

# Wonderful! The Last Hero!

By Changmin Liu & Vicky Long

## **Guizhou City Newspaper, CHINA** (Translated by Daniel Wang)

Secret unveiled from an overseas call: 90-year old Chenghan Wang living in Guiyang was on the "Duck Mission" operated by U.S. office of Strategic Services 70 years ago.

This is a memory that has been sealed for 70 years. It is now unsealed by an old lady living in the United States who has been unremittingly seeking for it.

On this third day of May, Chenghan Wang, an old man living in Guiyang, received an overseas phone call made by Mary Taylor Previte, an 82-year old lady residing in New Jersey. His answers to her 16 questions proved that he is the Eddie Wang, who joined in the "Duck Mission" that liberated Weihsien (now Weifang) Concentration Camp in Shandong Province, China. Chenghan Wang was the Chinese interpreter of the American seven-people rescue team on that mission. Finally, Mary's 18-year searching reached a successful ending.

#### **Breath-taking News**

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 was a peaceful Sunday.

The afternoon sunlight went into Mary Taylor Previte's house in Haddonfield, New Jersey. Mary, 82 years old, was sitting in front of her computer and ready to check her emails. That's her daily routine.

"I am the grandson of Eddie Wang (Cheng-Han Wang)". The subject of this email took Mary's breath away. She shook her head, calmed herself down, and read the subject line again. Then she carefully opened the email.

A man named Qian Wang sent it to her.

"My name is Qian Wang (Daniel Wang)," the letter said. "I am the grandson of Edward Wang, who was the Chinese interpreter of the rescue team going to the Japanese concentrate camp in Weihsien, China, on August 17, 1945. I am currently living with my wife in Lexington, SC with a temporary VISA."

"Oh my God! Message from South Carolina." Mary couldn't help sighing.

"My grandfather is still alive, 90 years old now, living in China," Qian Wang continued. "He is very healthy!" Qian said in his letter that his grandfather told him the story of Weihsien, but he had almost forgotten his promise to his grandfather: to find the other members of the rescue team.

Qian is a photographer. He wrote: "I was reading a story about an American military photographer who served in Flying Tigers during WWII. And I remembered my promise. My grandfather helped me. He gave me a name, Stanley Staiger. I googled it, and I found a webpage. I confirmed with my grandfather about the time, place, and all the seven peoples' names. I can't describe how excited I am now! My hands are trembling! I enclosed two of my grandfather's pictures taken on his 90-year-old birthday a few weeks ago. I don't know if you can receive this email, or still remember how he looked like. Please let me know if you are still trying to find him. I look forward to hearing from you!"

Mary immediately replied: "The Japanese had interned five of us Taylors in Weihsien." She then started to tell how she had been looking for Chenghan Wang for 18 years.



Since then, the email communication with Qian has brought Mary's memories back to China, back to Weihsien Concentration Camp that she could never forget.

#### **Rumbling Coming From Above**

Time: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1945

Location: Weihsien (now Weifang), Shandong province

As a 12 years old girl, Mary kept a dream that superheroes dropped from sky and saved her and her families from the devils' hands.

Both of Mary's parents were missionaries. She lived with them in Shandong. After Japanese captured Jiaodong Peninsula, Mary was imprisoned in Weihsien Concentration Camp together with her grandfather, and her sister and two brothers. Living in an inhumane condition, she had kept thinking of heroes saving their lives someday.

That day, a faint sound coming from the sky. Soon, a B-24 bomber appeared and flew very low, circling the camp. "We could see the star on the side of the plane so we knew they were Americans." On May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the article Seven Decades Later, Previte Connects with Liberator published by an American newspaper The Retrospect described how Mary felt at that moment. That day, a rescue team with the code name "Duck mission" parachuted from a B-24 bomber to liberate the imprisoned prisoners in Weihsien Concentration Camp.

