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# Bradley buried in Arlington

WASHINGTON (UPI) — General of the Army Omar N. Bradley was buried today on a rain-soaked Virginia hillside among the GIs he led in battle from Normandy to the heart of Hitler's Germany.

Bradley, the "GI's general," was given a hero's funeral by the nation he served for more than 60 years in uniform and a 19-gun farewell as his casket was lowered into a plot at Arlington National Cemetery.

A RIDERLESS horse — symbol of a fallen leader — accompanied the funeral cortege to the wind-swept gravesite, marked by a stone embossed with five stars. Bradley, who died Wednesday at age 88, was the lone survivor among the World War II heroes to achieve five-star status.

Bradley was laid to rest among the sternly regular rows of grave markers covering the gently sloping Virginia hillside across the Potomac River from Washington. A flight of 19 F-15 Eagle fighters screamed a last salute over the Memorial Bridge as the cortege crossed over the river.

The flag-draped casket was borne on a caisson pulled at a dirge pace by six gray horses. The eight pallbearers, in full dress uniform, represented the four branches of the armed services.

THE NATIONAL cemetery — final resting place for President William Howard Taft and John Kennedy — holds the remains of many of the men who fought beside Bradley from North Africa to Berlin. He commanded U.S. troops in the D-Day invasion and directed the final assault against Hitler's Fortress Europe.

The nation's high and mighty gathered at Washington's National Cathedral for a spare but uplifting funeral service for Bradley, a footsoldier

whose lack of airs and concern for his men earned him the sobriquet, the "G.I.'s general."

Vice President George Bush and first lady Nancy Reagan attended as representatives of the president. Also present were Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and a host of high-ranking military and political officials.

**BRADLEY, ACTIVE** until the end of his 69-year Army career, was in New York City on a visit when he died Wednesday. He was 88.

# Capital honors Bradley

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The body of Gen. Omar Bradley, the nation's last five-star general, lay in repose in a flag-draped coffin under the granite arches of the National Cathedral.

Bradley's body was flown from El Paso to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington to be buried today at Arlington National Cemetery. The capital was to see a full military funeral of the kind that has not been held since the death of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower.

**A SMALL PRIVATE** ceremony was held in the Gothic-style cathedral's Bethlehem Chapel before it was opened up for the public to pay respects. About 100 people waited in line to file past the flag-draped casket.

Among those attending the half-hour ceremony were the entire Joint Chiefs of Staff, led by Chairman David Jones, and honorary pallbearers former Ambassador Averell Harriman and former Sen. Stuart Symington of Missouri.

The casket was carried into the chapel by eight pallbearers representing all of the nation's military services. A Coast Guard band was also on hand.

**A CHILLY BREEZE** whipped through the grounds of the 57-acre Episcopal cathedral complex under overcast skies.

As Bradley's body arrived at Andrews, the United States Air Force Band sounded four ruffles and flourishes and the "General's March." A four-piece bank of artillery fired a 19-gun salute.

Vice President George Bush is representing President Reagan at the funeral today. The flag-draped coffin will be borne in a military procession to Arlington National Cemetery for 3 p.m. graveside services and burial.

**BRADLEY, ACTIVE** until the end of his 69-year Army career, was in

New York City on a visit when he died Wednesday. He was 88.

There has not been a full military funeral in Washington since Eisenhower's death in 1969. The former president and five-star general was buried near his boyhood home in Abilene, Kan.

In El Paso, Bradley's home since 1977, the casket was on display at Center Chapel at Fort Bliss for three days. Beginning late Thursday, an estimated 6,000 people, including Texas Sens. John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen, paid their respects.

**BRADLEY'S WIFE**, Kitty, was with him at the time of his death, and she asked that his remains be taken to El Paso for memorial services.

Mrs. Bradley was at El Paso International Airport Monday as the flag-draped casket, flanked by a precision honor guard, was taken to the main airport entrance.

The 36th Army Band from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., played "Ruffles and Flourishes" and "The General's March." Honoring the general's request, the band then played "The Palms." Soldiers from Fort Bliss stood at attention as the silver casket was moved through the airport terminal.

**MRS. BRADLEY**, clad in black and wearing a black veil, embraced the 11 members of the general's personal staff before boarding the plane.

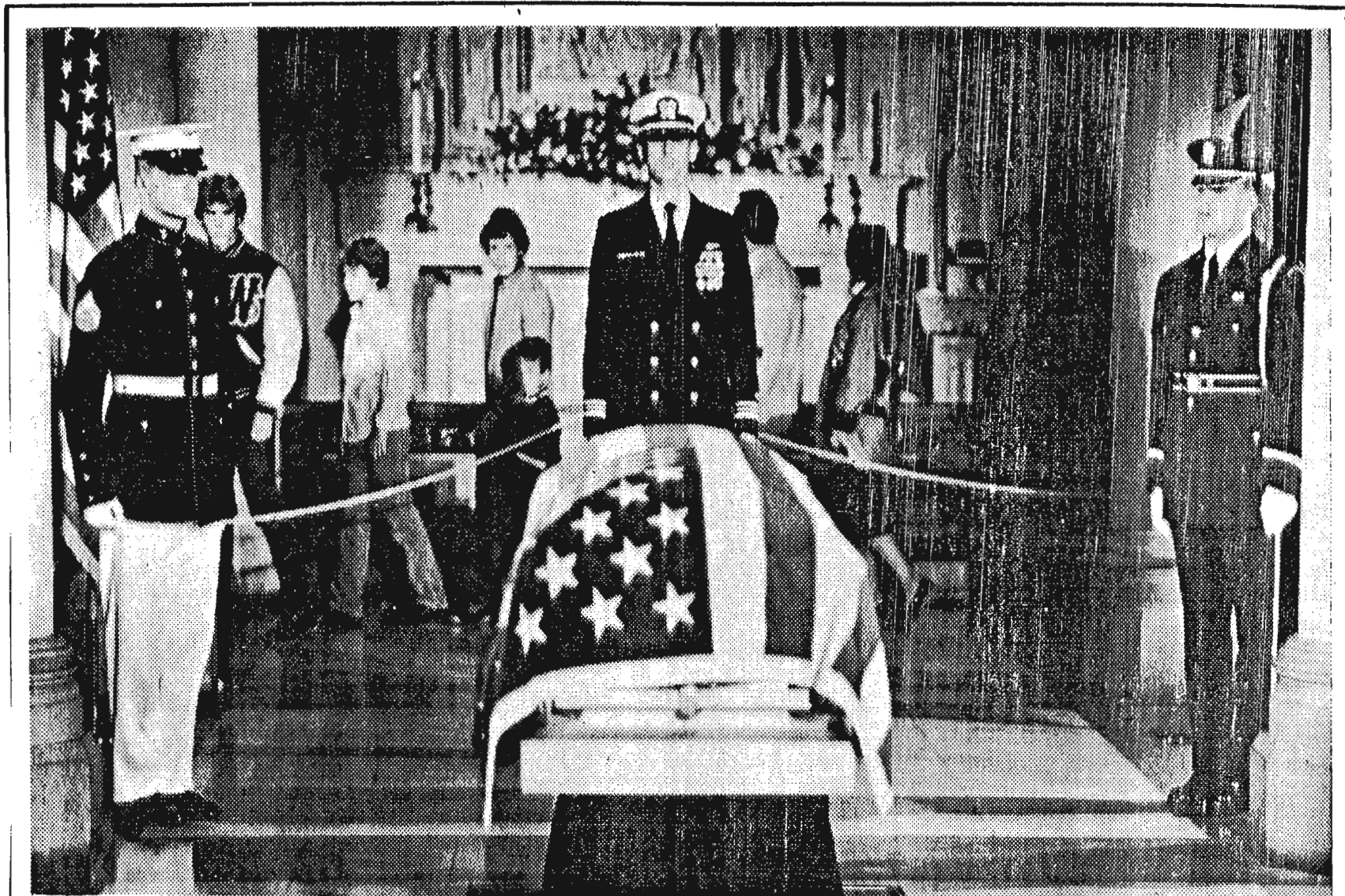
Bradley, known as the "GI's General" because of his popularity with the troops, was field commander of the American forces that stormed the Normandy beaches D-Day, June 6, 1944 — a major turning point for the allies in World War II. Later, he was the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"THE WASHINGTON STAR" Tues, Apr 14, 1981

