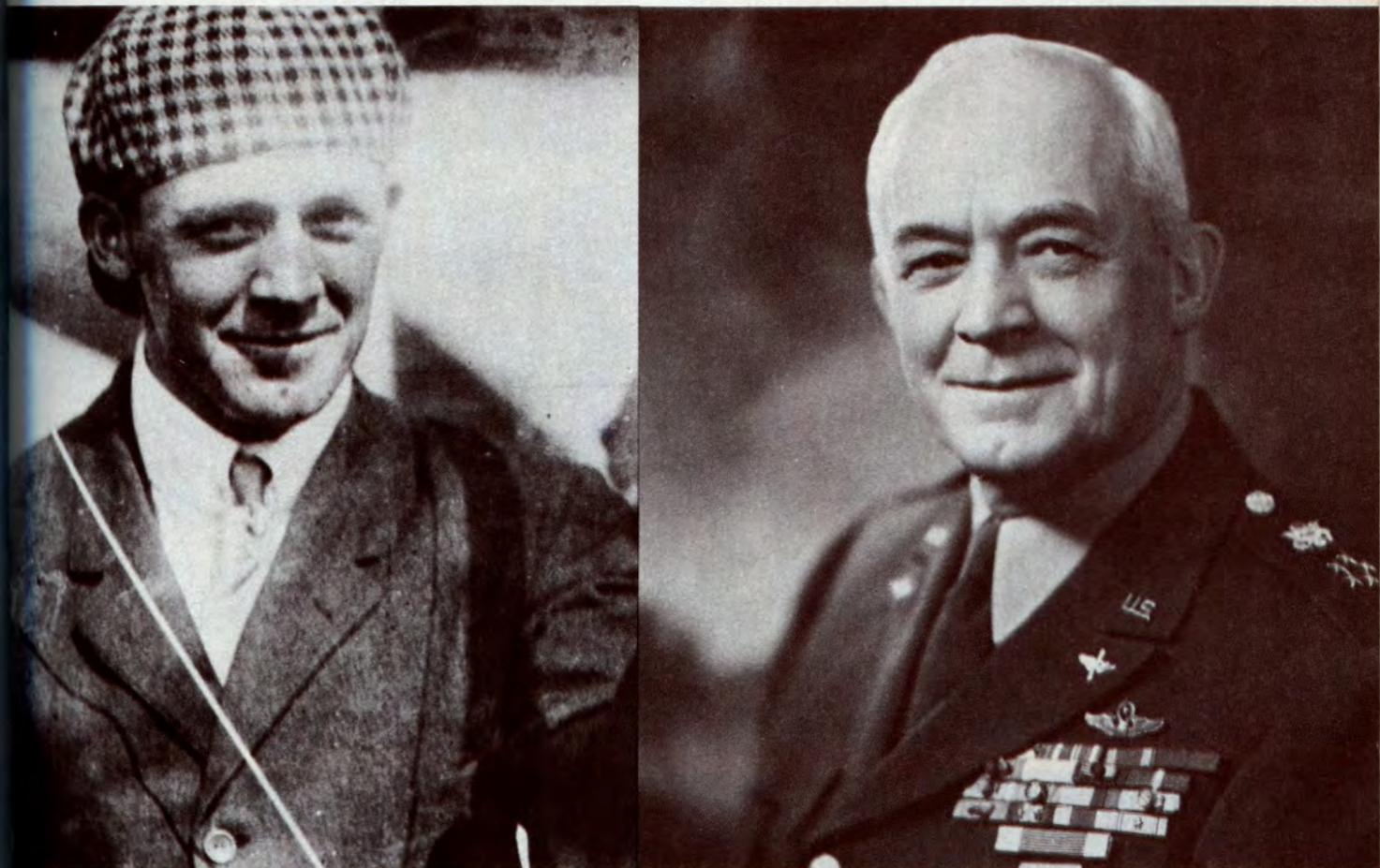# The 1986 AFA National Convention pays special honor to Hap Arnold on the centennial of his birth.

A SPECIAL REPORT

ARNOLD

Henry H. "Hap" Arnold at the beginning and the end of his career. On the left is twenty-five-year-old Lieutenant Arnold in 1911, while on the right is General of the Air Force Arnold near the end of his all-too-brief sixty-four-year life.

'As Commander of the Army Air Forces during World War II, General Henry H. Arnold gave his nation outstanding service. To him fell the mission of building America's airpower for a global war in which victory or defeat depended on control of the skies. He fulfilled his mission in a manner that overwhelmed this nation's enemies and awed its allies. . . ."

By no means an exaggeration, this accolade is contained in the citation that "Hap" Arnold received on being awarded a second Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished Service Medal in October 1945. The citation captured the essence of General Arnold's incalculable contribution to the United States and to the US Air Force, which would come into being two years later, thanks to the foundation that he had laid for it by his leadership of the USAAF.

Paying tribute to General Arnold's "wide knowledge of the employment of airpower," the citation also took note of his genius in having marshaled the resources and ingenuity of the US aircraft industry to build the bombers and fighters that would "sweep the skies of the enemy and deny him mobility on the surface" in the "great, decisive, three-dimensional battles of World War II."

We on AIR FORCE Magazine are proud to recall that General Arnold, who died in January 1950, not long after having been appointed the first (and only) General of the Air Force,

recognized the need for our publication early in World War II and found time to foster it.

