

**"ONE-OF-A-KIND LIBRARY IN SOUTHERN PINES"
USAF, AIR-GROUND OPERATIONS SCHOOL**

Tucked into one corner of the beautiful Highland Pines Inn in Southern Pines is a library that is the only one of its kind. The United States Air Force, sole tenant of the famous resort hotel in the Sandhills, is using the facility to teach officers of all services inter-service cooperation systems used in battle. In support of this activity, the library is bringing together books, documents, films, and pamphlets on tactical air operations.

The initial year has brought many diverse problems. In the recreational collection, which is housed with the technical materials, a method of notation was required that would make quick and accurate shelving attainable with untrained personnel. Since this collection will remain small, it was found feasible to use colored cellulose tapes to identify broad classes of books that are shelved together. Mysteries have red tape; westerns, orange tape; reference, brown tape; etc. This tape, applied on the book jacket and covered with a Plastic-Kleer cover has proved indestructible, uniform, attractive, and efficient in guiding airmen who are reshelving the volumes.



USAF Library in the Air-Ground Operations School, Southern Pines. View showing entrance, charging desk, and a portion of the recreational collection.

In the technical collection there have been other problems. No body of material or comprehensive bibliography on the subject covered had been assembled. Together with the staff officers, the librarian had to investigate the field to determine what kinds of things were available. Most of the useful materials are unpublished staff studies made by individuals or groups covering only one small phase of the subject. These manuscripts have been found in the libraries of military installations throughout the United States.

NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES

While no microfilm equipment is presently in use, it is hoped that eventually this will be provided. In the interim, a Contura copying device will be put in use to make copies of documents available only on a loan basis from other military libraries.

As would be expected, no special classification scheme existed for this body of materials. Investigations were made into standard schemes for possibilities of expansion but none was suitable. A new scheme had to be fabricated.

In the system adopted, twenty six letters of the alphabet are assigned to broad subdivisions within the field. When possible, the letter assigned alliterates with the subject; A—attack operations; E—equipment; N—night operations; etc. Following the letter are three numbers, a decimal, and two more numbers, as A 243.08. "A" indicates the record of an attack operation; the first number, 2, indicates that it is a record of air tactics; the second—third numbers, 43, indicate that the action was in Germany; the numbers beyond the decimal identify the type of document, in this case a personal account, .08. Geographical reference figures have been taken from the Dewey classification whenever possible. The form divisions, too, follow Dewey in many particulars. Expansion of the scheme is going on as items arrive, but it will be another year before its usefulness is fully determined.

Only the skeleton of this library has grown. The school is waiting for some meat on the bones. As that time comes, more interesting problems will develop for this one-of-a-kind library in Southern Pines.

—CHARLES STEVENS, *Librarian*
USAF, Air-Ground Operations School
Southern Pines