"One by one, a team of six Americans and one Chinese

interpreter, descended from the sky waiting for their parachutes to open. Each was very aware that communications may not have reached all Japanese war supporters and that there may be sharp shooters taking aim at the floating ducks. When the men landed, prisoners from the camp ran out the front gate to meet them." Mary said, "We had so many questions and we wanted to touch them."

"They were strong and healthy. These men risked their lives for us, we were total strangers to them but they came to free us," she said, holding back her tears. "All of the kids in the camp followed the soldiers around with admiration. They brought chewing gum, candy and other treats that no one had seen for years. They taught the kids songs, including 'You are my sunshine' and played softball with them while they waited for supplies and departure arrangements for the 1,500-plus prisoners. The kids wanted to know everything about the flying heroes who were gods in their eyes."

When Mary and her siblings were liberated, their parents were still working in China. The four Taylor children departed Weihsien on the second plane and were reunited with their parents and their new younger sibling. The excitement of leaving did not allow young

Mary to properly thank her heroes, and that became the reason why she started her long hero-finding journey after 52 years.

#### The 18 Years of Finding

In 1997, Mary was an Assemblywoman in Southern New Jersey. She was asked by her colleagues to present a proclamation to a China Burma India veteran's group in Mt. Laurel. After reading the proclamation, Mary asked if anyone in the audience knew her he-

roes from her childhood who liberated the concentration camp. Mary recited each of their names, Major Stanley Staiger, Jimmy Moore, Jim Hannon, Sgt. Tad Nagaki, Sgt. Peter Orlich, Ramond Hanchulak and Eddie Wang, a Chinese interpreter.

"That question started a firestorm of interest," said Mary. "One man in the group was an intelligence officer and was able to provide phone numbers and locations for anyone living in the United States with the same name as the six Americans."

After years of going through the list of names and numbers, Mary was successful in her quest to thank her American heroes. Four of the six were still living and she was able to than each in person. For the heroes who had passed away before Mary located them, she shared her story of gratitude with the widows of the remaining two Americans.

One widow had a piece of the actual parachute used during Duck Mission. On it was an image of the B-24 bomber and the names of each man who parachuted to

the camp. That piece of parachute was photographed and included in a book about memories of Weihsien. The original is at the Smithsonian.

That piece of parachute included the name of Eddie Wang, the Chinese interpreter on the liberation mission. "Finding Eddie Wang in a country with over a billion people is next to impossible," said Mary. "Until one day in 2015, almost 70 years after being liberated from Weihsien, I received an email from a man claiming to be the grandson of Eddie Wang."

Daniel Wang, who is currently living in South Carolina with his wife, was busy fulfilling a promise to his 90-year old grandfather Chenghan "Eddie" Wang, who asked Daniel to locate his six comrades from World War II. During Daniel's Internet research, he found many entries on a Weihsien community website and the name of Mary Previte who often asked for information about Eddie Wang. Daniel reached out to the woman seeking information about his grandfather.

"Imagine the surprise to read an email from Daniel Wang, who



lives in South Carolina," said Mary. After all of these years, Mary had to be certain she was communicating with the correct Wang. "I asked so many questions, and Daniel was able to confirm the answers through his grandfather, who is still living in the Guizhou Province in China at the age of 90 – unbelievable!" she said.

### 16 Questions to Help Identify

Mary wanted to make certain Eddie was well enough to answer her questions without too much stress. She has friends who are Chinese Americans who happily agreed to sit in on the conference call for Mary to speak to Eddie and help with any language barriers.

On Sunday, May 3, Mary spoke to her seventh hero. "We spoke for over an hour," said Mary. "I cannot believe I found Eddie Wang and he is healthy and living in China. Daniel even sent pictures from Eddie's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday to me."

Both Eddie and Daniel Wang were surprised to learn that a 12-year old girl in the camp was stilling looking for every single man in the rescue team. "It must be something so important to her life," said the younger Wang. "I knew my grandfather was in the World War II, but I didn't know many details until I began to contact Mary, as she asked my grandfather a lot of questions through me."

