

America's Unknown Heroes: Saviors of China

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Exhibit Website

Junior Division

Student Composed words: 439

As I began brainstorming ideas for my History Day project, I began with the broad topic of World War Two. I always loved World War Two aviation and have read numerous books on the subject. I even play video games based on World War Two aviation. I wondered what area of World War Two would relate too Taking a stand in history. Then I realized that The Flying Tigers would be perfect. I first learned about them from the related video games and some books that I have read in years past.

I researched my topic by making several trips to the Monterey Library, and checking out several books. The most helpful book I found was *Chennault and the Flying Tigers* because it really brought the AVG to life. I also went online and found many websites and videos on The Flying Tigers. Perhaps the most useful online source I found was a video about the first combat of the Flying Tigers. I found Battle of China video from the National Archives. This seven film series discussed why we were fighting in the China-Burma-India theater. I used the site to delve into the Sino-Japanese war. I also used the 14th Air Force Archives to contact Charlene Fontaine who is a daughter of one of these brave men. Our personal interview was particularly helpful because she gave me information that I needed to fill in holes in my website. She also led me to many great personal interviews, including Melvin McMullan (A B-24J Nose Gunner of The 14th Air Force), Mrs. Nel Calloway (daughter of Major Claire Lee. Chennault), and Bud Heiner (a test pilot for the 69th repair depot squadron).

I chose the website category because I am very passionate about World War Two aviation and wanted to use every available technology to bring the topic to life. I organized my website by using EasyBib to create notecards, and then paraphrased

them onto my website. I chose the appropriate pictures depending on the type of page. If I was talking about the first combat, for example, I would use the flying Tigers colors, such as blue and orange. A significant challenge I faced during my website design process was organizing my information into pages. I had so much information and email contacts to put onto my website it became a bit overwhelming. This challenged me to create categories in my website and put certain topics under umbrella categories.

My project on the Flying Tigers of World War II relates to the theme, "Taking a stand in History" for the following two important reasons. First, they were a group of americans who volunteered to do what they thought was right. The impact of the Flying Tigers remains significant and relevant to this day. They saved China from Japanese domination.