**MAULDIN**



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



TAPS — Honor guard stands in Washington Cathedral, where services for Gen. Omar Bradley will be held at 1 p.m. today. Burial will be in Arlington Cemetery at 3.

By Lucian Perkins — The Washington Post

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Military officials from the different branches of the armed services guard the body of Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley, the last of the five-star generals, in Chapel No. 1 at Fort Bliss.

Dignitaries such as U.S. Senators Lloyd Bentsen and John Tower paid their last respects to Bradley last week.

Bradley died Wednesday night in New York City.

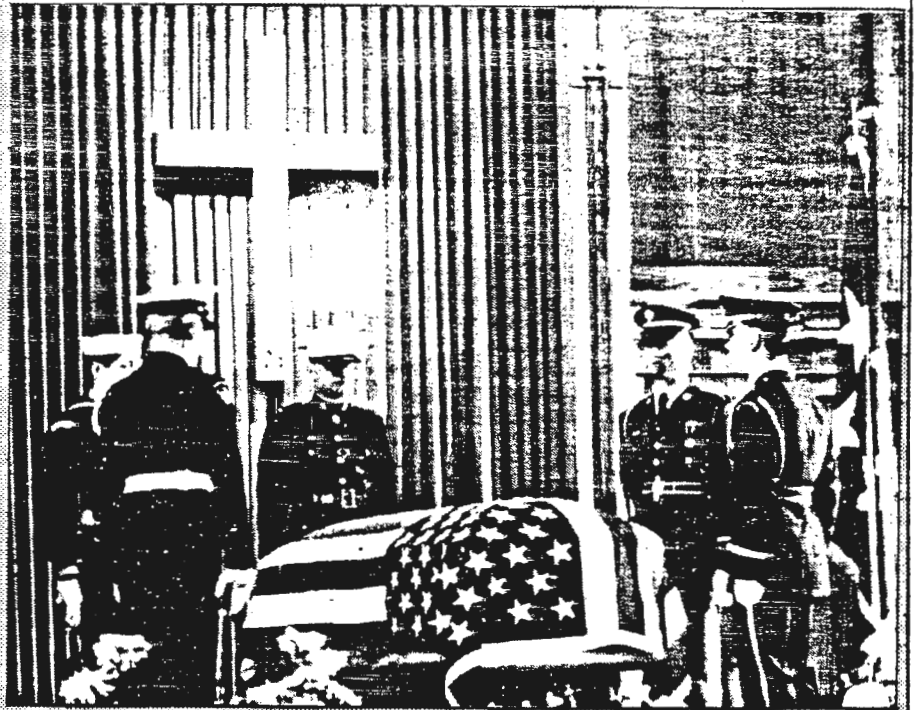


Photo by Rudy Gutierrez





Associated Press

## INSIDE

A presidential jet carrying the body of Gen. Omar Bradley, the nation's last 5-star general, flew from his home in El Paso to Washington for a full military funeral Tuesday. TEXAS, Page 20A.

# Bradley's body flown to capital

United Press International

EL PASO — A presidential jet carrying the body of Gen. Omar Bradley, the nation's last 5-star general, flew from his home in El Paso to Washington Monday for a full military funeral Tuesday.

The body, after arrival at Andrews Air Force Base, was to lie in state in Bethlehem Chapel at the Washington Cathedral beginning Monday afternoon.

The funeral at the cathedral was scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday. The flag-draped coffin will be taken in a military procession to Arlington National Cemetery for 3 p.m. graveside services and burial.

Bradley, 88, who was active until the end of his 69-year Army career, died Wednesday in New York City.

There has not been a full military funeral in Washington since Dwight D. Eisenhower's death in 1969. The former president and 5-star general was buried near his boyhood home in Abilene, Kan.

