

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY

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www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org

more than a library...it's an

PRITZKER MILITARY LIBRARY HOSTS ALEX KERSHAW

Discusses The Few:

*The American "Knights of the Air" Who Risked Everything
to Fight in the Battle of Britain*

Chicago, IL, (November 8, 2006) – The Pritzker Military Library (www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org) announced a special edition of *Tonight at the Pritzker Military Library* for Tuesday, November 14, 2006, hosting noted historian Alex Kershaw. The author of two widely acclaimed and best-selling books, Kershaw will discuss his latest novel, *The Few: The American "Knights of the Air" Who Risked Everything to Fight in the Battle of Britain*. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. with a complimentary reception and book signing in the gallery, followed by the program and live webcast at 6:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and will be held in the Library's McHenry Atrium at 610 N. Fairbanks Court.

Kershaw's book explores the fast-paced events of the summer of 1940 in England. World War II had been under way for nearly a year and buoyed by his successes on the continent and the rapid fall of France, Hitler now began to plan an invasion of England. Though the United States was still a neutral country, a few Americans decided they could not remain on the sidelines and they joined the Royal Air Force. *The Few* tells the dramatic and unforgettable story of young American fliers who defied American neutrality laws and risked their citizenship to fight side-by-side with England's finest pilots. Flying the lethal and elegant Spitfire, they became "knights of the air." They duelled the skilled pilots of Germany's Luftwaffe in the skies over England, downing some of Hitler's most fearsome aces.

Alex Kershaw is the author of *The Bedford Boys* and *The Longest Winter*, and two biographies: *Jack London* and *Blood and Champagne: The Life and Times of Robert Capa*. He has been a journalist and screenwriter in Britain and now lives in Bennington, Vermont.

The free and open to the public program will take place at the Pritzker Military Library, 610 N. Fairbanks Ct., 2nd Fl. Advance reservations are strongly recommended. Call 312.587.0234 or email events@prtizkermilitarylibrary.org. For more information, visit: www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/events/2006-11-14-alexKershaw.jsp

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About the Pritzker Military Library

The Pritzker Military Library, a major library and cultural venue for military history and the representations of the Citizen Soldier in a democratic society, is located on Fairbanks Court at Ohio, and can be reached via the CTA's Red Line (Grand stop). Public parking is conveniently located at the corner of Fairbanks Court and Ohio. The library is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pritzker Military Library was founded in 2003 by Colonel (IL) James N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (Ret.) with a mission to acquire and maintain a collection of materials and develop appropriate programs to create a better understanding of the role of the Citizen Soldier in society. The Library has amassed a collection of more than 18,500 books and an extensive collection of audiovisuals, prints and antique military posters, in addition to a growing collection of personal papers. Author events, interviews with Medal of Honor recipients, and panel discussions on military topics highlight the Library's weekly schedule of free program offerings. Archived web casts and pod casts of over 100 public programs are available on the library website and through the online catalogue. Re-broadcasts of Library programs appear on WYCC Channel 20. Check local listings for schedule. Visit: www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org for more information.

For more information, call 312-587-0234 or visit:

www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org.

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