## Reunion in Weifang in This August

With the 70<sup>th</sup> reunion of Weihsien taking place in August, Mary was asked to write the preface for a book about the concentration camp that will be published and distributed in China. With many of the remaining internees unable to make the trip to China for a reunion, books and websites help the group remain connected.

The 90-year old Chenghan Wang has been invited to attend the anniversary. We learned that he should be able to go to Shandong as he has good health conditions. However, he is 90 years old after all. How to keep him safe during his trip?

Will Mary be able to come, too? How about her health conditions that have to be considered in such a long trip? We still have these questions concerning if they would be able to reunite in Weifang.

At 9:30 a.m on May 26, 2015, we came to Chenghan Wang's home in Guiyang. His son Jiayang Wang had been waiting for us downstairs. We asked Jiayang Wang what his father was doing. "Using the internet." His short response surprised us. Generally, a man 90 years old would spend most, if not all, of his time sitting rest and doing nothing else at home. Internet is something in the world of young people, not of a 90-years old senior. With surprises and confusions in our mind, we walked in the house of this legendary old man, and ready to listen to his unforgettable experiences.

#### **Exchange the Pen for the Sword**

An old man appeared in front of us when we came in. He is not tall, but no one will deny that he is hale and hearty.



Though he is already 90 years old, Chenghan Wang is very healthy. He has good ears and eyes, and speaks clearly. Our interview was therefore very easy to proceed. When he talked about his stories, we were all surprised that he could still remember so many details. It must be an unforgettable experience in his life.

Chenghan Wang was born in Hankou. He came to work for Guiyang (should be Guizhou. Daniel.) Metallurgical Engineering Design Institute in 1965 and retired from there.

In 1943, 18-year old Chenghan Wang was admitted into the Physics Department of Sichuan University. In the fall of the next year, he determined to join the army after he listened to Yuxiang Feng's mobilizing speech at the university. He quitted his study and joined the Youth Troop of National Revolutionary Army in Luzhou, with another 20-plus students from Sichuan University and over 100 students from other universities. They formed the 203 Searching Company, Chenghan Wang was very disappointed with the everyday drilling which repeated for half a month. He said, "I was there to learn how to fight with the Japanese soldiers. Why so much drilling? Why not teach us how to fight a real war? I decided to quit."

At that time, he happened to know that the telecommunication unit in the army set up a training class and was recruiting new students. Students were required to return to the troops after they finish the training program, but Chenghan Wang did not care much about it. He saw a chance to learn new skills and signed up for the training. Over 20 days later, the training program seemed still helpless to Chenghan Wang. The war became quite urgent and to meet the increasing need for translators, the Foreign Affairs Bureau (FAB) of the Nationalist Party opened an

interpretation class. A lot of people went to sign up for the admission test. Chenghan Wang, however, knowing that many of those people were church school graduates with excellent English skills, he did not have the self-confidence to compete with them at the beginning, as his English was only high school level. Nevertheless, seeing that many people were admitted, he decided to give it a try. He recalled that the test was a speaking test. He was asked questions like where and why he learned English. He was pretty satisfied with his own answers, because when he found the examiner was speaking too fast, he told him to "take it easy".

He obtained the admission easily, as the interpretation class was badly in need of students. So did the telecommunication class. They did not permit students to leave, and claimed that once they found anyone who left, they were going to catch them and send them back. Therefore, Chenghan Wang discussed with the interpre-

tation class recruiting staff, and came up with an idea: change his name to Zuoying Wang. He also got an English name: Edward Wang.

