

NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

P.O. Box 188

U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188

friends@usafalibrary.com

www.friends.usafalibrary.com

VOL. III NO. 8

FALL 2005

FRIENDS' ANNUAL LUNCHEON



Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark thanks Brig. Gen. Dana. H. Born for her luncheon talk.

The Board of Directors of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library held its annual meeting on May 19, 2005. General Clark began the proceedings by presenting beautiful leather-bound copies of the 50th Anniversary Interview Compendium to Dr. Ed Scott, Director of the Academy Library, and to Col. Dick Rauschkolb, representing the Association of Graduates. The Friends' Secretary Phil Caine then briefly reviewed the activities of The Friends during the past year. He placed special emphasis on the 50th Anniversary Interview Compendium and the success of the DVD *Expect Great Things*. General Caine's remarks were followed by the election of officers, reelection of the members of the board whose term expires in 2005, and the reelection of the Executive Committee. The Friends' Treasurer Jock Schwank gave the financial report. Items of new business included proposed changes in The Friends' policies and procedures, the need to continue the oral history program, and several future projects currently under consideration. (These are listed on The Friends' web site.)

Col. Jim Head, Vice-Dean of the Faculty, commented on faculty issues, especially those concerning The Friends. Colonel Rauschkolb then discussed challenges facing the Association of Graduates, and Dr. Scott summarized those confronting the Academy Library. The meeting then adjourned for the annual luncheon.

This year's luncheon was the largest in our history with more than 90 attending. Our guest speaker was the Dean of the Faculty, Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born, who gave a superb and very well-received talk on the progress being made in implementing "the agenda for change," and her vision for the Academy and the faculty over the next few years. Following General Born's presentation, General Clark presented her with a copy of *The Genesis of Flight*. After lunch, General Clark signed copies of his just released book, *33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III*.

This year's meeting was a memorable occasion! We are already looking forward to next year's affair, scheduled for May 17, 2006.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me begin by offering a personal thank you to Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born, Dean of the Faculty, for taking time from her busy schedule to be our guest speaker at The Friends' annual luncheon on May 19, 2005. Her informative talk on the "state of the Academy" was well received by our membership. Additionally, on behalf of The Friends, I wish to extend our appreciation to General Born for her support as we continue to work to enhance the quality of the Academy Library. The Friends also wish to welcome Lt. Gen. John F. Regni, Superintendent, and Brig. Gen. select Susan Y. Desjardins, Commandant of Cadets. We look forward to meeting them and acquainting them with what we do to support the Academy Library.

As The Friends' continue to pursue projects that are developed from the rich holdings of the Library, I am extremely pleased to announce that Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan, USAF (Ret.) has agreed to allow The Friends to republish segments of his history, *The Air Force Academy: An Illustrated History*. First published in 1988, this scholarly history is now out of print. It documents the genesis of the Academy and the first ten years of its operation. Republication of this important history will acquaint our cadets, the Academy community, and the public with the Academy's rich heritage.

This has been an especially productive year for The Friends. We are proud to be able to provide services and to acquire assets for the Academy Library that meet real needs. With your help, we can continue to do so in the coming years.

Presentation of the 50th Anniversary Oral History Volume



Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark presents Dr. Ed Scott with a copy of the 50th anniversary oral history volume.

Presented to the McDermott Library and to the Association of Graduates at The Friends' annual board meeting on May 19, 2005, the 50th anniversary oral history volume constitutes an important addition to the Academy's documentary history. In 2003, The Friends recognized the need to produce a single volume containing the transcripts of the thirty-

seven oral history interviews of individuals that made significant contributions to the Academy. The interviews, conducted in support of the development of the DVD *Expect Great Things*, represented a major contribution of The Friends and the Association of Graduates to the commemoration of the Academy's 50th anniversary. The volume of collected

interviews is a privately printed, limited edition of the highest quality. Copies are available in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library and in the library of the Association of Graduates at Doolittle Hall.

With unprecedented support from the Academy community and with encouragement received from Dr. Ed Scott, Director of the McDermott Library, and Dr. James Shaw, CEO of the Association of Graduates, The Friends have made the continuation of the oral history program a priority project. During the past year, Word One, Inc., has accomplished three additional interviews: former Dean of Faculty, Brig. Gen. William T. Woodyard; former Academy protocol officer, Col. Gordon P. Culver; and SMSgt Frank P. Wall, aide to Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first superintendent. In the future, The Friends plan to sponsor more interviews to ensure the preservation of vital aspects of the Academy's history.

Media Presentations Enhance the Academy's Curriculum and Air Force Heritage

A series of CD and DVD presentations sponsored by The Friends that have been developed from the collections in the McDermott Library are having a significant impact on the Academy's academic and military curriculums.

