



Name in English: Arthur Chin
Name in Chinese: 陳瑞鈿
Name in Pinyin: Chén Ruitián
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1913-1997
Birth Place: Portland, Oregon

Profession(s): Military Pilot, Postal Worker

Education: 1986, Benson Polytechnic High School

Awards: Republic of China medals: Five Star Medal, Six Star Medal, 2 Orders of Renaissance and Honor 3rd Class, Order of Resplendent Banner with Special Rosette, Medal of Victorious Garrison 2nd Class, Awe-Inspiring Medal 3rd Grade; United States medals: 1995, Distinguished Flying Cross; 1995, Air Medal; 1997, Hall of Fame of the American Airpower Heritage Museum

Contribution (s): Arthur Chin's achievements are a source of pride for both Chinese and Latin Americans. Born in Portland, Oregon, Chin's father was from Taishan, Guangdong Province, China while his mother was from Peru. Angered by the Japanese invasion of China, he began flight training in 1932 while still in high school. At the end of 1932 he left high school without graduating (remedied in 1986 when he graduated with his grandson) and volunteered for the Cantonese Air Force. Like many Chinese military officers and officials of the era, Chin was sent to Nazi Germany and completed his air training with the Luftwaffe in Bavaria in 1936.

In 1937 he began active combat against the Japanese scoring his first two bomber kills. Heavily damaged in one encounter with 3 Japanese fighters in 1938 he deliberately rammed one and destroyed it before bailing out. His bravery attracted the attention of General Claire Chennault, the leader of the American Volunteer Group "Flying Tigers" who visited Chin in the hospital. His final combat mission for China came in December 1939 while escorting Chinese bombers. He claimed two kills and one probable in the fight but his aircraft was hit and caught on fire. Chin parachuted and lay untreated for several days with severe burns. His first wife was killed protecting him during an air raid while he was immobilized. He took several years to recover in various hospitals.

The Chinese community, Portland residents, and the State of Oregon raised funds and purchased a P-51 Mustang for Chin to return to combat but the Army Air Corps declined him based on medical reasons. He eventually returned to service as a US transport pilot flying supplies over the Himalayas before being discharged in 1945 and working briefly for CNAC and Pan Am. He was credited with 8 1/2 kills during the war. Chin eventually joined the US Postal Service and worked in Beaverton, Oregon until he retired and passed away in 1997.

Congressman David Wu of Oregon pushed a law through Congress naming a post office in Beaverton, Oregon the "Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building" that was signed by President Bush in 2008. The Arthur Chin Aviation Achievement Award was also established in his honor by the Sino American Aviation Heritage Foundation.

External Links:

<http://www.sinoam.com/ARTHURCHIN2.htm>

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/247952_vets11.html

<http://www.airpowermuseum.org/exhibits/akahof/assets/pdf/1997/chin.pdf>

http://surfcity.kund.dalnet.se/china_chin.htm

http://www.beavertonvalleytimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=121866760075946100