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He can't be a real general. He said please.

Fiercely loyal, understanding

Colleagues admired Bradley

By DOUG DesGEORGES
Times staff writer

LAS CRUCES — Two men, one who studied with and taught Gen. Omar Bradley, and the other, who served under him, said they admired him and were glad they knew him.

Retired Col. A.W. Chilton, 94, who taught Bradley English at the U.S. Military Academy and studied with him at infantry school in Fort Benning, Ga., said Bradley was one of the top students of his class in infantry school.

And retired Lt. Col. Elliott Gose, 77, who served under Bradley in the 422nd Regiment, remembered Bradley as a "very understanding man."

"General Bradley would talk to anyone as an equal," Gose said. "And if a mistake was made and you had a good reason for it, he was very understanding."

Chilton said he did not remember Bradley as a student at West Point because he was teaching many students at the time, but said he got to know him when they attended infantry school.

"We lived in Columbus, Ga., and had to commute to Fort Benning," Chilton said. "I knew him best there. I was in the same car pool. He was a very able student. I think his grades were all As."

Chilton said he did not remember Bradley when he was a student at West Point because "there were so many of them (students). Classes were taught in sections, and each instructor taught each section. Sections were rotated so that no instructor taught anyone for too long."

Chilton said he last saw Bradley when he came to El Paso to inspect Fort Bliss. Chilton said Bradley inspected Fort Bliss in "1946 or 1947."

Chilton was an English professor at New Mexico State University at the time and Bradley asked to see him.



A.W. CHILTON
... "He was a very able student"

"My wife knew his first wife very well," Chilton said. "We talked for about 45 minutes before he had to continue his duties."

Gose said Bradley was fiercely loyal to his troops and his troops were equally loyal to him.

"They were his soldiers and nobody had better mess with them," Gose said. "He didn't want to see anyone die. And the loyalty he gave to his men, he got back tenfold."

Both Chilton and Gose are retired from the Army and both live in the Good Samaritan Village in Las Cruces.

"I've got to get over the Sandy

(Chilton)," Gose said. "I want to wait a couple of days before I go. This (Bradley's death) has upset me more than anything."

Gose said Bradley was an unassuming man.

"He never boasted," Gose said. "But he was so far ahead of people who were put ahead of him, there was no comparison."

Chilton said Bradley's abilities as a student were evident at West Point.

"He was always in the upper quarter of his class," Chilton said. He has a book listing all graduates of the academy and the book confirmed Bradley's standing when Bradley graduated.

Gose said he always admired Bradley.

"I always figured Bradley was the best in all areas," he said. "When it came to tactics and strategy, none could come up to General Bradley. I think the war would have been over two years earlier if Bradley had been in charge."

Chilton said he has been the only living member of his West Point class for three years. He said there are only four older graduates of West Point.

Gen. Bradley

4-10-81

'He was the greatest'

EL PASO, Texas (UPI) — Vintage cannons boomed 19 times over Fort Bliss Friday in honor of Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley, the last of America's five-star generals whose body lay in a military chapel for public mourning.

About 300 soldiers and civilians stood at attention in the bright sunlight as the wind pushed the smoke from the black powder charges toward the Spanish-style Central Chapel.

Inside were the remains of the "GI's general," a man whose military career covered the major part of the Twentieth Century and touched the lives of millions.

"He was the finest gentleman that ever walked," said Warren Van Vorst, a 30-year Army veteran who visited the chapel at midmorning to honor the man who twice was his commander.

"He was a soldier's officer. In my opinion he was the greatest — in World War II or after."

Bradley, 88, died Wednesday in New York City after becoming ill while attending a dinner at the fashionable 21 Club.

At the request of the general's wife, Kitty, the body was returned to El Paso Thursday for the three-day public viewing.

As Van Vorst spoke in a whisper outside the 50-year-old chapel, the Old Guard — a seven-member team representing all branches of the armed forces — kept vigil inside over the flag-draped closed casket.

At 30-minute intervals the Old Guard changed members in precision movement, drawing new contingents from an 82-member group flown to El Paso from Washington, D.C.

The changing of the guard will continue until early Monday when Bradley's body will be flown to Washington to lie in state in the National Cathedral. He will be buried Wednesday in Arlington National Cemetery.

Most of the people who came to the chapel and then left after paying brief homage praised Bradley as "a soldier's soldier," "a great leader" and "a patient and understanding man."

Bradley, who was also the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was prouder of his nickname the "GI's General" than he was of his rank.

"They consider me one of them," he told UPI in 1969.

Bradley led American forces ashore at Normandy during the D-Day invasion of World War II and commanded four armies in their sweep across

Europe against the German Third Reich.

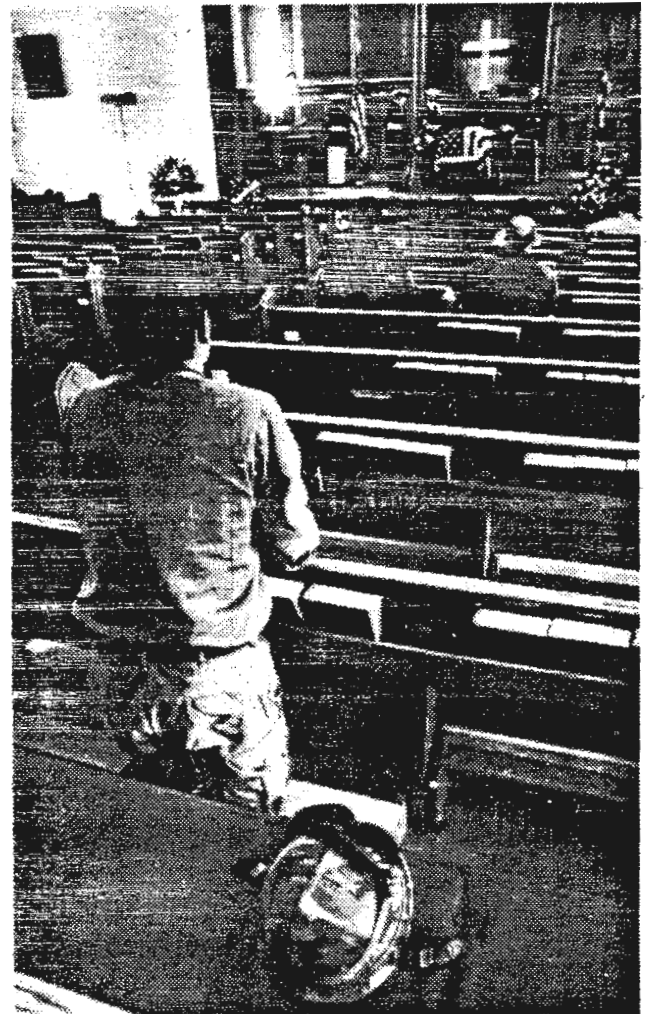
Albert Boyce of El Paso, who served under Bradley in the mid 1940s in Europe, said, "He was a hell of a soldier."

"I served under the general in Europe. I was a PFC at the time but I still was one of his soldiers and I admired him greatly."

When Eisenhower — Bradley's classmate at West Point — was supreme allied commander, Bradley was field commander for American forces that stormed ashore and opened the western front on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

On D-Day, Bradley was aboard the cruiser Augusta, which went to within 4,000 yards of the shore to help in the bombardment of German fortifications while American troops waded ashore at Utah and Omaha beaches.

He was then placed in command of more than 1.3 million American combat troops in four armies that swept across France and into Germany and played a vital role in ending Adolf Hitler's Reich.



UPI Telephoto

A young infantry soldier kneels to pay his last respects to the "G. I. General" as the body of General of the Army Omar Bradley lies in state in a small chapel at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas.

EL PASO HERALD
April 10, 1981

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Omar N. Bradley

GEN. OMAR N. BRADLEY — general of the army, the “GI’s general,” a world hero, the nation’s treasure, a “living legend,” the only five-star general, commander of the largest American military force in history, the leader who played a major role in the Allied victory in World War II.

He was all of these — and more — when he died Wednesday night in New York City at the age of 88.

Among the many “mores” was his residency in El Paso. Since 1977, when Gen. and Mrs. Bradley moved from California to the former official residence of the commanding general of Beaumont Army Medical Center, this city has had a bonafide “Very Important Person.”

We felt truly honored when he chose to come here, hoping that the warm, dry climate would alleviate some of his suffering from arthritis. This condition affected especially his knees, causing him to use a wheelchair most of the time.

Once here, Gen. and Mrs. Bradley took active roles in the

community, making frequent appearances at events they deemed worthwhile, both military and civilian. He moved on all levels of the military, an inspiration to young GIs, a model for career officers.

Patriotism and honor were synonymous with Omar Bradley and this was the flavor, the tuning, the atmosphere he created at civilian functions. He was more than generous in sharing his time and energy with El Pasoans, and we are better for his presence.

Gen. Bradley was a compassionate man who enjoyed people. This, added to his brilliance at military strategy, his ability to envision the goals and expedite their achievement, made his life and his career so exceptional.

Gen. Bradley is gone now; the last of the generals who achieved greatness in World War II. He is no longer a living legend but the legends of his life will live, his deeds of leadership stamped indelibly on the pages of American history.

Honor guard watches over Bradley's casket

Throughout the night, the presidential honor guard, representing all five branches of the armed services, stood in the spartan Fort Bliss Chapel No. 1 to guard the flag-draped casket of the man known as the "G.I.'s General."

The body of General of the Army Omar Bradley was returned to his adopted home Thursday for the first of the nation's farewell salutes to the country's last five-star general, who died of a cardiac arrest Wednesday at the age of 88.

SIX FUNERAL sprays were the only flowers inside the Spanish-style chapel on the military base where Bradley came in his later years because "he wanted to be around young troops."

About 250 people came to view the casket Thursday night. Fort Bliss officials attributed the small number to the fact that 24-hour public viewing had not been well-known. However, they expected many people to pay their respects before Bradley's body was flown to Washington Monday to lie in state in the National Cathedral.

The Fort Bliss chapel will remain open 24 hours a day until just prior to the removal of Bradley's body back to Washington, D.C.

ON TUESDAY, the general's body will be borne through downtown Washington on an Army caisson to Arlington National Cemetery, where he will be buried with full national honors.

Bradley led American forces ashore at Normandy during the D-Day invasion of World War II and commanded four armies in their sweep across Europe against the German Third Reich. He was pronounced dead at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in Manhattan after complaining of chest pains at a dinner at the 21 Club with his wife, Kitty, and three aides.

About 75 persons met the Victor VC-135, one of the president's fleet of aircraft, carrying Bradley's body to Texas when it touched down at El Paso International Airport, about three miles from Bradley's home on the east slope of the Franklin Mountains.

BRADLEY, WHO was also the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was prouder of his nickname the "GI's General" than he was of his rank.

"They consider me one of them," he told UPI in 1969.

A former aide to Bradley, George Raunan, said Thursday Bradley moved to El Paso in 1977 to be nearer the Army. Fort Bliss is a large training base where several Army schools are conducted.

"He wanted to be around young troops and to be a part of the military life," he said.

AND HE continued to be an inspiration for those young troops in El Paso and an instructor to more seasoned soldiers at the base.

"His theme was 'Know your job; never ask people to do things you cannot do yourself. Be seen by your soldiers.'"

Upon learning of Bradley's death, President Reagan issued a statement saying, "I join all Americans in mourning the death of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.

"For 69 years he wore the colors of an American soldier — with courage, integrity, professionalism and high moral, honor. Even as he rose in rank, humility never left his side. He was known as the 'G.I.'s general' because he was always, a G.I."

ARMY SECRETARY John Marsh Jr. mourned Bradley's death as "a loss not only for this nation but for all freedom-loving people of the world."

"His service exemplified our nation's highest standard of leadership," Marsh said. "He takes his place in history as a great patriot, a peerless military leader and an individual dedicated to the cause of peace in the world."

When Eisenhower — Bradley's classmate at West Point — was Supreme Allied Commander, Bradley was field commander for American forces that stormed ashore and opened the western front on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

ON D-DAY, Bradley was aboard the cruiser Augusta, which went within 4,000 yards of the shore to help in the bombardment of German fortifications while American troops waded ashore at Utah and Omaha beaches.

He was then placed in command of more than 1.3 million American combat troops, the most soldiers in combat ever to serve under one American commander, in four armies that swept across France and into Germany and played a vital role in ending Adolf Hitler's Reich.

As a five star general, Bradley remained on active duty until his death, stepping down as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff in 1953. In 1969 he headed the U.S. contingent that went to Normandy on the 25th anniversary of D-Day.

HE BECAME chairman of the board of Bulova and spent time in his later years between its New York headquarters and Los Angeles, where he built a home on the crest of a hill behind Sunset Boulevard.

Bradley assumed his rank in Washington society earlier in the year when he participated in President Reagan's inauguration Jan. 20, and welcomed the new commander-in-chief in a ceremony the night before.

Bradley was grand marshal of the inaugural parade and sat one row behind Reagan at the swearing-in at the Capitol.