Each year, The Friends provide the CD accompanying *The Genesis of Flight: The Aeronautical History Collection of Colonel Richard Gimbel* to cadets enrolled in the Department of History's core course, Introduction to Military History. The CD gives each cadet the opportunity to survey this collection (housed in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Academy Library) that contains materials dating from the 15th century and is recognized as the most

comprehensive on the prehistory of powered flight in existence.

In addition, the DVD *Evade*, which was sponsored by The Friends with the generous support of Mr. Ralph K. Patton, founder and first president of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, is being provided to cadets enrolled in the Department of History's course Airpower 371. The goal of this Friends' project was to archive electronically key items of the Library's escape-and-evasion collection. By permitting cadets to test themselves vicariously, the DVD promotes serious and informed discussion of the traits of character needed to deal with the challenges of escape-and-evasion. The DVD is also being used by instructors at the Air Force's Squadron Officers School at the Air University, Maxwell

AFB, Alabama.

Having received overwhelmingly positive reviews from the Academy community, the DVD *Expect Great Things* which chronicles the history of the Academy's first 50 years has been incorporated into the Academy's heritage program. Members of each new cadet class are able to view this outstanding film. Developed from official Academy archives located in the Clark Special Collections Branch and produced by Word One, Inc., the DVD chronicles key events in the Academy's history and contains interviews with personalities who were instrumental in building the institution. It promises to be an enduring visual record of the Academy's first half-century that will acquaint future generations of cadets with the Academy's heritage.

For more information about our activities, visit and invite your friends to visit our website, www.friends.usafalibrary.com .

Library Receives Papers of World War II Ace, Col. Reade F. Tilley, Jr.

The Academy Library recently received the papers of Col. Reade Tilley, USAF (Ret.), World War II ace and a member of one of the famed Eagle Squadrons. The papers include material about his service in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), air combat on Malta, his transfer to the U.S. Army Air Forces, and his career in the U.S. Air Force after the war. Of special interest and value are the papers associated with his long service as the Public Affairs Officer on the staff of Gen. Curtis LeMay, commander of the Strategic Air Command in the late 1940s and 1950s.

When World War II began in Europe, Tilley decided to try to join the U. S. Army Air Corps. He badly wanted to fly in the war he was sure would eventually include the United States, but was turned down because he was too tall. He then heard that the RCAF was looking for pilots, and enlisted on June 10, 1940. In early 1941, Tilley was awarded his pilot's wings, was appointed a Sergeant Pilot, and set sail for England. After completing his upgrade training in

fighters, he was posted to Number 121 Eagle Squadron at Kirton-in-Lindsey as part of the original cadre of that unit. Tilley craved action against the Germans. But, in the winter of 1941-42, 121 Squadron was often grounded because of bad weather and his frustration continued to build. Finally, in April 1942, he left 121 for overseas duty in Malta. The assignment to Malta gave Tilley the combat experience that he desired. During the next three months, in the midst of almost constant attacks by the Germans and Italians, food shortages, sickness and terrible living conditions, Tilley shot down seven German aircraft and probably destroyed one more. For those accomplishments, he became an "ace" and was awarded the British Distinguished Flying Cross for "great gallantry." On October 13, 1942, he transferred to the U.S. Army Air Forces.

After the war Tilley remained in uniform. His principal assignments were in the field of public affairs, most notably as the Public Affairs Officer for General LeMay, SAC's commander. He retired from the Air Force as a colonel and



Col. Reade F. Tilley, Jr.

settled in Colorado Springs. Tilley died on March 28, 2001. His papers will certainly be a valuable addition to the Library's resources on World War II aviation.

The History of the Academy Revisited



Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan

In 2004, in conjunction with the Academy's 50th anniversary, members of the Executive Committee of The Friends recognized the need for the publication of a history of the origins, establishment, and early operation of the Air Force Academy. At the urging of members of the committee, retired Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan authorized The Friends to republish portions of his history, *The Air Force Academy: An Illustrated History*. First published in 1988, the history is now out of print. General Fagan, a member of the Academy's original cadre, a past permanent professor of

the Department of History, and the former director of the Academy Library, has generously transferred copyright and royalty rights on the manuscript to The Friends. Drawn from official documents, oral histories, photographs, and other materials housed within the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library, Fagan's book is a comprehensive, scholarly history of the genesis of the Academy and the first ten years of its operation. Republication of portions of this benchmark history in 2006 will acquaint cadets, faculty and staff, and members of the public with the Academy's rich heritage.

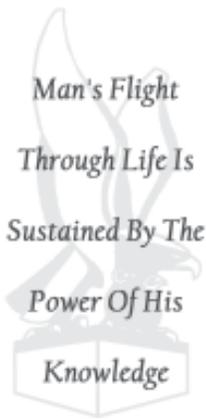
33 Months as a POW in Stalag Luft III Receives Literary Recognition

Lt. Gen. A.P. Clark's memoir, *33 months as a POW in Stalag Luft III: A WWII Airman Tells His Story*, has been named a finalist in the "History/Political" category in USA Book News'

"2005 Best Books" awards. USA Book News lists books in over 90 categories that have been published by both large and small presses. In addition to his own personal recollections,

General Clark based his memoir on documents, oral histories, and photographs on the history of Stalag Luft III which are available for research in the Academy Library.

