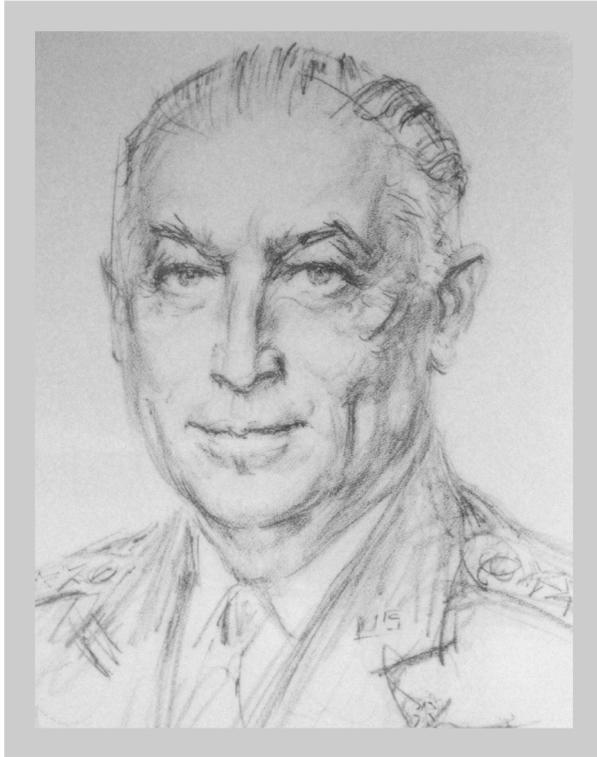




FALCON
FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP IN HONOR OF

GENERAL
EMMETT O'DONNELL, JR.

U.S. AIR FORCE

General Emmett O'Donnell, Jr.

General Emmett “Rosy” O'Donnell, who earned a DFC two days after the U.S. entry into World War II and led the first strategic air attack on the mainland of Japan, ranks as one of the most colorful and also most competent generals in the annals of the United States Air Force.

Emmett O'Donnell, Jr., was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 15, 1906. He attended West Point from 1924 to 1928, earning distinction there as a fine half-back. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry, but shortly afterwards was sent to flying training at Brooks and Kelly. He earned his wings in March 1930.

His first assignment was with the famous First Pursuit Group at Selfridge Field, an assignment that was marked by such unusual secondary duties as airmail pilot and assistant football coach of West Point. After six and a half years with the First Pursuit Group, Captain O'Donnell was assigned to the 18th Reconnaissance Group at Mitchell Field, Long Island, still carrying the additional duty of assistant West Point football coach.

While Japanese soldiers worked their way down the east coast of China in 1938, Captain O'Donnell studied airpower principles at the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field. But when the Japanese forces struck the Philippines on the morning of December 8th, Rosy O'Donnell was on hand as commander of the Fourteenth Bombardment Squadron. His B-17s fought gallantly with the meager U.S. air and ground forces on the islands in an effort that was, unfortunately, foredoomed to failure. Major O'Donnell earned the first DFC for an attack against a cruiser and its destroyer escort in the Japanese invasion fleet.

It would be almost three years before he would help to revenge that invasion by leading a strike of 111 B-29s against industrial targets in Tokyo. That strike on the 24th of November 1944 was the first air strike on Tokyo since Doolittle's raid in April 1942.

The three middle years of the war were varied ones for Rosy O'Donnell, but always ones in which he was involved in “first” things. After evacuating his squadron from the Philippines to Java, he was assigned as operation officer of the early Far East Air Force. Again Japanese invaders forced his withdrawal, this time to India, where he served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of the new Tenth Air Force. General H.H. Arnold then recalled Colonel O'Donnell to Washington in the spring of 1943 to be a member of Arnold's special Advisory Council.

A year later he was back in command of a combat unit, this time the 73rd Bomb Wing. For six months the wing trained at Salina, Kansas. Then they headed for Saipan to carry out that first B-29 attack on Tokyo, an attack that opened the strategic air campaign which ended in the Japanese surrender of August 14, 1945.

Like his war years, General O'Donnell's post-war years were marked by a variety of assignments, including still more “firsts.” He served, for example, as Deputy Chief of the Engineering Division of the Air Technical Service (later AMC). But when the Air Force became an independent Service in September of 1947, the man who was named to be its first Deputy Director of Public Relations was the major general with the ready wit but also the right answers, Rosy O'Donnell. Then came a few months in which he served as

General Emmett O'Donnell, Jr.

a member of several joint defense boards dealing with Canadian-U.S., Mexican-U.S., and Brazilian-U.S. military affairs.

In the fall of 1948, O'Donnell was back as a commander of an operational unit, this time the 15th Air Force at Colorado Springs. When the North Koreans invaded their neighbors to the south, Rosy O'Donnell and a nucleus of his 15th Air Force staff were rushed to Japan to organize the FEAF Bomber Command (Provisional). Thirty-six hours after his first B-29 wings arrived in Japan, they carried out a maximum effort in Korea.

After the Korean Conflict, O'Donnell was returned to Washington, promoted to lieutenant

general and named Deputy Chief of Personnel, a post he held with distinction for six years. In August of 1959 he was appointed Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and promoted to full general.

Upon his retirement in July 1963, President Kennedy fittingly bestowed upon General O'Donnell the Distinguished Service Medal for long and distinguished service to his country.

Few generals have lived and worked closer to their men. Still fewer have inspired in their men more devoted service.

Dear General Bellis:

It is my pleasure to provide a Scholarship in Perpetuity honoring a great friend, General Emmett "Rosy" O'Donnell, Jr. The nickname "Rosy" was most appropriate. He was always courteous, friendly, jovial, and very good-natured, but in combat he was very strong, capable, and a courageous leader. His military achievements during WWII, the Korean War, and during the peace years speak for themselves. Following WWII, it was my privilege to serve with Rosy and to have a mobilization assignment as his Deputy which gave me the opportunity to appreciate his qualities of leadership, integrity, and devotion to his country.

Our hope is that the fortunate young person who receives this scholarship will read about and be inspired by the life and achievements of Rosy O'Donnell.



Harold C. Stuart



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.