

— NEWSLETTER —

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History of the Permanent Professors Book Released

The new book *A History of the Permanent Professors of the United States Air Force Academy* has been completed and published. The book was sponsored by The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library and written by James H. Head and Erlind G. Royer, both retired Permanent Professors and members of The Friends Board of Directors. Release of the book was marked by a signing party hosted by The Friends at the Association of Graduates' Doolittle Hall on December 4th, with some 75 in attendance.

Since the establishment of the position of Permanent Professor, no other body has been so important and significant in the evolution, operation, and accomplishments of the Academy. Aside from their primary mission of determining the focus

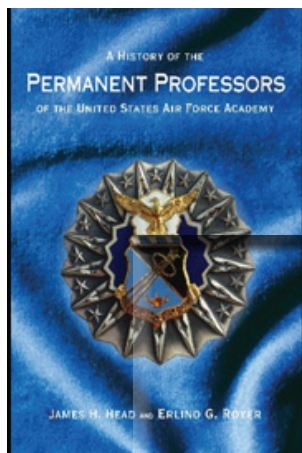
expanded the academic programs and cadet learning opportunities, to those just recently appointed who are poised to carry the Academy to new heights.

A main feature of *A History of the Permanent Professors* is the substantial chapter of biographical sketches for each of the first 100 Permanent Professors. Also included are descriptions of the academic departments in "Leaders and Their Departments"; explanatory materials about "The Permanent Professor System," "The Permanent Professor Badge," and "Permanent Professor Traditions"; and appendixes on topics like "Civilian Faculty and Endowed Chairs," "Accreditation," and "Research Centers and Institutes." Beyond those reference-packed chapters and appendixes, two chapters—"The Genesis of the United States Air Force Academy" and "Permanent Professor Leadership Challenges"—are especially valuable and thought provoking.

Lt Gen Mike Gould, Academy Superintendent, 2009–2013, wrote in his forward to the book, "Retired Brigadier Generals Lindy Royer and Jim Head have compiled a literal treasure trove of fascinating and relevant information that should become mandatory reading for anyone—faculty, military trainers, commanders, coaches, staff—being assigned to the United States Air Force Academy."

One of the primary missions of The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library is the preservation of the heritage and history of the Academy. With that goal in mind, The Friends are proud to sponsor this book. It takes its place with other important works sponsored by The Friends, including *The Air Force Academy: An Illustrated History*, *The Genesis of Flight* and *HARMON, the Father of the Air Force Academy*.

A History of the Permanent Professors is available for sale at the Association of Graduates Gift Shop in Doolittle Hall and online at <https://shop.usafa.org/gifts/bookstore>.



of the curriculum and academic direction of the Academy, the Permanent Professors have been, and continue to be, both corporately and individually, intimately involved in nearly every aspect of the institution's mission be it academic, military, athletic, or professional. Their history is truly a history that all elements of the Academy need to understand. These pages tell the story of these men and women—the first 100—starting with those who came early and laid the foundation, to those who came later and

President's Message

With Spring just around the corner, I want to take a few moments to talk about what The Friends have accomplished this past year. I first want to say that we continue to be a major player in the Academy non-profit group and the breadth of our contributions certainly support that role. Certainly, our premier project has been the funding and publication, working with Fulcrum Press, of *A History of the Permanent Professors of the United States Air Force Academy*, written by Brigadier Generals Lindy Royer and Jim Head. This publication ranks as one of the most significant ever written about the history and heritage of the Academy and will prove to be a major contribution for years to come. You will find a more comprehensive article about it elsewhere in this Newsletter. Also in this Newsletter you will find an article introducing Ms. Diane Klare, the new Director of the McDermott Library. Diane comes to the Academy from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. Welcome! Another item of note is an article about the continued success of The Friends website. The worldwide interest in both The Friends and the McDermott Library's activities, as evidenced by the ever-increasing activity on the site, is certainly a testament to the continued work of Colonel Jim Gaston.

