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November 24, 2003

### ***World War I: Introduction to Aerial Combat***

### **Explores Value and Role of Aviation During World War I**

**Main Library: Saturday, December 6, 2:00 p.m.**

Three local members of the League of World War I Aviation Historians will discuss **World War I: Introduction to Aerial Combat** at the Main Library, 800 Vine Street, on Saturday, December 6, 2:00 p.m. The program is the final in a series of programs that commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of flight. The panel discussion will include an informal overview of World War I history and the role aviation played during the war.

Colonel Steven Ruffin (USAF Ret.), Major Robert Kasprzak (USAF Ret.), and Jim Streckfuss, President of the League, will present the panel discussion on the role and value of aviation during the Great War. Colonel Ruffin and Mr. Streckfuss will explore a series of photos illustrating the men and aircraft that flew during the war, while Major Kasprzak will concentrate on research techniques, with a particular emphasis on tracing the ancestry of World War I veterans.

“The local chapter of the League of World War I Aviation Historians publishes the quarterly journal, *Over The Front*,” said Mr. Streckfuss. “It is an international organization that was organized in the U.S. in 1985 to perpetuate the history of military aviation in the First World War and the memory of those who served in aviation during the years 1914-1918. We have done this primarily through publication of *Over The Front*, although we have also sponsored eight international seminars on World War I aviation, beginning with our meeting at the History of Aviation Collection at the University of Texas at Dallas in 1988 where we hosted the last meeting of the final three surviving American WWI fighter aces: George Vaughn (13 victories), Arthur Raymond Brooks (6 victories) and Douglas Campbell (6 victories).”

#### **About the League of World War I Aviation Historians**

The League of World War I Aviation Historians has held seminars at the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, San Diego Aerospace Museum, Canadian National Air Museum in Ottawa (a joint venture with the Canadian Aviation Historical Society), National Air

& Space Museum in Washington, D.C., Champlin Fighter Museum in Mesa, Arizona, and the United States Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida.

It also sponsors the annual *Mike Carr Student Writing Contest*, named for member Mike Carr, whose generous support has kept the competition going for the last 15 years. Students at high schools and colleges throughout the world are invited to submit a paper on a WWI aviation topic, the best of which are awarded a small cash prize and considered for publication in *Over The Front*.

The League also awards the annual *Thornton D. Hooper Award for Excellence in Aviation History* to the best articles and artwork appearing in several categories in *Over The Front*. This award is named for Thornton D. Hooper, a pioneer American bombing pilot of the First World War, who lost his legs on a bombing mission while serving as commanding officer of the 11th Aero Squadron, United States Air Service, during the summer of 1918. Hooper's wartime career was chronicled in *The First Team*, a book published by the League. A contribution from the Hooper family established the award.

For more information, call (513) 369-6971.

✔ **Information about the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**

✔ **Interpreter available upon request for the hearing impaired. Please call 369-6944 (TDD 369-6946) at least one week before program.**