On April 25, 1945, Chenghan Wang graduated from the interpretation class. In May, he was sent into the interpreter pool in Kunming, waiting to be recruited by any unit in the army. In the end, he was recruited by the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS). There were four groups in OSS. Chenghan Wang was initially sent to Special Operations (SO) group. He met with other 6 members and they were sent to the Front Line Command Post in Zhijiang, Hunan province. Their mission was to contact the Chinese guerrilla forces in Hengshan and to attack enemies from behind. They, however, did not expect that Hengshan was seized by Japanese soon after they arrived. Without a war to fight, Chenghan Wang was sent to Kaiyuan in Yunnan province, and learned how to parachute and to use small arms. The parachuting training was a ground simulation only. They never learned in a real jump. Believing it was such an unreliable training, Chenghan Wang questioned his trainer if he could learn parachuting by jumping from a real plane and from the sky. "You'll be fine," said the trainer, "you are not a big guy." This careless attitude made him feel scared. His life could be endangered in a real jump. He never knew that a real jump was actually coming for him. After the training in Kaiyuan, Chenghan Wang went back to Kunming. During that time, Japanese surrendered, and therefore Chenghan Wang would not be assigned any new guerrilla mission. He was distributed to Special Intelligence (SI) group.

#### The Rescue Mission

On August 15, 1945, the emperor of Japan declared surrender.

However, many Japanese troops denied to accept defeat, and they probably planned to retaliate upon foreigners imprisoned in the

concentration camp. On August 16, the SI group was sent to Xi An, but they had no idea about their mission. It was not until the morning of August 17 when the group arrived at the airport that the group leader announced a letter from Albert Wedemeyer, the commander of U.S. army in China. The letter said their mission was to rescue the foreigners imprisoned in Weihsien Concentration Camp. Chenghan Wang said that there were several Japanese concentration camps in China, and different SI members were sent to liberate them. Every SI group had a bird name as their code name. Theirs was called the "Duck Mission". They arrived in Weihsien at about 09:30 in the morning.

Chenghan Wang continued with a smile that he was the fifth parachuter. He was in fact very worried and did not dare to jump, because he never did before. The man behind him pushed him and he finally jumped out the plane. The sudden strong air flow made him

dizzy, almost unconscious. Fortunately, their parachutes could open automatically, and therefore he survived. They landed in a Gaoliang field near the camp. Internees excitedly ran out of the camp to meet them, put the parachuters on their shoulders, and escorted them back to the camp. He said some internees carried knives ready for possible riots if the Japanese soldiers took any action. The good news was that they turned a blind eye to what happened.

The Duck Mission team stayed in the camp for more than a month, during which they got more men and supplies to help them. Life in the camp was not bad.

When talking about Mary, Chenghan Wang said he was much moved that Mary was probably the only one who remembered his name Eddie. He still remembers that 12-year old lovely girl with her loose hair. They became close friends quickly. They played softball together and went to the church together. He remembered that it was Mary who stopped him smoking in the church as he had no idea of religion.

#### The Last Hero

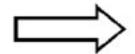
After getting in touch with Chenghan Wang, Mary's daughter told her mother with great joy: "Wonderful! The last hero!"

In 1997, Mary started to find the seven members of the Duck Mission team. She successfully found 4 of them and 2 of their widows, and kept in touch since then. Chenghan Wang was the only one she had not been tracked. Mary told the *Retrospect* that finding someone named Wang in China is as difficult as finding someone named Smith in the United States. That's next to impossible.

After receiving Qian Wang's email, Mary listed several questions for Chenghan Wang in order to make sure he was the real Eddie

she had been looking for. Chenghan Wang smiled, "she asked me what we did in the camp, how we went out, and many other details. I answered every one of them. We talked with each other on the phone for an hour. I was really very excited then. I had never imaged that I could still contact that young girl after 70 years."

