

NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library
P.O. Box 188
U.S. Air Force Academy, CO 80840-0188

Man's Flight
Through Life Is
Sustained By The
Power Of His
Knowledge

VOL. II NO. 1

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STEELE EXHIBIT

On March 15, 1996, The Friends sponsored their second Annual Lecture and Exhibit. Over 150 friends and Academy cadets attended the evening event on the main floor of the Academy Library. The collection of drawings and paintings will be on display until May 15 and the public is invited to view the exhibit.

Benjamin C. Steele, a Montana native, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps at age 18 after graduating from high school. A year and a half later, while serving in the Philippines, he was captured by the Japanese. For the next 42

months he endured the wretched life of a Japanese prisoner of war. He survived the Bataan Death March and was then sent to Japan locked in the hold of a ship under attack and wound up as a slave laborer in a coal mine in Northern Japan.

During his horrendous ordeal, Steele managed to draw sketches of the cruel and demanding life he and his fellow Americans were forced to endure. Some of his sketches were lost at sea during the war and were redrawn after his liberation. He spent months in American military hospitals and occupied his time by redoing his sketches.

After he recuperated, Ben Steele continued his interest in art work. He earned two degrees including a Master's in Art from the University of Denver. He joined the faculty of Eastern Montana College at Billings as an art teacher and later became the Chairman of the Art Department. After 22 years of service, he retired as Professor Emeritus.

The Ben Steele Art Collection is now part of the Northcutt Gallery of Art at
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Benjamin C. Steele tells Academy cadets about his prisoner of war experiences in Japan.



ANNUAL LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Lieutenant General Paul E. Stein will be the speaker at the Annual luncheon meeting on Friday, May 6. General Stein is the second graduate of the Academy to become Superintendent. He graduated in the Class of 1966 and began active duty as an assistant football coach. During his career, he has served in a variety of staff positions including Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel and Chief of Staff, Tactical Air Command and has commanded Keesler Technical Training Center, Biloxi, Mississippi. Prior to being assigned to the Academy, General Stein was Director of Legislative Liaison in Washington, DC.

General Stein is married to the former Carol Manning of Paul, Idaho. They have a daughter, Christine and two sons, John and James.

The May 10 luncheon will be held at the Academy Officers Club Sunrise Room. Social hour will begin at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:15. Guests are welcome. Cost will be \$10.00 per person. Please complete the enclosed card and send your check in the enclosed self-addressed envelope Not later than May 6.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wish to express my deep appreciation for all the hard work performed by the Executive Committee, General Clark, Duane Reed and the Special Collections volunteers and staff in mounting and staging the Benjamin C. Steele Prisoner of War Exhibit. Mr. Steele's art, as well as his lecture, moved and shocked his Academy audience. During his captivity, Ben Steele was under continuous risk for illustrating examples of Japanese violations of human decency and the Geneva Conventions. His candid, graphic realism illustrates man's potential for brutality towards his fellowman. Ben Steele's exhibit adds a new dimension to the Air Force Academy Library's growing collection of the Prisoner of War experience in all America's wars. As President, I am looking forward to continuing this series of exhibits and lectures.

DISBURSEMENTS TO THE LIBRARY

1995

General Book Fund . . .	\$1,000.00
Memorial Funds	4,161.00
Other Services	
& Support	<u>21,666.00</u>
Grand Total	\$26,827.00

1996 to March 31

Memorial Funds	\$1,000.00
Other Services	
& Support	<u>13,411.00</u>
Grand Total	\$14,411.00

COLLECTIONS IMPORTANT FOR CADET RESEARCH

Archival materials within the Special Collections Branch span the history of American military aeronautics and include series of personal and official correspondence, diaries, official reports, printed matter, oral histories and photographs. Cadets have extensively researched the materials and have produced many papers which have been accepted for publication in air power journals.

During the last few years, collections of personal papers acquired from Academy graduates have augmented existing historical resources to a significant degree. Existing collections accessioned within the Special Collections Branch include the papers of Lance Sijan, '65; Steve Ritchie, '64; Donald Backlund, '71; the microfilm of the research collection gathered by Mark Clodfelter, '77 used for his book, *The Limits Of Air Power: The American Bombing of North Vietnam*, and the papers of John Flanagan, '62 which served as a basis for his book, *Above the Tree Tops: A Forward Air Controller Reports*.

In addition, the Branch has obtained an extraordinary series of oral history interviews with Academy graduates who became prisoners of war in Vietnam. The interviews were compiled in conjunction with the USAFA Class of '65 Oral History Project. The library has also acquired an extensive series of printed materials and memorabilia which reflect the military career of Bradley C. Hosmer, '59. Most recently, Larry Fortner, '59; James Brown, '59; Jock Schwank, '60; and former Air Training Officers Herman Gilster and Charles Emmons have donated important series of photographs and printed matter which document benchmarks in the early history of the Academy.

