In April, people in the DFW Metroplex will have a rare opportunity to meet the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders. They will be here to celebrate the 66th Anniversary Reunion of their famous April 18, 1942 raid on Tokyo. The reunion, coordinated among three organizations, will be held April 16-20 at three locations: the Frontiers of Flight Museum, Cavanaugh Flight Museum, and The University of Texas at Dallas. There will be public events at each location (see schedule below).

The Raiders are scheduled to appear at UT Dallas on April 19 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the UTD Conference Center. The program will begin with a brief talk by Dr. Larry Sall, Dean of Libraries, on the history of the opening months of WWII, beginning with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, up to the Doolittle Raid. C. V. Glines (Col. USAF Ret.), Official Doolittle Historian, will lecture on the raid itself. Following Col. Glines' lecture, the Doolittle Raiders will discuss their experiences and then answer questions from the audience.

The program will include the presentation of Texas flags flown over the State Capitol in Austin on Friday, April 18 (the anniversary of the raid) courtesy of State Rep. Fred Hill of Richardson. A proclamation from Richardson Mayor Steve Mitchell will declare “Doolittle Raiders Day in Richardson.”

After the program, the Raiders will be available for autographs. The UTD Book Store will sell books about the Doolittle Raid and there will be an opportunity to purchase envelopes commemorating the UTD visit (see example below). The U.S. Post Office will staff a table to sell stamps and cancel the covers with a special cancellation device commemorating the Raid.


This event at UTD is free and open to the public, but because of the historical significance and educational value of this event, we are encouraging educators and students to attend. Seating is limited and we expect a large response, so plan to get here early.

For more information please contact Special Collections, McDermott Library at 972-883-2570, or email Carole Thomas at cthomas@utdallas.edu.

Please note that event schedules are subject to change, so please check with each organization to verify times.

Shown below are the two pictorial postmarks that will be applied to the commemorative envelopes at UTD on April 19. The April 18 circular date stamp features a Dallas location and is the actual anniversary date of the Raid. The second features at Richardson location and the site of the UTD Raiders event. At bottom is a rendering of the envelope design.
CNN military analyst to present ’08 Jalonick Lecture

Major General Donald W. Shepperd (shown above) is this year’s George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick Memorial Distinguished Lecture Series speaker. The lecture will be held on June 21, 2008 at 4 p.m. in the McDermott Library Auditorium. A reception will follow in Special Collections where patrons can meet Maj. Gen. Shepperd.

Shepperd served as the Air National Guard director at The Pentagon, Washington, DC. He was responsible for formulating, developing, and coordinating all programs, policies, and plans affecting the almost 117,000 Air Guard members in more than 1,300 units throughout the U.S., the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

He graduated from the fourth class of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1962. After receiving his wings, he was assigned to duty in West Germany and South Vietnam. He joined the Arizona Air National Guard in August 1974 where he was squadron commander, group deputy commander for operations, and group vice commander. In January 1987, he transferred to the Massachusetts ANG as the air commander of the 102d Fighter Interceptor Wing. In July 1989, he was appointed as deputy director, Air National Guard, National Guard Bureau. He is a command pilot, having flown more than 5,000 hours. He flew 247 fighter combat missions in Southeast Asia.

Maj. Gen. Shepperd retired from the military Sept. 14, 2000, and is currently a military analyst for CNN.

Al Hall, Jr. Papers in HAC

One of the more interesting collections in the possession of the HAC is the papers of pioneer aviator Al Hall, Jr. Hall spent most of his time flying for American Airlines in their Conctract Cargo Division, and later in its Passenger Division. He became a check pilot and training instructor at the American facility in Fort Worth. Hall also served in the Air Transport Command as a cargo pilot during World War II. At the age of 17 in 1933 he set a new junior pilot altitude record, reaching a height of 16,800 feet.

Ordinarily a career in aviation stretching from the late 1930’s to 1976 would be an amazing achievement in its own right, but there was another side to Hall. His father, Al K. Hall, was a renowned player on the American vaudeville circuit in the early 1920’s and 30’s. Hall, Jr. played a role as a straight man in his father’s act. He also served as his family’s pilot flying them to various performances.

This early contact with the entertainment industry provided Hall, Jr. with a variety of Hollywood experiences, including flying in a couple of serial films, and dropping roses out of a plane onto Rudolf Valentino’s funeral. For a fascinating collection that pulls together the history of the airline industry in the United States, and the glamour of old Hollywood, take a look at Al Hall, Jr. Papers.

Papers of Chief Air America Pilot Fred Walker in Process

By Patrizia Nava

The papers of Air America’s Chief Pilot and Manager of the Flying Department, Fred Walker, were donated last year by his family to the CAT/Air America Archives. More than 20 cubic feet of materials including, correspondence, photographs, radio messages, memorabilia, and other documents, were stored in moving boxes.

Processing began in late January and 10 series have been identified. All materials are placed in archival safe manuscript boxes, folders and oversize boxes. Preservation entails the exchange of all rusty staples with coated paper clips. Torn and damaged documents will be photocopied onto acid-free paper.

The objective is to have the Frederick “Fred” Frye Walker Papers processed and create a finding aid by the summer of 2008.

HAC Works with Lucasfilm on Indiana Jones DVDs

By Thomas Allen, Curator

Lucasfilm has released the episodes of their early 1990s series The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles to DVD. As part of the DVD package, Lucasfilm produced numerous documentaries that explore the historical aspects of young Indy’s many adventures. The History of Aviation Collection provided photographs, film clips, and other World War I material to three documentaries included with the series.

The documentaries are located on Disc Nine of The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones Volume 2 - The War Years. They are associated with the episode Attack of the Hawkmen which chronicles Indy’s adventures with the Lafayette Escadrille and the French Secret Service. The documentaries the HAC provided material for are on The Red Baron, The Lafayette Escadrille, and The Life and Career of Anthony Fokker.

The first two volumes of the DVD series are available now, with the third volume, concerning Indy’s post World War I adventures, due out April 2008. The HAC is proud of the opportunity to have been a part of the making of these documentaries.

Shelving Capacity Increased

Last summer the University informed Special Collections that planning was beginning for the expansion of the McDermott Suite on the fourth floor of the library. Part of the expansion includes space currently used as one of our storerooms. That presented us with a major problem since there was no other available space for us to move the material.

The solution was to purchase shelving for our two remaining storage areas so that we could better utilize the space we had left. Southwest Solutions, a local vendor that specializes in library and archives storage, was selected. The price, which included the shelving units plus installation, was $17,406.99. While a good price, there was not enough money in either the Special Collections or McDermott Library's budget to cover the cost. Dr. Sall, Dean of Libraries, notified Dr. Robert Nelsen, Vice Provost, and gave him a copy of the bid.

The University approved and covered the cost. Southwest Solutions installed the shelving on Feb. 13-14. Staff is busily filling the new shelves that are more efficient than those in use in the archives room. They are taller and can accommodate three banker’s boxes, or eight manuscript boxes per shelf, instead of 2 banker’s boxes and six manuscript boxes with the existing units. They have increased our shelving capacity by over 1200 linear feet.

Thanks to Dr. Larry Sall, Dr. Robert Nelsen, The University, and Southwest Solutions, we now have shelving to accommodate the material in the fourth floor storage with shelving left for growth.