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这是一段尘封了70年的记忆。这段记忆,因远隔重洋美国老太 的不懈找寻,这才得以启封。

今年5月3日,一个越洋电话打进了住在贵阳的王成汉老人的家中。电话的那端,是美国新泽西州82岁的老太太Mary Tay-lor Previte。16个问题的提问,证实了王成汉就是 Eddie Wang,一个参与了代号为"鸭子行动"的山东潍县(现在的潍坊)集中营解救行动的中国翻译,美军7人解救小组的成员之一。至此,Mary18年的寻找终于划上了圆满的句号。

#### 呼吸, 在一瞬间停顿

今年的3月29日是一个宁静的星期日。午后的阳光,从窗外照射进了美国南新泽西州哈登菲尔德Mary Taylor Previte的家中。82岁的Mary坐在电脑前,习惯性地打开电脑,准备阅读自己的电子邮件。

"I am the grandson of Eddie Wang (Cheng-Han Wang)"(我是王成汉的孙子)。一个电子邮件的标题,让Mary瞬间的呼吸停顿了下来。摇了摇头,Mary让自己慢慢恢复了平静,之后,她又把标题重复地读了一遍。这才小心翼翼地打开了邮件。邮件是一个名叫王谦的中国男子发来的。

"我叫王谦(Daniel Wang),是Eddie Wang的孙子。他曾是解救小组中的中国翻译,于1945年8月17日到过中国潍县集中营。现我和妻子持临时签证居住在南卡罗来纳州的Lexington镇上"。

"天哪! 是来自南卡罗来纳的消息。"Mary不由得发出了感叹!

王谦接着写道,"我的祖父仍然健在,现年90岁,居住在中国,他十分健康"。王谦在信中还说到,他的祖父曾同他讲过在潍县时的情况,但是,王谦差不多忘记了很早以前他曾承诺会替祖父找寻解救小组中的其他成员。

王谦是一位摄影师。他写道,"我正在看一个故事,是关于美国军事摄影师在二战中的飞虎队服役的,于是我想起了我的承诺。我的祖父帮助了我,他告诉我一个名字: Stanley Staiger。通过谷歌搜索,找到了一个网页。我和我的祖父一起确定了时间、地点及小组7个成员的名字。我现在说不出有多兴奋了!我的手在颤抖! 我把几星期前他90岁生日的两张照片附上。我不知道你是否能收到这个电子邮件,是否还记得他的长相。如果你还在寻找他的话请告诉我。我期盼着你的回音"。

Mary立即用电子邮件给予了回复: "是日本人把我们Taylor家的5个人囚禁在了潍县集中营。"接着,她讲述了自己18年来一直在寻找王成汉的经历。

在与王谦的邮件交往中,Mary的思绪又回到了中国,又回到了那个让她刻骨铭心的潍县集中营。轰鸣声,从集中营上空传来时间回到1945年8月17日,山东潍县(今潍坊)。

对于12岁的Mary来说,她的脑海中,总在梦想着从天而降把她及家人从恶魔手中解救出来的超级英雄。

Mary的父母都是传教士。她随父母一道在山东一带生活。日本 人占领胶东半岛后,她们兄弟姊妹4人与爷爷被关进了潍县集 中营。集中营中非人的生活,让她总是幻想,终有一天,她及 家人会被英雄解救出去。

阴沉的天空中,一阵隐隐约约的声音传了出来。不一会,一架 B-24飞临集中营上空盘旋,而且飞得很低。"我们看到飞机侧 面的星形标记,知道那是美国的飞机。"今年5月15日,美国

《The RETROSPECT》(美国回顾周报)发表的《七十年后Mary 终于找到了解救她的人》描述了Mary当时的心情。

当天,一个以"鸭子行动"为代号的解救小组从一架B-24轰炸机

上空降到潍县集中营来解救被关押的外侨。

"从飞机上空降了6名美国人和一名中国翻译,他们一个个地跳离飞机,随即张开了降落伞。他们每个人都意识到,与死硬的日本人之间并未达到可以协商交流的境地,他们可能在空降中被日本人射杀。当他们落地后,集中营的外侨们就冲出大门去迎接他们了"。Mary描述道,"我们想问许多问题,我们想和他们直接谈话。他们身体都很健壮。"

