



Air-Log

The
University
of Texas
at Dallas

THE HISTORY OF AVIATION COLLECTION

The Admiral Rosendahl Collection
The CAT/Air America Archive

Fall 2006

The James H. Doolittle Library
The George H. Williams Library



B-29s on a bombing run during World War II

World War II Bomber Crew Panel meets Nov. 17 at McDermott Library

McDermott Library's Special Collections Department will present a panel discussion with various bomber crew members from World War II at 2:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 17, 2006 in McDermott Library Auditorium (MC 2.410) on the UTD campus.

Panelists are **David Braden, John Luckadoo, James McPartlin** and **Harry Pierce**.

The event, in recognition of National Aviation Month, is free and open to the public. **Erik Carlson, Ph.D.**, Coordinator of Special Collections and the History of Aviation Collection, will moderate. A reception will follow in the Special Collections Department located on the third floor of McDermott Library. Please direct inquiries to 972-883-2570.

Arrangement of Aircraft Manufacturer's Collection Completed

By **Paul A. Oelkrug, C.A.**, Senior Curator

The History of Aviation Collection staff has completed the organization of the Aircraft Manufacturer's Collection .

The arrangement of the collection took a year to complete and was performed by HAC volunteers **John Luckadoo** and **George Smith**. John and George foldered the material and wrote headings on each folder and then arranged the folders in alphabetical order in lateral file drawers. John compiled a list of the contents of each folder then sent the list to the senior curator.

Diane Lafving, Administrative Assistant for Interdisciplinary Programs graciously volunteered to type the list. Once the list was in electronic form, the senior curator prepared a finding aid for the collection, and McDermott Library's cataloging department prepared the catalog record.

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by manufacturer. Military and civilian aircraft are included and represent manufacturers from all over the world. Dates range from early aviation to the present.

The collection includes photographs, sales brochures and documents. Although "finished," the collection is expected to grow

as new material becomes available.

For more information on this collection, or information on other collections in the History of Aviation Collection, please contact the curatorial staff.

Civil Air Transport Association to meet in Richardson, HAC

The Civil Air Transport (CAT) Association will hold its annual reunion in Richardson, Texas, from Oct. 19-22, 2006.

More than 100 former employees, spouses and friends are expected to attend.

The CAT Association reunion will consist of informal meet and greet gatherings, a general business meeting and a formal banquet.

The History of Aviation Collection will hold a reception in honor of the Civil Air Transport Association in the Special Collections Department of McDermott Library. UTD is the official home of the CAT/Air America Archive.

George H. Williams, Jr., 1915-2006

Set a solid foundation for world class WW I Collection

George H. Williams, Jr., namesake of the world class George H. Williams World War I Aviation Collection at McDermott Library, died July 9, 2006 at his home in Dallas.

A veteran of World War II and an insurance executive, Williams became interested in World War I research as a young man in Waco, Texas. His research evolved into a passion and he assembled considerable material that became the cornerstone of the UTD World War I Collection. It has been praised by the Smithsonian Institution and The History Channel and used by researchers worldwide.

“George Williams was instrumental in making our History of Aviation Collection the premier place to study World War I aviation,” said Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D., head of the Special Collections Department. “His dedication and effort had a tremendous impact on this archive that will last for many decades.”

Williams not only donated materials to the collection but he became one of the first volunteers to process McDermott Library’s aviation holdings. He was chairman of the Advisory Board for the entire History of Aviation Collection for 20 years. His dedication to the World War I collection was pivotal in UTD acquisition of the remarkable A.E. Ferko collection of rare German aviation photographs. The collection includes squadron



George H. Williams, Jr.

lists and combat reports.

According to Larry Sall, Ph.D., Dean of Libraries at UTD, Williams was primarily responsible for making “our World War I aviation material one of the best collections of its type in the world.” Sall, who administered the aviation collection for 20 years, also worked closely with Mr. Williams in organizing and enlarging the collection. That was made easier thanks to Mr. Williams’ extensive connections with collectors and scholars who trusted him and admired his dedication.

Williams organized and served as president of the League of World War I Aviation Historians and started the group’s publication, *Over the Front*. He also organized a seminar for the League of World War I Aviation Historians at UTD in 1988. The last three living U.S. flying aces from World War I gathered for the event that boasted 125 aviation scholars from around the world.

Born at Frost, Texas on April 7, 1915, Williams spent his youth in Waco and graduated from Baylor University in 1939. With the outbreak of World War II in Europe, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After attending Harvard University to study radio and electronics, he was reassigned to the 94th Signal Battalion.

In late 1944 he was in the vanguard of Gen. George S. Patton’s Third Army as it rushed to relieve surrounded U.S. soldiers in Bastogne, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. In civilian life he worked in the mortgage loan division at Equitable Life Insurance Co. in Dallas. His wife of 62 years, Ginny, was at his side when he died. The Williams family asked that contributions be made in his name to the George H. Williams World War I Aviation Collection, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas.

Gaither getting valuable experience in Special Collections work

Steve Gaither came to McDermott Library’s Special Collections Dept. with a bachelor’s degree in English and experience in cultural resources. But his goal is to earn a masters degree in Library and Information Science at the University of North Texas.

“Instead of working toward a degree in history or anthropology, I decided to pursue a degree that would give me an opportunity to work in places where I had always enjoyed researching history - archives and special collections,” he said.

