

Remarks of the Deputy Director of Operations  
on presentation of the Director's Medal  
to  
John T. "Jack" Downey  
and Richard G. Fecteau  
25 June 1998

OPENING COMMENTS:

Welcome to you all. This is an extraordinary day. As I look out over so many old friends, colleagues and mentors, it occurs to me that today the Agency has managed to bring together here in one place fifty years of China experience in the Directorate of Operations. This is an unprecedented assembly, and one, I believe, we will find hard to match ever again in the future. Among the handful of OSS veterans here today are two who served in China during the war. Stanley Bergman, who devoted more than 50 years of his life to working on China and Betty McIntosh, author of the recently published "Sisterhood of Spies." I would like to add that we are honored by the presence of Ambassador Richard Helms, former Director of Central Intelligence. Dick's support and counsel has been a steady compass for succeeding generations of Agency leadership over the years.

All of you traveled here to mark a singular event and to celebrate two singular people -- Dick Fecteau and Jack Downey. Of those among the living, few - if any - in the Clandestine Service - have paid such a high price or have been called upon to display such courage. But we should also pause today to remember two other officers - the pilots on that 1952 flight into Manchuria whose lives ended abruptly in a hail of gun fire during the crash landing.

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Before today, I had never met Jack Downey or Dick Fecteau, but I came to know their story well indeed. As you may imagine, I heard their names on the very first day I came to work in China operations in 1967(?). I still recall Stanley Bergman introducing me around to all the old China hands as 'Jack Downing.' You can imagine the double takes and how often this introduction led to the story of Jack Downey and Dick Fecteau.

In 1952, Jack and Dick volunteered for a resupply and agent 'snatch' operation into Manchuria -- a risky operation which failed, which cost them twenty years of their lives and which brought untold grief to their families.