Today, Fort Bliss officials are planning a 19 gun salute, at noon at Memorial Circle adjacent to the chapel where Bradley's body lies in state. Memorial services are planned for Tuesday, at a time to be announced later.

They will be conducted at Howze Field, just north of Building No. 2 on Sheridan Road at Fort Bliss.

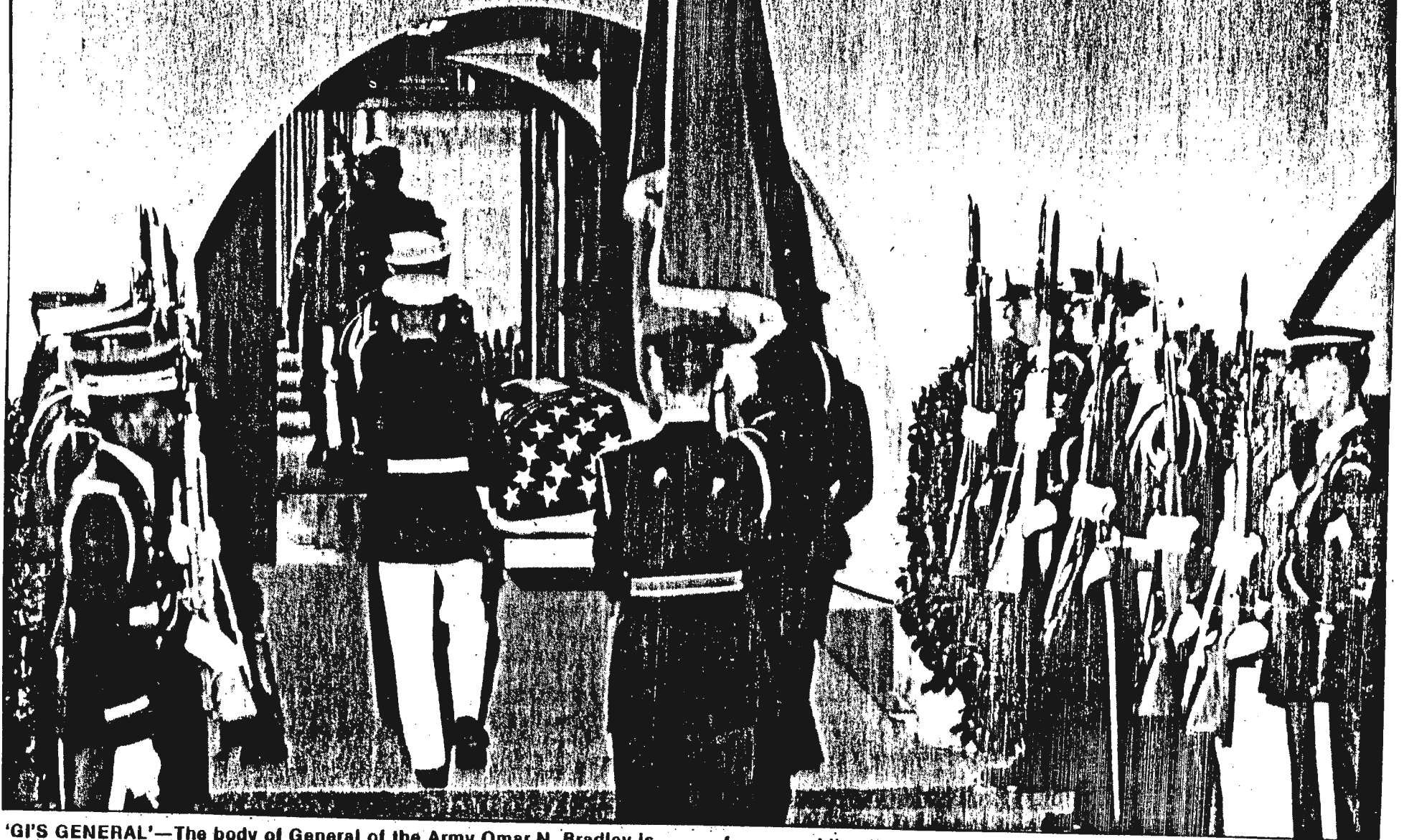


Photo by UPI

Hero's homecoming

The flag-draped coffin carrying the body of General of the Army Omar Bradley is borne by honor guard to Fort Bliss. The body will lie in state until Monday when it will be flown to Washington. A 19-gun salute in Bradley's honor will be fired at noon today at Fort Bliss. See story Page A-6.

Center Chapel



'GI'S GENERAL'—The body of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley is carried into Center Chapel at Fort Bliss to lay in state. The popular and

famous soldier died in New York April 8 and was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. (Photo by Rico Johnston)

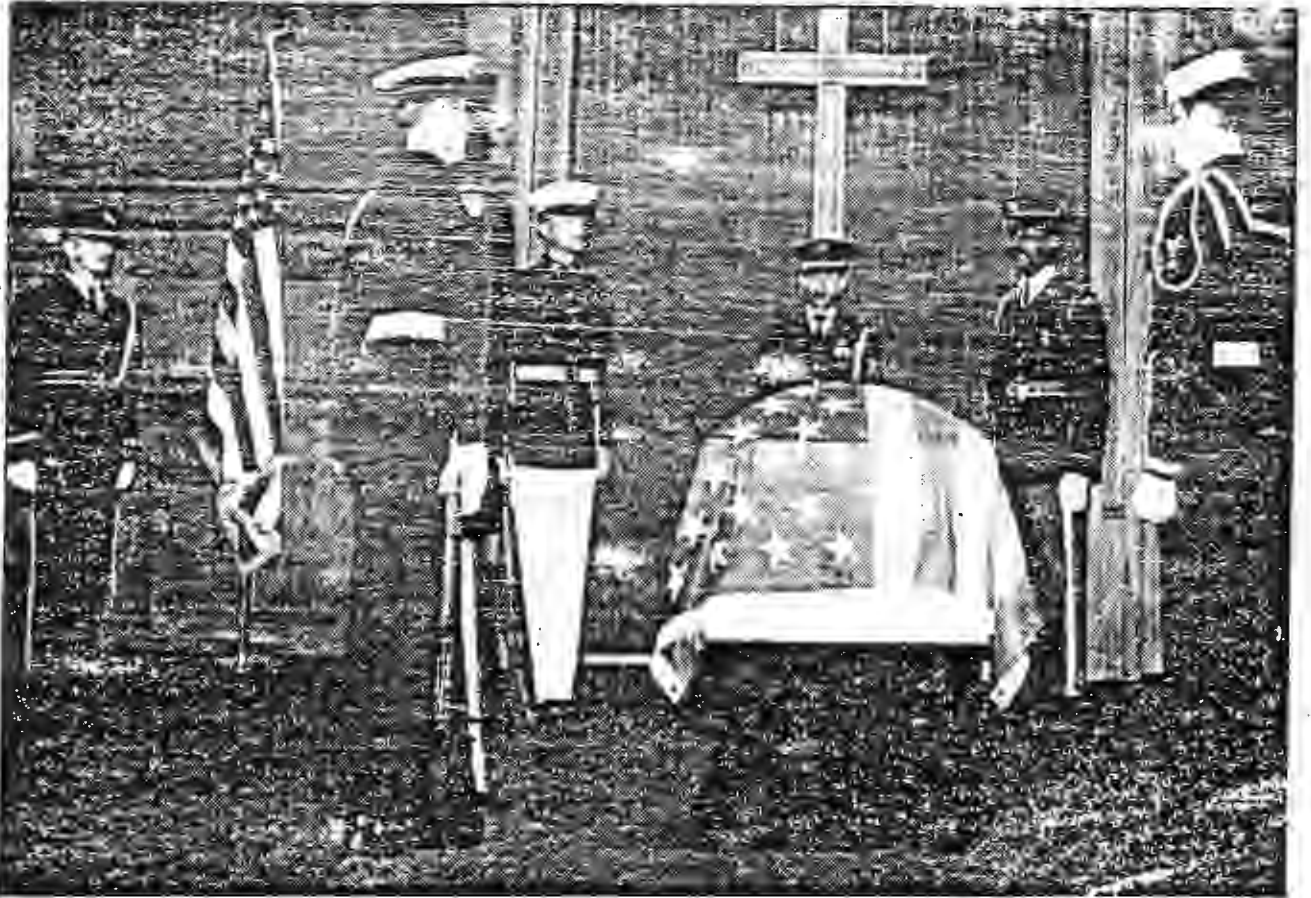


—(Times staff photo by Lance Murray)

Dutiful respects

Staff Sgt. James Pfister salutes as he passes the casket of General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley in Chapel No. 1 at Fort Bliss. A 19-gun salute was

fired Friday in honor of the nation's last five-star general, who died Wednesday night in New York City. Story, Page 7A.

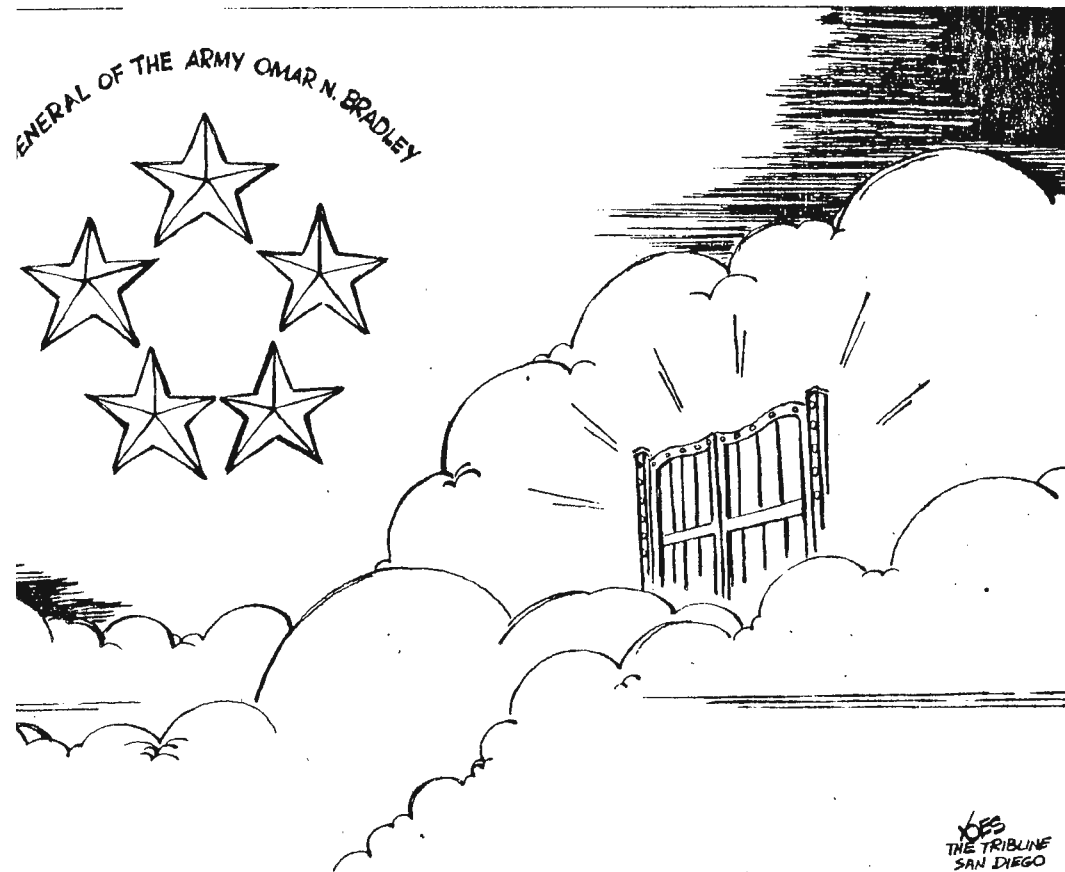


Herald-Post photo

Presidential honor guard

The presidential honor guard, representing all five branches of the armed services, stands beside the flag-draped casket of General of the

Army Omar Bradley in Fort Bliss Chapel No. 1. Bradley's body will lay in state at the chapel over the weekend. See story Page A-6.