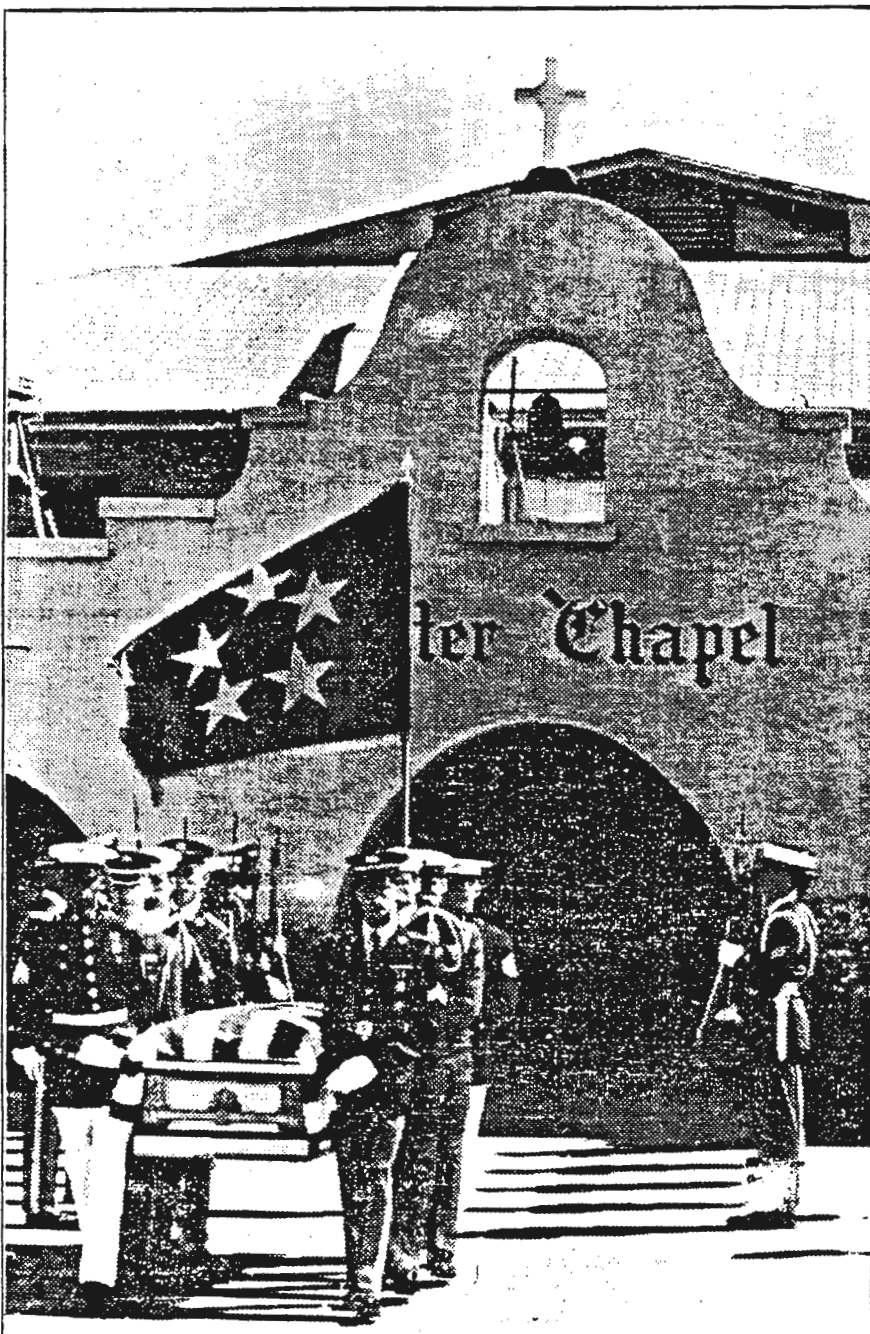
In El Paso, Bradley's home since 1977, the casket was on display at Center Chapel at Fort Bliss for three days. Beginning late Thursday, an estimated 6,000 people, including Texas Sens. John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen, paid their respects.

His wife, Kitty, who was with him at the time of his death, requested that his remains be taken to El Paso for memorial services in the town where the Bradleys were well-known in civilian and military circles.

Mrs. Bradley was at El Paso International Airport Monday as the casket, flanked by a precision honor guard, was taken to the airport's main entrance.

The 36th Army Band from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., played *Ruffles and Flourishes* and *The General's March*. Honoring the general's request, the band then played *The Palms*. The honor guard moved the silver casket through the airport terminal as Fort Bliss soldiers stood at attention.

Mrs. Bradley, clad in black and wearing a black veil, embraced the 11 members of the general's per-



United Press International

Honor guards carry Bradley's coffin from Fort Bliss chadel.

# *Eulogy recalls general's greatness*

By STEVE BREWER

Associated Press writer

A hymn was sung, cannons were fired and a lone bugler played taps Tuesday as a crowd of 500 endured a blustery, cold wind and light drizzle in El Paso to pay their final respects at a memorial service for General of the Army Omar Bradley.

Bradley was eulogized as a "great protector of freedom" in the service at Fort Bliss, the five-star general's home since 1977.

"He was known as 'the soldier's general,'" Brig. Gen. Archie Cannon, who pronounced the eulogy for Bradley, said.

"Firm, to the point of rigidity; modest, almost to the edge of humility, he was a reassuring symbol of placid confidence in those sorely troubled days," Cannon said. "Beneath that calm exterior there was a passionate wish, an almost

pious hope, that the young men of our nation will someday enjoy peace — the dream shared by all military men."

Cannon recalled stories of Bradley's modesty and soft-spoken manner.

"Many legends have grown up around Gen. Bradley," he said. "Some of the stories may have been twisted in repeated telling, but seen as a group, they represent a man with a great heart and compassionate spirit."

One of those legends holds that during the D-Day invasion of Normandy, Bradley spotted a drenched, shivering soldier on the beach. Bradley took off his own field jacket and gave it to the young man.

"Here son," he is said to have remarked, "I can get another one of these. You

can't."

Post Chaplain George Reswik compared Bradley to the great military leaders in history.

"Death has conquered the great," Reswik said. "Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, Washington, Roosevelt, Churchill, and now, Gen. Omar Bradley."

Reswik's sermon was delivered from a white bandstand on a parade field at Fort Bliss. The bandstand sheltered dozens of floral arrangements sent to the post by people who mourned Bradley's death Wednesday at the age of 88.

The services opened with a 19-gun salute and a flyover by two jet fighters.

The service was closed by a lone bugler, who played taps while the hundreds of soldiers stood at rigid attention.

The services at Fort Bliss coincided with funeral services in Washington.



# Taps bids farewell to Bradley

WASHINGTON (AP) — To volleys of rifle fire and an Army bugler's mournful taps, General of the Army Omar Bradley was buried Tuesday on a gentle slope alongside some of the 1.3 million American fighting men who followed him to victory against Nazi Germany in World War II.

A creaking black caisson, pulled by six matched gray horses, carried Bradley's flag-draped casket to the slopes of Arlington National Cemetery, overlooking Washington from the Virginia bank of the Potomac River. A riderless, black quarter horse followed the caisson, symbolizing a fallen warrior.

The general was laid to rest beside Mary, his first wife and hometown sweetheart from Moberly, Mo., who died 16 years ago. His second wife, Kitty, her head draped in a black veil, listened silently to the final prayers and received the American flag removed from Bradley's gray metal coffin before it was lowered into the Virginia soil.

Among those at the grave site were Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, dozens of generals and admirals and about 100 foreign military attaches, standing in salute.

Bradley, the last of the nation's five-star generals and first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, died of a heart attack Wednesday in New York City at age 88. He had lived at Fort Bliss for the past four years.

First lady Nancy Reagan, representing her husband, who is recuperating from an assassination attempt, led a delegation of Vice

President and Mrs. George Bush, Cabinet members, high-ranking military officers and diplomats at a funeral service conducted under the soaring, Gothic arches of Washington Cathedral.

Maj. Gen. Francis Sampson, retired chief Army chaplain who landed with Bradley at the Normandy beachhead on D-Day, 1944, eulogized him as a leader who shared Abraham Lincoln's physical stature, modesty, droll sense of humor and sense of duty to protect the lives of his young troops.

