

NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

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VOL. III NO. 9

SPRING 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been a very busy and eventful winter for The Friends, as you can see as you read this newsletter. I particularly want to call your attention to several items (described in detail in separate articles). First, we are pleased to announce the upcoming republication of portions of retired Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan's 1988 history of the Air Force Academy. The republication will continue The Friends' efforts to mark the Academy's 50th anniversary and make the institution's history more widely available.

I also wish to extend a personal thank you to Eula Harmon Hoff and Kendrick Harmon for their recent donation of an extensive collection of correspondence and other materials that document the life of their father, Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first Superintendent. The collection is a valuable source for research about General Harmon, the Academy, and the Air Force. Its acquisition furthers our goal of preserving the Academy's heritage.

Additionally, on behalf of the Board of Directors of The Friends, I wish to express my gratitude for the generous bequest to The Friends by the late Maj. Gen. Richard A. Yudkin. Gen. Yudkin's generosity will help The Friends continue to meet its mission of enhancing the Academy Library as an educational, scientific, and cultural institution.

Finally, I am delighted that the Superintendent, Lt. Gen. John Regni, has agreed to be our guest speaker at The Friends' annual luncheon on May 17, 2006. We are looking forward to his remarks on the current state of the Academy and the challenges that lie ahead.

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND LUNCHEON

On May 17 The Friends will hold its annual Board of Directors' meeting and luncheon. The board meeting will begin at 9:30 in Doolittle Hall. The luncheon will be at the Academy Officers' Club with social time beginning at 11:30 and lunch at noon. Our speaker for the occasion will be the Academy Superintendent, Lt. Gen. John F. Regni. General Regni came to the Academy last October from his position as Commander of the Air University. A 1973 graduate of the Air Force Academy, he has served in a wide range of personnel, training, and command assignments. These include Base Commander and 8th Combat Support Group Commander, Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, and Commander, 2nd Air Force prior to his assignment at Air University. General Regni will bring us up to date on the current program and future plans for the Academy.

Following General Regni's talk, we will be announcing the republication of portions of *The Air Force Academy: An Illustrated History* by Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan, USAF (Ret). The new release, sponsored by The Friends and published by Fulcrum Publishing, covers the Academy's early years. It is the best history yet published on the Academy's origins and first ten years of operation. General Fagan will be available to sign copies which can be purchased following the luncheon.

Last year we had a record turnout for the luncheon and hope that we can



Lt. Gen. John F. Regni

repeat that performance again this year. The gathering is always a great place to meet old friends and affords an unusual opportunity to find out what is going on at the Academy and what its top officer believes may lie ahead.

The deadline for luncheon reservations is May 5. (Reservation forms are enclosed in this newsletter.) Please remember that access to the Academy is still restricted. If you do not have a valid DoD identification card, please note this fact on your reservation so that we can have your name added to the Security Police access roster.

We hope to see you all at the luncheon!

Be sure to send your luncheon reservation by May 5th.

PAPERS OF THE “FATHER OF THE ACADEMY” ACQUIRED BY THE FRIENDS



Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon

Mrs. Eula Harmon Hoff and Mr. Kendrick Harmon, the daughter and son of Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, the Academy's first Superintendent, have donated a significant archival collection to The Friends. It comprises 12 linear feet of correspondence, memoranda, photographs, and other materials that reflect the life and military career of the man who in 2004 was officially designated by the Secretary of the Air Force "The Father of the Academy." Much of the collection underscores General Harmon's extraordinary

contributions to the legislative origins, establishment, and early operation of the Academy. In addition to these and other documentary sources, the collection also contains several artifacts, including an oil portrait of General Harmon and his West Point class ring (1915). The Harmon Collection will be located in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library where it will augment existing resources and will be made available for research by cadets and airpower historians.

