



FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

GENERAL
HENRY H. ARNOLD

U.S. AIR FORCE

General Henry H. Arnold

Gen. Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, was taught to fly at the Wright Brothers School in Dayton, Ohio, beginning in 1911.

From that 5th of July in 1912 when 1st Lt. H. H. Arnold, Infantry, along with two other officers, became the first to qualify for the rating of Military Aviator, until 1946, when he was Commanding General of the largest air force in history, Hap Arnold was earning the right to be called the U.S. Air Force's "foremost military aviator."

Today's Air Force bears the characteristic mark of Hap Arnold, who, as its Chief from September 1938 until 1946, helped form it into a global air force of more than 2,300,000 men and some 80,000 aircraft. It was a combat force so effective against the enemy in Europe, the Far East and the Pacific that it had to be recognized as a Service of importance equal to the land and sea forces - and two years after the war it was made a separate department, equal in stature with the Army and the Navy.

"Hap" Arnold had been near the center of the decades-long campaign of the air arm for autonomy, but he had cautioned against attempting separation from the Army without an orderly transition to a point where it could carry the full airpower load. He had known Brig. Gen. William (Billy) Mitchell in Washington in 1912 and served with him in 1917 and again in 1925 when Arnold was Chief of the Information Division in the Office of Chief of the Air Corps under Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick. Arnold had been a strong supporter of Mitchell before, during and after the court-martial of that fiery advocate of autonomous airpower.

In fact, Arnold's support of Mitchell's cause resulted in Arnold's transfer from Washington in 1926

to command the 16th Observation Squadron at Fort Riley, Kansas. During the next 10 years Arnold served at several bases, including Wright Field, Ohio, and March Field, California. He was called to Washington in 1936 to be Assistant Chief of the Air Corps under Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover. Ahead of him were the most eventful 10 years of his life-and of the Air Force. Behind him were more than 32 years of military experience beginning with his years as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy in 1903.

Arnold's experience before 1936 had been primarily with the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps as flight instructor, executive officer, supply officer, information officer, commander. As a pioneer pilot, many of Arnold's early flights were firsts either in altitude, distance or purpose. In 1912, for example, he made the first radio observation of artillery fire at Fort Riley and during a period from 1922 to 1924 he initiated air patrol of forest areas in California and conducted mid-air refuelings. In July and August 1934, he commanded a flight of 10 Martin B-10s from Bolling Field, D.C. to Fairbanks, Alaska and back. He was awarded the MacKay Trophy for his feats in 1912 and in 1934 - the first man to win it, and the only man to win it twice.

The kind of Air Force that was developed between 1939 and 1946, and all that it achieved, are evidence of Hap Arnold's facility for picking the right men to get unprecedented tasks done; for inspiring and sometimes goading these men to surmount great obstacles; and for convincing Government and industrial leaders of extraordinary actions to be taken.

During World War II General Arnold involved himself personally in countless aspects of the

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day-today operations of the Air Force. He flew frequently to bases in the United States and throughout the world. From December 1941 until the war ended in 1945, he directly participated in the formation of grand strategy as an active member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and of the U.S.-British Combined Chiefs of Staff. His energy seemed limitless, although in 1945 he suffered a severe heart attack that impaired his activities.

In his Report to the Secretary of War in November 1945, General Arnold observed that “the weapons of today are the museum pieces of tomorrow.” He spoke of the future of intercontinental missiles, orbiting space vehicles, nuclear powered vehicles and other systems of the future. He said: “National safety would be endangered by an air force whose

doctrines and techniques are tied solely to the equipment and processes of the moment. Present equipment is but a step in progress, and any air force which does not keep its doctrines ahead of its equipment, and its vision far into the future, can only delude the Nation into a false sense of security.”

General Arnold retired on June 30, 1946. In 1949 Congress approved his appointment as the first General of the Air Force, a five-star grade. General Arnold is the only airman ever to have this rank.

Henry Harley Arnold, born in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, June 25, 1886, died at his ranch home near Sonoma, California, on January 15, 1950.

The Falcon Foundation

We are proud and honored to establish this Gertrude Skelly Trust scholarship, in perpetuity, honoring General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, the first military aviator in the Army Air Corps, the Commanding General of the worlds largest and strongest Air Force, during World War II, and later our first and the only five star general of the Air Force.

Each year this scholarship will be provided to some deserving young person, from a career military family, who desires to attend the Air Force Academy and who seeks to benefit from the outstanding leadership, foresight, great strength and high ideals of General Arnold.

*Sincerely,
Gertrude Skelly Trust*



Trustee



Trustee



The Falcon Foundation is a 501(c)(3), non-profit foundation. Its purpose is to provide scholarships to College or Preparatory Schools for motivated young people seeking admission to USAFA and a career in the Air Force.

Although it is a separate organization, the Falcon Foundation works closely with USAFA.