

## Members in Action (Cont.)

slides, and to show a logical approach to the initial requirement to move tonnage, the development of the total transport system, bases and aircraft used, routes flown, weather/enemy action/special events, accomplishments and summary. Insure that Board understands that this is not a complete history of the CBI. I will concentrate on ATC operations and include some of the Combat Cargo and Troop Carrier data. This package will be an over-all view and permit our members to expand and expound as they so desire. Members may then add their own extra slide, etc. and personalize each presentation to fit their audiences”.

This sounds like a program that will really fill a niche. We appreciate you Bill for undertaking this very worthwhile project.

As referred to in his *Chairman's Comments* our Board Chairman **Jack Goodrich** joined the speakers circuit when he recently accepted an invitation to speak before a civic club in his area about his Hump experiences. As he says, the knowledge of the general public about our Hump experience is quite limited. He also now has a greater appreciation of the program Bill Kelso is working on as mentioned in the previous item. Thanks Jack for getting our and getting your feet wet.

**Observation:** *It is common knowledge that most people hate public speaking. But rest assured – when you are talking to a group about something that is of special interest to you and of which you have sound knowledge the thought of being nervous lasts about 60 seconds then you are off and running. Don't let such a concern stop you from spreading the word about our WWII efforts.*

We received a note from member **Walter B. Copenhaver, ATC – Chabua and Sookerating**, advising of his participation in the Kill Devil Hills, NC celebration of the “Centennial of Flight at the Wright Brothers National Memorial” on December 15, 2003. He proudly wore his HPA cap and patch and attracted no small amount of attention. He said he felt he was representing all who flew the Hump while there.

A very nice article which provided an overview of his personal aviation history, including his tour flying the Hump in WWII, appeared in the December 13<sup>th</sup> issue of “The Daily Reflector of Greenville, NC”. Among other things the article stated he had flown as a copilot with Colonel Robert Crawford who wrote the “Army Air Corps Song”. Also that he once owned a 1929 GAC Aristocrat airplane that had been previously owned by Amelia Earhart. Walter soloed in 1927 at age 18. He says his instructor had only a learner’s permit but his flying ability made up for his lack of credentials.

Thank you Walter for this very fine report. We know you did us proud. Walter was accompanied to the event by his daughter Paula Wright.

In April 1942 an American Volunteer Group (AVG) pilot, John Ed Blackburn of Amarillo, TX, was flying over the lake south of Kunming to check his guns firing pattern on the lake surface. For reasons not known he flew his aircraft into the lake during the flight. He died in the accident. His body was returned home to Amarillo where he was buried. The aircraft was left in the lake where it still remains.

During the last week of July 2004 the aircraft is scheduled to be raised from the lake and hopefully restored. It is the only known P-40 still remaining that was actually flown in combat by the AVGs. **HPA President J. V. Vinyard, ATC**, and **HPA Board Member George H. Saylor, 10<sup>th</sup> ComCar Sq., 3<sup>rd</sup> Gp.**, and wives, have been invited by the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation of Los Angeles, CA to attend the formal raising of the aircraft from the lake. They are scheduled to leave Los Angeles for Kunming on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will return to the U. S. on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Others being invited to the ceremony include Board Members of the Foundation as well as members of the AVGs and the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force Association. Also going to China for the event will be members of the Blackburn family. A further report of this event will be included in Summer issue of the newsletter.