

# SACO\* CHINA WWII

## AerM & Aero (Met) Officers

\*Sino-American Cooperative Association

AerM1 FLOURNOY, Willy D (G)<sup>1,2,4,5</sup>  
AerM1 McCAWLEY, Thomas. G.<sup>1,2,4</sup>  
CAerM SIZEMORE, Robert A.<sup>1,2,4</sup>  
CAerM KLOS, John N<sup>4,5</sup>  
AerM1 LUCHINI Reno G<sup>1,5</sup>  
AerM1 CAMERON, Barry D.<sup>1</sup>  
AerM2 SINKS, Robert A. (M.)<sup>1,2,4</sup>  
AerM\_ CASE, George J.<sup>1</sup>  
AerM\_ HOLT, W.V.<sup>1</sup>  
AerM\_ SMITH, W.B.<sup>1</sup>  
AerM1 LONGORDO, D.A.<sup>1</sup>  
AerM1 MOORE, M.E.<sup>1</sup>  
AerM2 McCARTHY,<sup>1</sup>  
AerM1 FLANDERS,<sup>1</sup>  
AerM1 WILLIAMS, L.(O.)E.<sup>1,4,5</sup>  
AerM3 SHADDUCK, Nobel<sup>4</sup>

CAPT BEYERLY, Irwin F<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>  
CAPT THOMPSON, F.T. "Tiger"<sup>1,4</sup>  
LCDR KERR, R.E.<sup>1</sup>  
LT FORREST, Rufe "Red" H.<sup>1,5</sup>  
LT MASTERSON, J.E.<sup>1</sup>  
LT SIMS, F.A.<sup>1</sup>  
LT KOTRLA, Ray<sup>2,4</sup>  
LT(j.g.) MASTENBROOK, Henry J.<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>  
LT(j.g.) COY, P.H.<sup>1</sup>  
LT(j.g.) WHITE, R.C.<sup>1</sup>  
LT(j.g.) MAC INNES, Angus "Archie" A.<sup>1,5</sup>  
LT(j.g.) PHIPPS, Robert<sup>1</sup>  
LT(j.g.) SIMMONS, William.P.<sup>1,5</sup>  
ENS HARKNESS, D.D.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>  
ENS REIGGER, C.L.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>SACO – THE RICE PADDY NAVY, Stratton

<sup>2</sup>A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR, Miles

<sup>3</sup>AMERICA’S WEATHER WARRIORS, Bates & Fuller

<sup>4</sup>THE RICE PADDY NAVY, Kush

<sup>5</sup>U.S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA, Frank Baillie, AEROGRAPH, May 1999, p 39

NOTE: 1. Rank is highest among the five sources.

2. Names are composites from all five sources.

3. Stratton was a Supply Corps Officer on RADM Miles staff and his book was published first. Miles stated he wrote his book about the big picture on SACO and Stratton was the best source for names.

**MORE “GEMS” from Frank Baillie’s article** cited above:  
(Frank Baillie was an Associate Member of the SACO Association)

### **FLYING TIGER Aerographers**

On 24 July 1943 three Navy Aerographers were released from active duty to report to the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Co. of New York. These three, along with two Army weather observers became the Aerological branch of the American Volunteer Group, better known as the “Flying Tigers.” They were Aerog 2/c D.A. Whelpley, Aerog 3/c A.W. Fritzke and Aerog 3/c R.S. Richardson.

**Aerographers became Aerographers Mates (AerM)** on 08 Aug 1942, per Circular Letter 113-42.

**AGs arrive;** the Aerographer's Mate rating abbreviation AerM was changed to **AG** by Circular Letter 106-48 on 09 June 1948. [This was a major change in the NAMES/abbreviations in the enlisted structure.] S 1/c, S 2/c and AS became AN, AA and AR [in Aviation Group IX].

**AGs Depart [China]** – On 15 April 1949, Fleet Weather Central Shanghai [opened in Glen Line Bldg in late August 1945] was disestablished as Chinese Communist forces took over the country. Personnel from Fleet Weather Central and the Kang Wan airfield joined COMNAVWESTPAC staff personnel and ship's company in USS ELDORADO [AGC-11] to make it one of the largest known groups of AGs on any ship. CAPT Paul Droulihet USN, COMNAVWESTPAC staff Aerologist was the senior weatherman present. CAPT Droulihet had relieved CAPT Irwin Francis Beyerly who had been the last CO of SACO. FWC Shanghai: CO CDR K.F. Lafferty, XO LCDR E.H. Potter, LT R.G. Terwilliger, LT(j.g.) R.C. Parker, WO Willard VanBuskirk, AGC Arthur "Red" Thomas (X-SACO), AG1s Marvin White and Jimmy Whittemore; AG2s Robert R. Collins, E.J. Freed, L.M. Rodney Homan, Cal Marder, and Don R Wise; AG3s H.D. Camp, B.F. Ellis, R.H. Houtalen, M.W. Thomas, J.R. Young, M.E. Pope, E.J. Ed Rosseau, "Willy" Thompson and V.J. Stice. Kang Wan airfield: AG3s **Frank Baillie**, McCaffrey and Tarnow. COMNAVWESTPAC staff and USS ELDORADO crew: AGC Jack Tanner, AG2 Fred Farnsworth, AG3 **Frank Baillie**, AGANs Bill Willis and Leocaido Galang. Aerographers Mates "took a number" in order to do weather work while enroute to Tsingtao.