

Horse” Road to the Yunnanyi airfield, where a detachment of B-25’s of the 22nd Bomb Squadron were stationed in 1944 for flying short missions into northern Burma. Then, back along the Burma Road to Dali and a tour of the Dali Ancient Town. On the following day we flew back to Kunming. Some of us



took another look at Green Lake Park and the Yuantong Si pagoda, the Buddhist temple nearby. On Jinbi Lu road we ran across the Hump Bar, where many

photos of World War II adorn the walls. The owner was most interested in talking to us about old times. I gave her a copy of our squadron book WWII DIARY.

A fine time was had by all and I was glad to have had the chance to explain the contribution the B-25 squadrons made to the cause of China in World War II.

## China Memories - July 2004

### A RETURN TO CHINA 2004

#### ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

By J. V. Vinyard

David Hayward provided an excellent overview of our trip to China this past July/August. I would like to provide some addition insight about the trip that I especially appreciated.

First, I was impressed with the interest now being shown in the events of World War II by the Chinese people. They are now going through a period of learning about this war and the Americans who flew, worked, and died in their support. The Chinese people have a special interest in the past as it pertains to their families and their history. They are now working hard to record as much of the World War II history as they can directly from the U. S. Veterans while we are still available. Personally I am for providing them all the help I can.

I used the symposium held in Kunming and personal visits with Chinese people to try and convince them that not all American flyers were “Flying Tigers”. That is my personal mission. It is

hard for them to think of Americans in any other terms due to the extreme admiration they have for this group. I found out one thing. Whenever introduced to a Chinese person or group who are told we are American flyers who helped the Chinese during World War II, then whether they can speak any English or not, you can count on them to know at least two English words – “Flying Tiger?”

So I took my opportunities in China to go on record during the occasions I had available to explain that the U. S. Army Air Forces in China during the war were isolated there without the ability to independently operate. I explained that to become an effective force it was necessary that the supplies be provided to them from outside China to put them in the air. I further explained that it was the Hump operation and the Hump pilots, including CNAC, that provided these supplies to them.

This information was always received with interest. I just wanted them to know that Hump pilots were not Flying Tigers but we were part of the Flying Tigers team.

On the morning of July 27<sup>th</sup> the group was flown to the town of Lijiang, located about 210 miles northwest of Kunming. This town was on the old “Able” route, flown primarily by the early day Hump pilots and later flown when delivering fuel to the B-29 bases at Chengtu (now Chengdu).

A homing station located there was identified to Hump pilots as “Likiang”. Needless to say it was located in the shadow (to the south) of one of the most famous mountains on the Hump – Likiang Mountain. During the war there was a lot of discussion about the actual height of that mountain. Current Chinese charts show the mountain as 5,596 metres in height or 18,359 feet MSL

Located well north of Lijiang was a mountain meadow that was used as an air field during the war. Grass only. It was likely the homer was located near that air field. I flew over the facility and town a number of times but did not know they were even there.

We visited that old air field. It was a real spiritual moment for me to realize I was standing on an air field, located on the main Hump, which I had flown over some 60 years ago.

The Municipal Airport for Lijiang is now located about 35 miles south of the city. It is a very modern airport but its instrument approach is truly in the heart of major mountains. Nothing I would want