JOE S.
THE TRIBUNE
SAN DIEGO

New constellation

'GI's general': final salute

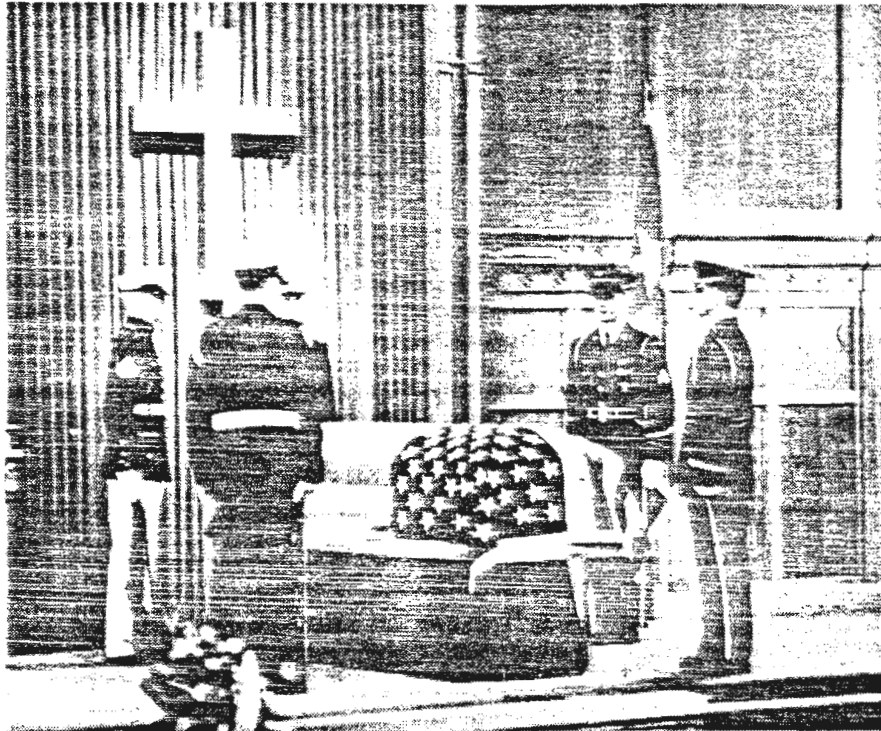
GENERAL of the Army Omar Bradley was a soldier's soldier.

Despite his rank — he was the last of the Army's five-star leaders — he won the hearts of his troops with his modesty and with his compassion and concern for their welfare. Famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle dubbed Bradley "the GI's general" and the label stuck throughout World War II.

Lanky, shy and given to casual dress, he left the headlines to his

more flamboyant colleagues. He was in the thick of the action, however, from Normandy to Berlin. His link-up with the Russians on the banks of the Elbe River in April 1945 signaled Hitler's defeat.

Although a successful warrior, his words on war will have a lasting impact. "For every man in whom war has inspired sacrificer, courage and love," he said, "there are many more whom it has degraded with brutality, callousness and greed."



LIES IN STATE — An honor guard stands by the casket of General

Omar Bradley at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, today. — UPI

BURIAL SCHEDULED TUESDAY

Ceremonies honor Bradley in Texas

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Soldiers stood at rigid attention and an Army band played "Nearer My God To Thee" as a military honor guard brought the flag-draped coffin of Gen. Omar N. Bradley back to the fort that had become his home.

A 19-gun salute and brief ceremony was planned at Fort Bliss today to honor the country's last five-star general, whose body will lie at the post's adobe chapel until Monday morning. Burial is to be Tuesday at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington.

The general's body was returned to Texas from New York aboard a presidential jet yesterday, with Bradley's widow, Kitty, accompanying the coffin.

Bradley, who was 88, died Wednesday night at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York after suffering a heart attack while attending a dinner.

Military leaders and Mrs. Bradley attended a brief private service here last night.

Later, soldiers and civilians filed past the closed casket in a quiet tribute to the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the last of the nation's great World War II commanders. He led American forces in the D-Day invasion at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

"For 69 years he wore the colors of an American soldier — with courage, integrity, professionalism and, above all, honor," President Reagan said yesterday. "Even as he rose in rank, humility never left his side. He was the 'GI's general' because he was, always, a GI."

Retired Gen. Mark W. Clark, the former World War II commander of U.S. forces in North Africa, said in New York that the death of his comrade-at-arms "came as a

"Brad's death has saddened me terribly," said Clark, who was to have met with Bradley yesterday for the first time in 10 years.

Clark remembered Bradley as a "quiet, knowledgeable person who inspired confidence" and said he "ranks with our greatest commanders of all time."

Bradley and his wife moved to Fort Bliss in November 1977 because of the El Paso area's climate. The general of the Army suffered from arthritis, and a series of strokes had left him crippled and in a wheelchair during his final years.

The easygoing, soft-spoken man became a local celebrity and was honored frequently in city ceremonies.

The GI general became attached to the soldiers at Fort Bliss, frequently appearing for parades and ceremonies, including graduation at the Sergeant Majors Academy.

Bradley's casket arrived in El Paso yesterday afternoon and was loaded into a hearse by an honor guard from the 3rd Guard special detachment before being taken to an El Paso funeral home.

Bradley's body will be flown to Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington, D.C., on Monday morning and will lie at the Bethlehem Chapel of the National Cathedral through Tuesday morning.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. San Diego time Tuesday, with graveside ceremonies at noon. Simultaneous ceremonies are scheduled Tuesday at Fort Bliss.

JIMMY JOHNSON '81
JACKSON DAILY NEWS



" 'COURSE, GEN'RAL BRADLEY, A LOT OF TH' GUYS AIN'T HERE YET, THANKS TO YOU."

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Bradley's body returns to El Paso before burial

EL PASO (AP) — The body of Gen. Omar N. Bradley — the nation's last five-star general — arrived here by presidential jet Thursday where it will lie in repose until Sunday.

The blue-and-white Boeing 707 touched down about 3 p.m. MST in the city where the "GI's general" and his wife Kitty had made their home since 1977.

In a short ceremony on a windy airport apron, the flag-draped silver casket bearing Bradley's body was loaded

aboard a limosine and taken to an El Paso funeral home.

The body was to be taken later to a chapel at nearby Fort Bliss, where it will be viewed by base dignitaries and the public through Sunday night.

Mrs. Bradley, helped from the plane by Air Force Master Sgt. John Kelly and a crew member, was wearing a dark brown dress and carrying a large handbag as she accompanied her husband's body.

She was greeted by Maj. Gen. John B.

Oblinger, commander of Fort Bliss, and his wife, Edie.

"She was pretty shaken up," Oblinger said. "She was very tired."

"I don't think she has gotten any rest at all," Mrs. Oblinger added.

Also deplaning were Bradley's aides, some of whom were still shaken by the general's death.

As nearby servicemen saluted crisply, Bradley's body was removed from the airplane by a color guard from the 3rd Guard special detachment.

The casket was lifted a truck with an elevator platform, which lowered it to the ground, and then carried to the waiting hearse.

The funeral procession included motorcycle policemen, squad cars and several vehicles carrying military personnel.

The motorcade took the general's body past flags hanging at half-staff in his memory. The general's death was mourned in El Paso, a city where he had been received as a local celebrity.

Friday, April 10, 1981 / Part II

Bradley's Body to Lie in State at Texas Base, Then Capital

From Times Wire Services

The body of Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley, the nation's last five-star general, was flown Thursday from New York to El Paso, Tex., to lie in state at the Army base that served as his last home.

Officials at Ft. Bliss said Bradley's body will lie in state at the main base chapel until Sunday night. On Monday it will be flown to Washington where it will lie in state at the National Cathedral.

On Tuesday, the general's body will be borne through the capital on an Army caisson to Arlington National Cemetery for burial with full military honors.

Flags fluttered at half staff Thursday at Army and Air Force bases and on American naval vessels throughout the United States and its territories in tribute to Bradley, the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Reagan Cites Humility

Bradley, who was 88, died Wednesday at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York after collapsing at the 21 Club, an East Side restaurant. Hospital officials said he died of cardiac arrest.

"For 69 years he wore the colors of an American soldier—with courage, integrity, professionalism and, above all, honor," President Reagan said Thursday in a statement. "Even as he rose in rank, humility never left his side. He was the 'GI's general' because he was, always, a GI."

A plane furnished by the White House flew Bradley's body from New York's Kennedy International Airport to El Paso. Accompanying the coffin were Bradley's widow, Kitty, and his aides.

The body was then taken to Ft. Bliss, where the Bradleys have lived since 1977.

"He was the epitome of a great soldier," said Gen. Chester Ward, commanding general of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center at El Paso.

A Man of Honor

In the period between the two world wars, the U.S. Army was an underfunded, unexciting, unappreciated institution. Promotion opportunities were severely limited; necessary modernization was retarded by miserly budget allotments; pay scales, never exorbitant, were slashed drastically with the onset of the Depression. "Not since the days of 1784 and the dissolution of the Continental Army," a historian wrote, "had Congress placed its regulars in such jeopardy." But somehow the regulars—many of them, anyway—stayed and soldiered on. It was to the country's good fortune.

Omar N. Bradley was one of those regulars who, like George C. Marshall and Dwight D. Eisenhower, soldiered on and so was ready, when the war came in 1941, to be moved into high command and help lead the long march to victory. Like many generals who emerged in World War II, Bradley had spent large parts of the interwar years studying at the Army's advanced schools of command. It was there that he honed the talents

that were to make him the brilliant tactician who played such a key role in the Allied reconquest of Western Europe.

Bradley, more than any other of the war commanders, was the soldier's soldier, caring for the well-being of his men and as sparing of their lives in combat as the ugly necessities of battle allowed, and it was because of that care that he earned their respect and affection. Modest, quiet, unflamboyant, Bradley neither sought the spotlight nor evaded the burdens of responsibility. In the postwar years, Bradley's abilities as a leader quickly carried him to the military summit, first as chief of staff and subsequently, in the trying years of the Korean War, to the chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs.

Dead now at 88, the last of the generals of the army, Omar Bradley will be remembered for both his military brilliance and his personal compassion. He served his country in uniform longer than any other man in its history, and in doing so added honor to the profession of arms.

Tributes Pour in as Bradley Goes Home

EL PASO—The body of Gen. Omar N. Bradley, the nation's last five-star general, was flown home by presidential jet yesterday as tributes to the late military leader and World War II hero poured in.

Flags fluttered at half staff at Army and Air Force bases throughout the United States and on Navy vessels around the world in honor of Bradley, 88, the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bradley died of cardiac arrest Wednesday at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City after collapsing at a military reunion at the 21 club.

After a public viewing in the main chapel at Fort Bliss, Bradley's body will be flown Monday to Washington to lie in state at the Washington Cathedral. A funeral service and burial in Arlington National Cemetery are scheduled for Tuesday.



Associated Press

An honor guard removes Gen. Bradley's casket from a presidential jet at El Paso.

Bradley to lie in state in El Paso, D.C.

WW II hero to be buried Tuesday in Arlington National Cemetery

By Bill Deener

Staff Writer of The News

Soldiers at Fort Bliss will offer final tributes Friday and through the weekend to Gen. Omar N. Bradley before his body is flown to Washington for burial in Arlington National Cemetery. Bradley was the nation's last 5-star general.

Bradley, 88, referred to as "a soldier's soldier," died Wednesday in New York, apparently of a heart attack. He remained on active duty until his death, often lecturing and visiting GIs stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, a Pentagon spokesman said.

The body of the World War II hero arrived at the El Paso army post at mid-afternoon Thursday and was taken to the main post chapel, where it will lie in state until Monday, Col.

Ed McDonald, public information officer, said. Public visitation is allowed.

Bradley's body will be flown to Washington Monday aboard a presidential jet. The body will lie in state in a chapel in Washington Cathedral until funeral services at 1 p.m. Tuesday, McDonald said.

Bradley's body will be carried through downtown Washington on an Army caisson to Arlington National Cemetery, where he will be buried with full military honors.

"I join all Americans in mourning the death of General of the Army, Omar N. Bradley," President Reagan said in a statement.

"For 69 years he wore the colors of an American soldier — with courage, integrity, professionalism and, above

all, honor. Even as he rose in rank, humility never left his side. He was the 'GI's general' because he was, always a GI."

Army Secretary John Marsh Jr. called Bradley's death "a loss not only for this nation but for all freedom-loving people of the world."

"His service exemplified our nation's highest standard of leadership," Marsh said. "He takes his place in history as a great patriot, a peerless military leader and an individual dedicated to the cause of peace in the world."

Bradley celebrated his birthday Feb. 12 at Fort Bliss, where he and his wife, Kitty, had lived since 1977. He suffered from a viral infection in February and earlier had been confined to a wheelchair because of knee problems going back to his days as a West Point football player.

Both Texas senators issued statements after Bradley's death:

"Omar Bradley was a genuine American hero, a soldier's soldier, a man who sought nothing more than to serve his country and did it with great distinction," Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said.

"The last of our great World War II commanders has crossed the river to join a distinguished company," Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, said. "His countrymen and free men, everywhere will reflect on his monumental service and mourn his passing."

He was senior commander of U.S. ground forces in the mid-1944 invasion of Europe and the subsequent defeat of the Nazi forces on the Western Front.



Gen. Omar Bradley stands at attention at a military review.

The Washington Star

Omar N. Bradley

This country has admired a variety of military leaders, dashing and drab; haughty and humble, heroic and bureaucratic. But its favorite warriors usually come in homespun, not imperial purple. General of the Armies Omar N. Bradley met its tastes perfectly.

There was nothing of the military caste about him, nothing aggressive or swaggering. The famous World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle wrote that he had "no idiosyncrasies, no superstitions, no hobbies. There is nothing spectacular about him." When General Bradley wrote his autobiography he called it "a soldier's story," and that is the way he seemed to picture himself: a soldier, doing a soldier's job.

So self-efacing a soldier might have languished at a less critical level in the Army's long chain of command. But he caught the eye of those equally sensible soldiers, Marshall and Eisenhower. General Marshall promoted him over others in 1941; General Eisenhower entrusted him to lead the American invasion force at Normandy. After running the Veterans Administration for a time he followed Eisenhower as chairman of the Joint Chiefs. There, he had to cope with the Korean War, which he disliked, and with the U.S. military proconsul in Asia who was in so many ways his opposite.

