

**LEONARD LEE PARISH (1920-1954)**  
(CNAC September 1944 - 1949)

[Valerie Parish Kendrick](#) sent me this e-mail, May 13, 2000, about some of her early recolections about her father and a CNAC Reunion.

"Hello Tom, You are correct in your assumption about my father's name

LEONARD LEE "LEN" PARISH  
aka CC PARRISH





**Leonard Lee Parish**  
**(Ed: I think the plane is a PT-26)**



left to right, top to bottom  
Len Parish and Bob Rengo  
Joe Hall in the middle  
Bill Maher and Tud Tarbart

From Bill Maher, "(the picture) was taken in New York just prior to our embarkation in February 1945."

(Photo Courtesy of Valerie Parish Kendrick)



Felix "The Cat" Smith, Len Parish and Carey Bowles  
Probably Calcutta or Dinjan in the crew bus (truck)



**Len's wife Fran Parish  
Shanghai - 1947**

From Valerie, "I would guess the date to be around 1946-47. My Mom and Pam (my sister) sailed for China May 19, 1946 to join my Dad who had been there for some 14 months as assistant flight director for CNAC. Mother's full name was Emma Frances Pringle Parish. She went by Fran or Frances."

I asked Valerie if I could use her Mom's full name just once. Fran disliked her first name of "Emma". Valerie said, "OKAY, BUT REMEMBER, THERE ARE CRACKS IN THE FLOORS OF HEAVEN AND SHE'S WATCHING !!!"

Unfortunately, Len and Fran's daughter, Pam, died of smallpox, May 18, 1947. Click [here](#) to read the letter that Len wrote to his parents about Pam's death.

Many have spelled the last name with two RR's, which is incorrect with respect to our family. There seems to be more families with that last name that spell it with two RR's. My grandfather was one of 17!! My grandmother said that anyone who spelled their last name with one "r" was "more than likely related". When I was growing up, on many occasions, my last name was spelled incorrectly -- Just one of those things.

As for the CC Parrish, my mother and I went to a reunion in Ojai, California, in about 1965-66, I was still in high school. This was the only one she ever attended. There was a man there interviewing people. I am assuming it was Dr. Leary. A man, again I am assuming it was Dr. Leary, was doing oral interviews and taping the conversations on a reel to reel recorder. This man smoked a pipe, was tall, with silver hair and blue eyes,

and was very articulate.

A man came up and started talking to my mother, we were in a large meeting room surrounded by lots of people milling about, I was introduced to him. His name was Pappy Quinn, he was the treasurer, lived in New York and ran/had a restaurant. My parents knew him in China. He had a bad scar that went across his forehead. He called my Dad "CC"( he said for CnaC) instead of "Len". Later my mother told me about the circumstances on how he got the scar. She said that he was in a jeep accident while rushing to get to the airfield and that she had butterflyed the wound with tape. Pappy is the only one I ever heard call Daddy CC, however, he also called Daddy "Len". My mother always called him Len except that one particular time when talking with Pappy. Pappy, as I understood it was in China before my parents were there and left sometime after they arrived. The reunion, for me, was a bit overwhelming. Lots of people, some I knew, some I didn't have a clue as to who they were, but they knew me. Trying not to be rude, I smiled allot and said nice to meet you. I had a hard time trying to understand what was going on and how they all fit in. While at the the SF reunion, I found out that AVG, the Tigers, and CNAC use to have their reunions all together and that Bell Helicopter use to host them -- they were big affairs. Matter of fact I had forgotten that I had been at the Ojai reunion until Peg Watson said she remembered Mother and I being there. We started talking, then my memory banks opened up.