她说:"这些人冒着生命危险来解救我们。对于他们来说,我们都是陌生人,但他们却来使我们获得自由。"她是强忍着泪水这样说的。"集中营的孩子们带着羡慕的心情跟随在他们周围。他们带来了口香糖、糖果和其它物品,这些是我们多年都未见到过的。他们教孩子们唱歌,比如'你是我的阳光'。在等待物资到来和安排1500多外侨如何返回家乡的日子里,他们还和孩子们玩全球。孩子们想知道这些飞行的英雄们的一切,把他们看作是神"。

在Mary和其家人被解救时,她的父母还正在中国工作着。

Mary兄弟姊妹四人乘飞机离开潍县后,就去和他们的父母及一个新出生不久的小弟团聚了。

离开时的兴奋,使Mary都未能对解救她的英雄们表示一声感谢。而这,也成为了她在52年后开始漫长的找寻英雄之路的成因。18年,漫漫寻找路

1997年, Mary已经成为了南新泽西州的女议员。

在美国Mt. Laurel举办过一次中、缅、印退伍军人公告会。

Mary代替她的同事参加了这个公告会。会上,Mary开始询问参加过二战的老兵,是否有人知道她幼时将她从集中营解救出来的几位英雄,她列举出他们的名字: Stanley Staiger少校、

Jimmy Moore、Jim Hannon、Tad Nagaki中士、PeterOrlichk下士、Ramond Hanchulak和中国翻译Eddie Wang(即王成汉)。Mary说:"这个问题引起大家风暴般的兴趣。其中有一位情报官说他能够提供与六位美国人名字相同的、居住在美国的任何人的电话号码和住址"。

得到这样一份名单后,Mary对名字和电话号码进行了仔细的查找,她成功地找到了其中健在的4人,对他们逐一表示了感谢,对另两位的遗孀,Mary也找到了她们的住址,并表达了感谢之情。

一位老兵的遗孀保存有一块当时跳伞时所用降落伞的碎片,上面绣有B-24轰炸机和每个空降人员的姓名。这一物件现存于美国博物馆中。这块降落伞碎片上有着小组中的中国翻译Eddie Wang的名字。

"在一个拥有十几亿人口的国家寻找Eddie Wang是几乎不可能的事,"Mary说,"直到2015年3月29日,我从王谦的电子邮件中得到消息,这个人就是Eddie Wang的孙子。"

王谦在南卡罗来纳州和他的妻子在一起。他正急于完成他对祖父王成汉的承诺,为他寻找在第二次世界大战中他那六个同志的住址。Daniel在潍县社区网站上寻找到Mary Previte的名字,知道她经常查询有关Eddie Wang的消息。于是,王谦给Mary发了那封电子邮件。

Mary说:"当我看到这条消息,知道王谦就住在南卡时,实在是惊奇万分"。Mary必须确定这就是她要寻找的Eddie

Wang。"我提出了许多问题,Daniel通过他的祖父确认。他的祖父现住在中国贵州省,现年90岁,真是太不可思议了"。16个问题,确认英雄身份

由于Mary成功地寻找到了其他小组成员的下落,并和他们成为了好朋友,他们彼此之间也常接触。Marry每找到一个人就会通电话或去拜访,并促使当地的报纸宣扬他们的事迹。

对Eddie Wang的寻找是另一回事。他住在中国,未曾与小组的 其他成员有过联系。对此,Mary决定提出16个问题,以进行确 认Eddie Wang的真实性。

Mary的问题都是实实在在的。王先生仍能说英语吗?如果不会,那又怎么在一起交流呢? Mary说,自己的中文水平是很有限的。

5月3日上午9点(贵阳当天晚9点),Marry准时给王先生打电话。Marry一家人挨坐在餐厅的桌边,电话通向了遥远的中国。

王成汉在贵阳和Mary通话,Mary的感觉就如同是大家坐在一起聊天似的。一个90岁的人,身体健康,具有超凡的记忆力,而且他仍然有使人惊异的英语能力,这一切,都让Mary感到惊奇。