NEW DIRECTOR MAJOR GENERAL JOHN W. HUSTON

General Huston is a native of Pittsburgh, PA. He enlisted in the United States Army Air Force at the age of seventeen and was commissioned a year later. He flew a tour of combat tour of thirty-five missions from Great Britain over Europe as an eighteen/nineteen year old officer. He left the military service in 1945 in order to complete his formal education. He earned the B.A. from Monmouth College (Illinois) and the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pittsburgh. He maintained reserve participation flying in C-46, C-119, C-124 and C-130 aircraft. From 1961 to 1972 he served as a reserve officer in the Office of the Secretary of the Secretary of the Air Force, becoming Executive Secretary of the Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee. He served as the Mobilization Assignee to the Deputy Chief of Staff/Personnel in Hqs USAF. In 1976, as a Major General, he was recalled to active duty to serve as the Chief Historian of the USAF in which position he served until his retirement from Air Force in 1981.

In 1956 he joined the Naval Academy faculty as a civilian in the History Department becoming its chairman in 1971 and serving in that position until his recall to active duty in 1976. Upon his retirement in 1995, he became Professor Emeritus. During academic year 1994-1995 he served as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the United States Air Force Academy.



General Huston when teaching History to Academy Cadets in 1995 during his year as Distinguished Visiting Professor.

MEMORIAL PROGRAM

The Memorial Program, with its production of the Honor Book, has been very successful. At last count, there are 162 certificates in the book which honor a variety of organizations, aircraft crews, ex-Prisoners of War and civilian individuals. People are finding this to be an excellent way to record their admiration for colleagues and family members, living or deceased, for a nominal tax-free donation of \$50.00.

GIMBEL PROJECT

Several significant landmarks were passed since our last Newsletter of October 1995. As a result, we are several steps closer to having a completed manuscript ready to submit to a prospective publisher. As explained in earlier articles, The Friends wish to create a truly unique pictorial history of aeronautics as reflected in the Gimbel Collection. The format will involve a balanced selection of the most significant items in each of the categories. An expert was engaged to select, annotate and discuss the historical importance of each item in a specific category. The experts came to the Academy to examine and study the materials in their assigned category. Paul Maravelas of Minnesota came in November to handle the balloon prints. Professor Clive Hart of the University of Essex in England also came in November to examine rare books published prior to 1850. Dr. Tom Crouch and Dr. Dominick Pisano came in December from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Dr. Crouch examined aeronautical books published between 1850 and 1914. Dr. Pisano embarked on the difficult task of selecting and describing the significance of the "Other Categories" including handbills, cartoons, postage stamps and a myriad of items inspired by aerial flight. Meanwhile, Edward C. Rochette who resides in Colorado Springs, but who constantly travels on numismatic-related business, found time to work on selecting and describing the most important of the more than 200 medallions relating to aeronautics contained in the Gimbel Collection. Upon returning from an archeological expedition in Turkey, Professor Holly Pittman of the University of Pennsylvania, began to study the ancient seals in the Gimbel Collection dating back to 2500 B.C. By the end of April, the members of the Executive Committee hope to have all the experts' manuscripts in hand to begin the editorial process which will take months to finish before a final manuscript can be ready to submit to a publisher. Finding the proper publisher will be a major challenge for late 1996 or early 1997.

NEW DIRECTOR MR. WILLIS I. KETTERSON

Mr. Ketterson was born in Newark, New Jersey. He attended Union College, Sienna College and the University of Oklahoma. He also completed the Senior Public Affairs Officer Course at the Defense Information School, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

Will was the Chief of Media Relations, Directorate of Public Affairs, United States Air Force Academy until his retirement in 1995. He was responsible for the development of long-range media strategies and the Academy's liaison with the news media. He was also the principal advisor on media relations to the Director

of Public Affairs and the senior Academy staff, including eight superintendents.

Prior to joining the Air Force Academy Public Affairs staff in 1972, Mr. Ketterson completed a distinguished two decade career as a broadcast journalist. He served in both on-the-air anchor and news director positions with Warner Brothers and Metro Media in Albany, New York from 1949 to 1963 and in Decatur and Peoria, Illinois from 1963 through 1966. He completed his broadcast activities in Colorado Springs as news director and anchor for KRDO-AM/FM and TV from 1966 through 1971.



Will Ketterson with former Senator Barry Goldwater who served as Chairman of the Board of Visitors for many years.

STEELE EXHIBIT

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Eastern Montana College. The 80 drawings fall into three categories. The first includes the original drawings done in the prison camps. Most of these were done in Bilibid Prison in the Philippines and were lost at sea. The remaining original drawings were completed in 1945 in Japan. The second category includes drawings

done after the war while Steele was in various hospitals. Later, after formal art training, he completed the remaining drawings and the three paintings.

In his lecture, Professor Steele stressed that he attributes considerable credit for his survival to the beneficial therapy he obtained from his art work.

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*Former Superintendent of the Academy



General Clark is introducing Mr. Steel in an audience of Academy officers, Colorado Springs residents and Academy cadets. The exhibit and lecture were presented on the main floor of the Academy Library.

A Friendly Reminder

Please search your personal libraries and papers and notify us of materials you may wish to donate.

We need your continued gifts of rare books, books dealing with military aviation and unit histories as well as documentary materials and collections of personal papers dealing with airpower themes and air leaders.

We also need your assistance in expanding the Academy Library's holdings on the American prisoners of war experience in all wars.

Please consider participating in our Memorial Program. Check the attached for details.

Most of all, we need your continued financial support. If you have already made a contribution in 1996, we sincerely thank you. If you have not made a 1996 contribution, please fill out the attached form and send your check today in the self-addressed envelope.