



GENERAL HENRY H. ARNOLD EDUCATION GRANT

in honor of

MAJOR GENERAL HOWARD CALHOUN DAVIDSON



Major General Howard Davidson had an enormous impact on the Air Force Aid Society as its first director, a position that he held for twenty years beginning in 1946. The Society was created to help with the inevitable hardships of military life. Under General Davidson's gentle guidance, the Society's emergency assistance disbursements grew from \$318,048 in 1946 to \$1,739,000 in 1965. From an austere beginning, education assistance also emerged as a significant program during his tenure. By the end of General Davidson's directorship, the education budget had grown to \$902,000 helping 1,439 college students.

General Davidson reached reciprocal agreements with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and Army Emergency Relief so that military men and women of any service could use the other's facilities for prompt aid in an emergency. Coupled with earlier Red Cross agreements, the result was a worldwide assistance network.

Howard C. Davidson was born in Wharton, Texas on September 15, 1890. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1913. He also held an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Texas A&M College. General Davidson was a pioneer aviator who entered aviation training in 1915. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, General Davidson ran a preflight school for aviation cadets at Cornell University. He was then transferred to Europe, next to France training flying cadets, and then to Germany with the 7th Corps.

1941 brought a promotion to brigadier general and an assignment to command the 14th Fighter Wing at Wheeler Field. In 1943 he became Commander of 10th Air Force and additionally, in 1944 Commander of Strategic Air Force Eastern Command. One of General Davidson's most successful missions was the reopening of the Burma Road and the reconquest of Burma.

General Davidson's military decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart and several awards from foreign countries. Although he retired as director of the Aid Society in November 1966, he remained as Director Emeritus and regularly attended the Society's annual meetings. General Davidson passed away on November 7, 1984.