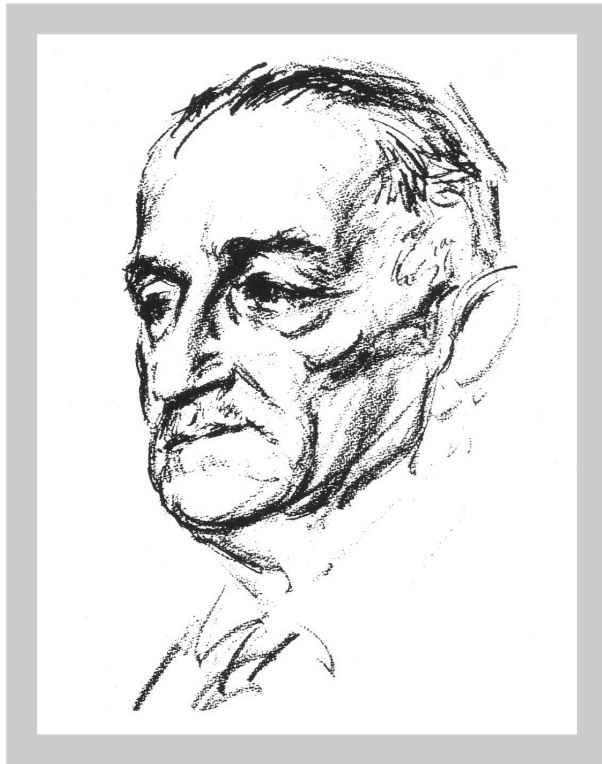




FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

GENERAL
CARL A. SPAATZ

U.S. AIR FORCE

General Carl A. Spaatz

The story of the life of General Carl A. Spaatz is the story of military aviation in the United States.

Carl Spaatz was born June 28, 1891, in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. In 1910, he was appointed to the United States Military Academy from which he was graduated June 12, 1914 and commissioned a 2nd Lt. of Infantry. He served with the Twenty-Fifth United States Infantry at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, from October 4, 1914, to October 13, 1915, when he was detailed as a student in the Aviation School at San Diego, California, until May 15, 1916.

In June 1916, General Spaatz was assigned at Columbus, New Mexico, and served with the First Aero Squadron under General John J. Pershing in the Punitive Expedition into Mexico.

General Spaatz went to France with the American Expeditionary Forces in command of the Thirty-First Aero Squadron. He was officially credited with shooting down three German Fokker planes, and received the Distinguished Service Cross. In 1919, he served in California and Texas and became Assistant Department Air Service Officer for the Western Department in July 1919.

General Spaatz commanded Kelly Field, Texas from October 5, 1920 to February 1921, served as Air Officer of the Eighth Corps Area until November 1921 and was commanding officer of the First Pursuit Group, first at Ellington Field, Texas, and later at Selfridge Field, Michigan, in June, 1925, and then served in the Office of the Chief of the Air Corps at Washington, D.C.

General Spaatz commanded the Army plane "Question Mark" in its refueling endurance flight

over Los Angeles and vicinity January 1-7, 1929, keeping the plane aloft a record total of 150 hours, 50 minutes and 15 seconds, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

From May 1, 1929, to October 29, 1931, General Spaatz commanded the Seventh Bombardment Group at Rockwell Field, California, and the First Bombardment Wing at March Field, California, until June 10, 1933. He then served in the Office of the Chief of Air Corps and became Chief of the Training and Operations Division.

In January 1942, General Spaatz was assigned as Chief of the AAF Combat Command at Washington. In May 1942, he became Commander of the Eighth Air Force, transferring to the European theater of operations in that capacity in July, 1942, to prepare for the American bombing of Germany. On July 7, he was appointed commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Forces in the European theater in addition to his duties as commander of the Eighth.

On December 1, 1942, General Spaatz became commanding general of the Twelfth Air Force in North Africa. In February 1943, he assumed command of the Northwest African Air Force, which he organized.

After Rommel's Afrika Korps had been driven out of the North of Africa and the invasion of Italy was launched, General Spaatz became deputy commander of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, including the 12th Air Force in Africa and the 15th Air Force and Royal Air Force in Italy. He returned to England in January 1944 to command the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe, which he headed throughout the pre-invasion period and the ensuing campaign which culminated with the

General Carl A. Spaatz

utter defeat of Germany. His service in Africa won an award of the Distinguished Service Medal, and the accomplishments of his Strategic Air Forces in 1944 earned him the Robert J. Collier Trophy for that year.

General Spaatz received a temporary promotion to General on March 11, 1945 and was assigned to Air Force headquarters in Washington in June 1945. The following month he assumed command of the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific, with headquarters on Guam. There he supervised the final strategic bombing of Japan by the B-29, including the two atomic bomb missions. He was present at all three signings of unconditional surrender by the enemy, at Rheims, at Berlin, and at Tokyo.

In February 1946, he was nominated to become commander of the Army Air Forces. In Septem-

ber 1947, he was appointed by President Truman as the First Chief of Staff of the new United States Air Force.

General Spaatz retired with the rank of General on June 30, 1948.

General Spaatz has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Bronze Star Medal. His foreign honors include a Grand Officer of the French Legion of Honor, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, and a Grand Commander of the British Empire, Russia's Second Order of Suvorov and Poland's Polonia Restituta, Commander's Cross with Star.

Dear General Smith:

General Spaatz was the first chief of staff of the United States Air Force when it was established as a separate and co-equal military service with the Army and Navy. He was not only the first chief, but also had a considerable reputation in leadership and strategic thought in time of war when the U.S.A.F. was carving out its right to stand and fly on its own. We feel that any young man or woman in the future who will be named the winner of the General Carl A. Spaatz Scholarship will feel annointed, spotlighted and made responsible for as large a niche as he or she can manage in the U.S.A.F. historical parade.



*Charles B. Thornton
Chairman of the Board
Litton Industries, Inc.*



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.