James H. Straubel, wartime Editor of AIR FORCE Magazine and later the Executive Director of the newly formed Air Force Association and Editor and Publisher of AIR FORCE Magazine, tells that story as follows:
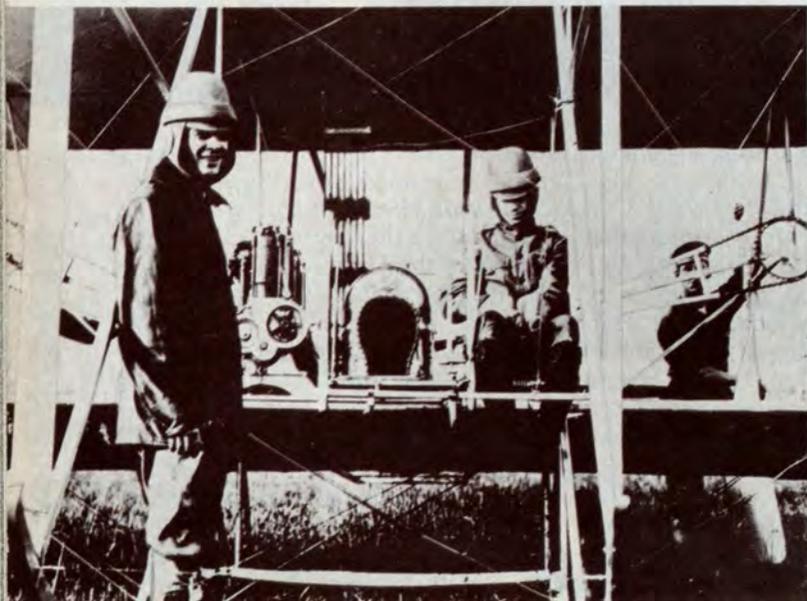
"General Hap Arnold was, in effect, the first Publisher of AIR FORCE Magazine when it was created during World War II as the Official Service Journal of the US Army Air Forces. More than two decades earlier, while doing a routine Washington tour in the Information Office of the old Army Air Service, General Arnold had been, in fact, Editor of the mimeographed monthly newsletter that preceded the magazine. Some years later, while 'exiled' at Fort Riley, Kan., for his support of Billy Mitchell, General Arnold had written a couple of books for young readers.
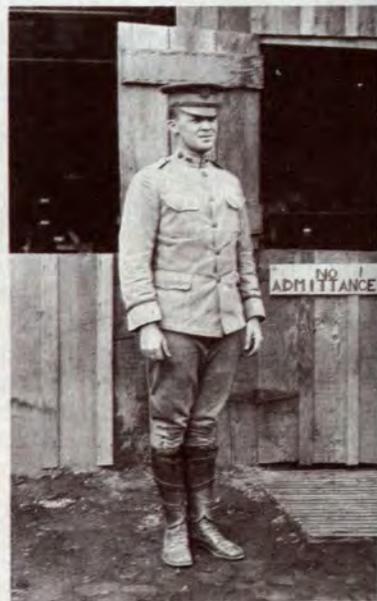
"This pilot-General-writer-editor wasn't, of course, listed on the masthead as publisher of the new AIR FORCE Magazine when it was introduced in December of 1942. Indeed, this official publication had no masthead. But the magazine was his 'baby,' established to help keep the troops, almost all of them raw recruits, abreast of that military force taking shape as airpower. 'I want a first-class, highly readable, slick paper magazine with worldwide circulation,' he told this Second Lieutenant after I had been tagged as

In July 1934, then-Lt. Col. Henry Arnold led a flight of Martin B-10 bombers from Bolling Field, D. C., to Fairbanks, Alaska, to test the idea of reinforcing outlying possessions by air. Colonel Arnold (standing under the bombardier's window) was joined on the flight by then-Lt. Nathan F. Twining (front row, third from left), who later became USAF Chief of Staff and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

LEFT: In 1912, 2d Lts. H. H. Arnold and Thomas DeWitt Milling, two of the Signal Corps's first aviators, pose with one of the two airplanes the Army had at the time. Arnold was awarded the very first Mackay Trophy that year.
RIGHT: Promoted to captain in 1916, Arnold became the supply officer of the newly formed Aviation School at San Diego, Calif. A year later he would be promoted to major.

Editor, then added with a penetrating smile, 'and the best of its kind.'

"General Arnold, with all his responsibilities as Commanding General, kept a close watch on each issue of the magazine. On an informal but well-established basis, and to the displeasure of the military hierarchy, I reported directly to the General. We discussed specific articles, production problems, personnel requirements—the whole bit. But he never dictated terms.

"In emergencies, and there were plenty of them, when I needed a fast response from the Publisher, Mrs. Arnold came to the rescue. She would stick my notes to the General on his bedroom mirror which, she laughingly assured me, got a lot of his attention. He was a handsome man, and he knew it. The mirror told him so. The mirror also told him what it took to keep AIR FORCE Magazine looking good. All my notes got answered—without a miss. If the magazine's initial flights were ego trips of sorts, so be it.

They got the job done, and that's what General Hap Arnold was all about."

It certainly was—all the way through Hap Arnold's illustrious military career that began with his graduation from the US Military Academy as a second lieutenant of infantry on June 14, 1907, eleven days shy of his twenty-first birthday, that spanned two world wars and airpower's coming of age, and that established him as a legendary US commander in his own time. ∎

LEFT: Always one to get out with the troops, Arnold, now a lieutenant general, talks to a group of airmen in Egypt in 1943. RIGHT: The next year, General Arnold was in the Pacific theater, on Guam, talking with SSgt. Leo F. Fliess about B-29 maintenance. Maj. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, in one of the few pictures without his characteristic cigar, can be seen over General Arnold's shoulder.

LEFT: In 1935, Arnold was awarded his second Mackay Trophy for the 1934 B-10 flight to Alaska. General Arnold, next to the trophy, is flanked by Reserve Maj. Jimmy Doolittle and Brig. Gen. Oscar Westover. RIGHT: In 1949, just a few months before his death, General Arnold traveled from his Sonoma Valley ranch to address the San Francisco Squadron's Air Force Day luncheon.