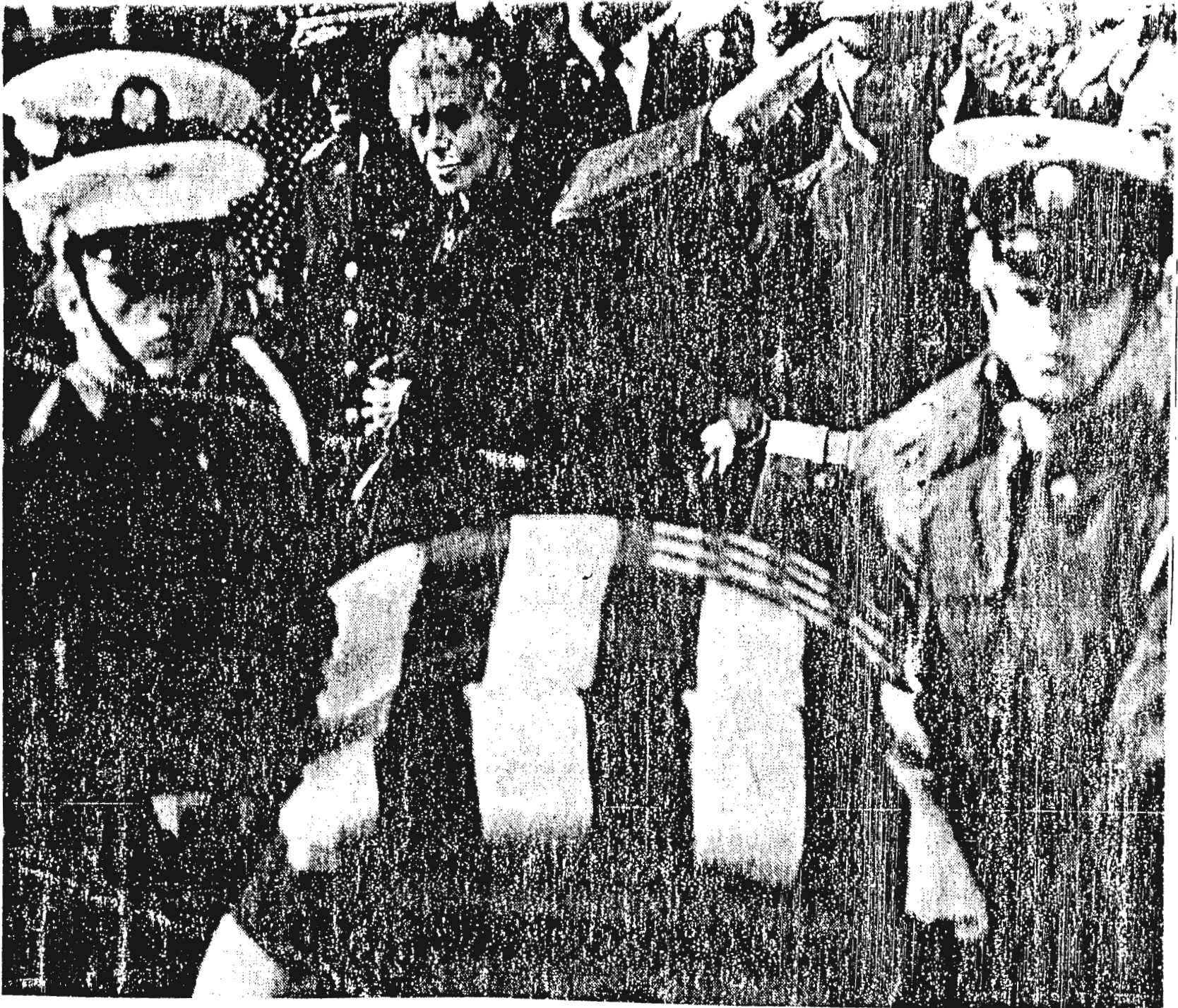
"Both knew there is no acceptable substitute for freedom," Sampson told the more than 1,000 mourners at the service.

In the cathedral's gray stone Bethlehem Chapel, where Bradley's body had lain in repose during the night, hundreds of people paid their final respects to the brilliant, taciturn commander.

During the night and Tuesday morning, the mourners passing by Bradley's casket included aging former battlefield comrades bundled in raincoats against the cold drizzle, Boy Scouts and students in jeans.

Among those who passed through a chapel door under the inscription "The Man of Peace" to pay their respects was S.M. Smith, 69, a retired truck driver from suburban College Park, Md., who was an enlisted Jeep driver under Bradley during the Great War.

Smith stopped at the casket, donned an overseas cap, stood at attention, saluted smartly and marched away. "I always said that if I didn't die first, I'd come to the old man's funeral," he told a reporter.



—(AP Laserphoto)

**KITTY BRADLEY, GEN. OMAR BRADLEY'S WIDOW, WATCHES AS HONOR GUARD CARRIES HIS CASKET TO GRAVE SITE**  
... Services for the five-star general were Tuesday at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

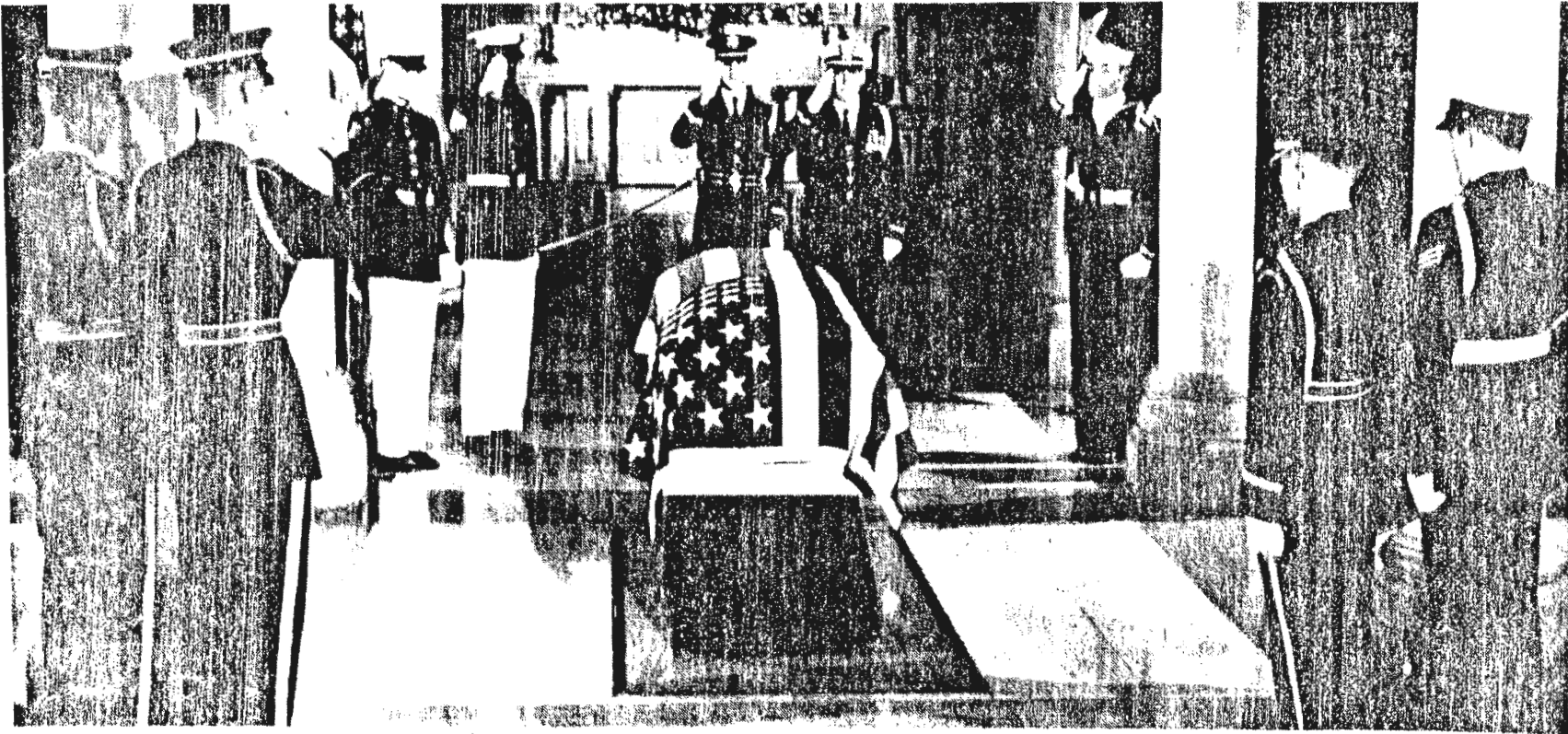
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—(Times staff photo by Lance Murray)

