

War Stories (cont.)

Went over to 5 and played records awhile. Checked out Gettelfinger-Kleine's new room; rug, curtains, and all. Pretty nice. Ate supper in Chink restaurant. Roy Pratt was there, drunked up and proceeded to call Capt. Leith everything he could think of. Capt was there too. Roy is now under arrest. Played cribbage with Don. Bed at 10:00

Thursday, Feb 24. Up 08:15 and ate eggs again. Spent mornings writing letters, read a lot, sunbath all afternoon. Ate supper and got called for trip. Went to ops but ship was out of order. Went to see Red Skelton at S. O. S. Called again at 9:15PM. So won't get much sleep tonight. 9:30 PM to Ops.

Well surprise, surprise. We advertised this was to be a 3 part story, but the final entry does not appear to be the end of the story. So we contacted the author and he advised the diary goes through July 1944. So it looks like we will have at least 2 more installments before his story is completed. Look for the next installment in the Spring 2005 Newsletter.

CBI MIAs RECOVERY EFFORTS

by Carl Frey Constein

Carl Frey, author of other books, C-46 pilot out of Chabua, is writing a book about the treacherous MIA mission of a JPAC recovery team directed to excavate the crash site and to search for the crew of a Sookerating C-46 missing since November 1944. After a 30-day expedition in Tibet, the team returned to its headquarters at Hickham AFB, Honolulu, in early October.

Carl's connection to the team came about this way: In November, 2003, Carl received an order from Army Captain Geoff, Recovery Team Leader, for Carl's two books about the Hump. The Captain wanted to learn the background about the Hump and to note accompanying get a feel for what Hump airmen experienced. In a note accompanying the Order, Geoff wrote, "I want you and other veterans to know we are excited about this mission. Our team will represent you in the Himalayas with the same sense of duty, honor, respect and courage you demonstrated 60 years ago." He invited Carl to dialog with him about the mission.

Deoff sent Carl reports on all phases of the mission - preparations for staffing and equipment, mountain training in Alaska, briefings to the Commander, negotiations with China, movement to the crash site and excavation of the site. Carl received daily copies of Captain Kent's Situation Reports made to his Commander directly from the site.

Carl has expressed gratitude and honor for the privilege of telling this story. He has interspersed within the text four chapters illuminating the Hump and its dangers to help readers connect the dots between a recovery mission in 2004 and a C-46 crash exactly six decades earlier. He expects *MISSING IN THE HIMALAYS*, an anatomy of an MIA recovery mission, to be off the press in mid-2005.

IN GOD WE TRUST

By Robert Stumpf

In August Bob wrote - "on page 11 in the two paragraphs under 'Additional Note' (August 2004 NL) there was an error". He had heard before someone claimed that the phrase 'so help me God' had been wrongfully omitted from the Roosevelt sentence selected to be carved into the Eastern (Pacific) corners. "According to my research it appears some over-eager vet had a lapse of memory concerning FDR's December 8, 1941 speech before the Congress."

As you can see in the attached papers the phrase "so help us God" was part of an entirely different sentence than the one actually used on the WWII monument." (attached papers not shown.)

Editor's Note: We stand corrected. The inscription on the monument was incorrectly quoted. The inscription actually contained sentences from two different paragraphs of the speech. No part of the sentence from the speech "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God" was included in the inscription.