

NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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THE FRIENDS HAVE AN EXCITING NEW WEBSITE

Did you know Lt. "Hap" Arnold, Lt. Leigh Wade, and a few other members of the U.S. Army Air Service made the first flight around the world in 1924? Where can you see photos of the Douglas World Cruisers carrying those intrepid young pilots on their historic mission?

Did you know between 1942 and 1945 over 34,000 U.S. airmen were killed in the European Theater and over 35,000 became prisoners of war? Despite the odds, though, more than 3,000 successfully evaded the enemy, overcoming injuries, fear, thirst, and hunger to rejoin the Allies and continue the fight. How did they do it?

Did you know that Val Bourque, the first cadet sworn in at the Academy in 1955, was also the first Academy graduate to die in combat when his C-123 was shot down in Vietnam in 1964? Where can you learn the facts about our men and women graduates who have died in combat?

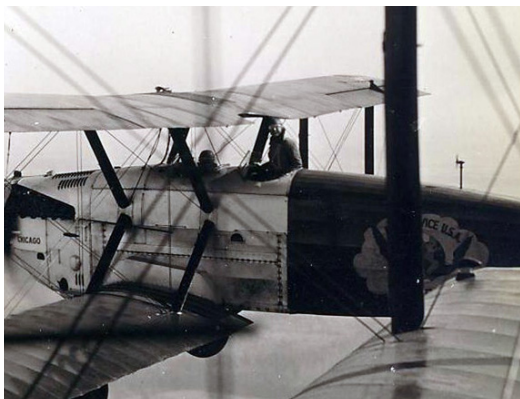
For the answers—and much more—visit The Friends' newly designed website at www.friends.usafalibrary.com. There you'll find



Dutch Captain Weidner Helped Downed American Flyers Evade in World War II.

excerpts from videos sponsored by The Friends, images from priceless collections The Friends acquired for the Academy, one-click links to some of those collections, and direct access to databases on graduates like Val Bourque who gave their lives defending the nation and on graduates who were held as prisoners of war.

We think you'll agree our new site, created by Board Member Col. Jim Gaston and Colorado Computer Support, is quite a sight! Please join us and enjoy at www.friends.usafalibrary.com.



Douglas World Cruisers Flying Round the World in 1924.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As part of my message in the Fall 2014 Newsletter, I appealed for suggestions for projects that The Friends might undertake in the future. While we received fewer ideas than we had hoped, in the coming months we'll consider several that were submitted. If you have ideas for projects but just haven't had time to send them, please take a few minutes and send us a note or an email with your suggestions.

In this Newsletter you will find articles concerning two of our important ongoing projects. It has been quite apparent for some time that The Friends' website needed major revision. Over the past several months, we have undertaken to do that with the superb help of Board Member Col. Jim Gaston and Blake Schwank, his good friend and CEO of Colorado Computer Support. The project is almost completed and I encourage you to log on to our website at www.friends.usafalibrary.com to see the new and much improved product. The adjacent website article describes some of what you will find there. For many years, volunteers organized and catalogued materials held by the Library's Special Collection Branch. That work has been continued by contractors employed by The Friends. In another article, Melissa Robohn, one of those contractors, describes their work inventorying and cataloging materials located in the Gimbel Room that are not part of that collection, some Gimbel items not yet cataloged, and books and periodicals from the Hanscom Air

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THE FRIENDS' HONOR BOOK

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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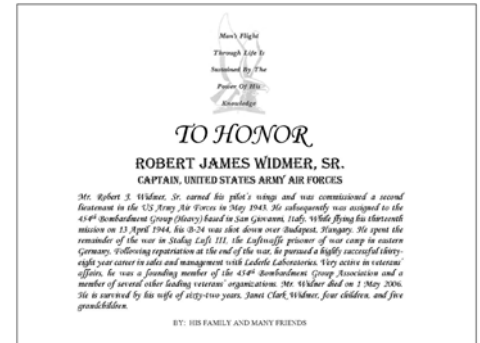
Force Base Research Library that were transferred to the Academy Library. They have, additionally, been digitizing materials held by the Special Collections Branch so that they will be available to researchers online. Organizing and cataloging materials in the Special Collections Branch has proven to be one of the most valuable of The Friends' projects over the years. We intend to continue that effort.

