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The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library

— NEWSLETTER —

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Friends have successfully completed another year of service to the McDermott Library Special Collections Branch. Key to our success was the support provided by our contractors: Amanda Hess, our Business Manager; Aaron Wilson, our audio-visual (AV) archival specialist; and Chris Schreck, our archivist. While Amanda kept us all on track; Aaron and Chris both worked full-time this past year on collections. Since January 2020 The Friends' contractors have inventoried and evaluated 2,123 collections and 416 new accessions, completely processed 275 collections, and over 6,100 AV items. Significant backlogs of unprocessed items remain in both areas. With your continued support we look forward to contributing this additional margin of excellence for the McDermott Library Special Collections in the coming year.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of several Honorary Directors. Maj. Gen. USAF (Ret) John W. Huston, Harold (Hal) U. Littrell, and Lt. Col. USAF (Ret) Reiner (Swiss) H. Schaeffer were all great supporters of The Friends. Gen Huston became a Director in 1997. Hal was a member of the first Board of Directors and remained an active member for 23 years. Swiss was the Director of the Library upon The Friends founding and advised us until his retirement when he became a member of the Board of Directors.

In this newsletter you will find an article about a unique project we completed this past year. As the Academy prepared for its first class with fe-

male cadets entering in 1976, female USAF lieutenants were assigned to the Academy as Air Training Officers. Photographs of their activities are now digitized, identified, and available at the link provided in the article. See also the Clark-Yudkin article, especially the inspirational ending. The Friends of the Air Force Academy advances this clarion call to action by supporting historical research like this, which allows for new insights into not only the military experience but also the human experience of war.

The Friends' only fund-raising activities are via the form accompanying this newsletter and our annual holiday letter in November. These raise about 10 percent of our annual budget. We are encouraged by the increased level of donations driven largely by donors using qualified charitable donations from retirement and donor advised funds. The rest of our annual support is funded by the income from a bequest several years ago from Maj. Gen. USAF (Ret) Richard A. Yudkin's estate. To include The Friends in your will or estate plan contacts are on the enclosed form.

We look forward to another year of increasing the McDermott Library's capabilities for original source research and greatly improving cadet, faculty, and researcher digital access to the wonderful collections. If you are interested in becoming involved in this effort at any level, or if you have items to donate, please contact us at <https://www.friends.usafalibrary.com/>

The Friends Annual Luncheon will be held on 2 May 2024
Use the enclosed RSVP form or visit EventBrite: [FOTL-Luncheon2024.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fotl-luncheon-2024)

Gems of Special Collections

Christopher Schreck

THE BARTON C. ANDRUS COLLECTION

Burton Curtis Andrus (1892-1977) was commander of the security unit that guarded Nazi prisoners before and during the Nuremberg war crimes trials in 1945. His collection, recently processed by Friends contractors, provides unique insight into this historic event.

These high-ranking Nazi officials, which included men such as Hermann Goering and Karl Dönitz, were originally held at Central Continental Prisoner of War Enclosure No. 32 (codenamed Camp Ashcan) between May and August 1945. Camp Ashcan was an Allied POW camp located in the Palace Hotel, a four-story luxury hotel in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg. The camp was staffed by the U.S. 6850th Security Detachment, Allied intelligence services, and 42 German POWs including barbers, dentists, and doctors. The prisoners and Col. Andrus were transferred to the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg to stand trial in August 1945, and the camp was disbanded shortly thereafter.

Between November 1945 and October 1946, the Tribunal tried the most important military and political leaders of the Nazi regime. It was here that the world first learned about the Nazi Party's horrific actions over the course of the war including details regarding the "Final Solution," the murder of POWs, and the atrocities carried out in Nazi extermination camps. As a result of the trial three Nazi

prisoners were acquitted, seven were sentenced to prison, and ten were executed. One prisoner, Hermann Goering, committed suicide in his cell before he could be hanged.

The Barton C. Andrus Collection consists of five boxes of original materials from Andrus' personal files, all of which are unique to Clark Special Collections. These items relate to Andrus' military career, the 6850th Security Detachment, and their role in the Nuremberg Trials. In addition to guarding the prisoners before and during the trials, the 6850th protected the prisoners themselves from harm, interviewed tribunal witnesses, produced psychological profiles of the prisoners, and provided security and administration services for the trial itself.