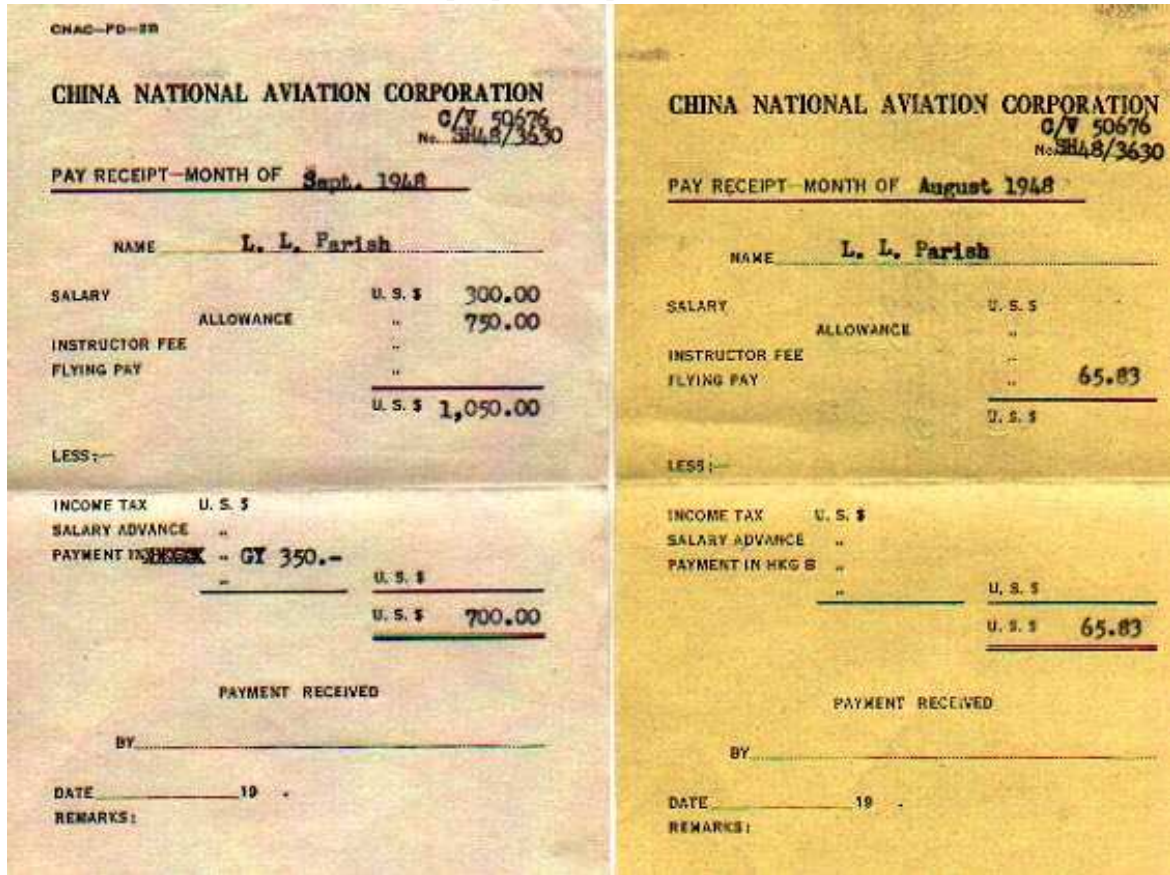
Valerie"



**"These wings shined brighter than gold!"**



Sample pay receipts from 1948:



Lee received the following medals from the Chinese Government:

Closed Box



Open box.

Picture on right has medal showing backside.

Translation on the backside is

"memorial the victory of eight years anti-japanese war"



Lee also received this medal from the Chinese Government:

This is also a "victory" medal.

Probably for celebrating the victory of anti-Japanese.

The person also is President Jiang -- the same as on the medal above (Chiang Kai-shek).

There are some words on the back of the medal, but we can't read them.





From [Valerie Parish Kendrick](#):

"I found this old newspaper clipping dated about July 26, 1954. Moe gave a statement to the newspapers. In it he tells a little about himself. He went overseas for CNAC in 1944. Aviation International was a subsidiary of CAMCO."



The pilot is Perry (Moe) Cutburth of Pittsburg, Kan., friend and associate of Leonard Parish of Iowa Park, Tex., who is missing with his two young sons. His wife and daughter were rescued and are recovering in Hong Kong.

Cutburth based his hope that Parish and other missing passengers from the downed plane might have been picked up by Chinese fishermen on a conversation he said he had here with a British Royal Air Force pilot who flew over the scene Friday.

The pilot, en route from Hong Kong to Singapore at the time, said he saw sampans picking up survivors in the water, Cutburth said.

Cutburth cabled Cathay Pacific officials in Hong Kong, asking them to contact the Chinese Communists to arrange for a landing by a single civilian plane at Sanya Airport, not far from the spot where the plane went down.

Cutburth said he was prepared to fly a Dakota transport to Hainan alone if the Chinese insisted. He leaves for Hong Kong by Air Viet Nam tomorrow.

Parish, formerly assistant chief pilot of China National Airways Corp. and Cutburth are both directors of a Aviation International, which supplies aviation technicians to governments in the Far East.

"I want to do it because he would have done the same for me," said the husky 39-year-old Cutburth, a veteran of the war-time 14th Air Force, who has spent 10 years in the Far East.

"Old Len and I flew the last planes to leave Shanghai in 1949, taking off while shells were falling on the airfield. In Bandoeng, Indonesia, where we live, we are next-door neighbors. Our wives gave birth to children at almost the same time in the same hospital."

Fighting back sobs, the big American added: "I've got to do something. Surely the Chinese cannot refuse such a humane gesture."



**Los Angeles Times, August 17,1954**  
**Moe on the right. The fellow with his back to us is my Uncle Russell Parish.**  
**The picture was taken in Los Angeles.**

**(All photos and news clipping courtesy of Valerie Parish Kendrick)**

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If you would like to share any information about Len Parish  
or would like to be added to the CNAC e-mail distribution list,  
please let the [CNAC Web Editor, Tom Moore](#), know.

Thanks!

Background music to this  
page can be controlled here.  
"String of Pearls"



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