the paddies and fields. The Burma Road from our area back to Kunming was challenging in places and then there could be bandits along the way. There were often human convoys, men with loads on their backs traveling together, stopping periodically to rest. One might see a lady in a sedan chair being carried along the road.

One of the most striking things during the war was seeing airfield construction with nothing but manpower, or people power, one hundred or more men and women harnessed to large stone or concrete rollers which they pulled to tamp down runways or taxiways. Stones were broken and hammered into the base which was, in the Chengdu area, intended to withstand the landing impact of B-29 aircraft of "Operation Matterhorn" des-

igned to attack the Japanese islands from the Chinese mainland.

If we went west from our base to Dali, on the way to Baoshan, the Salween and the border, we came to the long Erhai Lake, north of the Burma Road. Dali was at the southwest corner of the long lake, an isolated town of stone streets, stone houses, men wearing fur hats and similarities to Tibet and the tribal areas in adjacent mountains.

In 2007 I talked with a tour guide who was to lead a group to Yunnan. "Do you know of Dali?" I asked? I assumed one could drive from Kunming on a paved road.

"Arthur", he replied, "We land at the jetport and stay in a four star hotel."

Harvest time.

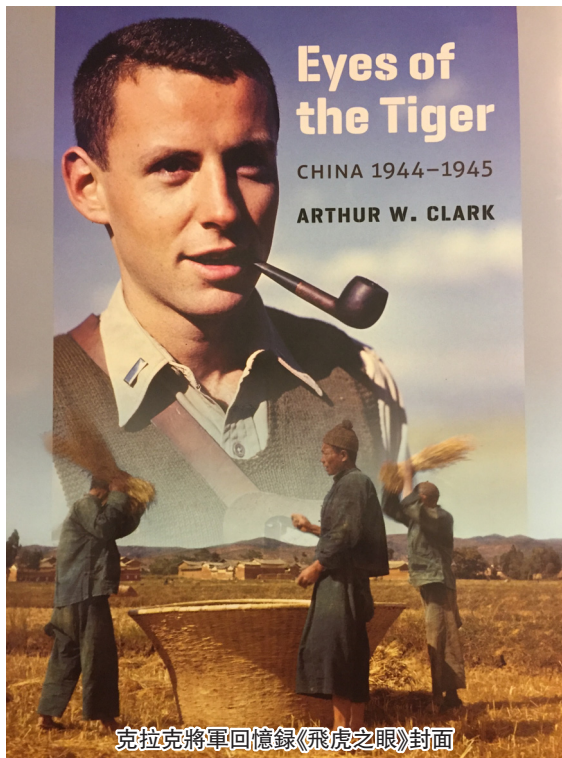
And then there are places such as Chengong south of Kunming on the Dian Lake shore. We were based there before moving on to Nanning in Guangxi Province near what was then French Indo-China border. Chengong was a small town where I watched fishermen carrying cormorants with rings around their necks so the men could get the fish the birds caught but could not swallow. That town is now another of the big changes - a ghost city with large empty buildings.

What were the most important things you learned through your experiences in China?

I learned that you need to concentrate on playing the cards you have been dealt. Focus on what best you can accomplish next. Forget about "if only we had...". For those of us in the early 20's, this was post graduate education in real life. It was meaningful and beneficial during the years ahead.

Our small detached unit provided for a close relation with the Chinese on whom we depended for various forms of support, including all our food. One of the most significant elements of our operations in China was the Chinese American Composite Wing (CACW) in which Chinese and American aviators shared aircraft crew responsibilities.

I developed a great admiration for the Chinese people with their resiliency in the face of adversity. They lived in the present and knew how to make the best of it. They were characterized by strong family loyalty and affection for children. They exhibited active senses of humor that served them well even during those times of hardship.

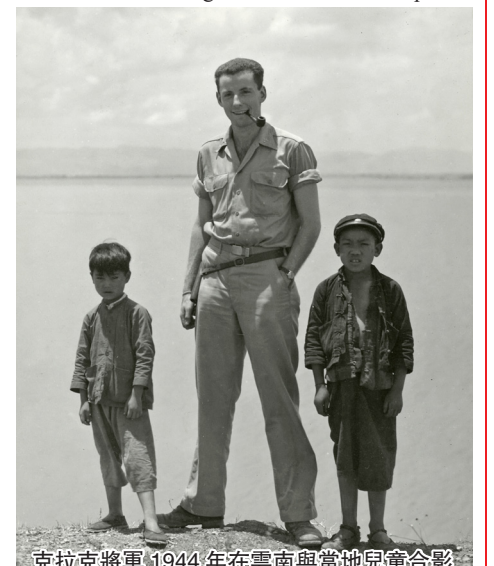


克拉克將軍回憶錄《飛虎之眼》封面

A young Arthur Clark in Kunming, 1945

General Clark served in China during the last four months of 1944 and the entirety of 1945 as an intelligence officer for the United States Army Air Force, as American forces aided Chinese forces in parts of China defending against the Japanese Imperial Army. His squadron was part of the Fourteenth Air Force, known as "The Flying Tigers." Their story is one of bravery and camaraderie across languages and cultures a world apart. During his time in China, Arthur, as I know him, had duties including photographic intelligence, occasional aerial photography, censorship, administration, briefing and debriefing, target selection, bomb damage assessment and reporting. Painting "They Built So We Could Fly" By Roy Grinnell

Since his time serving in China, Arthur has lived a life that could easily fill a dozen more books. He earned his graduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He went back on active duty to serve once again in the conflict in Korea. Following this tour of duty, he returned to active reserves where he served in Europe, Asia and Central America as well as in the Pentagon. It was during this time that he earned numerous awards including the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Bronze Star. In his civilian life, Arthur has served in a number of community organizations such as the North Carolina Zoological Council and the Triangle Community Foundation.



克拉克將軍 1944 年在雲南與當地兒童合影