Colonel Burton C. Andrus, Commanding officer of the 6850th Internal Security Detachment in charge of the Nuremberg Jail, 1945.

MIS-X REPORTS COLLECTION

The Military Intelligence Service-X (MIS-X) was a classified section of the United States Department of War that was established to aid U.S. personnel trapped or held captive by the enemy during World War II. This top-secret unit operated in all theaters of the war and is credited with assisting roughly 16,000 U.S. personnel with their return to Allied territory. Its functions included training airmen in escape/evasion techniques, providing secret codes to airmen so that they could transmit information about the enemy in their letters home, and facilitating the rescue of Allied personnel who were trapped behind enemy lines. MIS-X was also tasked with gathering intelligence from returning POWs and escapees.

MIS-X Escape and Evasion Reports were ini-

tially used to assess and improve the training and tools airmen were provided and to help plan future rescue missions into enemy territory. These reports provide names, squadron information, and crash locations, as well as the location of enemy camps, enemy interrogation techniques, the location of local escape networks, the identity of enemy collaborators, and much more.

In 2023 Friends contractors discovered hundreds of these amazing documents in the Lloyd R. Shoemaker collection. In conjunction with longtime volunteer Carolyn Lemp, they were able to address the collection's preservation needs and produce a detailed index of these important resources. This index, over 32 pages and counting, is now available on the Clark Special Collections website.

THE BENJAMIN D. FOULOIS COLLECTION

The Benjamin D. Foulois Collection at the McDermott Library was recently processed by Friends Contractors and includes twenty-four boxes of records pertaining to Foulois' military career. This collection consists of records relating to the founding of US military aviation, beginning with procurement of the Wright Flyer in 1909 through the expansion of American air power in World War I. Included is a rich assortment of photographs, oral histories, service records, and hundreds of official military cables documenting the rapid advancement of aviation and military technology from this early period.

Foulois was a United States Army General who learned to fly the first military planes purchased from the Wright brothers in 1909. He became the first military aviator to pilot an airship, and he was the only pilot, navigator, instructor, observer, and commander in the heavier-than-air division of the U.S. Army from 1909 to 1911. From these experiences he made many mechanical improvements that were incorporated into subsequent models of airplanes. He designed the first radio receiving set ever used in an airplane and carried out the first radio/air reconnaissance missions. Foulois commanded the first aerial operations conducted by the US armed forces in enemy territory. He was com-

mander of the First Aero Squadron, which participated in the Mexican Punitive Expedition in 1916, and was heavily involved in the first World War.

Heading into World War I Foulois was put in charge of the production, maintenance, organization, and operations of all American aeronautical equipment and personnel in the United States. Moving to France in the fall of 1917 with the same responsibilities, he became Chief of Air Service, American Expeditionary Force. Foulois continued his illustrious military career becoming the first chief of the Air Corps to be a military aviator. He was the longest living of the US military aviation pioneers and remained an active advocate of military aviation until his death in 1967.



Benjamin D. Foulois (left) and P.O. Parmelee in the Wright Type B, the US Army's only airplane in 1910.

CLARK-YUDKIN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP “THE SONG OF STALAG 1A”

Holly Harris, PhD Student from Southern Methodist University, was our most recent recipient of the Clark-Yudkin Research Fellowship. Her project, “Marching through Snow, Blood, and Bombs: The Stalag Luft IV Evacuations of 1945 in Eastern Europe,” covers the “Death March” of Allied airmen prisoners of war (POWs) on the eastern front in World War II. The evacuation from the Stalag Luft IV camp would be called in Miller’s *Masters of the Air* “for American airmen the European equivalent of the Bataan Death March of April 1942.” The brutal three-month march had limited food and water during one of the coldest winters in Europe. There lacks a definitive synthesis of this event—she sought to address this. The following are edited excerpts

from Holly’s After-Action Report and information she provided to The Friends.

The Clark-Yudkin Special Collections has many materials that helped fill the gap in documentation regarding the evacuations from Stalag Luft IV in 1945. The extensive collection of POW diaries, rare POW books, information on Stalag camps, intelligence reports, welfare accounts, policy briefings, and legal documents led Holly to visit the Clark Special Collections at the Academy.

In ten days at the Clark Special Collections, Holly reviewed sixteen archival collections and six books. Some findings were expected like the information regarding perspectives of airmen’s time at

CLARK-YUDKIN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP “THE SONG OF STALAG 1A” CONT.