Shortly before this Newsletter went to press, the library completed the cataloging of the Colonel P. K. Robinson collection documenting his time as a cadet at the Academy as well as his Vietnam and POW experiences. Our thanks to PK for this valuable addition to the library. And just last month, The Friends obtained a major collection of documents, pictures, correspondence, and other items on the World War II RAF Eagle Squadrons. The McDermott Library's Eagle Squadrons collection has been recognized for a number of years as one of the finest in the world and this addition will certainly cement this well-earned reputation. This collection will be cataloged in coming months and will be a featured article in our next Newsletter. While I have just scratched the surface of the many varied activities of The Friends, it is important to realize that none of it would be possible without the continued support of you, our patrons. We thank you for the huge contribution you are making to the mission of the Air Force Academy.

Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship Project Continues

One of the purposes of the Clark-Yudkin Fellowship is to highlight the widely diverse materials held in the Special Collections Branch of the McDermott Library. This past summer two Fellows performed research that demonstrates the Fellowship is fulfilling that purpose. Dr. Jason Pearl, whose specialty is mid-seventeenth to mid-eighteenth century literature, was here from Florida International University to study the Gimbel materials. He is writing a book tentatively titled, *AERIAL PROSPECTS: SEEING FROM ABOVE IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BRITAIN*. He was delighted with the breadth of ballooning materials and literature found in the Gimbel Collection.

Our second Fellow, Rob Goudey from Melbourne, Australia, is writing a book titled *JULIUS AND THE PROFESSOR*. This is a biography based on Julius Sumner Miller and his relationship with Albert Einstein. He was very excited about what he found in Special Collections and said the materials are almost overwhelming.

This year we have two more scholars coming, each doing research for their doctorates; Lt. Col. Peter Rayls from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, and Lt. Col. Joseph Dietz, currently attending the University of North Texas. Both men will be using Oral Histories and other first person materials, but in very different areas. One of The Friends projects has been the transcription

of the Oral Histories, now being done by our contractor, Jessica Maiberger-Horner. Her work will be invaluable to these men and to future researchers.

We are now receiving applications for the Clark-Yudkin Fellowship from scholars who have learned about the Fellowship through word of mouth or from The Friends website. It is good to know that the reputation of the Special Collections Branch is increasing and that the work of The Friends is playing an important role in this work.

Fellowship applications are online at www.friends.usafalibrary.com/research-fellowships.

**Credit Card donations can be made using PayPal at:
www.usafalibrary.com/donate**

Oral Histories Project and Hell Hawks Collection

For the past year and a half, The Friends of the Academy Library have dedicated resources to completing oral histories originally conducted between the late 1990s to 2014 by the Department of History and Center of Oral History. Most of the interviewees were USAFA graduates or Permanent Professors (or both). As of January, over 100 interviews have been transcribed, digitized, and abstracted (which have been added to the online Oral History Index). Additional interviews will be completed by the end of 2019.

When the Oral History Project began, Friends contractor Jessica Maiberger-Horner found 29 unknown microcassette tapes among the Department of History holdings. With a little research, it was determined that the tapes contained oral history interviews of World War II veterans conducted by USAFA graduate Dr. Thomas Jones (Class of 1973). Dr. Jones and Dr. Robert Dorr interviewed

nearly 40 pilots, radio technicians, mechanics, and others from the 365th Fighter Group, otherwise known as the "Hell Hawks", who flew fighter-bomber missions in the P-47 Thunderbolt over Europe from February of 1944 to May of 1945. Their experiences were compiled in Dr. Jones and Dr. Dorr's book *Hell Hawks! The Untold Story of the American Fliers Who Savaged Hitler's Wehrmacht*. The interviews feature personal accounts of crash landings; repairing damaged planes; prisoners of war; German air attack at Metz, France; dogfighting ME-109s and Focke Wulf 190s; morale and relationships between the men; and taking part in the Battle of the Bulge, D-Day, and moving into Germany during the Allied invasion; and more. After Dr. Jones was contacted regarding the interview tapes, he donated the rest of his collection of photographs and memoirs from pilots or their families, notes, and other

research material compiled during the book writing process.