This is a time of introspection and change at the Air Force Academy and The Friends will be very much involved as time goes on. Our ability to maintain this vital role is due to your generous contributions over the years. As always, we thank you for your dedication and support.

For those wishing to honor someone in a very special manner in a location readily accessible to cadets and Library visitors, The Friends offer a unique commemorative program. For a donation of at least \$50 a handsome certificate will be placed in The Friends' Honor Book that is displayed in a prominent location in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Academy McDermott Library.

This is an ideal way to give special, perpetual recognition to a classmate, fellow crew members, a friend, a team, or an organization of special importance to you. The honoree(s) need not be military nor deceased to be commemorated with a certificate. To date well over 1,000 individuals, units and organizations have been commemorated. Honorees include participants in virtually every American conflict of the 20th and 21st centuries as well as a wide variety of other individuals including Academy faculty/staff and

their spouses; Academy cadets and graduates; other service personnel; and family members and friends.



Specific details on this unique Academy program and other examples of Honor Book Certificates are available on The Friends' website, www.friends.usafalibrary.com. Information can also be obtained by contacting The Friends using the enclosed form.

We encourage you to give serious consideration to participating in our Honor Book Program.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY 2015



(front row, left) Col. Jock Schwank; Ms. Peggy Litwhiler; Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, archivist; Brig. Gen. Phil Caine; Mrs. Lorrie Bennett (back row, left) Col. Gary Howe; Dr. Ed Scott, Library Director; Christie Schwank, Admin. Asst.; Col. Andi Biancur; Lt. Col. Jim Titus

CLARK-YUDKIN FELLOW PUBLISHES IN *AIR COMMANDO JOURNAL*

Mr. Patrick J. Charles, a historian with Air Force Special Operations Command and the 2013 recipient of a Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship, recently advised The Friends that an article based on his fellowship research has been accepted for publication in the *Air Commando Journal*.

Mr. Charles originally intended to investigate the origins of the World War II "Air Commandos," a U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) special operations unit created in 1943 for service in the China-Burma-India Theater. That plan changed when Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Chief of the Library's Clark Special Collections Branch, brought to Mr. Charles's attention the papers of Maj. (Dr.) Cortez Enloe, a USAAF flight surgeon who served with the 1st Air Commando Group (1 ACG). Among the Enloe Papers, Mr. Charles found a detailed first-hand account of "Operation Thursday," the code name for a 1944 operation in which the 1 ACG supported

British ground forces operating deep behind enemy lines in North Burma. Describing this previously untapped primary source as one that "sheds new light on the history of the World War II Air Commandos," Mr. Charles has summarized his findings in the article that will appear in the Spring 2015 issue of *Air Commando Journal* (<http://www.aircommando.org/?q=content/air-commando-journal>).

Drawing on his work in the Enloe Papers, Mr. Charles plans to undertake a more in-depth examination of the leadership of the 1 ACG, in particular the role of its commander, Col. Philip G. "Flip" Cochran. One of the most colorful airmen of his day, Cochran was the real-life role model for the pilot-hero of Milton Caniff's long-running *Terry and the Pirates* cartoon strip. Mr. Charles also proposes to take a closer look at the execution of "Operation Thursday," the second largest airborne invasion of World War II (after "Operation Overlord,"

the invasion of Normandy).

Mr. Charles's important contribution to Air Commando historiography was made possible only because the late Dr. Enloe's daughters, Cynthia and Margaret Enloe, generously donated their father's papers to the Special Collections Branch in 1996. As part of its mission to enhance the Library's holdings and thereby its reputation as a research center for the study of airpower, The Friends welcome any opportunity to facilitate the donation of such collections to the Special Collections Branch.

CLARK-YUDKIN RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE ANNUALLY

CLARK SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BRANCH UPDATE

The Friends are working on the transportation of Lt. Col. Julian W. Bradbury's papers and books to the Special Collections Branch. "Brad" Bradbury, former professor of Political Science at the Academy, died in December before he could accomplish his dream of creating a center for Special Operations research in the McDermott Library. He had acquired many primary and secondary sources for the proposed center before his death; many have been transferred to Special Collections, but many others are still at Air Force Village in San Antonio, Texas, where he lived.