## *Taps for the general*

Spec. 5 Billy Weems plays taps as part of a two-bugle salute to the late General of the Army Omar Bradley at Howze Field at Fort Bliss. The ceremony was Tuesday afternoon in El Paso in conjunction with his burial at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

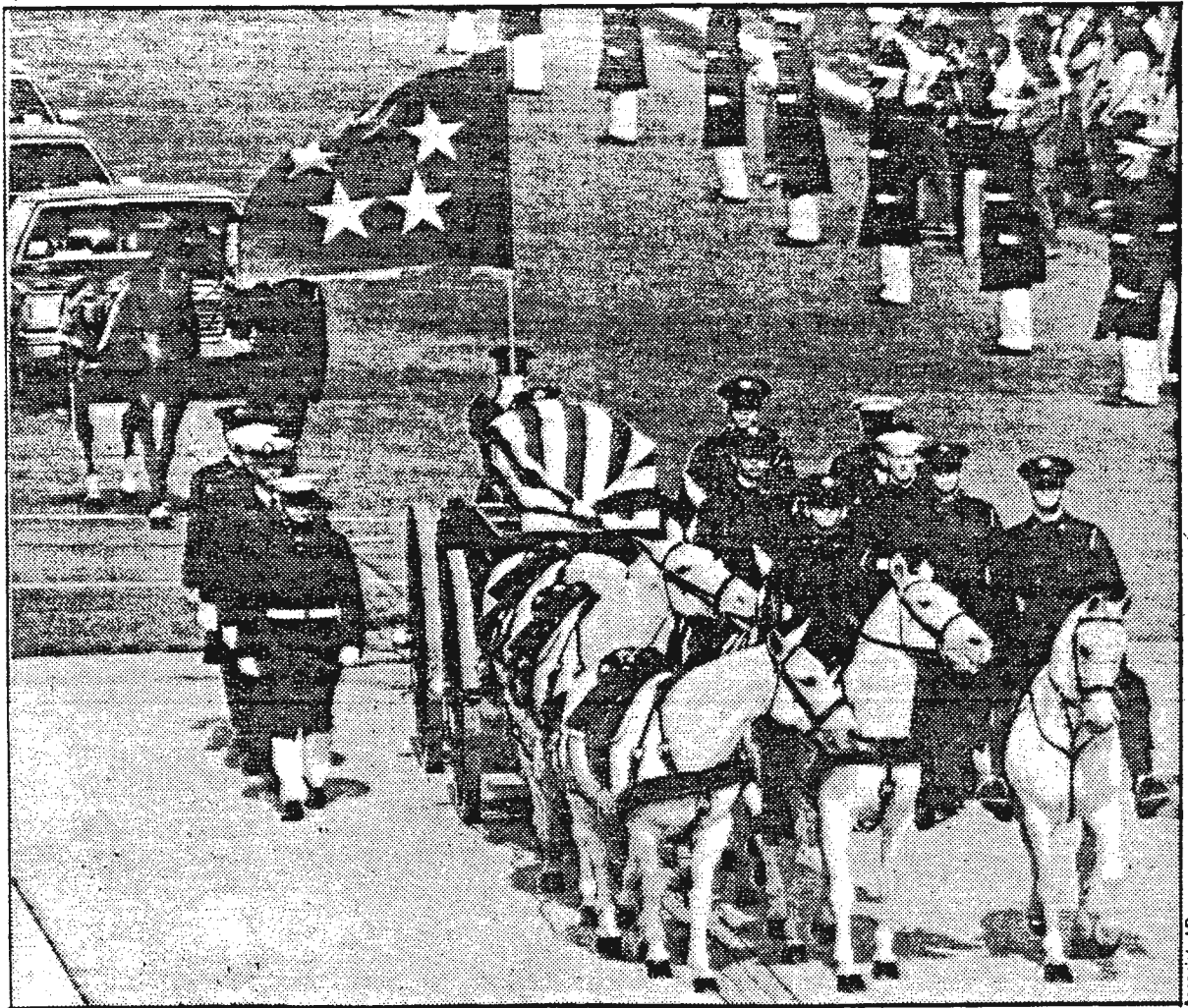


AP photo

The honor guard changes as General of the Army Bradley lies in state at the National Cathedral



## *Final salute to Omar Bradley*



A creaking black caisson, pulled by six matched gray horses — followed by a riderless, black quarterhorse symbolizing a fallen warrior — carries the flag-draped casket of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley to the slopes of Arlington National Cemetery overlooking Washington, where he was buried yesterday. Bradley, who died last Wednesday at the age of 88, was laid to rest alongside some of the 1.3 million American fighting men who followed him to victory against Nazi

Germany in World War II. He was buried beside Mary, his first wife, who died 16 years ago. His second wife, Kitty, her head draped in a black veil, listened silently to the final prayers and received the American flag removed from Bradley's gray metal coffin before it was lowered into the Virginia soil. Among those at the gravesite were first lady Nancy Reagan, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, dozens of generals and admirals and about 100 foreign military attaches.