The Fort Worth native believes his background in research should provide insight into user preferences, and his experience on the patron side of the archives reference desk should help him understand more about what historians and other researchers need when they visit an archival facility.

“McDermott Library’s Special

Collections curator **Paul Oelkrug** has been giving me wonderful opportunities to assess and process collections so they can be made available to researchers,” Gaither said.

The work involves assessing contents and proposing an organization strategy for a collection, developing a processing plan, preparing the collection for patron use, and finally writing a finding aid to help patrons understand the scope and content of the collection. “I have also helped answer patron questions, and am gradually learning more about our extensive and very impressive holdings,” he said.

He says Special Collections uses a variety of tools to document its inventories and track data about its collections and he hopes to provide tools that will integrate the data so that it can be used more efficiently by both collections managers and patrons.



Steve Gaither working on aircraft identification.

Doolittle Raiders to receive 2006 Audie Murphy Award

The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders have been chosen to receive the 2006 Audie Murphy Patriotism Award at the Ninth Annual Conference at the American Veterans' Center in Arlington, Va. on November 11th. The award is in honor of America's most decorated soldier, Medal of Honor winner and Texas native. It is given annually "to an outstanding American patriot or an outstanding group of individuals who most exemplify the true Spirit of America."

During other memorial events during Veterans' Day in the nation's capital, the Raiders will visit Arlington National Cemetery grave sites of eight men who shared the risks of their historic mission on April 18, 1942, including that of General **James H. Doolittle**, their leader. They are also scheduled to be honored at the Army & Navy Club.

Carlson Gives Paper at TSHA, Moderates Panel

Erik D. Carlson, Ph.D. presented a paper, "Dallas vs. The Axis: Love Field and Military Flight Operations, 1941-1945" recently at the 2006 Texas State Historical Association meeting in Austin, Texas. The well-received paper was one of three on military aviation in Texas during World War II.

In June, Dr. Carlson moderated "Remembering World War II," a panel consisting of World War II veterans, for the Plano Public Library System. Included in the panel were Gen. **James McPartlin**, **Robert Krause**, M.D., and **James Lee**. The standing room only event took place at the Haggard Library.

HAC Processes Hong Kong Dragonair Collection

The History of Aviation Collection has finished processing materials related to Dragonair, a Hong Kong-based airline.

Dragonair started in 1985 to serve as a regional carrier operating from Hong Kong to destinations in Asia. The material in this collection largely covers Dragonair's growth from its creation in 1985 to its entry into a partnership with Cathay

Air-Log VIA EMAIL . . .

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Pacific in 1990 when Cathay Pacific's parent company, The Swire Group, acquired 35 percent of Dragonair's stock.

The material provides a fascinating look at the start-up and operation of an airline including financial and lease documents, individual flight reports, as well as full transcripts of licensing hearings before governmental bodies that regulate Hong Kong aviation. The materials were donated to the collection by Helmut Shomen, one time managing director of Dragonair. Dragonair still operates as an airline, but was purchased by Cathay Pacific in July 2006.

MIT Sophomore Wins Doolittle Scholarship

Joseph P. Yurko of Irwin, Pa., a sophomore at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been awarded the 2006 General James H. Doolittle Scholarship and will continue his studies toward a degree in Aerospace Engineering. He completed high school courses in advancement placement and honors courses with straight As. His high school graduation project was construction of a large rocket that was launched successfully to an altitude of 3,800 feet.

Yurko graduated from the Air Force ROTC program and received scholarships for his freshman year at MIT from the National Association of Rocketry and Air Traffic Controllers Association.

The Doolittle Scholarship is funded by his Tokyo Raiders and administered by the Communities Foundation of Texas. It is awarded annually to outstanding students pursuing a baccalaureate or

advanced degree in courses related to aeronautical engineering or aerospace science.

Former Navy Pilot Wins Haddaway Scholarship

Lucas R. Garcia of Bath, Maine, has been awarded the 2006 George E. Haddaway Scholarship by the Communities Foundation of Texas. After graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, he served as a pilot for four years before being retired for medical disability. He is pursuing a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University in New York City. During his Navy service, he gained experience as a reporter and editor for aviation news for the Naval Air Station newspaper in Brunswick, Maine.

The Haddaway Scholarship is awarded annually to at least one college student who has a demonstrated interest in aviation and is pursuing a degree in print or electronic journalism at an accredited university in the U.S. and possessions. A committee of five long-time friends of Haddaway established and promote the scholarship.

Archival Conferences focus on Emergency Preparedness

Senior Curator **Paul Oelkrug** recently attended the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) annual conference in El Paso and the Society of American Archivists (SAA) annual conference in Washington, DC.

The conferences were the first held after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, so most workshops focused on the impact the storms had on archives, how archivists responded, and preparation for future disasters.

Many SSA members were directly impacted by the storms. Archivists from Louisiana and Texas related many heart breaking tales of destruction and loss of valuable documents and artifacts. They shared how they handled the recovery of water-damaged material with some archives under water for two weeks.

The SAA conference went much the same as the SSA conference. During that meeting, Oelkrug talked with Dr. **Allen Weinstein**, Archivist of the United States, about forming a national volunteer disaster response team to help archivists during emergency storm situations.

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