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CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT (CAT) BOOK:

*Capturing the History of CAT
Honoring Those Who Made Its History*



From World War II Cargo Aircraft to the Mandarin Jet

CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT (CAT) BOOK

**Maj. Gen. Bill Chen, U.S. Army Retired
Editor-in-Chief**

CAT ASSOCIATION

Civil Air Transport (CAT) Book

Maj. Gen. Bill Chen, Editor-in-Chief

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Table of Contents

Dedication

Introduction

PART I. CAT History and Overview

CAT Historical Milestones

Relief and rehabilitation Operations

Support of Military Operations

Covert Operations

Commercial Operations

PART II. CAT Beginnings to Korean War, 1946 – 1953

The Beginning and Funding of CAT

How CAT Really Got Going

CAT Sets World Ton Mile Record

World's Most Shot-at Air Line (need insert of photos if of sufficient quality)

Louise Peeks at War

Shansi Wants Larger CAT Fleet

Fall of Canton, Chungking, and Mengtze

Trip to Lhasa, Tibet

Admiral Willauer's Navy

China Mainland Overflight Mission

Accounting for CAT

CAT Inaugurates DC-4 Service

Flight Hostess

CIA Honors: Captains Norman Schwartz and Robert Snoddy

Operation BOOKLIFT

Start of Korean Airlift

Korean Airlift – Operation BOOKLIFT

French Indochina Special Technical & Economic Mission

Man on the Spot in Saigon

PART III. Growth in Covert and Commercial Operations, 1954 – 1957

Operation SQUAW II
C-119 Airdrops
Dien Bien Phu
Three Hours of My Life With a Hero
Earthquake's Final Flight
Flying into History: Wallace Buford's Final Flight
CAT Evacuations of North Vietnam and Operations in Laos
Seoul Inaugural Flight
First in the Far East
CAT Growth in Taiwan
CAT Reorganizes
But Memories Linger On
CAT With Many Lives

PART IV. Mandarin Flights, 1958 – 1968

The New Era – and the Old
The Mandarin Jet is Here!
CAT's Veteran Pilots
CAT's Chinese Pilots
Twenty Years of CAT

PART V. Legacy of CAT

Chairman's Notes on History and Legacy
The Legacy of CAT

DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to the men and women of Civil Air Transport (CAT) -- to recognize and honor their deeds and accomplishments and preserve their legacy.

I

Initially started as China National Relief and Rehabilitation (CNRRA) Air Transport, co-founders Gen. Claire Chennault and Whiting Willauer recognized China's post-World War II need for air transport where roads, bridges, and railways had been destroyed. Their vision resulted in CAT becoming an airline of distinction while also advancing United States national security objectives.

The CAT men and women carried on the legacy of Gen. Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group/Flying Tigers and the 14th Air Force. They established and perpetuated the *Spirit of CAT* – a can-do reputation with a high degree of professionalism, ingenuity, and calm under pressure – a determination to get the job done no matter the odds.

INTRODUCTION

How best should the CAT Association address the issues of capturing the history of CAT, honoring those who made that history, and preserving the Legacy of CAT?

CAT and the CAT Association have addressed and developed actions, approaches, and solutions to these issues. Early on our forebearers used CAT Bulletins not just as a means of communication to the workforce but for public relations to document the CAT's accomplishments, recognize CAT personnel involved, and promote CAT's contributions to the expanding airline industry. Recognizing its benefits and value, the CAT Association also undertook to publish CAT Association Bulletins. Consistent with the technology of the times, the Association established a website as a medium to deliver information, content, and experiences through the Internet.

The CAT Documentary film constitutes yet another medium by which we have captured the history of CAT, honored its personnel who made that history, and preserved the Legacy of CAT. The Association's Strategic Plan approved in 2023 recognized the need to look beyond completion of the CAT Documentary toward further preserving the Legacy of CAT— to continue to explore museums for permanent housing and display of CAT artifacts and memorabilia and to compile a CAT Book.

As an illustrative album, CAT veteran executive Joe Rosbert's **CAT Pictorial** book is valuable visual and narrative chronicle our history and legacy. A CAT Book could serve as a companion book to the **CAT Pictorial**, but more so be a compendium of articles on CAT's accomplishments and the men and women of CAT. While CAT and CAT Association Bulletins are rich in articles on CAT and its personnel, they are not cataloged, and accessing these articles is not easy and convenient compared to reaching out for the CAT Book from a coffee table or bookshelf.

This CAT Book is a remembrance book with a compendium of articles on CAT. Beyond Part I on CAT History and Overview -- the articles are grouped by time-phased Parts of CAT's history and end with The Legacy of CAT. The articles are drawn from CAT and CAT Association Bulletins, other publications on CAT, and include newly created articles from second and third-generation CAT-ers.