

THE ESCAPE OF LT. GLENN GEYER

THIS P-51C MUSTANG PILOT WAS SHOT DOWN OVER EXTREMELY HOSTILE

TERRITORY, BUT THANKS TO THE HELP OF CHINESE GUERRILLAS HE MANAGED TO EVADE THE JAPANESE FOR OVER THREE-MONTHS

BY ROBERT BOURLIER *COLOR PROFILES COURTESY OSPREY PUBLICATIONS*

The Date: 20 January 1945. The Location: Lungwha Aerodrome, Shanghai, China.

As he pulled off the target after his third strafing run, the Mustang's pilot felt the impact and explosion of what he

believed to be an explosive shell directly under the seat. He looked for other airplanes — unsuccessfully — and felt that he had missed radio instructions to withdraw after the first pass.

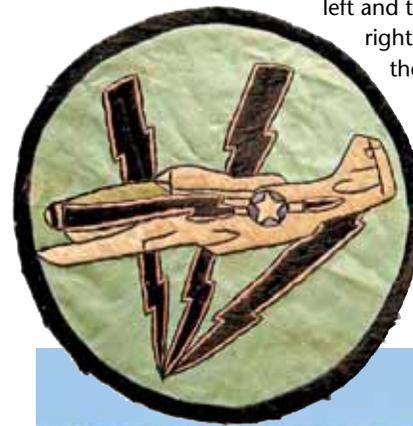
As he continued to fly southward along the river, the oil and

coolant indicators hit the top of the red and shortly thereafter the cockpit of the Mustang filled with smoke. He made the decision to bail out; climbed for altitude and could see the ocean to his left and the river and railroad to the right so he chose a spot to miss them all.

Jettisoning the canopy, he

Chinese-made 118th TRS jacket patch.

Glenn Geyer in Chinese clothes. General Ting, commander of the local guerrilla forces, is on the left.



P-51C-10-NT USAAF 43-25185 flown by Lt. Geyer on 20 January 1945 when he was shot down over Shanghai. (Jack Canary)

First Lieutenant Russ Williams — the squadron's last ace.

Williams in the cockpit of his P-51C. Note the rather crude applications of names and victory symbols — the "G" indicates a ground victory.



put the P-51C into a slow climb and bailed out at what he estimated to be 2000-ft. One foot caught on the rear edge of the cockpit sill but he kicked free and made a successful jump. He was headed for a rice paddy in Japanese occupied China.

Second Lieutenant Glenn Geyer had grown up in Hannibal, Missouri. In July 1942, at the age of 19, he enlisted in the US Army Air Force, graduating with Cadets from Class 43K. After graduating from advanced flight training on 5 December 1943, he transferred to Punta Gorda, Florida, for P-40 training and then to Key Field, Meridian, Mississippi, where he completed P-51 training. On 10



Second Lieutenant Glenn J. Geyer at Suichwan on 18 January 1945. He would be shot down over Shanghai just two-days later and spend 100-days behind enemy lines evading capture with the help of Chinese guerrillas. This view gives excellent details of the radio equipment and also the size of the black lightning bolt.