Associated Press



The Washington Star/Ray Lustig

## Gen. Bradley Buried at Arlington

Mrs. Omar Bradley follows her husband's casket to the burial site at Arlington Cemetery yesterday. The nation's last 5-star general died last week in New York at the age of 88. (See story, A-3)

THE WASHINGTON STAR - Wednesday, April 25, 1981



THE WASHINGTON STAR Wednesday, April 15, 1981

## The Capital Report



The Washington Star/Ray Lustig

**Comedian Bob Hope and Gen. William Westmoreland at the Bradley funeral.**

# Gen. Bradley Laid to Rest Amid Pomp of Military

By Duncan Spencer  
Washington Star Staff Writer

Sounds of bugle and booming cannon and the grand thud of military drums followed Gen. Omar Nelson Bradley to his grave in Arlington Cemetery yesterday, the last of the great U.S. World War II battle generals.

The ceremony was as weighty as Bradley's rank. At 88, he was the surviving five-star general, a quiet midwesterner who outlived military heroes who also had received the highest rank - Dwight Eisenhower, H.H. Arnold, Douglas MacArthur and George C. Marshall.

Bradley served 69 years, a record on active duty. He was the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and he commanded over 1.3 million men, the largest force ever fielded by this country, in the last years of the war in Europe.

"The military life was not just a job, not just a career, it was a vocation, a calling. . . a calling to serve his country and his fellow men," said Army Maj. Gen. (retired) Francis I. Sampson in his eulogy yesterday. Sampson landed with Bradley at the Normandy beachhead on D-Day, 1944, to begin the invasion of Europe.

" . . . Omar Nelson Bradley was husband, father, citizen, soldier, patriot."

Slowed by arthritis, Bradley last appeared before a national audience in a wheelchair at the inauguration of President Reagan Jan. 20, where he served as honorary grand marshal.

Though sparsely attended, the funeral - from a quiet protestant service at the National Cathedral to a crashing 19-gun salute at the grave - was one of the most impressive military funerals since former President Eisenhower's in 1969.

Bradley, whose homely rugged face and rumpled clothing were as well known to World War II veterans as the distinctive visages of MacArthur or Eisenhower, died after a heart attack last Wednesday while dining at 21 Club in New York City.

His coffin had lain in state at the Bethlehem chapel of the cathedral since Monday. It was flown here from Ft. Bliss, Texas, Bradley's home for the last four years.

Bradley's final trip to Arlington in lowering clouds shot through with spring sunshine was a perfect warrior's tribute. Six matched grays with their hoofs gleaming drew a caisson hung with black bunting. The blood-red square of cloth with the five yellow stars went ahead, a signal of rank, and the light sparkled

from the bayonets of perfectly drilled formations of men from all five service branches along the march.

The general's body went by motor hearse to the memorial for the Army's Second Division, near the White House. There it was placed on the steel-wheeled caisson for the final portion of the march to the cemetery, along Constitution Avenue toward the tall flagpole on the Virginia shore marking the Lee-Custis mansion. Troops at parade rest lined the route.

As the procession slowly crossed Memorial Bridge, a formation of three F-15 warplanes howled over the Potomac, a wide gap in their formation for the traditional "missing man." Flags throughout the city stood at half mast. A glossy black Morgan horse, its stirrups bearing empty boots, stepped riderless as is the tradition to honor the fallen soldier.

Dignitaries led by Vice President George Bush and Nancy Reagan, wife of the still ailing president, attended both the cathedral service and the internment on a hillside at the military cemetery, where Bradley lies next to his first wife, Mary, whom he married in 1916. She died in 1965. His widow, Kitty Buhler, took the flag that draped his gunmetal-colored coffin.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger; retired Army General William Westmoreland; former Sen. Stuart Symington of Bradley's native Missouri; former Ambassador Averell Harriman; comedian Bob Hope, a Bradley intimate, and Secretary of State Alexander Haig were among hundreds clustered at the gravesite.

Military attaches from The People's Republic of China, Britain, France, West Germany, the Soviet Union and other delegations added a variety of uniforms, medals and braid to the gathering.

Grouped howitzers fired a 19-gun salute, a fusillade exceeded only by Eisenhower's 21. But at Bradley's own order, the pomp was leavened by the playing of two tunes; "Where the Turf Meets the Surf at the Old Del Mar" and "Army Blue." The traditional three volleys of rifle fire also preceded the lowering of the coffin.

Bradley, Sampson said during the National Cathedral service, "preferred the title 'soldiers's soldier' "and drew parallels between the soldier and Abraham Lincoln, another "tall, strong quiet man from the Midwest with a droll sense of humor. . . Both of them had in the back of their minds, always there is no substitute for freedom."

# Bradley buried beside 1st wife in Arlington

WASHINGTON (AP) — To volleys of rifle fire and an Army bugler's mournful "Taps," General of the Army Omar N. Bradley was buried yesterday on a gentle hillside alongside some of the 1.3 million American fighting men who followed him to victory against Nazi Germany in World War II.

A creaking black caisson, pulled by six matched gray horses and followed by a riderless, black quarter horse symbolizing a fallen warrior, carried Bradley's flag-draped casket to the slopes of Arlington National Cemetery, overlooking Washington from the Virginia bank of the Potomac River.

As the procession crossed Memorial Bridge on the last leg to the gravesite, the clop of hooves was broken by the scream of 19 Air Force F-15 jet fighters that passed in tribute.

The general was laid to rest beside his first wife and hometown sweetheart, Mary, from Moberly, Mo., who died 16 years ago. His second wife, Kitty, her head draped in a black veil, listened silently to the final prayers and received the American flag removed from Bradley's gray metal coffin before it was lowered into the Virginia soil.

Among those at the gravesite were Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, dozens of generals and admirals, and about 100 foreign military attachés, standing in salute.

Bradley, the last of the nation's five-star generals and first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, died of a heart attack last Wednesday in New York City at age 88. He had lived at Fort Bliss, Texas, for the past four years.

First Lady Nancy Reagan, representing her recuperating husband, led a delegation of Vice President and Mrs. George Bush, Cabinet members, high-ranking military officers and diplomats at a funeral service conducted

under the soaring, Gothic arches of Washington Cathedral.

Maj. Gen. Francis L. Sampson, retired chief Army chaplain who landed with Bradley at the Normandy beachhead on D-Day, 1944, eulogized him as a leader who shared Abraham Lincoln's physical stature, modesty, droll sense of humor, and sense of duty in protecting the lives of his young troops.

"Both knew there is no acceptable substitute for freedom," Sampson told the more than 1,000 mourners at the service.

In the cathedral's gray-stone Bethlehem Chapel, where Bradley's body had lain in repose during the night, hundreds of people paid their final respects to the brilliant, taciturn commander who earned the love and respect of the foot soldiers he led in the mighty American drive from Normandy to the Elbe. To them, he was "the GI's general."

During the night and yesterday morning, the mourners passing by Bradley's casket included aging former battlefield comrades bundled in raincoats against the cold drizzle, Boy Scouts, students in jeans, FBI Director William Webster, former ambassador W. Averell Harriman and former Democratic Sen. Stuart Symington from the general's home state of Missouri.

