

# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I would like to offer a personal "Thank you" to Brig. Gen. Susan Y. Desjardins, who was our guest speaker at The Friends' annual luncheon. The Commandant's informative views on the state of the Academy were well received by our membership.

As The Friends continue to pursue projects that are developed from the rich holdings of the Library, I am extremely pleased to note that the biography of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon is scheduled for publication in April 2009.

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, work has steadily progressed on The Friends' multi-year heritage project to gather material pertaining to the lives of those whose names are inscribed on the Graduate War Memorial Wall. This important project may now be accessed on The Friends' website, [www.friends.usafalibrary.com](http://www.friends.usafalibrary.com).

I am also pleased to note that we are continuing to maintain an active oral history program of interviews with individuals who have made historically significant contributions to the Academy. Conducted by retired Col. James C. Gaston of Word One, Inc., the interviews will acquaint our cadets, the Academy community, and scholars with the Academy's rich heritage.

Finally, The Friends have begun a new initiative that will provide major support to the Library. We are sponsoring an effort to convert descriptions of collections of personal papers held by the Special Collections Branch into an electronic format. That information will then be made available for research on the internet.

May I close by expressing my continued appreciation for our patrons' loyal support. It enables us to enhance the stature and prestige of the Air Force Academy's fine Library but also the Air Force Academy itself.

### FRIENDS OBTAIN PREMIER EAGLE SQUADRONS' COLLECTION

In 1987, Brig. Gen. Phil Caine, The Friends' Secretary, began his work with the three Royal Air Force (RAF) Eagle Squadrons. These units, nos. 71, 121, and 133 of RAF Fighter Command, made up of American volunteers, began their service in October 1940, well-over a year before the United States entered World War II. On September 29, 1942 most members transferred to the U.S. Army Air Forces to become the nucleus of the Fourth Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force, the highest scoring unit in the European Theatre during the war. Over the nearly two years of the Eagle Squadrons' existence, 245 American pilots were assigned to one of these RAF units and nearly half were killed or taken prisoner. Today the Eagle Squadrons are a legend in the history of World War II and military air power.

During the past twenty years, General Caine has become the acknowledged authority on the Eagle Squadrons. In the process he has built an impressive collection of interviews, and other primary and secondary materials, which make his collection unique. When he began interviewing in 1987, there were seventy-four Eagle Squadron survivors. Now only sixteen are still living.

The Friends believe these interviews are of great importance. Since the cassettes on which they were recorded are so fragile, in 2006 General Caine authorized their transcription for preservation. He also agreed to put copies of the transcriptions in the Academy Library.

At its reunion in Colorado Springs

in 1989, the Eagle Squadron Association, at General Caine's urging, designated the Academy Library as its official record depository. Since that time, a large number of Eagles have placed papers, photographs, logbooks, letters, and other materials in the Clark Special Collections Branch. This resulted in a major Eagle archive. In September 2008, General Caine agreed to give his own Eagle collection to the Academy Library. This acquisition will be completed by the middle of 2009, making the Eagle Squadron archive at the Academy without parallel in the world.

In 1993, Brasseys, Inc. published General Caine's definitive history of the Eagle Squadrons, *American Pilots in the RAF*. Two more well received books dealing with the Eagles followed: *Spitfires, Thunderbolts and Warm Beer* in 1995, and *Aircraft Down!* in 1997. Since that time he has been working on a volume that contains a biographical sketch and picture of each of the 245 members of the three renowned units. *The RAF Eagle Squadrons* is now in press by Fulcrum Publishing and will be available in early December. Because most of the primary source material for these sketches is either in the Academy Library or in the process of deposit with General Caine's gift, we are enclosing a flyer announcing the book with this newsletter.

The Friends want to thank General Caine for donating his valuable Eagle Squadron materials and for his work over the past twenty years in building the collection.

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## WELCOME KAREN MILLIS

Welcome to Karen Millis, who has been contracted by The Friends of the Library to list the Special Collections' manuscripts in various databases, as well as to ensure that they are in archival enclosures and properly ordered and described. This is a large undertaking since there are now about 1,500 manuscript collections of various sizes. In keeping with the Special Collections' acquisition policy, all of the collections reflect either aeronautical or Academy history. Cadets and other researchers use the collections for class assignments, exemplar support, theses and dissertations, and family and Academy heritage. Although Special Collections has excellent in-house finding aids, they are currently not catalogued in SIRSI (USFA library database) or in WorldCat (the Library of Congress' Online Computer Library Center database).