He said some memorable things over the years, including the famous statement that American intervention in Indochina would be "the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time, against the wrong enemy." But

he rarely allowed himself those acerbities with which generals have refought their old campaigns since King David's time. The exception was his comment, long after the event, that Field Marshal Montgomery had failed to close on Von Kluge in the "Falaise Pocket" because he was "so darned scared." This uncollegial (and probably unfair) judgment was all the more startling from one who was so uncontentious. But it indicated something that should have been obvious all along: No one rises as far as he did in the arts of war if he is made of cotton candy. Beneath the layers of homespun lay a firmness of temper and saliency of judgment not to be trifled with. And Monty had trifled.

On the whole, there was no American love affair with General Bradley corresponding to the love affair with General Eisenhower. Nor did he arouse the awe and respect of a Marshall. In some ways, if not in reluctance to fight when the time came, his popularity with the ranks was reminiscent of General George McClellan, the hero of the Union soldiers in the Civil War. He treated war as a grim business, which it is, and disliked to his fingertips any needless sacrifice of life. The GIs knew and were grateful.

It was this decent man's distinction to command the largest mass of American soldiers ever assembled on a single battlefield. It was his further distinction to do it so skillfully and humanely, with so little vanity or self-advertisement, that he was never shadowed by reproach or controversy.

"THE WASHINGTON POST" - Friday, April 10, 1981

Omar Nelson Bradley

IT WAS 1944 and the American forces Lt. Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley had led across Omaha and Utah beaches were pinned in Normandy taking heavy losses. He had determined, Gen. Bradley later wrote, to "avoid at all costs those pitfalls that might bog down our advance and lead us into the trench warfare of World War I. We had fought a fast war of movement in the Tunisian campaign where the terrain militated against us, and I was convinced those tactics could be duplicated in a blitz across France. With the mobility and fire-power we had amassed in both British and American divisions, we could easily outpoint and outrun the German in an open war of movement. But to exploit this advantage in mobility it was essential that we break a hole through the enemy's defenses rather than heave him back. Only a *breakout*..."

Thus was born Cobra, the operation that perhaps more than any other bore the personal stamp—broad conceptual understanding, careful planning, deep concern for his men, success—of General of the Army Bradley, who died on Wednesday at age 88, the last of the great American five-star commanders of World War II. For two nights he pored over detailed maps of the region and devised his plan. He

would use strategic bombers, on a line marked by an easily seen ruler-straight Roman road, to destroy or stun the German defenders and then send his First Army crashing through the gap. "We spread our feet and leaned far back trying to look straight up, until our steel helmets fell off," Ernie Pyle, with the troops, wrote. "And then the planes came"—2,246 of them, dropping 4,000 tons of bombs. Cobra tore a 10-mile hole at St-Lo and allowed its architect to claim it as "the most decisive battle of our war in western Europe."

To this day it seems a marvel that the American military, in the trough between world wars, found, trained and propelled into leadership positions such an exceptional corps of generals and admirals. Omar Bradley was typical: an unknown George Marshall protégé out of a small Missouri town and West Point (1915) who turned out to know all that needed to be known about war and organization and men. Never an especially flashy or controversial personality, he came to be regarded over his decades of service as the consummate military professional, dedicated and dignified. He commanded great armies. At the same time, he wrote, "I preferred to live, work, and eat in the field." The country will not forget its immense debt to him.



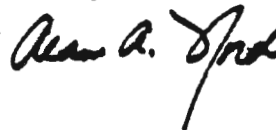
GEN. BRADLEY'S WIDOW

Mrs. Omar Bradley is escorted from Air Force One by Chief Master Sgt. John Kelly after landing in El Paso, Texas yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Bradley's husband General Omar Bradley, the nation's only five-star general, died in New York earlier this week. A memorial service is planned at Ft. Bliss today where he had lived since 1977.

Commander's open letter

Range commander Maj. Gen. Alan A. Nord sums up the feelings of the WSMR community about the death of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley in this open letter to range personnel.

General of the Army Bradley was a great American. He came from humble beginnings and made giant contributions to the nation right up to the present. In February this year, he addressed over 300 employees and soldiers during National Patriotism Week. He won the enduring admiration of that audience for his wit, good humor, and strong principles of leadership, which he illustrated with historical examples. He was, indeed, an American hero who strengthened everyone he touched. We at White Sands are honored to have known this soldier's soldier and keenly feel a sense of deep loss.



Major General, USA
Commanding

Omar N. Bradley

1893-1981

General of the Army Omar N. Bradley died Wednesday evening in a New York hospital at age 88. Bradley was the Army's first chief of staff and America's last five-star general. Bradley had resided at Fort Bliss since 1977. He is expected to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

In responding to the death of General Bradley, range commander Maj. Gen. Alan A. Nord said the general "...was indeed, an American hero who strengthened everyone he touched. We at White Sands are honored to have known this soldier's soldier and keenly feel a sense of deep loss."

One of Bradley's last public appearances was at the WSMR Officers Club. He appeared there as the guest of honor and guest speaker at a Patriotism Week luncheon Feb. 18. Speaking to a military and civilian audience of more than 300 people, Bradley provided about 45 minutes of historical insights, humorous quips, and remembrances of men of history from Gen. George Patton to Pres. Harry Truman.

The heart of General Bradley's talk was an outline of the characteristics of a good leader. The "soldier's soldier", who once commanded more than 1,300,000 troops, listed mental and physical energy, confidence ("even to the point of stubbornness to a fault"), the ability to listen to and learn from others, and character, as necessary in a good leader.

A man who personified all those traits, General of the Army Omar N. Bradley was also a scholar, author, leader, and to the unending gratitude of millions of Americans, a defender of Democracy.

In tribute to General Bradley, there will be a 19-gun salute in the flag circle in front of post headquarters today at noon. All post personnel are invited to attend. Also, the post flag will be flown at half-staff in honor of the late general. The Navy's U.S.S. Desert Ship will fly its flag at half-mast.

Casket displayed at Fort Bliss

Fun, mourners honor Bradley

Times combined sources

A 19-gun salute at Fort Bliss in El Paso paid an echoing tribute Friday to General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley, and more than 2,000 mourners filed passed his flag-draped casket in Chapel 1.

Some prayed. Some wept. Some took photographs. But most silently gazed at the coffin holding the body of the "GI's general" as it rested on a small platform near the altar.

Flowers that continued to arrive Friday in tribute to the general covered the chapel altar.

Around the casket stood the Joint Service Presidential Honor Guard, with representatives from all branches of the armed forces.

Bradley's body was flown back to El Paso from New York, where the 88-year-old World War II commander died Wednesday of a heart attack.

The nation's last five-star general will lie in repose at his last post before he is flown to Washington, D.C., Monday for funeral and burial.

The 19-gun salute was on the lawn near the flagpole at Memorial Circle. Nearly 200 somber spectators and soldiers watched and flinched as the four howitzers fired at one-minute intervals.

The chapel nearby vibrated from the concussions.

Another Fort Bliss ceremony is scheduled Tuesday to coincide with Bradley's burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Brig. Gen. Archie Cannon will deliver a eulogy at Howze Field.

Bradley's body will be flown to Washington Monday morning, where the casket again will be on display at the National Cathedral.

Funeral will be at the cathedral Tuesday afternoon, followed by a procession to Arlington.

A spokesman for Kitty Bradley, Bradley's widow, said donations should be made in her husband's name to the Omar N. Bradley Foundation, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Penn., or to the Veteran's Administration Paisy Fund, Washington, D.C.

...

The booming salute, like the black ribbons gracing the doors of the officers' quarters and the post flag flying at half-staff, all were standard visible signs of mourning for Bradley.

But also standard was a plan for what else needed to be done in the wake of Bradley's death — the ceremonies, the funeral arrangements and how to handle the flood of dignitaries, reporters and photographers.

When Bradley made Fort Bliss his home in 1977, operation "Orbit Stars" was drawn up detailing procedures to go into effect upon the general's death.

Fort Bliss spokesman Ed Starnes said such a plan is standard procedure for all public figures.

He said a similar plan was ready in California when the general lived there.

"It is standard procedure to prepare in advance for the death of all public figures, from the president on down," he said. "I am sure there are similar plans for past presidents also."

The purpose, Starnes said, is to avoid confusion and help attend to funeral arrangements, news coverage and visiting dignitaries.

Orbit Stars involved about 100 military personnel in Washington, an undetermined number of Fort Bliss personnel, two post buildings and a fleet of cars and trucks.

It provided drivers and escorts for Bradley's family and the many visiting dignitaries expected at Fort Bliss upon his death. The advance operation also included some funeral plans.

Part of Orbit Stars was a system to know the whereabouts and to recall the drivers and other personnel who would be needed on a moment's notice when Bradley died.

The system was tested several times, Starnes said. "Not the total plan. Only the first part, contacting all the key figures to test reaction time."

Starnes said key figures are the persons in charge of each section at Fort Bliss including logistics, the public affairs office and protocol.

The plan, Starnes said, included setting up a 24-hour operations center and a press information center to disseminate news to the media.

Advance plans included layouts of where and how visiting dignitaries would be accommodated at the time of the general's death and a list of dignitaries who must be notified.

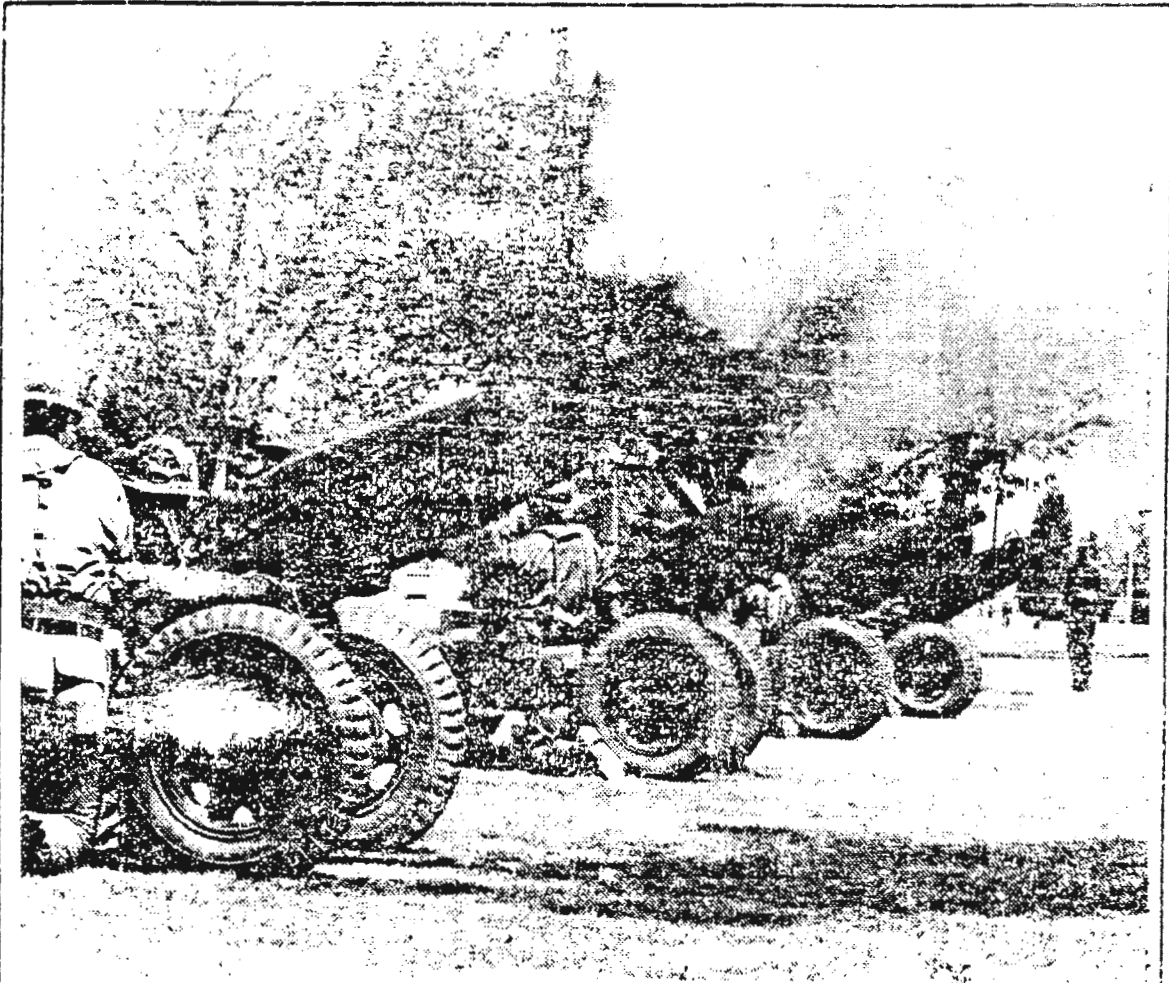
Soviet president sends telegram praising general

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev has sent President Reagan a telegram expressing "sincere condolences" on the death of General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley, the Soviet Embassy said Friday.