Among those who passed through a chapel door under the inscription, "The Man of Peace," to pay their respects was S.M. Smith, 69, a retired truck driver from suburban College Park, Md., who was an enlisted Jeep driver under Bradley during the Great War.

Smith stopped at the casket, donned an overseas cap, stood at attention, saluted smartly and marched away. "I always said that if I didn't die first, I'd come to the old man's funeral," he told a reporter.

On Monday, Bradley's body was flown to Washington from Fort Bliss aboard a presidential jetliner. Nineteen guns boomed in tribute at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and an Air Force band played "Nearer My God to Thee" as the casket was taken from the plane and carried to the cathedral.

Bradley's reputation as a master battle tactician was assured with his performance as a II Corps commander in North Africa and Sicily in World War II.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, his West Point classmate, then chose him to command the 12th U.S. Army Group in Europe, totaling more than 1.3 million combat soldiers, for the march across Europe that started with the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944.

It was the largest body of American soldiers ever to serve under one field commander.

And it was Bradley, the tall, bony and homely son of a Missouri schoolteacher, who linked his forces with Soviet troops under the command of Marshal Ivan Konev on the banks of the Elbe River in Germany on April 25, 1945.

After the war, President Harry S. Truman made Bradley head of the Veterans Administration from 1945 to 1947. He then served as chief of staff of the Army and served two terms as first chairman of the Joint Chiefs, from 1949 until 1953.

He became a five-star general in 1950, an honor previously accorded only four other Army men, Eisenhower, Henry H. "Hap" Arnold, Douglas MacArthur and George C. Marshall. In later years, he served on the boards of several large business corporations.

In one of his last public appearances, Bradley attended President Reagan's inauguration on Jan. 20 in a wheelchair pushed by actor Jimmy Stewart. Bradley had suffered knee problems stemming from his days as a West Point football player. In February, he had recovered from a viral infection.



UPI photo

*Mrs. Omar Bradley escorted by Maj. Gen. Robert Arter*

## Bradley to be buried

WASHINGTON (AP) — The body of Omar N. Bradley, the nation's last five-star general, was borne to the nation's capital aboard a presidential jetliner Monday for a final salute and burial on a hillside overlooking the Pentagon.

An eight-man team carried the flag-draped, grey metal casket bearing the general of the Army down a ramp at Andrews Air Force Base as an honor guard stood at stiff attention and 19 guns boomed in tribute.

The body of the 88-year-old general then was carried in a black Army hearse to the National Cathedral, where his funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac from the capital and within a mile from the Pentagon.

Bradley's widow, Kitty, escorted by a military officer, joined family members on the tarmac at the air base.

Mrs. Bradley, dressed in black with a veil over her face, leaned on the arm of Air Force Gen. David Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as she led mourners into the chapel at the cathedral.

Also attending were the nation's top uniformed officers and several civilian dignitaries, among them FBI Director William Webster, former Ambassador Averell Harriman and former Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo.

Bradley's body was brought from Fort Bliss, near El Paso, Texas. It had been flown there Thursday after the "GI's general" died Wednesday in a New York hospital following a heart attack at a dinner. Bradley had lived at Ft. Bliss the past four years.

Part II / Wednesday, April 15, 1981

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## Omar N. Bradley

One might perhaps be accused of jingoism these days if he happens to idolize one of America's great military heroes. I hope not.

I heard the sad news that Gen. Omar N. Bradley had just passed away and I must admit that I shed a tear or two. This might sound immature or overly sensitive, but I would guess that cartoonist Bill Mauldin also shed a few tears.

I began World War II as a tank driver and ended it as an infantry captain in the South Pacific. Every doughboy knew that Gen. Bradley was the "soldier's soldier" and that he had the front-line troops at heart when he made his all-important battle decisions.

I considered it a singular honor when Gen. Bradley autographed a copy of his book, "Bradley: A Soldier's Story," on a fairly recent visit to Los Angeles.

He was our country's only five-star general. Small in stature, he was a giant among men and a truly great American. Whether fashionable or not, he was one of my heroes. I hope that he goes where all soldiers go and that reveille is sounded at mid-morning and that taps is whenever one wants it. In Gen. Bradley's case, he would want to be in the foxholes and in the front line. He wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

GEORGE G. ANTHONY  
Encino

## A soldier's friend

# Fort Bliss mourns GOA Bradley

by E.C. Starnes

Fort Bliss bid farewell to its most distinguished resident Monday as the flag-draped casket was carried by members of the Presidential Honor Guard from Chapel 1 to a Presidential plane at El Paso International Airport.

General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, who died in New York City last Wednesday, had moved to Fort Bliss in November 1977 and lived in Quarters No.1 in the old WBAMC complex with his wife Kitty.

More than 8,000 people passed by the General's casket in Chapel 1 during the weekend as members of a joint service color guard, representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, kept silent vigil over the "GI's General."

Major General John B. Oblinger, Jr., post commander, noted of the general that he "was indeed the 'Soldier's General' and he proved it over and over by his informal talks with the soldiers of Fort Bliss on leadership and the art of soldiering. General Bradley was and remains one of America's greatest heroes."

On Friday a 19-gun salute honored the World War II hero. On Tuesday, a memorial service was conducted at Howze Field with hundreds of El Pasoans and soldiers braving the wind and drizzle to pay tribute to the general. The memorial service coincided with the memorial service and funeral procession in Washington, D.C. General Bradley was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Brigadier General Archie S. Can-

non, assistant commandant of the Air Defense School, noted in his eulogy that while General Bradley was a war hero, he had a "passionate wish, indeed an almost pious hope that the young men of our nation will someday enjoy peace—the dream shared by all military men.

"Now we say goodbye to this great protector of freedom. May we cherish his memory, not only in his honor, but in the all-consuming hope that his fight for freedom, for truth, for peace, will be our heritage forever."

In an unplanned, but fitting tribute, a pair of U.S. Air Force F15s overflew the services.

General Bradley had been very active at Fort Bliss, and in the El Paso community. He talked with soldiers in organized class sessions, at informal question and answer meetings and during luncheons and dinners. He was happiest when he was with young soldiers, a group of people he felt were the best trained and the most able soldiers anywhere in the world. While news reporters and "experts" decried the decline in the education and ability of the volunteer Army, General Bradley remained its staunchest supporter. He never lost faith in the American soldier and would repeatedly tell any audience of his faith in the ability, training and faithfulness of today's soldier.

General and Mrs. Bradley were frequent guests at official dinners at Fort Bliss and were a common sight in the community. A lover of horses, the General could often be seen en-



(Continued from Page 1)

joying his favorite sport at the local race tracks.