Karen, a former volunteer in Special Collections, has a B.A. in English from Colorado State University and an

M.L.S. from Indiana University. Most recently she was librarian at The Classical Academy and her background includes teaching as well as being a reference and information services' librarian. When she came to Special Collections in May 2006, her initial task was to complete a preservation survey that had been started by Dr. Ruwell of the manuscript collections. She physically inspected over 1,300 Hollinger boxes and about 150 oversized items and determined preservation needs. She then began actual preservation measures for the holdings, using mylar enclosures and acid-free materials. Some of this work will be carried forward as she tackles her Friends' cataloguing assignment.

Dr. Ruwell has spoken highly of Karen's work: "I really appreciate The Friends' initiative to upgrade our collections' care; Karen's professionalism and enthusiasm are helping us with necessary projects that just weren't getting done." Dr. Ed

Scott, Library Director, noted that "This is a new area of assistance from The Friends that will significantly enhance the Academy Library's ability to provide world-class service to our cadets and faculty as well as to the larger scholarly community."



*Karen Millis*

## USFA GRADUATE WAR MEMORIAL ON LINE

Since early 2006, The Friends have been involved in a multi-year project that reflects our commitment to being the premier organization dedicated to recording and preserving the heritage of the Air Force Academy. In those nearly three years, we have assembled all of the available material dealing with the adult lives of the 171 Air Force Academy graduates whose names are currently inscribed on the Academy's Graduate War Memorial Wall. This information is now displayed on The Friends' website [www.friends.usafalibrary.com](http://www.friends.usafalibrary.com) and has received rave reviews.

Team members, who spent countless volunteer hours on the project are Jock Schwank, '60 (Friends' Treasurer); Andi Biancur, '60; Dick Sexton, '60; and, Dick

Coppock, '61. Building on original work accomplished by Doug Johnson, Chief, Systems Management Office, McDermott Library, the team has collected, scanned, electronically filed and indexed more than 15,000 pages of written and photographic documentation on the honored graduates. There is no central location for information about these graduates nor is much of the existing information readily accessible. Therefore, the team relied on exceptional cooperation from the staffs of the Academy's Association of Graduates and the McDermott Library to make the project a reality.

Since July 1, 2008, all of the collected material has been available electronically on The Friends' web site where it is readily accessible for study and reflection by members of the Cadet

Wing, graduates, family members and researchers interested in the lives of those graduates holding a place of honor on the War Memorial Wall. It is also available in hard copy in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library. The team has established procedures for updating the files as more information on these special graduates is acquired from additional sources and as the names of other graduates are added to the Wall.

We encourage you to visit our web site and enjoy the fruits of this historic project. The Friends believe it will have lasting impact—indeed as long as the Academy exists. We look forward to receiving your feedback on our efforts.

**VISIT THE FRIENDS AT**

**[www.FRIENDS.USAFALIBRARY.COM](http://www.FRIENDS.USAFALIBRARY.COM)**

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## BRIGADIER GENERAL MARCOS E. KINEVAN

Retired Brig. Gen. Marcos E. Kinevan, longtime Friends' member and, for over twenty years the Permanent Professor and Head of the Academy's Law Department, died on July 25, 2008.

Anative of Los Angeles, California, General Kinevan enlisted in the Army early in World War II and subsequently was selected to attend the U.S. Military Academy. He graduated from West Point in 1947 and chose to be commissioned in the newly established U.S. Air Force. After completing his law degree at the University of California, he served in various assignments as a member of the Air Force Staff Judge Advocate Corps. In 1967 he began his

twenty-one year appointment at the Academy as a permanent professor and department head. During his long tenure with the Law Department, he developed highly popular courses on personal finance and wrote an acclaimed book on estate planning. His personal and professional interests spanned the spectrum from jurisprudence to sports to history. An ardent supporter of Falcon athletics, he served as the Officer Representative for the varsity football team for over twenty years and never missed a single game. A particularly keen student of the military history of the American West, after retiring from active duty he authored *Frontier Cavalryman*, a scholarly examination of nineteenth-

century Army life on the western frontier. He also served for many years as the Academy's liaison to the District 20 School Board and was an active member of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library.

General Kinevan was preceded in death by his wife Barbara (Bobby) Kinevan. He is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and a host of admirers.

The Friends have prepared an Honor Certificate to memorialize General Kinevan's service to his nation and the Academy.