The embassy said Brezhnev's telegram asked "that our deep

sympathy be conveyed" to Bradley's family.

It added that the telegram said: "General Bradley is well remembered in the Soviet Union as a prominent military leader of the Second World War and his contribution to the cause of the Allied victory of the anti-Hitler coalition is appreciated."



Herald-Post photo by Gary Feider

Salute to fallen leader

Cannon fire bombed 19 times over Fort Bliss in honor of General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley, the last of America's five-star generals, whose body lay in repose in the post's Central Chapel. The salute, which fired at one-minute intervals Friday from

four vintage Pack 75 cannons stationed on Memorial Circle, were befitting a person of ambassadorial rank. The salute will be repeated at Fort Bliss Tuesday at the same hour as the general's funeral in Washington, D.C.

19-gun salute honors Bradley

United Press International

EL PASO — Cannons fired 19 times Friday at Fort Bliss in honor of Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley, the last U.S. 5-star general, whose body lay in state in the Central Chapel of the post.

The salute, fired at 1-minute intervals from four vintage Pack 75 cannons on Memorial Circle, was befitting a person of ambassadorial rank. Only a chief of state receives a 21-gun salute.

About 300 soldiers and civilians stood at attention in the bright sunlight as a northwest wind that sprang up at noon pushed smoke from the black powder charges toward the Spanish-style chapel.

Inside was the body of the man whose military career covered the major part of the 20th century and touched the lives of millions.

"He was the finest gentleman that ever walked," said Warren Van Vorst, a 30-year Army veteran who visited the chapel at mid-morning to honor the man who twice was his commander.

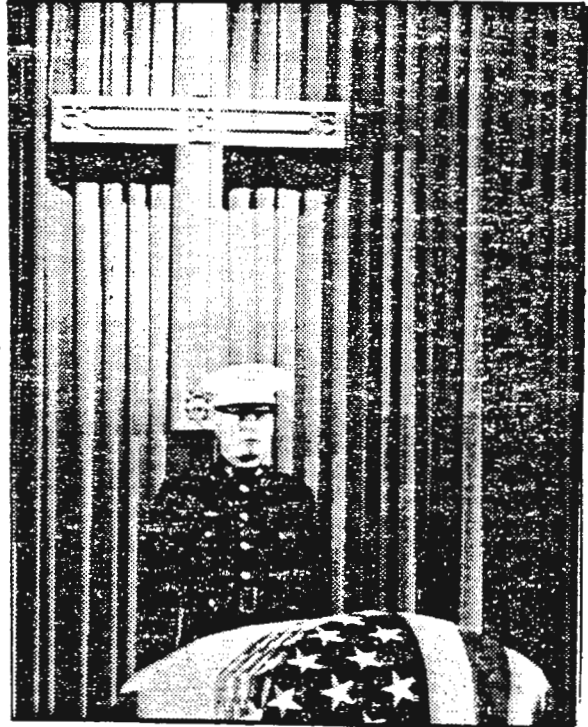
"He was a soldier's officer. In my opinion he was the greatest — in World War II or after."

Bradley, 88, died Wednesday in New York City after becoming ill while attending a dinner at the 21 Club.

At the request of the general's wife, Kitty, the body was returned to El Paso Thursday for a 3-day public viewing.

Bradley's body will be flown to Washington early Monday to lie in state in the Washington Cathedral. He will be buried Wednesday in Arlington National Cemetery.

Most of the people who came to the Fort Bliss chapel to pay brief homage to the general praised Bradley as "a soldier's soldier," "a great leader" — and "a patient and understanding man."



Associated Press

A Marine stands at attention as the body of Gen. Omar Bradley lies in state at Fort Bliss in El Paso.

Bradley, who was also the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was prouder of his nickname the "GI's general" than he was of his rank.

Bradley led U.S. forces ashore at Normandy during the D-Day invasion in World War II and commanded four armies in their sweep across Europe against the Third Reich.

"He was a hell of a soldier," said Albert Boyce of El Paso, who served under Bradley in the mid-1940s in Europe.

"I served under the general in Europe. I was a PFC at the time, but I still was one of his soldiers, and I admired him greatly."

THE FAYETTEVILLE TIMES

Established 1973

Page 4-A

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1981

Editorials

Omar N. Bradley

The divisions of 18th Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg and 101st Airborne will always have the matchless distinction of having served their "big war" time under the command of Omar N. Bradley, the country's last five-star general who died at 88 while attending a military reunion.

Bradley, the unassuming commander who was a favorite of the common soldier, actually commanded the 82nd for three months when it was reactivated at Camp Claiborne, La., in the spring of 1942. He then went on to commands in Africa and Sicily, and then top U.S. ground commander as allied armies rolled from the Normandy beaches to the heart of Germany. In all those commands,

Bradley had control of paratroopers and glidermen of the airborne divisions.

Bradley combined a soldier's courage and talent with a humane love of the things of peace. After retirement, while active as a symbol of the World War II Army, he worked with organizations devoted to improving public education and helping children from poor families.

With his death, all the titan-names of World War II have passed from the scene. Omar Bradley's legacy persists not only in the remembrance of his wartime greatness as a commander, but in his lifelong concern for the things that make for peace and for a better life for those ordinary people who found in him a special sort of friend in higher echelons.

Sen. Tower pays respects to Bradley

Honor guard preens 22A

By **MATT PRICHARD**
Times staff writer

U.S. Sen. John Tower of Texas honored a comrade in arms Saturday with a brief visit to the Fort Bliss chapel where General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley's body is lying in repose.

Tower was one of 4,000 visitors pausing before the flag-draped casket in Chapel No. 1 since Friday. Several hundred persons, in a slow but steady stream, already had paid their respects Saturday by the time Tower visited at 10 a.m.

The Republican senator was a Navy chief petty officer on a gunboat in the South Pacific when Bradley led a million soldiers in retaking France from Nazi Germany during World War II.

Tower, on a weekend visit to El Paso, is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and is the only enlisted reservist in Congress.

He was accompanied by Fort Bliss Commander Maj. Gen. John Oblinger Jr. as he paid his respects to the "GI's general."

Tower and Oblinger answered reporters' questions after the two left the chapel.

The senator described Bradley as a favorite of everyone who served in World War II and the last of the war's great field commanders.

"I hope we never have to use our armed power again," Tower said. "We're not in the business of creating heroes, but deterring aggression. But if we ever have to go to war again, I hope we have the kind of leadership provided by Gen. Bradley."

Oblinger said he noticed that the first flower arrangement sent to the chapel came from a Fort Bliss private.

"That is representative of what the soldiers thought of Gen. Bradley," he said.

(Please see Bradley, Page 22A)



—(Times staff photo by Carlos Rosales)

SEN. TOWER PAUSES IN FRONT OF BRADLEY CASKET

74

Bradley

(Continued from Page 1A)

Oblinger gave Tower an informal briefing on Fort Bliss activities, calling the recent Border Star '81 war games a "fine success."

Oblinger said he hopes the senator will return to Fort Bliss in the fall to inaugurate the instructor training courses for the Roland air defense missile system.

The Roland is an all-weather, short-range air defense missile that is a joint venture with France and Germany, Oblinger said. He told Tower that budget considerations may delay the missile's implementation, but "it will get there."

Bradley's mourners Saturday included crusty and solemn veterans, veterans' widows and active military personnel, many who brought their children.

One young soldier drove up to the chapel on a motorcycle.

They filed into the chapel. Some sat in silence and others perused both simple and elaborate floral arrangements before the altar.

"His men always came first and they knew it," said Charles Smith, a retired officer who crossed the Rhine with Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army in World War II.

Retired Platoon Sgt. Brandon Cody Jr. praised Bradley for his "patience," which he said is necessary in the Army.

Maj. Richard Whaley said he brought his four children, ages 2 to 8, to see the changing of the Joint Service Presidential Honor Guard watching over Bradley's casket.

He said he would like his children to remember Bradley and emulate him "both professionally and personally."

Whaley said leadership like Bradley's "takes a certain degree of charismatic presence and respect and understanding of people." He said Bradley knew how terrible war is and accomplished his mission as quickly and effectively as possible, minimizing casualties.

"Any officer or sergeant should have some of that in him," he said. "I think we would have this kind of leadership today, given a stressful situation."

Mrs. John Parrott, widow of an Army colonel who fought in the Pacific during World War II and in the Korean War, said she paid her respects to Bradley because "he was a great person and El Paso was honored to have him here."

She said she was afraid the armed services would not have Bradley's kind of leadership in case of another conflict.

W.Y. Cook, who said he saw Bradley on several occasions in 1944, said the general was more respected than

former President Eisenhower or Patton because "he wasn't so stuck on himself."

Cook, who resigned as a corporal because he thought Army leadership was deteriorating, said all the leaders are gone with Bradley's death.

The body of the nation's last five-star general will be flown to Washington Monday. Tentative departure time is 10 a.m. from El Paso International Airport aboard a presidential aircraft. Bradley's body will lie in repose in Bethlehem Chapel of Washington National Cathedral.

Funeral at the cathedral will be at noon Tuesday. A funeral procession will take the casket to Arlington National Cemetery, where graveside ceremonies will be conducted.

Memorial services at Fort Bliss will be at noon Tuesday, beginning with a 19-gun salute fired at one-minute intervals. Brig. Gen. Archie Cannon, assistant commandant of the Air Defense School, will give the eulogy at Howze Field band shell north of Building 2 on Sheridan Road.

The public may view Bradley's casket in Chapel 1 around the clock until 7:30 a.m. Monday.

Bradley was one of a kind



Barbara
Funkhouser
Times Editor

Much is being written about Gen. of the Army Omar N. Bradley, and deservedly so. He was an extraordinary man, a true hero to the American people.

It's not always easy to talk to a hero and I stumbled around with more words than my share when I visited Gen. Bradley in his office at the old Beaumont Medical Center administration building.

Retired *Times* editor Bill Latham had arranged the visit. He became very well acquainted with the general as civilian aide to the secretary of the Army for West Texas. I wanted to meet the general so I leaned on Latham for an introduction.

We went a little early and enjoyed an opportunity to look at the general's memorabilia — photographs of famous people, books, the very large television set he enjoyed watching — before Bradley arrived.

In preparation for the visit, I had followed my informal rule from reporting days: Always have three good questions in mind and preferably in writing. This plan will usually get any interview off the ground.

The general welcomed us and then sat waiting for me to speak. Latham had told him I had some questions. I hadn't written them down and for a moment my mind went absolutely blank. Here, before me, in the same room, was the great Gen. Omar Bradley. I was awed by the man, by his reputation, by his very presence.

Finally, with a little prodding from Latham, I recovered.

How did he like El Paso? The answer was short. It is a fine town and he is very happy here. He likes the weather.

No. 2: What do you think of today's Army? Well, I didn't really need the third question. Gen. Bradley was a soldier's soldier and the young men in today's Army are the brightest, best educated, best trained in history. He heaped praise on today's soldiers, his eyes sparkling, his face animated. He was talking about his great love. This took care of most of our hour.

The third question was whether the United States could or would ever again fight a war such as World War II. This bothered him a bit. He loathed war, yet it was a great part of his life. He hoped and prayed we would not. But could we? I insisted. Finally, after considerable thought, he said, "Not without great provocation." Like another Pearl Harbor, something equivalent? Yes, he said. He said it almost sadly, almost kindly. The sparkle went from his eyes. He didn't want to contemplate it.

Gen. Bradley wanted to think about fine young soldiers. He didn't want to think of what might happen to them in war. He had seen too much of that.

He will be buried Tuesday in Arlington National Cemetery, among his soldiers.

It was so fine to have talked with him. It meant much to me then and means much now. I always will remember his presence. He was an impressive man. He was a hero.

Bradley will be a hero 'for the duration'

It's just for the duration, we used to say — meaning things would get better after World War II.

Sure enough, things did get better. And my generation has always felt a debt of gratitude to heroes like Omar Bradley, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower. For four years, the duration, they held our lives in their hands.

Bradley was respected as the GI's general and he led more combat soldiers than any American field commander in history.

Some of them were from my hometown of Muenster, Texas. Some of them trained in a camp a few miles away from us. We held on to them as long as we could with canteen dances and home-cooked meals. Always give a soldier a ride. Always give a soldier your seat in the train. They deserved the best because they were our best. It was just for the duration.

We opened our hearts to them, men we didn't really know, yet who suddenly became as familiar as our brothers and fathers and sons. Reluctantly, we gave them all — the boys and the generals — to the war.

They pulled out from our hometown in busloads. It was just for the duration.

We cared enough about them to accompany them to war, in spirit. When we collected scrap metal and rationed our food

and wore paper-soled shoes and drove jalopies desperate for new parts, we were sacrificing for our boys. It was just for the duration. We saved allowances to buy special 10-cent stamps to paste in war bond books. An \$18.57 book bought a helmet.