Stalag Luft IV. The Clark Collections books and the Edward V. Wilson collection manuscript “The Long March” all provided valuable insight into the Stalag Luft IV marches. The airmen consistently use the same terminology, chronology, and details regardless of the time that their account of the march was written, which is quite remarkable. Additionally, the personnel roster in *Barbed Boredom* is the only complete roster of Stalag Luft IV that she had come across, only encountering a partial roster at the National WWII Museum. This helped not only with the statistics on who survived the marches but also provided an insight into the diversity of the camps. Cross-referencing the names with Census Bureau data revealed many Chinese, Japanese, Native American, and African American Allied airmen POWs at Stalag Luft IV. This is a remarkable new finding since, in theory, bomber crews were supposed to be segregated.

In addition to Stalag Luft IV, many other collections gave insight into the camps the men traveled to from Stalag Luft IV. An unexpected find was sheet music written by Belgium POWs. Holly had not previously encountered POWs encapsulating their experience in song. She also discovered how the intelligence networks and POWs interacted as well as additional welfare, diplomatic, and legal perspectives regarding POWs in 1945.

Of particular interest, Henry Soderberg’s collection uniquely features hundreds of pages of a self-published newspaper from the camp entitled *Ceux du 1A*. *Ceux du 1A* centered on the experiences of the men imprisoned at Stalag 1A. The French-Belgian POWs formed their own association “The Friendship of Former Belgian Prisoners of War of Stalag 1A” after the war to commemorate and remember their experiences. Their membership eventually reached 1,000 people. Distinctively, these POWs had a special transnational bond. In addition to erecting monuments in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and eventually Kaliningrad, they held annual balls, fundraisers, and attended Mass for their fallen comrades. Three key principles animated the ex-

POWs of Stalag 1A and their Leon Florence Fund: friendship, faith, and generosity. They created their own songs of remembrance: “Dimarche 1992” and “March du Stalag 1A”. These ballads capture the deep emotion felt by the men about their captivity. The sentiments starkly contrast with the songs from *The Great Escape* or *Hogan’s Heroes*. During their annual days of memorialization and Mass across the three countries, they would sing these tunes in honor of their fallen friends. As stated in the 1968 Luxembourg Stalag 1A flag inauguration press release article, “we played our famous March du Stalag 1A in perfect execution, with flags in the lead, representing the sections of Brabant, Charleroi, Liège, and Verviers.” Their songs helped bring forward meaning from the past to the present—especially as the distance from World War II grows.

You may be wondering: why care about the men of Stalag 1A or remember them at all? Well, the contributors to *Ceux du 1A* asked the same question. Their response in an article entitled “Pourquoi” underscores the importance of the archives and military history research:

“The past gives us a lesson, let’s share it with those who follow us even if some find themselves embarrassed and would prefer silence. Above all, young people must know what war represents. Not just the brilliant heroism that so many films have glorified; not just those exhilarating moments of combat, of victory, of liberation. But also, the bitterness of the retreat, the bombardments of defenseless cities, the terror of reprisals, the slow deaths where the spirit and the body slide imperceptibly into the torpor of annihilation. Let young people also know that the camps had their heroes, those who never capitulated, who knew how to resist asphyxiation, who believed until the end.

We know all this but who will tell them after us?”

CLARK SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AUDIO-VISUAL UPDATE

Aaron Wilson

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Since March 2021, our contractors have significantly enhanced the audio-visual (AV) materials within Clark Special Collections. These enhancements include improvements to the organization of AV materials, an ongoing conversion of analog materials into digital formats, and increasing the accessibility of materials for cadets and researchers. Over the last three years, 6,143 AV items have been processed. These items have benefited cadets and researchers such as Apple TV documentarians. The Academy's team working on the new Academy Hosmer Visitor Center has accessed items for their visual displays.

Processed items are divided into 45 collections with finding aids. The Doolittle Raiders collection

highlights 126 oral history interviews with members of the Raiders. Four additional collections stand out for their audio-visual holdings: the Victor C. Tannehill collection, the Murray Green collection, the Albert P. Clark collection, and the Henry Soderberg collection. The Tannehill collection contains 604 AV items documenting American military history from World War II to the Gulf War. The Murray Green collection contains over 200 hours of oral history interviews focused on General Hap Arnold. The Clark collection contains a mix of World War II era Prisoner of War materials including oral history interviews. The Soderberg collection contains 27 items focused on the accounts of former POWs held at Stalag Luft III and Oflag 64.

