

Flashback

Chennault at the Bat



Photo courtesy of retired Maj. Gen. John F. Allison. Text by Andrea K. Dudney

Well, it was not all drudgery in unoccupied China during World War II. Even Claire Lee Chennault, commander of the legendary Flying Tigers, found time to play a little ball. In this undated photo, Chennault steps to the bat during a pickup baseball game as American and Chinese troops look on. Chennault was

not only a world-class combat commander but also a fine athlete. He was a better-than-average baseball player and when scheduled to pitch, drew quite a crowd. Chennault went to China in 1937 to help the Nationalist Chinese fight the Japanese invasion. He retired after the war as a major general. ■