## THANKS TO PEGGY LITWHILER

Peggy Litwhiler is not only a long-time member of The Friends, she is also a hard-working volunteer in Special Collections. When she first came in the 1970's, her first project was going through Civil War newspapers looking for ballooning stories; later, she worked on a variety of manuscript collections and the Vietnam War CHECO (Contemporary Historical Evaluation of Combat Operations) reports. Although periodically going off to Germany, Washington, DC, and other assignments with her Air Force husband, Peggy always came back to Special Collections when he was reassigned to the Academy. Recently, she has almost completed putting all the older archival photographs in order and preserving them in protective sleeves. Highlights included finding a photo of Brig. Gen. Dana Born, Dean of the Faculty, during

basic cadet training and photos of Academy friends from the 1960's.

Peggy sums up why working in Special Collections has been so important to her: "Sometimes you do something just because you love it. It's been wonderful over the years because you keep learning and you don't have to take exams. History is so important, or else people make the same mistakes over again. And Academy people are delightful to be around because they care about what they do and they care about the cadets."

Except for the Graduate Memorial Wall team, Peggy is currently the only volunteer working at the Academy Library. Although security restrictions and parking can present difficulties,

committed volunteers are more than welcome. Please contact Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, (719) 333-4674 for more information.



Peggy Litwhiler

## THE FRIENDS' HONOR MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library offers an attractive and meaningful program for those who would like to ensure perpetual recognition for individuals, organizations, or groups (e.g., an aircrew). Honorees need not be military or deceased in order to be commemorated with an Honor Certificate. To date more than 1,000 individuals, units, and organizations

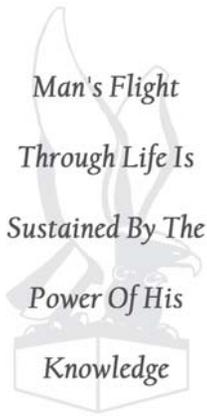
have been recognized in this way. Among the honorees are veterans who have served in the nation's wars; individuals who have served the nation, the Air Force, or the Academy in other ways; and Academy cadets, graduates, and family members.

For donations totaling \$50 or more, a handsome certificate will be prepared and placed in an Honor Book maintained

by The Friends and prominently displayed in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library. The Honor Books are readily accessible to cadets and visitors. Additional information about the Honor Memorial program may be requested on The Friends' membership flyer enclosed in this newsletter.

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## NEW ACQUISITIONS



The Friends of the Library recently helped acquire three valuable books. In 1918, Lt. Kelsey B. Gardner put together a binder of over 300 photographs used in the training course for aerial photography at the School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University. The impressive array of photographs covers aerial cameras, aerial photographs of France, and about fifty examples of heavy camouflage. The Friends purchased this binder for \$3,560.

During World War II, Capt. Emmet E. Cook sketched delightful cartoons and portraits during his imprisonment in Stalag Luft III. Although Mr. Cook, friend of Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark, has passed away, his son donated the scrapbook to augment the Stalag Luft III collections at the Academy Library. These priceless drawings include the original imprisoned duck that was later approved by Walt Disney for use as a patch for POWs.

Another wonderful gift was received from Dean Phelps, former member of USAFA Class of '60, who donated a copy of Chaucer published in 1686.

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Pages from the Cook diary



(left to right) Col. Kathleen Harrington, Head of Dept of English; Lt. Col. (ret) James Glaza, USAFA Class of 1960; Dean Phelps, USAFA Class of 1960; Dr. Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Head of McDermott Library Special Collections; Dr. Richard Lemp, Friends Board member.

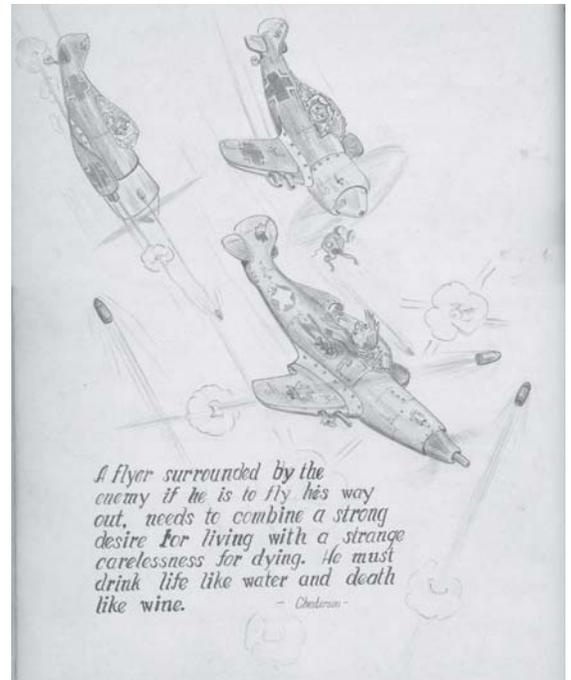


Photo of railroad hidden by camouflage, Kelsey manual