Col. William J. Mahon 1923-2005



Col. Bill J. Mahon, USAF (Ret.)

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. William (Bill) J. Mahon, a member of The Friends' Board of Directors, passed away in November 2005.

During WWII he flew on 33 combat missions in B-17s and 23 additional combat missions in support of the Norwegian underground. In 1947 he left the military and married Betty Jane Martin. Bill was recalled to active duty with the U.S. Air Force as a line navigator. Subsequently, Bill was assigned to the Air Force Academy, where he completed two tours as an instructor and staff officer.

In 1973 Bill opened the initial office of USAA Insurance in Colorado Springs where he was Assistant Vice President and Regional Home Office Manager.

Bill was among the founders of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library to which contributions may be made in his memory.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Albert P. Clark*
Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret)

1st Vice President
Henry A. Kortemeyer
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

2nd Vice President
Willis I. Ketterson

Secretary
Philip D. Caine
Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret)

Treasurer
Jock C. H. Schwank
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

MEMBERS

Mrs. John M. Bennett

Elliott V. Converse, III
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

John R. Dallager*
Maj. Gen., USAF (Ret)

George V. Fagan
Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret)

James C. Gaston
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

Dona R. H. Hildebrand
Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)

Bradley C. Hosmer*
Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret)

Richard W. Lemp, Ph.D.

Harold U. Littrell
Academy Bank

William J. Mahon
Colonel, USAF (Ret)

Mr. Duane J. Reed

Erlind G. Royer
Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret)

Winfield W. Scott, Jr.*
Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret)

James R. W. Titus
Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)

Donald H. White, Ph.D.

ADVISORS

Edward A. Scott, Ph.D.
Director of Academy Libraries

James H. Head
Colonel, USAF
Vice Dean

Richard S. Rauschkolb
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Association of Graduates

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Gordon P. Culver
Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)

Charles R. Hamm*
Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret)

John W. Huston
Maj. Gen., USAF (Ret)

Marcos E. Kinevan
Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret)

Naomi McCracken
Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)

T. Ross Milton
General, USAF (Ret)

Tad J. Oelstrom*
Lt. Gen., USAF (Ret)

Reiner H. Schaeffer
Lt. Col., USAF (Ret)

*Former Superintendent
of the Academy

UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY

Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Academy Archivist and Edward Scott, Director, McDermott Library

We are grateful for the interest and support of The Friends of the Library. In addition to funneling gifts of books to the Library, The Friends have helped with acquisitions and other projects.

While conducting research in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., Friends' Board member Dr. Elliott Converse came across records in the Secretary of the Air Force files that discussed the founding of the US Air Force Academy. He provided a list for the Library to order and the copies of the papers are now available for research in the Academy archives.

The Reade Tilley papers (see photo and article) contain an exciting diary describing World War II action in Malta, as well as other wonderful documentation on the Eagle Squadron in England and the early Strategic Air Command. The papers were in Maryland where a biographer needed help to ship the papers to USAFA. The Friends arranged for a mover and financed the shipment to Colorado.

General Clark is still adding to the Stalag Luft III collections. In addition, Theresa Ripley, from Eugene, Oregon, donated her uncle's correspondence from Stalag Luft III as well as his ID cards, service forms, flight records and Caterpillar Club card. The Library now has 120 collections, large and small, relating to the POW experience of World War II.

Special Collections has received several inquiries this year about the first cadet uniforms that were designed by Cecil B. DeMille. When

a book with superb illustrations of military uniforms from the collection of Henry Wilcoxon, DeMille's assistant, was offered to the Library, The Friends generously purchased it.

The 50th anniversary exhibit at the Association of Graduates was updated thanks to the Friends. A Library exhibit, "The United States Air Force Academy: 1955-2005" (using text and photos from the AOG exhibit), received many positive comments from faculty, staff, and cadets.

The Friends are still donating CD-ROM copies of the *Genesis of Flight* to the History Department. They are used by all cadets taking the core course in military history (1200 copies annually!). Copies of the DVD *Evade* (escape and evasion during WWII) will also be used by the History Department. Additionally, fifty copies of *Evade* were sent to Squadron Officers School at Maxwell AFB where Dr. Charles Nath said he was eager to include them in the school's course materials.

Although access to the Library is still restricted, retired DOD civilians and military can now come into the cadet area more easily. When you show DOD identification at the Sijan or Vandenberg gates, the guard will take your driver's license and issue you a temporary parking pass. You can then park on the battle ramp and come into the Library. Appointments are necessary (Administration, (719) 333-2590 or Special Collections, (719) 333-4674). However, you may not escort a non-DOD cardholder.

Finally, from all the Library staff, best wishes for the holidays!