I remember D-Day, the invasion of Europe, June 4, 1944. We had known it was coming, had speculated on the date for days. Everywhere you went in our town, you heard radio commentary about the invasion. We followed maps to keep track of our young men.

I remember long vigils: Corregidor, the Battle of the Bulge, Okinawa. Hold on, hold on — that is what we all were doing, for the duration.

We dreaded that relentless toll of the church bell. One of us would ring up the telephone operator and ask her which one we had lost. A little flag in the window with a blue star meant a son or husband in the war. If the star was gold, well...

Four endless years and the duration ended. The warriors came home. Some of them celebrated life and we helped them. Some of them filled a corner of the cemetery in our hometown with rows of white crosses. Some of them like Bradley, became our enduring heroes.

We are proud of all of them.



Pat Henry

Times Staff Writer

Guard preens for Bradley duty

By MATT PRICHARD
Times staff writer

"Get the man some tape!" the sergeant yelled down the improvised barracks.

Soon, one of the soldier's buddies — his hand wrapped in sticky-side-out tape — was going over his dark blue uniform like a cat preening its mate.

Only after every nit had been extracted was the soldier allowed to join the other members of the Joint Service Presidential Honor Guard on the next shift.

Honor guard soldiers are standing watch over the casket of General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley at Fort Bliss Chapel No. 1.

Seventy-five enlisted men and six officers from all five services make up the contingent of the prestigious honor guard flown to El Paso to watch over the casket of the nation's last five-star general.

The famous changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery is performed by only the very best of the honor guard.

Many of the soldiers standing watch over Bradley's casket are disciplined members of drill teams and have stood guard over numerous presidential and other top-level functions.

Volunteers handpicked for the honor guard must be at least 5 feet 10 inches tall, slender and have a clean record.

The honor guard has about 1,000 Army members. An average stay in the cadre is three years.

Candidates receive three weeks of advanced individual training, which covers marching, standing at attention and concentration.

The extra instruction shows. The fixed gaze and virtually unwavering, ramrod-straight stance while on duty provoke a little pride in even the most cynical observer.

The slow, deliberate arm movements of the salute seem activated by a spring with ends attached to the elbow and shoulder.

"We do any job. We've stood in snow, rain and 115-degree weather," Petty Officer 1st Class Donald Garris of the Coast Guard said.

The temporary barracks for the

guard next to the chapel looks like a cleaners.

Although soldiers only pull a 30-minute stand about every two hours during the day or night shift, preparation is extensive.

Uniforms are pressed once or twice daily. Almost 20 brass buttons and pins must have nary a smudge. "You don't lose the (brass pieces). But if you do, you borrow, buy or make another one," Army Sgt. Paul DeMarchis said.

Soldiers must be able to see themselves in their shoes.

Several of the soldiers laced up a girdle tightly to prevent back fatigue. But most important is to relax before duty, Marine Sgt. David McKay said.

The soldiers grabbed their World War II-vintage M-1 rifles — complete with chrome bayonets — breathed deeply and marched out of the barracks.

Why all the hassle? Pride, prestige, travel?

"For one, I'll be able to say I pulled General Bradley's funeral," Army Sgt. Willie Lewis said.

Omar Bradley

Houston Post
April 12, 1981

On his death it could be said that Gen. Omar Bradley headed the largest force of American soldiers ever assembled — 1.3 million. In his last combat role as head of the 12th U.S. Army Group in Europe, he commanded the 1st, 3rd, 9th and 14th armies. But his was a larger command: He commanded the love and trust of those who fought under him. On D-Day, as his men set sail from Britain for the biggest, most ambitious invasion in military history, he said, "I'll see you on the beaches." And he did. Perhaps his finest military title was that of "the GI's general."

Gen. Bradley was not a martial man. He did not dramatize war. Yet he served his country in uniform longer than anyone ever has. Tall, scholarly, soft-spoken, he had compassion and concern for his troops. That compassion and concern carried over into peacetime when President Truman appointed him head of the Veterans Administration. Until World War II, veterans hospitals had been built on idyllic theory rather than practical medical needs. They were placed in the small towns and countryside on the notion that incapacitated veterans could live out their lives viewing the scenery. The result was that the veterans hospitals found it hard to attract the best physicians and medical staff.

Under Gen. Bradley, the system was transformed. V.A. hospitals were placed in cities near the finest medical centers in the United States. They became a part of the vital teaching and research system that provides the finest medical care. Gen. Bradley was the nation's last five-star general. His stars were earned in a lifetime of service to his country.

Soldiers didn't gripe about GI's general

Omar N. Bradley: This officer is about the best-rounded, well-balanced senior officer that we have in the service. His judgments are always sound. . . .
— entry in Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1943 diary

By Kent Biffle

Staff Writer of The News

Rights of a combat soldier — a grunt — don't really amount to much.

But one thing any fighting soldier insists on is his right to gripe or complain or, as he'd put it, *bitch* about such things as bad food, spectacular foul-ups and, unsurprisingly, that most convenient target of coarse, if guarded, comment — commanding officers.

The striking thing about Omar Bradley, the nation's only 5-star general, who died this week, is that, as a commanding officer, he was amazingly well liked by his soldiers.

"Hell, his men all seemed fond of him. He is the only general of whom I heard not a single complaint throughout World War II. Not a single one," said John T. Flynn, saddened by his old chief's death.

"Everybody respected him."

A former photographer of *The Dallas Morning News*, Flynn, now 57, qualifies as an expert witness, having done "some fighting" for Bradley during World War II — if you're willing to call five of the six European campaigns *some* fighting.

As a buck sergeant with a light artillery battalion, Flynn, who lives in Dallas, marched with Bradley from the beaches of Normandy, by way of the Bulge, across the Rhine ("The First Army was the first") and to the ultimate meeting with the advancing Soviet Army.

"He was the GI's general. He cared about his men. For example, one of his biggest problems was keeping a rein on Gen. George Patton," said Flynn, who spent about a year and a half under Bradley's command.

"Patton had an altogether different sort of reputation with his men. They called him 'Blood-Guts-and-Glory Patton' — your blood, your guts and his glory.

"When the percentage of casualties became unacceptable to Gen. Bradley in any situation, he'd try to do something about it. Patton didn't seem to worry about casualties. With him, it was straight ahead."

Flynn's appraisal of Bradley apparently was shared by thousands of soldiers. At one point in World War II, Bradley directed the largest army ever commanded by a U.S. general: 1,300,000 million men at arms. And it wasn't just the veterans who revered Bradley; young army recruits stormed him at public appearances with salutes and requests for autographs.

When Bradley, who had served four years as the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, moved from Beverly Hills, Calif., (after 15 years as chairman of the board of the Bulova Watch Co.), to spend his final years at Fort Bliss in El Paso, he told *The Dallas Morning News*:

"That bugle call every morning is music to my ears."

What he didn't say was that by then — 1977 — his body was under attack by arthritis, the complications of a stroke, the effects of a West Point foot-



Gens. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Omar Bradley at Trophy Point during the 50th class reunion of the Class of 1915 at West Point.

ball injury and, as it turned out Wednesday at New York's 21 Club, a deadly heart condition that would end his 88 years.

Plainly, Bradley moved to Fort Bliss because he desperately needed to be near the doctors of the Beaumont Army Hospital at the base.

Despite his bad health, which kept him in a wheelchair, Bradley continued as one of the country's leading military ornaments for ceremonies of all kinds. Against doctors' wishes, he would rise to attention and salute during reviews of the troops at Fort Bliss.

Aggressively, he used to hunt game birds from that wheelchair, asking an aide to wheel him through the grass so the old general could blast away with a shotgun.

More seriously, during his stay at Fort Bliss, he talked tactics and military history with soldier students in classes at the base. He granted press briefings to help rebuild the image of the U.S. military forces, which had declined during the Vietnamese war.

The Missouri-born Bradley didn't initially plan a military career. He first decided to apply for West Point when he learned the academy charged no tuition. He asked a congressman to appoint him. But Bradley wasn't the congressman's first choice. Only after the first chosen applicant flunked his admission examination was Bradley named by the congressman. By then, however, Bradley had grave reservations about giving up a perfectly good, 17-cents-an-hour job in a boiler shop just to go to West Point.

But West Point won.

Of World War I, he said, "I tried every way I could to get overseas but I didn't make it. I thought they had ruined my career. I thought it was over.

"I had that belief until I went to the Fort Benning Infantry School. A lot of my contemporaries were there. They'd been imbued with trench warfare. But trench warfare wasn't being taught at the time (1925)."

Bradley finished at the top of his class.

In February, 1941, Bradley was named commandant of the infantry school and, at age 48, became the first of his 1915 West Point graduating class to win a general's star.

He was far from the last. In fact, the class, which included Dwight Eisenhower, became known as the "the class the stars fell on." Of the 164 graduates, 59 became generals. They divided a total of 111 stars.

Talking with the low-keyed Bradley, one might easily feel that this commander may have fought World War II without ever raising his voice. And, for a man of his rank, his retention of what might be called the common touch was endearing to his men.

"In North Africa and Sicily, my first two combat commands, I visited the front line of each division each day to talk to the men. It's good for morale of the men to see 'the old man' at the front.

Throughout the European campaigns, Bradley continued to visit the front lines — so often that he was awarded what foot soldiers called "the mark of the beast," the respected Combat Infantryman's Badge.

His men told each other that "the old man" didn't even own a Sam Browne belt or a dress cap.

After the victory parades closed the war, Bradley served for a time as head of the Veterans Administration.

Following the death of his first wife, he married a former Associated Press reporter and screenwriter who met him in an interview on Okinawa. "I made a note: 'I'll be back,' and here I am," she told reporters when the couple arrived in Texas. Kitty Bradley, 58, was with the general when he was stricken in New York.

Returned to Fort Bliss, the general's body, after El Paso rites, will be flown to Washington Monday aboard a presidential jet. Gen. Bradley will lie in state in a chapel in Washington Cathedral until funeral services at 1 p.m. Tuesday. The body will be moved by caisson to Arlington National Cemetery where he will be buried with military honors.

Although he used to jest that he wished to live to age 120, the military leader died with few regrets.

In his final interview with *The News*, he smiled and said:

"I've been successful and lucky along with it."

He said he was pleased by the spirit of the troops at Fort Bliss but admitted his concern that "America is sort of falling behind in honesty, integrity and patriotism at all levels."

But he wasn't worried that citizens wouldn't unite to protect America if the nation were threatened.

Of military leadership, he said: "Somebody will always rise to the occasion."



Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, U.S. 12th Army Group commander, autographs the helmet of Pvt. John Powell, Syracuse, N.Y., at the 9th Division command post near Hurtgen, Germany, in February 1945.

Bradley filled a hero's role with style

By Drew Middleton
New York Times News Service

NEW YORK — Omar Bradley was a peculiarly American military hero. There was about him some of the salt tang of the nation's youth, a faint echo of the frontier. The tall, lank figure would not have been out of place in one of Mathew Brady's photographs of Lincoln and his generals.

History is certain to count Bradley as America's most successful field commander in World War II.

The reputations of other generals — American, British and Russian — have been tarnished by the thousands of histories, biographies and memoirs that have poured from the presses since 1945.

The release of most of the long-secret Ultra material, through which Allied commanders were informed of German intentions and dispositions, has cast new light on some feats of generalship once acclaimed.

Bradley's stature has not diminished. A rereading of his campaign from Normandy's beaches to Germany's Elbe River enforces the contemporary view that it was a military masterpiece.

In a war that had its share of synthetic heroes, on both sides, Bradley was genuine. Yet the mild, friendly exterior concealed a character that combined some oddly discordant elements.

In repose, he was a folksy person, plain as an old shoe, his aides said; a man who liked to recall anecdotes about his baseball days at West Point and who could chuckle over half-forgotten pranks played on young officers joining their first commands.

But there was a great mental toughness. Once committed to a plan of operations, he would let nothing prevent or delay its execution. He could be coldly furious with the inefficient, but his criticisms were made in private. Only years later would he disclose how he had felt about erring commanders.

His mathematician's mind could hold at once all the variables of a battle; the strength of his artillery, the type of air support he could expect, the fighting quality of each of his divisions and the strengths and weaknesses of their commanders.

At the same time, he visualized the disposition and the condition of the German troops opposing his troops.

He preferred to let subordinates do the talking. He would sit impassive through a briefing. Occasionally he would interject mildly, "No, colonel, the panzer grenadier outfit is there. The panzer division is on its flank. Sorry to interrupt."

The world saw him as an unassuming man, and, to a point, it was right. But he had a calm certainty of his own great abilities. He often said he had been taught at the greatest military school in the world, West Point; that he was the product of a highly professional army and that he and his colleagues were better than the German commanders.

He was resilient. When the first attempt to break out of the Normandy beachhead in France failed, he went over the operation step by step, made the changes he considered necessary and returned to the attack.

On the morning of the final assault on the St. Lo position, he said with his customary calm, "We'll make it this time."

He took great risks, not gladly but because risks are part of war.

He knew early in December 1944 that the front between First Army headquarters at Spa in east Belgium and his headquarters in Luxembourg was thinly held by untried divisions.