Realizing the historical importance of these resources, The Friends have invested in their preservation. Friends contractor Ashley Swendsen transferred the interviews from the microcassettes to DVDs. Col. Jim Gaston also used his equipment to help eliminate background noise. They are currently being transcribed and abstracted, which should be completed by the end of March. The abstracts will be added to the Oral History Index making them searchable online and accessible on Special Collection's website. Without The Friends support for preserving (archivally and digitally) the Hell Hawks and other collections, these valuable records for U.S. World War II military and aviation history would have been lost.

Website Visitors Continue to Increase



Charles H. Dolan



Alexander Jefferson

Traffic counts for the past three years show the annual number of visits nearly doubling, from 5,651 in 2016 to 10,903 in 2018. Growth continued in 2019 with 2,888 January visits, the highest monthly number since counting began.

Among the most popular collections featured on the site were those of World War I pilot Charles Dolan and World War II pilot Alexander Jefferson.

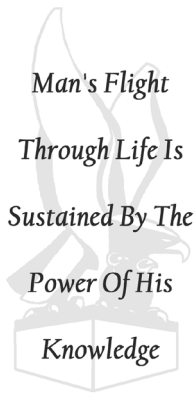
Dolan enlisted in the French Foreign Legion, transferred to the Lafayette Escadrille, and finally transferred to the U.S. Army Air Service. He died in 1981, having become the last surviving member of the Escadrille. The Friends helped acquire the Dolan collection from his son and daughter-in-law.

Jefferson was a Tuskegee Airman and a fighter pilot in the U.S. Army Air Force

during World War II. He was shot down and captured by the Germans, detained in Stalag Luft III and later Stalag VII-A. His collection includes drawings from the notebook he kept as a prisoner of war.

Join us at www.usafalibrary.com to see what's attracting thousands of visitors.

Visit The Friends website at: www.friends.usafalibrary.com



Update From the McDermott Library's Director, Ms. Diane Klare

Let me take this opportunity to express my thanks for the warm welcome I've received from everyone I've met so far at USAFA and from those affiliated with USAFA, particularly those on the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library board. I'm profoundly impressed by the caliber of cadets who attend the academy and who appreciate the opportunity they have been presented with to study at an exemplary institution and to be taught by great faculty in the shadows of the Front Range.

These are very exciting and interesting times to be leading an academic library. There have been significant changes in the last decade regarding access of materials, the types of materials and media now used in undergraduate education, and the use of libraries as spaces and gathering places as well as serving as intellectual incubators. As a result of these changes, libraries have needed to undergo their own transformation in many ways. These transformations include how technology can be used to present information in a meaningful and more robust way, how physical materials and online materials can work synergistically to create a fuller academic experience for cadets, and how the needed skills have expanded for those working in libraries. Library workers today have a wide variety of ways and opportunities to acquire new expertise and utilize their new talents in areas of technology and in actively demonstrating the interdisciplinarity of topics with cadets when working with physical materials and digital assets, such as online texts or photographs. In information literacy instruction sessions, librarians can show undergraduates how the nature of scholarly communication has changed due to the digital age. Finally, academic libraries today recognize how important it has become to meet our patrons beyond the physical building in addition to within it. In these myriad ways, this approach allows our patrons to understand how our resources, particularly those online, may appear to be openly available to all, but are actually carefully curated by those within the library based on the institutional needs and librarian expertise. As part of this outward facing posture, it's also equally important to still bring our patrons into the building by demonstrating the value of the unique treasures that are held in the Air Force Library's Special Collections and how they still retain relevance to today's curriculum.

Over the next few months, as part of becoming more familiar with the culture at the Air Force Academy, I intend to begin conversations with as many constituents as possible - faculty members, cadets, and those involved in programs that help cadets to succeed and where the library can become part of that process. By engaging current faculty and cadets, and also acknowledging and working with those who have a deep knowledge of Air Force Academy history and why the Academy still holds a unique role in the United States military history in today's global society, the library's future is bright. Finally, I would like to convey that I have an open door policy, so I invite anyone to stop by if you are in the cadet area with suggestions or comments you may have about our library. We have exciting times ahead. [Diane Klare became the Director of the McDermott Library in January 2019.]

Save the date: The Friends Annual Board Meeting and Luncheon will be May 7th. Ms. Diane Klare, the new library director will speak. Come hear her ideas about the future of the library!

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