The Friends are also encouraging the donation of Vietnam War

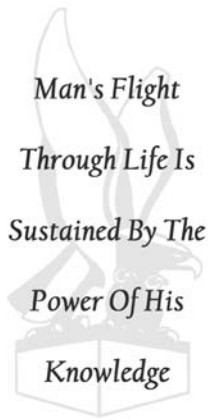
documentation. Special Collections has been designated as the repository for Misty FAC materials (Misty was the call sign of F-100 Forward Air Controllers in Vietnam). We are interested in acquiring and preserving for the historical record papers, flight logs, photographs, and other materials related not only to those operations but also to the Vietnam War generally.

The branch is also grateful for other recent donations, including the Kriegie diary of Alexander Jefferson, author of *Red Tail Captured; Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman and POW*, published by Fordham University Press in 2005.

Recent book purchases by The Friends for Special Collections.

- *Tales from the "Fighting Cocks" Roost: A Jug Jockey's Diary: July 26, 1944 to July 29, 1945*, by Jimmie R. Long, Jr., Self Published, 1997. Signed and dated by the author on the title page.
- *The U.S. Eighth Air Force in Camera: Pearl Harbor to D-Day, 1942-1944*, by Martin W. Bowman. Phoenix Mill, UK: Sutton Publishing Ltd., 1997, first edition.
- *Thunderbolt Odyssey: P-47 War in Europe*, by Kemal Saied. Tulsa, OK: Homewood Press, 1989, first printing. Inscribed by the author on the title page.

VISIT THE FRIENDS AT
WWW.FRIENDS.USAFALIBRARY.COM



SMALL ADVENTURES AND SURPRISING DISCOVERIES IN THE CLARK SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BRANCH

For many years, volunteers supplemented the work of the Special Collections Branch staff. In 2008 The Friends began to sponsor independent contractors—Karen Millis, Travis Pollok, Jennifer Murphy, Katherine Smith, and me, Melissa Robohn—to provide that support over different periods of time. I would like to give you an idea of what we have been doing this past year.

During 2014, we completed an inventory of non-Gimbel materials in Special Collections. While The Friends have previously sponsored this work for the Gimbel Collection, the rest of the Special Collections items, including materials on falconry, had not been inventoried for some time. Of the 742 non-Gimbel items that were added to Special Collections in 2014, about 500 were books and periodicals that had dropped out of the computer system. During the course of the inventory we were able to identify these items and place their record back in the system, making the materials accessible for cadet and faculty use.

We have also been working through the shelves in the Gimbel Room vault to identify and catalog many items, including some donated by Richard Gimbel, that have never been processed. Additionally, we have been identifying and cataloging the books and journals transferred from the Research Library at Hanscom AFB. Many of these are scientific publications in their original editions that will expand significantly the Library's collection of such materials. Finally, we have been developing and adding new content to the website used by Special Collections, and adding more content to existing online collections such as the Gimbel and Stalag Luft III materials. Katherine Smith, for example, digitized the papers of General Laurence S. Kuter.

The importance of the work we are doing became very apparent to me at The Friends' annual luncheon this past year. I was seated next to the widow and daughter of one of the manuscript collection donors. His widow expressed some concern that the materials would be too hard for researchers to access and use due to the security and visiting restrictions at the Academy. Travis Pollok and I had just finished creating a web page and posting materials for that very collection! I described to her the work we had been doing to create digital copies of our collections, including her husband's that everyone might access online.

Our work in Special Collections is developing in many exciting ways. The launch of the project to collect materials on RPVs/UAVs (remotely piloted vehicles/unmanned aerial vehicles); the steady stream of small treasures still to be "re-discovered" in the Hanscom collection; and the continuing additions of digitized material to the website make 2015 look like a very promising year indeed.

THE ANNUAL FRIENDS' LUNCHEON

Your Executive Committee would like to stress the importance of good attendance at The Friends' Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, May 19th. Over the years, The Friends has become a significant factor in both Library and total Academy mission support. To continue in that role it is critical that we show the Academy community our organization's vitality. Attending the luncheon will be a concrete illustration of both our strength and our dedication to the institution during these challenging times. So let's have a large turnout! Having a great lunch, hearing the latest summary of the academic program from the Dean, and being part of this significant occasion is a \$15 bargain. Bring a friend or two to lunch and encourage them to become a patron of The Friends.

Please RSVP on the enclosed form by May 5th. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

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