"It's a risk, a calculated risk," he told a correspondent who had driven through the area from Spa. "But, it's worth it if Gen. Hodges can maintain the pressure up north. You can't be strong everywhere."

The German Ardennes offensive erupted 10 days later smashing through the untried American divisions. Bradley wasted no time on recrimination.

He conceded that he, like everyone else, had underestimated the resilience of the German war machine. He set to work to stifle the Wehrmacht's last great offensive.

Under his direction, Gen. George Patton was ordered north to bite into the hinge of the German attack and, with the help of the Allied air forces, the drive was held.

Bradley was known as "the G.I.'s general." This was true only to a certain extent. The distance between the man in the foxhole and an Army group commander is astronomical. Few soldiers in the tens of thousands under his command ever saw Bradley.

What was more important was that they knew he did not waste lives, that any operation would include the lavish use of bombers, field guns and tanks to save the lives of the infantry.

He was an infantryman with great faith in the arm. Did that faith lead him to make one of his few mistakes?

In the winter of 1943-1944, the British had developed what were called "the funny tanks." The tanks were armed and equipped to plough up minefields, to take out strong points with flame throwers and to crash through the defenses erected on the beaches.

Bradley turned down a British offer to lend the Americans some of the "funnies" for his landing forces. On 15 Dec. 1944, German progress through the defenses and of the beaches was markedly slower than that of the British forces which had the assistance of the "funnies."

Years later, one of his staff officers said: "The general didn't like 'the funnies.' He saw it as an infantryman's battle. Besides the tanks were British. He thought we should do it on our own."

Bradley's legacy to the army he loved was his conviction that sufficient bombing and artillery plus tanks could break the Germans or any enemy.

Was Bradley wrong? Not in the circumstances. He often said the American war machine could turn out thousands of tanks, bombers and field guns and that this material superiority would win the war.

Yet, on occasion, he could act with great dash. He risked a great deal when the American forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen after discovering an undefended bridge there. That night he got the elements of four divisions moving across the river.

Much has been made of the supposed bad blood that existed between Bradley and the British field marshal, Sir Bernard Law Montgomery. They were strong men with strong opinions, and naturally they clashed. But there also was a good deal of respect.

With Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bradley's relations were friendly, but never especially warm. There were indications at times that he did not share the general adulation of the Supreme Commander. But it should be remembered that they were great men in their time, and they were not jealous of the other.

The Fayetteville Observer

ESTABLISHED 1816

Omar Bradley

General of the Army Omar Bradley, who died on Wednesday, was not only the last of the great World War II commanders; he was also a rather remarkable exception to Leo Durocher's rule that "nice guys finish last."

Scores of books on the North African and European campaigns have described his unusual skills as strategist, organizer and leader in the campaigns of Tunisia, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany. As well as any other Allied leader, he met the enormous personal challenges involved in the sudden change from small, pre-war commands to the greatest mass military operations in history.

One of his first challenges early in the war — from Mar. 23 to June 25, 1942 — was to get the 82nd Division in shape to become the 82nd Airborne Division, which it became on Aug. 15 of that year. And his last task in that enormous conflict

was to direct the 1.3 million soldiers of the 12th Army Group, the largest force ever led by an American group commander.

Like everyone else, Bradley was caught off guard by the powerful German counterattack in the Battle of the Bulge. But the resilience and courage of his soldiers and his own sound responses to crisis tided us over those dark times around Christmas, 1944, and only the Nazis briefly slowed the Allied surge to victory.

In spite of his great abilities as a soldier, Bradley seemed to most Americans like the old description of the Tar Heel State — a vale of humility between peaks of arrogance. He was neither flamboyant nor temperamental in the style of his brilliant subordinate, Gen. George S. Patton; and he showed none of the arrogance or personal ambition of his British counterpart, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery.

Less affable than his immediate boss, Gen. Eisenhower, and less given to temper, too, he seemed more in the mold of his top boss in the Army, Gen. George Marshall — plain, unostentatious, but tough and unflappable.

He was held in great affection by enlisted men because they felt he was cautious in the expenditure of their blood and because he identified with them, dressing as plainly as a general could. Long after the war he proudly observed that "they consider me one of them."

Few great commanders have undertaken more awesome duties than Gen. Bradley, carried them out exceptionally well, and yet emerged unscathed by the arrows of jealousy and untarnished by the stains of controversy.

Quote

"But (Pearl Harbor) and the subsequent lessons we learned, day by day, until September, 1945, should have taught all military men that our military forces are one team — in the game to win regardless of who carries the ball. This is no time for 'fancy dans' who won't hit the line with all they have on every play, unless they can call the signals. Each player on this team — whether he shines in the spotlight of the backfield or eats dirt in the line — must be an All-American. — Gen. Omar Bradley, in testimony to a House committee, Oct. 19, 1949.

3 generals fell under El Paso's charm

By GRACE HARTGER
Times staff writer

Omar Bradley was one of three of the Army's stellar commanders to whom El Paso beckoned. And of the three, he stayed the longest.

Gen. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, who massed thousands of soldiers in El Paso and along the border for the 1916 punitive expedition into Mexico, almost retired here.

Gen. George S. Patton Jr., the flamboyant 3rd Army commander, trained at Fort Bliss in 1915 and rode into Mexico with Pershing. He did not come back to live here, but he packed his pearl-handled Colt revolver in a holster custom-made in El Paso.

Duty assignments brought Pershing and Patton here. Patton, like many other soldiers coming to Fort Bliss, was fascinated with the rich lore of the area and the "Wild West" atmosphere that in 1915 still was vibrant with cowboys and Indians.

Bradley's first taste of El Paso apparently was to review Fort Bliss' troops in 1948.

But a common attraction to the three was the area's warmth — both in its weather and friendliness.

When Bradley returned in 1977 to make El Paso his permanent home, he said the warm dry climate would be good for his arthritis. El Paso's proximity to dog racing, horse racing and bullfights were other factors.

In June 1948, as a four-star general and newly named Army chief of staff, Bradley reviewed troops on Noel Field at Fort Bliss. He returned that year in November to participate in Bliss' centennial celebration. He then remarked about the "warm spirit" that existed between El Paso and the Army post.

A Times account recalled, "The general drew up to the Fort Bliss replica in a stagecoach to troop the line of bearded 1848 soldiers and the modern line."

Pershing, who used the El Paso

Generals

(Continued from Page 1A)

area as a base to pursue Pancho Villa, was well known and well liked here. And after his success as commander of the American Expeditionary Force in France, his popularity in El Paso soared — perhaps too high for him to settle here.

In 1920, Pershing returned to bid the city farewell before going to San Antonio. "I'll be back," he told the throng. According to news accounts, he kept his promise, with seldom a year passing that he did not visit for a day or two.

Feb. 2, 1920, Pershing wrote Mayor Charles Davis: "As I leave El Paso I desire to express to you, and to the people of your city, my sincere thanks for the warm welcome and reception accorded me and the officers of my staff."

Had Pershing not been so well known in El Paso, he might have retired here after active service, he told his friend Richard F. Burges, an El Pasoan who served with him in France during World War I. Burges, an Army major, returned to El Paso and became a lawyer.

"The fact he was popular here, and would have been faced with the necessity of accepting or refusing numerous invitations, I believe, was responsible for Gen. Pershing choosing Tucson as his winter quarters," Burges said in 1948 at the time of the general's death. Pershing retired from active duty in 1924.

Patton did not return to live here after his training stint as a lieutenant. But he carried with him a reminder of the city. His famous, flashy Colt .45 was cradled in a specially ordered shoulder holster hand-

made for him by W.J. Myres, owner of S.D. Myres Saddle Co. of El Paso.

Patton's interest in cavalry weapons and gunslingers of the Southwest led him to visit "Tio Sam" Myres in his famous saddle shop. Myres was known as a "dead shot," and Patton always remembered the smell of horse flesh, leather, wool and hides at his shop. Years later he contracted to have the holster made by Tio's son, W.J. "Bill" Myres.

Patton brought himself to Pershing's attention at Fort Bliss when the expedition into Mexico was gearing up. The brash, impetuous young Patton — chagrined that his own Cavalry unit was not heading south — camped on the steps of Pershing's quarters for two days, waiting for a chance to ask the general to take him to Mexico with him.

Undaunted by Pershing's answer that he already had two aides and did not need another, Patton told him, "If you take me, you won't regret this, sir. I can be of good use to you."

Patton's persistence won, and the general appointed him headquarters commandant and acting aide with the cavalry column.

Later, when Pershing became commander of the American Expeditionary Force in Europe, he chose Lt. Patton to command his Headquarters Troop at Chaumont.

Before Patton sailed for Africa with the Western Task Force in World War II, he went to visit Pershing in Walter Reed Hospital. Retired from active duty years before, the old general placed a frail hand on Patton's bowed head and gave him the blessing he had come to request.

Thousands pay Bradley respects

Times combined sources

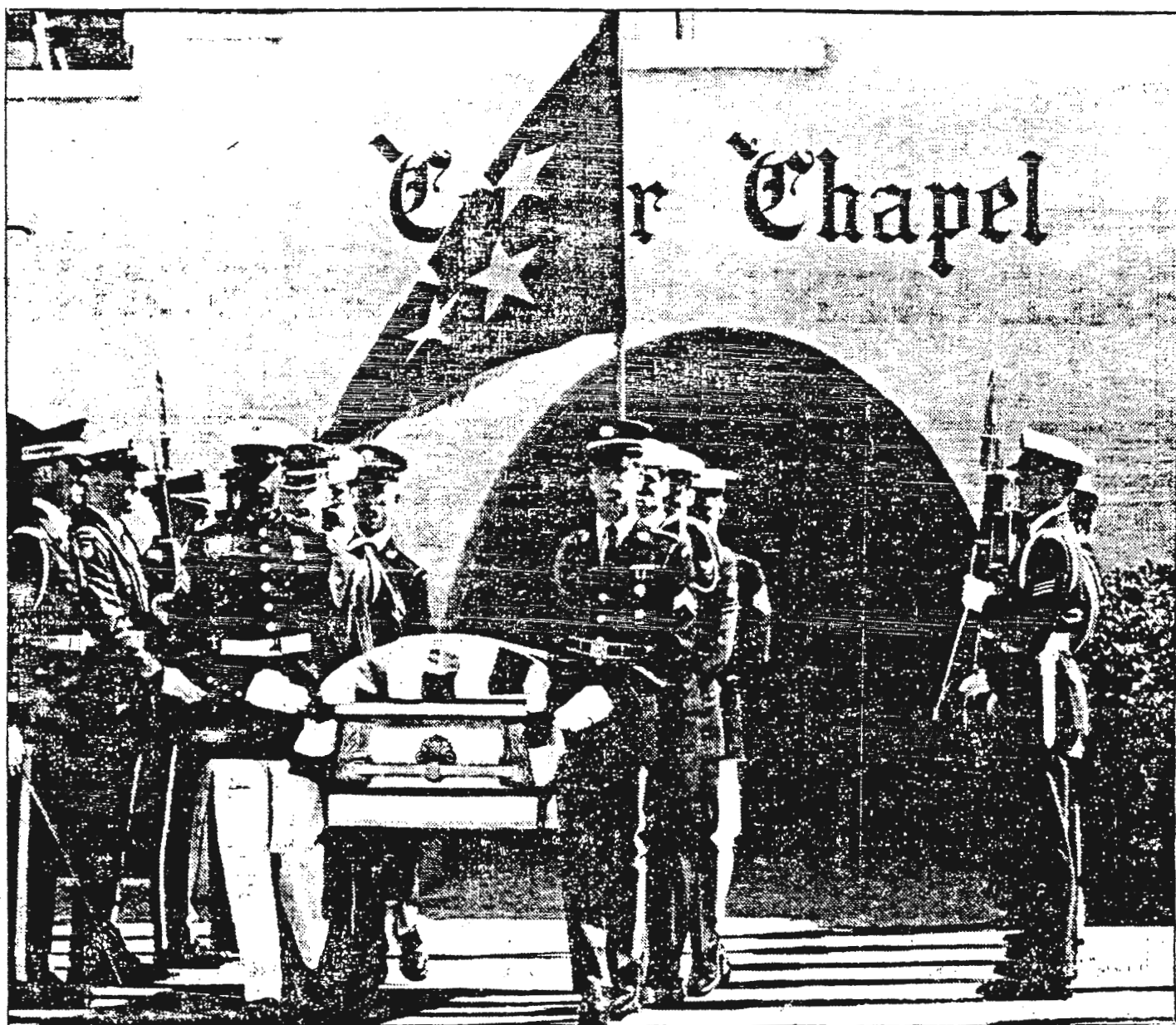
Mourners crowded the adobe Chapel No. 1 at Fort Bliss to pay their last respects Sunday to General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, the nation's last five-star general.

Bradley's body will be taken from El Paso to Washington aboard a presidential jet Monday for a funeral and burial in Arlington National Cemetery. His wife, Kitty, is scheduled to accompany the flag-draped coffin on the 10 a.m. flight.

Bradley, the "GI's general," died of a heart attack Wednesday in New York City. He was 88 years old.

