



*Man's Flight
Through Life Is
Sustained By The
Power Of His
Knowledge*

TO HONOR

RALPH K. PATTON

CAPTAIN, US ARMY AIR FORCES

1920-2011

Ralph K. Patton enlisted in the US Army Air Forces in 1942, earned his pilot's wings, and flew B-17s with the Eighth Air Force. Shot down over France in 1944, he and the surviving members of his crew were assisted by the French underground and later evacuated to England by British intelligence. Following the war he held various executive positions in the coal industry and was a founding member and long-time president of the US and Canadian Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society. In 1994 he began donating items from his personal collection on escape and evasion to the Air Force Academy Library. Those initial gifts were the genesis of the extraordinarily rich Captain Ralph K. Patton Escape and Evasion Collection that is available to cadets and scholars in the Library's Clark Special Collections Branch. Mr. Patton died on 31 January 2011. He is survived by his wife, two children, and five grandchildren.

Dedicated Patriot, Respected Leader, and Esteemed Friend

By: The Friends of the Air Force Academy Library