

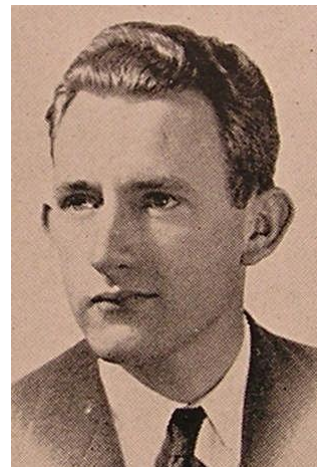
Edmund Fryer Overend



SDSU's most successful fighter pilot in any war was Maj. Edward F. Overend (Class of '39), credited with 8 ½ aerial victories. Piloting P-40s, the first five of the ace's kills occurred while he was a member of the famed "Flying Tigers" which challenged Japanese invaders over Burma and China. Returning to the U.S. in October, 1942, he entered the Marine Corps and led Squadron 321 which saw action in the South Pacific in a vast area of islands stretching from the Solomons to the Marianas. Flying F4U-1 Corsairs he tallied 3 ½ more combat

victories. Back stateside in November, 1944, he was commanding officer of the Air Group at El Toro until his military service ceased in December, 1945. In the summer of 1944 he wrote this thoughtful, eloquent reminder to Prof. Post:

"Let me add my note of sincere gratitude for the wonderful work you are doing. Believe me, we all appreciate it---even those of us who accept the welcome *Newsletter* and then fail to acknowledge them. Our only happiness comes from memories of the past and plans of the future. One gets a satisfaction in accomplishment from the work at hand, but it's much too grim to give us much in the way of happiness. Your work has awakened for all of us many pleasant memories."



An honors graduate in education at San Diego State, he was a member of Lambda Xi fraternity and in 1939 played the roll of Louis XI in the campus production of "The Vagabond King." Among his decorations were the Distinguished Flying Cross, insignia for the Chinese Air Force (wings), Chinese Order of the White Cloud Banner, the Chinese Silver Star, the Hans Schwei awarded by Madam Chiang Kai-shek, and the British Distinguished Flying Cross. From 1956 to 1961 Ed was chief of the UNESCO mission in Taiwan. He died on August 6, 1971 in Santa Cruz, California, and was buried at sea.

Wesley E. Carter

A member of the Aztec Aero Club in 1937, Army Capt. Wesley E. Carter received his junior college diploma from San Diego State that same year for aeronautical technician training. A resident of Ocean Beach, he was killed in action over Germany while piloting a B-17 in September 1944.



William Robert Lake

Capt. William R. Lake was a test pilot at Edwards Test Flight Center whose helicopter crashed on May 16, 1959 during an Armed Forces Day air show at Edwards Air Force Base and witnessed by 20,000 spectators. In the late 1940s William was on the junior varsity football team and was a member of the Montyzoomers which promoted flying and made flights to several cities each year. He was married and had two young boys at home in San Diego.



Osmond Jay Ritland

Born in Colorado, Maj. Gen. Osmond J. Ritland was a student at San Diego State from 1929 to 1932. He left to train as a fighter pilot at Randolph Field in Texas and by 1935 was a pilot for United Air Lines. Ritland became an Air Force test pilot in 1939 flying every conceivable type of plane and, eventually, prototype jets. During World War II he served in the China-Burma-India theater and earned the Bronze Star and Air Medal. In the post-war 1940s he helped the Air Force develop and acquire aircraft and in the 1950s oversaw testing and equipping the Air Force with nuclear armaments. From 1959 to 1961 Ritland was Air Force Ballistics Missile Division commander. His last major assignment was as Deputy to the Commander of the Air Force Systems Command for Manned Space Flight. He retired in 1965 and worked as a vice president for McDonnell Douglas. Ritland died on March 23, 1991 in Rancho Santa Fe, California.



Wendell Ralph Lipscomb



The three Lipscomb brothers began attending San Diego State in the early 1940s. Olin was athletic and played on the freshman basketball team; Ira was smart, outgoing and one of the most popular and distinguished students on campus who made it into *National Collegiate Who's Who*; and Wendell was keen on science and active in several organizations. During the war Olin was an Army Staff Sergeant in Italy. Ira was an Army Captain in India and the Pacific Theater who after the war was a teacher and counselor in Los Angeles. All three corresponded with Dr. Post. As a boy Wendell hung around airfields, washed planes and got pilots to give him basic flying lessons. At age 16 he had his pilot's license and at age 17 tried to enlist as a pilot to fight in the Spanish Civil War. Wendell found his way to Tuskegee Institute where he earned his wings and became a flight instructor teaching the famed Tuskegee Airmen whose exploits in the

European Theater are now legendary. Upon his return to civilian life he graduated from State "with distinction" in 1947 and acquired his medical doctorate from the University of California in 1953. He spent a short time in war-ravaged Korea, earned a master's degree in public health at the University of Michigan, and was briefly a commercial pilot at British Airways (U.S. airlines refused to hire black pilots at the time). Also a musician and teacher, Wendell became a pioneering physician in the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Area where he died in a pedestrian accident on May 6, 2004.