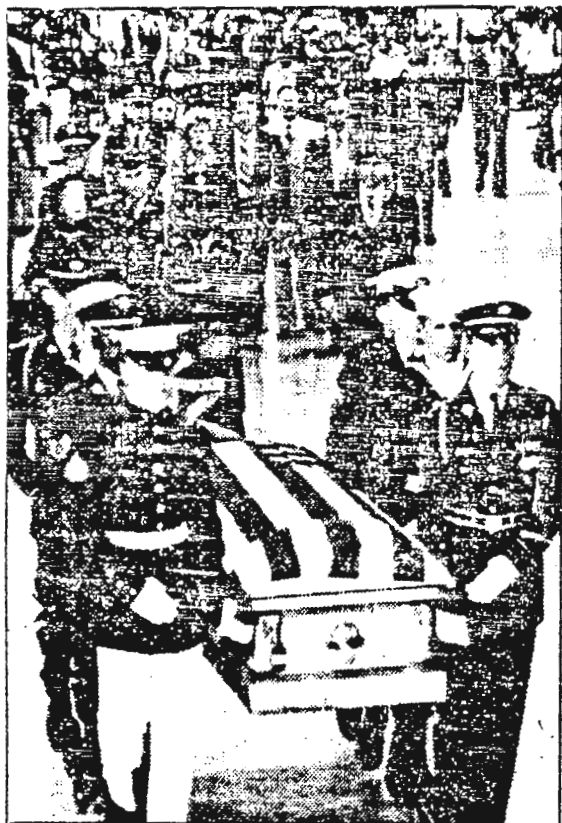
By Sunday morning, about 5,000 people had visited the chapel, Fort Bliss spokesman Ed Starnes said. Sunday drew the largest crowds of the four-day vigil in El Paso, the city Bradley had called home since 1977. Visitors sat in the pews of the modest chapel, silently watching the changing of the presidential honor guard around the casket.

He will be buried Tuesday. Local observances are planned for noon that day with a 19-gun salute and eulogy at Howze Field band shell north of Building No. 2 on Sheridan Road.



Herald-Post photo by Ruben Ramirez

A flag-draped casket bearing the body of General of the Army Omar Bradley is carried from the Fort Bliss Chapel by an honor guard (top picture).



Herald-Post photo by Jerry Liffman

Leaving home

The casket was taken to El Paso International Airport today to be flown to Washington aboard a presidential jet. At the airport (bottom picture) the casket was followed by a procession including Bradley's widow and El Paso and military officials.

Bradley takes last flight from El Paso

By **BILL THOMPSON**

Herald-Post Staff Writer

The body of General of the Army Omar Nelson Bradley, the grand old man of the U.S. Army, a man revered and respected by millions of people, was carried through the main concourse of International Airport today and placed aboard a presidential plane.

His final resting place will be in the nation's most hallowed cemetery, Arlington National, in Washington, D.C.

HUNDREDS OF airport passengers, airline personnel and spectators stood a little straighter as the 36th Army Band from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., played "Hail to the Chief" and "The Palms" as a presidential honor guard carried the flag-draped silver casket between rows of ramrod straight soldiers.

Dressed in mourning black, with a black veil over her face, Kitty Bradley followed the pallbearers and waited in a secluded room while the casket was placed aboard the big silver, blue and green presidential jet which she then boarded.

Mrs. Bradley paused at the bottom of the steps leading to the upper level of the airport and kissed and hugged the soldiers who

worked on Bradley's personal staff in a touching goodbye.

MAJOR GEN. JOHN Oblinger, commandant of Fort Bliss.

Bradley's widow prepares to leave, A-4

marched at the head of the honor guard bearing the casket to the airplane.

Prominent in the cortege were U.S. Rep. Richard White, Mayor Tom Westfall, El Paso County Judge Udell Moore and U.S. Boundary Commissioner Joe Friedkin.

Oblinger and his wife boarded the plane for the flight to Andrews Air Force Base, Washington.

THERE WERE hushed murmurs from people watching "he was a really great one," one person said. The crowd was mostly quiet and respectful as the funeral cortege marched by. The plane left shortly after 10 a.m. and was due to arrive in Washington this afternoon. The body of Bradley was to be taken to the National Cathedral where it will lie in repose until his funeral services and burial Tuesday.



Herald-Post photo

Preparing to leave

Kitty Bradley, the widow of General of the Army Omar Bradley, is escorted to car. Mrs. Bradley was driven to El Paso International Airport and she flew to Washington today.

Bradley takes last flight

The body of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley was placed aboard a presidential jet today and left El Paso for the last time, on the way to Washington, D.C., where he will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery Tuesday.

Bradley's body left the main chapel at Fort Bliss at approximately 9:30 a.m. in a funeral procession which traveled across Fort Bliss and ended at the main front doors of the passenger terminal at El Paso International Airport.

ESCORTED BY A presidential honor guard, the flag draped silver casket was taken into the terminal, through the main lobby to the escalators and then outside the terminal to be placed on the plane.

Kitty Bradley, escorted by Maj. Gen. John Oblinger and Mrs. Oblinger, was taken to the American Airlines VIP lounge while the casket was loaded aboard the presidential airplane.

She also took the 10 a.m. flight from El Paso to Washington.

IN WHAT WAS a very touching scene, staff members of the Bradley office and domestic staff paid their last respects to Bradley at the foot of the airport escalators as his body was taken through the airport.

The body will arrive in Washington late today and will be taken to the National Cathedral where it will lie in state until the funeral services tomorrow.

An El Paso service is set for noon Tuesday and an eulogy in memory of Bradley will be given at the Howze Field band shell. A final 19-gun salute in his honor will be fired.

THOUSANDS OF persons visited the Fort Bliss Chapel over the weekend to pay their last respects to the man who was called "the GI's General." They included Texas Sens. John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen, many veterans who had served under Bradley and young soldiers and their families to whom he had served as an inspiration.

A tribute to Bradley

By DREW MIDDLETON

NEW YORK — Omar N. Bradley was a peculiarly American military hero. There was about him some of the salt tang of the nation's youth, a faint echo of the frontier. That tall, lank figure would not have been out of place in one of Mathew B. Brady's photographs of Lincoln and his generals.

History is certain to count Bradley as America's most successful field commander in World War II.

A **REREADING OF** his campaign from Normandy's beaches to Germany's Elbe River re-enforces the contemporary view that it was a military masterpiece.

Bradley's mild, friendly exterior concealed a character that combined some oddly discordant elements.

In repose, he was a folksy person, plain as an old shoe, his aides said; a man who liked to recall anecdotes about his baseball days at West Point and who could chuckle over half-forgotten pranks played on young officers joining their first commands.

But there was a great mental toughness. Once committed to a plan of operations, he would let nothing prevent or delay its execution. He could be coldly furious with the inefficient, but his criticisms were made in private. Only years later would he disclose how he had felt about erring commanders.

HIS MATHEMATICIAN'S mind could hold at once all the variables of a battle; the strength of his artillery, the type of air support he could expect, the fighting quality of each of his divisions and the strengths and weaknesses of their commanders.

At the same time, he visualized the disposition and the condition of the German troops opposite.

The world saw him as an unassuming man, and, to a point, it was right. But he had a calm certainty of his own great abilities. He often said that he had been taught at the greatest military school in the world, West Point, that he was the product of a highly professional army and that he and his colleagues were better than the German commanders.

He was resilient. When the first attempt to break out of the Normandy beachhead in France failed, he went over the operation step by step, made the changes he considered necessary and returned to the attack.

On the morning of the final assault on the St.

Lo position, he said with his customary calm, "We'll make it this time."

HE TOOK GREAT risks, not gladly but because risks are part of war.

He knew early in December 1944 that the front between First Army headquarters at Spa in east Belgium and his headquarters in Luxembourg was thinly held by untried divisions.

"It's a risk, a calculated risk," he told a correspondent.

The German Ardennes offensive erupted 10 days later smashing through the American divisions. Bradley wasted no time on recrimination.

Under his direction, Gen. George S. Patton Jr. was ordered north to bite into the hinge of the German attack and, with the help of the Allied air forces, the drive was held.

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What was more important was that they knew he did not waste lives, that any operation would include the lavish use of bombers, field guns and tanks to save the lives of the infantry.

BRADLEY'S LEGACY to the army he loved was his conviction that sufficient bombing and artillery plus tanks could break the Germans or any enemy.

Yet, on occasion, he could act with great dash. He risked a great deal when the American forces crossed the Rhine at Remagen after discovering an undefended bridge there. That night he got the elements of four divisions moving across the river.

Much has been made of the supposed bad blood that existed between Bradley and the British field marshal, Sir Bernard Law Montgomery. They were strong men with strong opinions, and naturally they clashed. But there was a good deal of respect, too.

With Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bradley's relations were friendly, but never especially warm. There were indications at times that he did not share the general adulation of the Supreme Commander. But it should be remembered that they were great men in their time, and they were not jealous of each other.

Drew Middleton is the military analyst for the New York Times.

Presidential jet prepared to fly Bradley's body to D.C.

Associated Press

EL PASO — A presidential jet was prepared to lift off from Fort Bliss Monday morning to transport the flag-draped casket of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley to Washington after four days of solemn tribute from the fort he had called home.

The adobe chapel at the West Texas post was more crowded Sunday morning than it had been at any other time during the 4-day vigil.

Visitors sat in the pews of the modest building, silently watching the changing of the presidential honor guard that surrounded the casket holding the nation's last 5-star general.

Fort Bliss spokesman Ed Starnes said about 5,000 people had visited the chapel by Sunday morning.

There were no Sunday church services in the Fort Bliss chapel where the body of the "GI's general" had been since Thursday night. But the throngs of visitors to the chapel

increased Sunday as area residents stopped by following worship services at other churches.

Bradley's wife, Kitty, will accompany the body to Washington.

The body was scheduled to arrive at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington and be taken to Bethlehem Chapel at the Washington Cathedral, where it will lie in state until services Tuesday.

Bradley will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery near Washington.

The 88-year-old Bradley, who moved to El Paso in November 1977 because of the warm climate, had become a celebrity in the city and had received several honors from city officials and civic groups.

Several of the dozens of flower arrangements sent to the chapel were from local residents or soldiers at Fort Bliss, where Bradley had maintained an office.

Bradley died of a heart attack in a New York hospital Wednesday.

Gen. Bradley's body flown to Washington for burial

By SCOTT MERVILLE
Times staff writer

General of the Army Omar Bradley left El Paso for the last time Monday morning in a simple and dignified military ceremony that punctuated the normal civilian bustle of El Paso International Airport.

After a weekend that saw more than 6,000 persons pay their last respects to the general as he lay in repose at a Fort Bliss chapel, Bradley's body was flown by presidential jet to Washington, D.C., Monday for burial Tuesday at Arlington National Cemetery. Bradley died Wednesday in New York.

Up to the time the flag-draped casket arrived at the airport by car from the chapel, the airport hummed with typical midmorning activity.

Businessmen toting garment bags scurried to their flights behind and around 20 members of the Joint Service Presidential Honor Guard, who stood like solemn statues in the airport's main concourse.

A handful of onlookers waited along the walls and shops behind the two rows of guards, who formed a 20-foot-wide aisle from

the front lobby to the escalators leading to the airplane boarding gates.

Even as the procession bearing the general's casket came through the front door, a family of four hustled up the escalator at the far end of the aisle, hurrying for a flight.

But as the lead color guard marched further into the concourse, all activity stopped.

The crowd behind the guards swelled suddenly, as people seemed to come out of the woodwork for a last look at the casket bearing the body of the nation's highest ranking soldier.

On the heels of the color guard came the casket, carried by more members of the honor guard.

The general's widow, Kitty Bradley, followed. Wearing a black dress and veil, she was escorted by Maj. Gen. John Oblinger, Fort Bliss commanding general.

At the escalator, the color guard preceded the casket out a side door directly to the waiting airplane. They passed by a wide-eyed group of pre-schoolers from Western Hills Day School, who happened to be touring the airport Monday.

Mrs. Bradley continued to the foot of the escalator, where her

husband's Army staff was assembled.

Drawing back her veil, Mrs. Bradley greeted each staff member. She paused briefly to clear away tears as she moved down the row, trading hugs and kisses on the cheek with staff members, occasionally managing to smile.

A group of area civilian and military dignitaries followed, along with Bradley's staff, some of whom shed a few tears of their own.

Outside, retired Fort Bliss information officer Vince Carafano joined a handful of other onlookers at a stone wall to watch the departure.

Carafano had seen the casket twice in the chapel during the weekend and snapped a few last pictures as the airplane taxied away from the terminal to the runway.

"He was a grand man," Carafano said.

Carafano was Fort Bliss public information officer when Bradley arrived at the post four years ago.

Local memorial services will be at noon, beginning with a 19-gun salute fired at one-minute intervals.



—Times staff photo by Juan Rico

KITTY BRADLEY, OMAR BRADLEY'S WIDOW, IS ESCORTED AT EL PASO AIRPORT
Bradley's body was flown from El Paso Monday on a presidential jet