Mary的16个问题得到了很好的回答。她确定这就是她要找的 Eddie Wang。

当王成汉和王谦了解到,一个当年在集中营的12岁小姑娘一直 在寻找救援小组成员时,都非常惊奇。王谦说,"这事肯定对 她的一生十分重要。我只知道我祖父在第二次世界大战中参 军,但直到我和Mary联系并在她问到许多问题之前,我并不知 道有关祖父的一些细节"。今年8月,潍坊重逢

今年8月,山东潍坊将举行"潍县集中营解放70周年纪念会"。

Mary被邀请为一本关于潍县集中营的书写序言。这本书将在中国出版和发行。对于许多至今健在却不能去参加这次纪念会的外侨,这本书和网站将有助于他们之间的联系和交流。

90高龄的王成汉也被邀请参与这一盛会。记者了解到,身体硬朗的王老参会应该不成问题,但毕竟是90岁的年龄了,出行的安全问题怎样解决?远在重洋的Mary能否前来参会?她的身体还允许她漂洋过海吗?

这一切,都成为了大家关注两人能否再次重逢的问题。

#### 最后一个英雄

5月26日上午9时半,几经辗转,记者来到了位于贵阳的王成汉 老人家中。楼下,王成汉的儿子王家扬早已等候在此。

上楼的过程中,记者问王家扬,王成汉老人现在正在家中干什么?"上网。"简短的回答,让记者吃惊不小。印象中,90岁的年龄,不说老态龙钟,也应该是少动多坐了。上网这种年轻人干的事情,好像与90岁的老人相去甚远。带着一份惊奇,同时还带着一丝疑虑,记者走进了这个充满了传奇的老人家中,听他讲述那一段难忘的历程。

#### 投笔从戎

一进门,一个身材并不魁伟的老人就出现在眼前。精神矍铄这 个词用在他的身上,应该没有一点奇异。

王成汉今年已经90岁了,但身体非常健康,耳聪目明,说话也 利索,这让这次的采访进行得很顺利。听他说着当年的故事, 记者很诧异他竟然还记得如此多的细节,看来那段经历的确让 他难以忘怀。

老人出生于武汉汉口,1965年来到贵阳冶金设计院工作直至退休。

1943年,18岁的王成汉考进了四川大学物理系。第二年的秋天,大二的王成汉在学校听了冯玉祥的演讲后,毅然决定辍学到庐州参加国民革命军青年军。当时四川大学去了20几个人,加上其他大学的共有100多人,这批大学生们组成了203师搜索连。王成汉在这里待了半个月,每天机械的重复下操的内容,这让他很失望:"我到这里来是想打鬼子的,天天下操干啥

子,又不教打仗的事情,我不干了。"

这时,正好遇到电信大队搞了个培训班,到部队上抽调学员学习拍电报的事情。虽说学完还是要返回连队的,但是王成汉心想,管他的,先去学门技术也好就报名参加了。在电信大队学了20几天,还是觉得没意思。这时候,战时紧张,对翻译的需求也加大,国民党外事局便办了个译员培训班,电信班里好多人都去报名。最初,王成汉知道不少人都是教会学校毕业的,英文很好,自己只是一个高中英文,不敢去考。但是看到其他人都考上了,就也准备试一试。王成汉回忆说,当时考的是口试,也就是问一些在哪学习呀?为什么学英文之类的,自己回答得应该不错,因为教官说话太快,他还让考官"take it easy"。

考上是自然的,译员训练班急需要人。但电信班也一样,所以不肯放人,说是如果去了就给他抓回去。王成汉便和译员训练班招聘的人商量,换了一个名字--王作英,在那里还得了英文名字: Edward

