

ARNOLD, General Henry H.  
COMMANDING GENERAL, AAF

5 STARS

First airman to achieve the rank of General and one of the nation's first military pilots, Gen. Arnold serves on the Combined Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gen. Arnold was born in Gladwyne, Pa., June 25, 1886. He graduated from the U. S. Military Academy and was commissioned 2nd Lt. Inf. June 14, 1907; served in the Philippines; was detailed to the Signal Corps in April, 1911. After completing flying instruction at Dayton, Ohio, in June, 1911, Gen. Arnold became an instructor at the Signal Corps Aviation School; he was promoted to 1st Lt. in April, 1913. In February, 1917, after serving in the Philippines and California, he went to the Panama Canal Zone to organize and command the aviation service there. He was promoted to Capt. in May, 1916; to Maj. (temp.) in June, and to Col. (temp.) in August, 1917.

With U. S. entry into the World War, Gen. Arnold was placed in charge of the Information Service, Aviation Division, Signal Corps; later appointed Executive Officer; then, Assistant Director, Office of Military Aeronautics. In 1925 he became Chief, Information Division, Office Chief of Air Corps. He commanded Air Corps troops at Ft. Riley, 1926 to 1928, graduated from the Command and General Staff School in June, 1929, and until 1936 held command posts at Fairfield, Ohio, and at March Field, Calif. Gen. Arnold received the 1934 Mackay Trophy award in recognition of his leadership of the U. S. Army Alaskan flight of that year. He was promoted to Brig. Gen. (temp.) in February, 1935.

Service as Assistant Chief of the Air Corps was followed by appointment as Chief of the Air Corps, Sept. 29, 1938. He was designated Acting Deputy Chief of Staff for Air in October, 1940, and appointed Chief of the AAF in June, 1941. He became a permanent Brig. Gen. in December, 1940; permanent Maj. Gen., February, 1941; Lt. Gen. (temp.), December, 1941. When the War Department was reorganized March 9, 1942, Gen. Arnold became Commanding General of the AAF; in March, 1943, he was promoted to General (temp.). Ratings: Command Pilot, Aircraft Observer, Technical Observer. Decorations: DFC, DSM, Air Medal.



C.O., "HAP"

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