WOMEN AIR TRAINING OFFICERS

Marianne LaRivee

In 1975, 15 female lieutenants were selected from a pool of 600 young women Air Force officers to serve as both test pilots and role models for the first female AF Academy cadets.

From January to June 1976, the ATOs completed an abbreviated cadet training course led by several hundred male cadets to prepare both themselves and the Academy for the 150 female cadets arriving that summer. They changed negative attitudes and fine-tuned plans for the integration of women cadets into the cadet wing. When the incoming class arrived, 12 ATOs acted as surrogate female upperclassmen until the Class of 1980 women could fill that role.

Photos from their time at USAFA were saved as slides and negatives in the Academy's Special Collections Branch. Last year, the ATOs helped Special Collections better preserve and highlight their Academy experience, donating funds to pay for the

Friends' archivist to digitize the photos, and volunteering themselves to identify and label them.

The project –the first of its kind–has been a major success. The library now has a Digital Photograph Index for the Women ATO Collection identifying individuals, activities, and locations for cadets and researchers alike. A Finding Aid, the Index with instructions for its use, and the digitized photos are now available on the McDermott Library's Special Collection's webpage at:

<https://usafa.libguides.com/spc/women-ato>



Terry Walter and other Women ATOs marching outside of the Academy's "Bring Me Men" ramp, 1976.

UPDATE FROM THE MCDERMOTT LIBRARY'S DIRECTOR

Diane Klare

During 2023/2024, the library has continued to move toward the long-term goals I outlined five years ago at the 2019 Friends' annual luncheon. The cornerstone of envisioned changes in the library – spaces, technology, diversification of collections, staffing and services, and relationship building.

Regarding our spaces, we have worked continually this year to conclude the programming phase of the library charrette (redesign). We have solidified the design of the space that will include the Martinson Honors Program and the Academic Success Center, incorporated many additional study rooms for cadet collaboration and study, and developed a stellar new location for Clark Special Collections and Archives. This relocation will provide easy access to researchers, dignitaries, and cadets who use our unique resources, many of which are the direct result of contributions facilitated by or through generous support of The Friends. The design includes significant growth space in Special Collections for future expansion and donation display. As part of the general redesign, we continue working on rebalancing circulating collections to reflect a higher reliance on electronic resources with 24/7 availability while still retaining our highly used books.

Since last May, we have brought onboard several new people to help fill skill gaps that were sorely felt. Kimberlee Roberts, our new certified archivist, will assist our goal to digitize Special Collections donations, such as the recently received Women Air Training Officer collection. Lauren Simpson, our new metadata librarian, will ensure easy findability of online books in our catalog. Bertram Foster, our new systems librarian, will enable us to utilize the plethora of data we gather in a useful, informative way for easier decision-making.

New technology continues to permeate our work, and the pace of change and options keep accelerating. Continuous improvements to our library's website and portal to resources have drawn dramatically higher usage by the USAFA community. This trend is expected to continue.

Finally, relationships continue to build – those of our research librarians and faculty, reflected in an increase in information literacy classes and programming for cadets – and those of the library and other academic support units. The library has also forged strong relationships with the Center for Character and Leadership Development in both the development of our own staff as well as our work with cadets, creating a long-term, double benefit.

MCDERMOTT LIBRARY WELCOMES NEW ARCHIVIST

Joel Hebert

The McDermott Library has hired a new archivist for Clark Special Collections. Kimberlee Roberts comes to USAFA from the National Park Service's museum program where she was an archivist at Zion National Park in Utah. Ms. Roberts's main responsibilities there were to preserve the park's unique history. Before her time in Zion, she was a digital archivist at the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, California and previously served seven years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. As a Navy civilian, Ms. Roberts gained criti-

cal experience in digital asset management and exhibitions that will be of great use to Clark Special Collections. She also has experience working in a college setting, having done library instruction and information literacy at Red Rocks Community College in Aurora, Colorado. She received her Bachelors Degree in 2017 from Widener University, and her Masters Degree in Library Science from the University of Denver. She earned accreditation from the Academy of Certified Archivists in 2020.