#### Wango

1945年的4月25日, 王成汉从译员训练班毕业, 5月便到了昆明 的译员人才库。这批毕业生要在这里等着,哪个单位要人,就 来这里抽调。后来OSS(美国战略服务办公室)来这里招募, 王成汉便被选走了。OSS里面有四个行动组,王成汉最开始被 分到SO(特别行动组)。在这里,王成汉和同组的6人被派到 湖南芷江的前敌指挥所。准备去衡山跟中国抗日游击队取得联 系,在敌人后方袭击敌人。结果去了没多久,日本人占领了衡 山,游击打不成了。回去后又到云南开元受训,在那学习了跳 伞,小武器等。学跳伞是在地面模拟学习的,从未真正的跳 过。王成汉说, 当时觉得有点不靠谱, 就跟教官请示能否真正 的学跳一下,结果教官回答他:"没事的,你个子这么小,又 不是个大块头,没问题的。"但这样随意的态度让王成汉心里 很害怕, 真要跳下来估计很危险哦。在这个时候王成汉一定想 不到,没多久他就真的要跳伞了。开元的训练结束后,王成汉 回到了昆明。在这期间, 日本天皇宣布投降, 便不再有游击任 务,王成汉被重新分配到了SI(特别情报组)。

#### 营救任务

1945年8月15日,日本天皇宣布投降。但是,还有不少日本军队是不服输的,很有可能对集中营内的侨民们实施报复。 8月16日,行动组就被派到西安,当时还不知道要做什么。17日一早到了机场,队长才宣布了从美国驻中国总司令魏德曼那里收到的信件,要他们去潍县搭救集中营内的侨民。王成汉说,当时日本在中国有好几个集中营,都派了SI成员去搭救。每个组都以鸟类名称为代号,王成汉这只队就叫"鸭子行动组",早上9点半就飞到了潍县。

王成汉笑着说,当时他是第五个跳伞下去的,因为从来没有真正跳过伞,其实非常害怕,也不敢跳。是后面的一个人推了他一把,他才跳下去了。一下去就感到一股力往下坠,他几乎晕了过去,幸好他们的降落伞是自动打开的,他才活了下来。他们当时降落在集中营外不远的高粱地里,营内的侨民们见到他们落地后都从营内跑出来迎接,他们是被扛着进去的。他说不少侨民出来时还带着刀子,就怕万一日本人不服气,会引发暴乱,好在日本人睁一只眼闭一只眼,没去挑事。

鸭子行动组在潍县集中营里待了一个多月,中途也有一些人员和物资的补给,生活过得倒不错。

说到Mary,他说,Mary大概是唯一一个记得他的名字叫Eddie 的,这让他很感动。而他也记得当年那个只有12岁,个子不

高,挺乖的,披着头发的美国小女孩。由于一个20岁,一个12岁,他俩的年龄最接近,理所当然地就成为了好朋友。当时他们一起玩垒球,一起去教堂做礼拜。不懂宗教的Eddie还在教堂里抽上了烟,吓得Mary赶忙提醒这样是不行的。

#### 最后一个英雄

联系上了王成汉之后,Mary的女儿开心的说:"太棒了! 最后一个英雄"。

1997年,Mary开始尝试寻找当年鸭子行动组的7位成员,其他6位美国人或其遗孀很快被找到,之后都保持着联系,唯独王成汉一直没有找到。Mary在接受美国回顾周报采访时笑称,要在中国找一个姓王的人,就好比在美国找一个叫史密斯的,根本无法寻找。

收到王谦的邮件后,Mary还列举了一系列的问题给王成汉以确定他真的是当年那个Eddie。王成汉笑着说:"她问我当时在集中营内做些什么呀?怎么出去呀? 以及一些当时的细节,我就一一回答了。后来还通了一个多小时的电话,当时真的很激动,没想到时隔70年还能联系到当年的小女孩。"

本报记者刘昌敏 龙漩漩 摄影报道