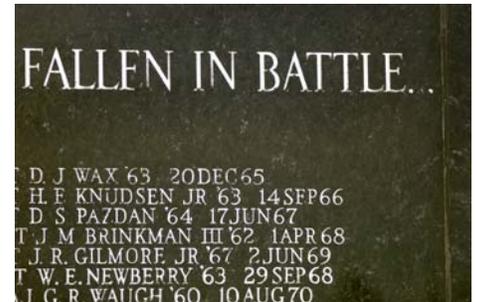
THE FRIENDS INITIATE HERITAGE PROJECT

The Friends of the Academy Library are embarking on a multi-year heritage project. Its goal is to gather material located in various offices at the Academy that deals with the lives of the 167 Air Force Academy graduates whose names are inscribed on the Academy's War Memorial Wall. At present, there is no central location for information about these graduates nor is it readily accessible.

With cooperation from the staffs of the Academy's Association of Graduates and McDermott Library, our team of volunteers will be able to collect, scan, and file electronically written and

photographic material on the graduates. It will then be made available electronically through The Friends' web site and in hard copy in the Clark Special Collections Branch of the Library.

The team will establish procedures for updating both the web site and the hard copy files as more information is acquired and as the names of other graduates are added to the Memorial Wall. Ultimately, the material will be available in a variety of formats for study and reflection by members of the Cadet Wing, graduates, and researchers interested in the lives of those holding a place of honor on the Memorial Wall.



The Friends believe this project will have lasting impact for decades to come—indeed as long as the Academy exists.

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

PERPETUAL RECOGNITION FROM COMMEMORATIVE DONATIONS

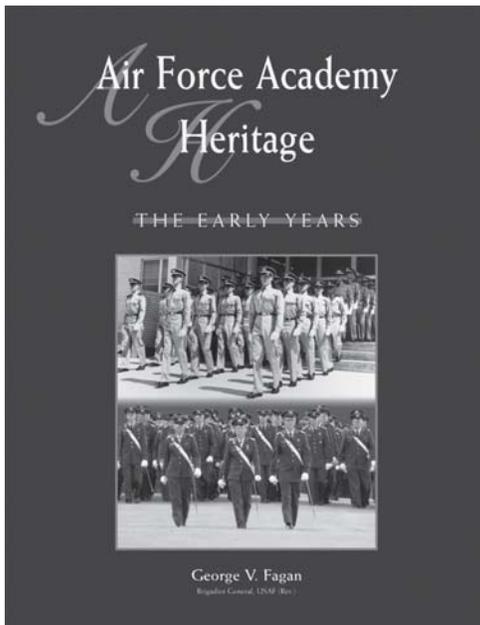
The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library offers an attractive program that has special appeal for those who would like perpetual recognition for individuals, organizations, or groups (e.g., an aircrew). Honorees need not be military or deceased to be commemorated with an Honor Certificate. To date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

organizations have been commemorated in this way. Among the honorees are veterans who have served their country in the nation's wars; those 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 placed in

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

PUBLICATION OF *AIR FORCE ACADEMY HERITAGE: THE EARLY YEARS*



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

As noted in a previous newsletter, the members of the Executive Committee of The Friends recognized the value of making a history of the legislative origins, establishment, and early operation of the Air Force Academy more widely available. At the urging of the members of the committee, retired Brig. Gen. George V. Fagan authorized The Friends to republish portions of his book, *The Air Force Academy: An Illustrated History*. First published in 1988, the volume 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 a former director of the Academy Library, has generously transferred copyright and royalty rights on the manuscript to The Friends. In addition to his own personal recollections, General Fagan researched extensive series of official documents, oral histories, and photographs in writing his history. Many of those sources are housed within the Clark Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library. The

portion to be republished is a comprehensive, scholarly history of the genesis of the Academy and the first ten years of its operation. This important book will acquaint cadets, faculty and staff, and members of the public with the rich heritage of the Academy. It is scheduled for release in May 2006. General Fagan, who is a founding member of The Friends, will participate in a book signing at the conclusion of The Friends' annual luncheon on May 17, 2006.

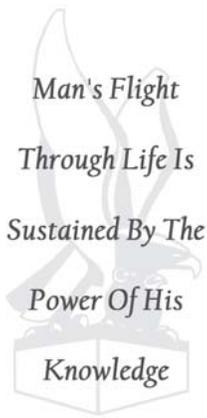
THE FRIENDS RECEIVE GENEROUS BEQUEST FROM YUDKIN ESTATE



Maj. Gen. Richard A. Yudkin

This fall The Friends was notified that it is the beneficiary of a very generous bequest from the estate of the late Maj. Gen. Richard A. Yudkin. General Yudkin was a Life Patron of The Friends and had made several significant contributions to the organization over the years. This gift will enable The Friends to establish an endowment to aid in funding current and future projects. In addition to his support of The Friends, General Yudkin was a Trustee of the Falcon Foundation and a former member of the Air Force Academy Board of Visitors. During his distinguished Air Force career, General Yudkin served in key planning assignments in Europe, the Pacific, and

at Headquarters Air Force in Washington, D.C. On the Air Staff in the mid-1960s he was Director of Doctrine, Concepts, and Objectives in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans. After retiring from the Air Force, General Yudkin served as vice president for public affairs and senior vice president of Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation. He retired from that position in 1984 and lived the rest of his life in Toledo, Ohio, where he remained active in civic and national affairs. He died unexpectedly at his home in Ottawa Hills, Ohio, on December 13, 2004. He is buried at the Air Force Academy.



VISITING THE CADET AREA AND McDERMOTT LIBRARY

DoD cardholding visitors who are not assigned to an agency within the cadet area will be issued a 1-day Temporary (T) or Visitor (V) badge and 1-day parking pass in exchange for a driver's license at the entry gate near Sijan Hall. You may also be asked to leave your current vehicle registration and proof of insurance with the guard. These visitors do not require sponsorship but will be asked the nature of their business. DoD cardholding visitors can also come to the Field House gate which has T-badges for the Library. A V-badge is issued to an individual making a delivery, dental appointment, or other business not requiring building access. DoD cardholders may not escort non-DoD cardholding visitors.

Non-DoD cardholding visitors must be sponsored into the cadet area either by prior phone call from a sponsor or by the sponsor's presence at the entry gate. Once sponsorship is verified, the visitor will be issued a V-badge and 1-day parking permit in exchange for a photo ID; the V-badge will not allow proximity access to buildings, so your sponsor must meet you either at the gate or the Library door, but otherwise allows unescorted travel.

Library staff regrets the difficulty of access, but is always delighted to escort a Friend of the Library or non-DoD cardholding visitors. Please call ahead to Mary Elizabeth Ruwell at (719) 333-4674 or Ed Scott at 333-2590. They can meet visitors at the North Gate parking lot, the Visitors Center, or the Officers Club. Because of security concerns, groups larger than five must make arrangements at least two weeks in advance of their visit.

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THE FRIENDS PURCHASE RARE BOOK FOR LIBRARY



Photo from a rare book by Gustave Goetschy: *LES JEUNES, PEINTRES MILITAIRES* "De Neuville-Detaille-Dupray. Preface de E Bergerat... Paris: Ludovic Baschet, Editeur, 1878, First Regular Edition." In addition to engravings and plates depicting military uniforms there are three photographic portraits of French military painters set into chapter headings. This rare book was used by Henry Wilcoxon as an inspiration for his design of the first USAFA cadet uniforms. The 50th anniversary interview by Col. Jim Gaston, USAF (Ret) with Col. Barrett Taylor, former Assistant Chief of Staff of the Air Force Academy, gives more detail: "In order to see what the atmosphere was," said Taylor, "Wilcoxon ... would come out to the Academy and discuss with people, then go back, and would come back with drawings and so forth... the uniforms were designed by Cecil B. DeMille and his crew, and executed then by Western Costume."