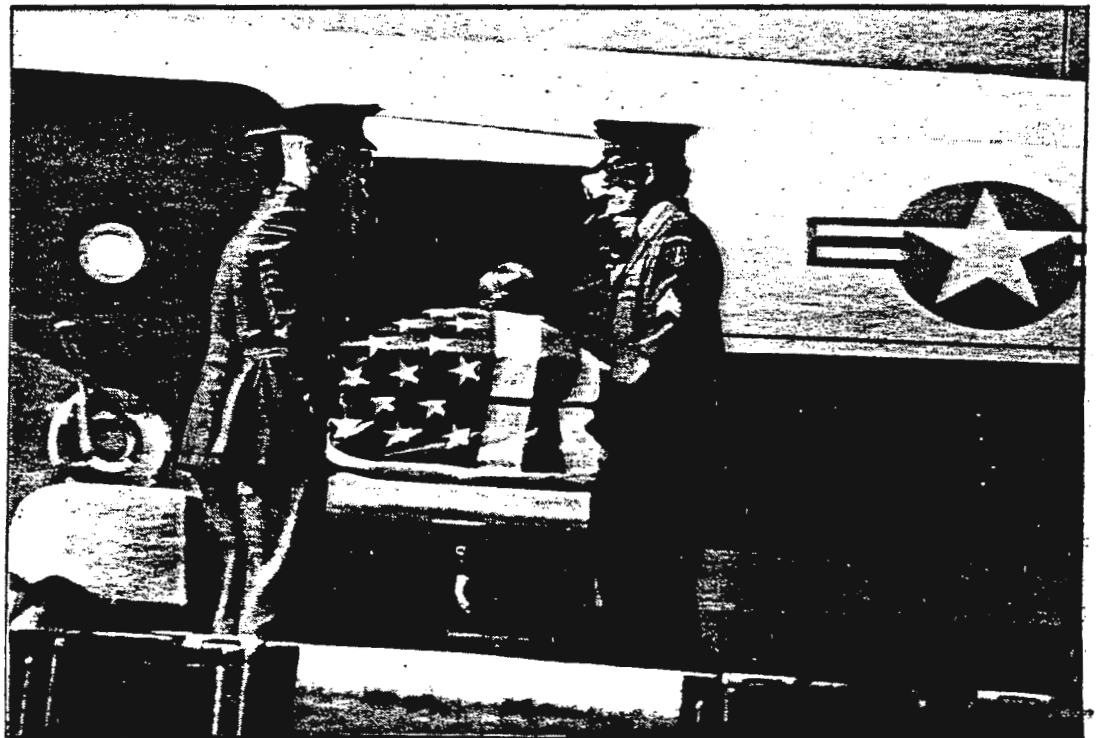
General Bradley's body lay in repose at Bethlehem Chapel, National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Monday and Tuesday and was borne by military caisson to Arlington National Cemetery. Vice-President George Bush led the distinguished list of national and foreign leaders that paid their final respects to one of this nation's greatest military leaders.

At the time of his death General Bradley had served nearly 70 years in the uniform of his country. He had served as a five-star general for more than 30 years.

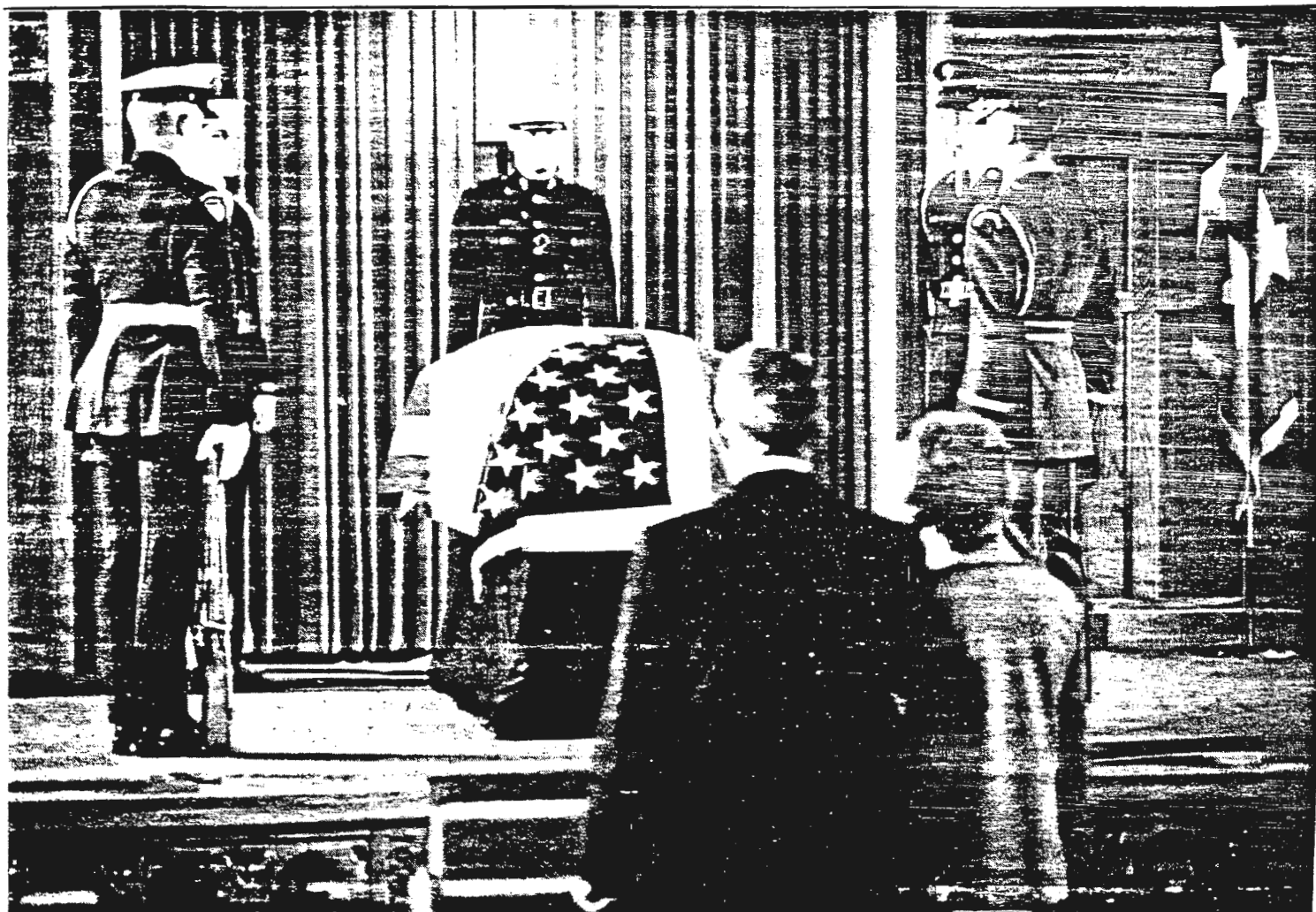
Brig. Gen. Cannon remarked that "Now the voice of the GI's General is stilled."

But nothing can still the record of his achievements, his attributes of humility and quiet humor, or his most important assets, his love for this nation and the men and women who serve it in uniform. They now bear the burden of keeping the world free from war without one of the world's greatest military leaders.

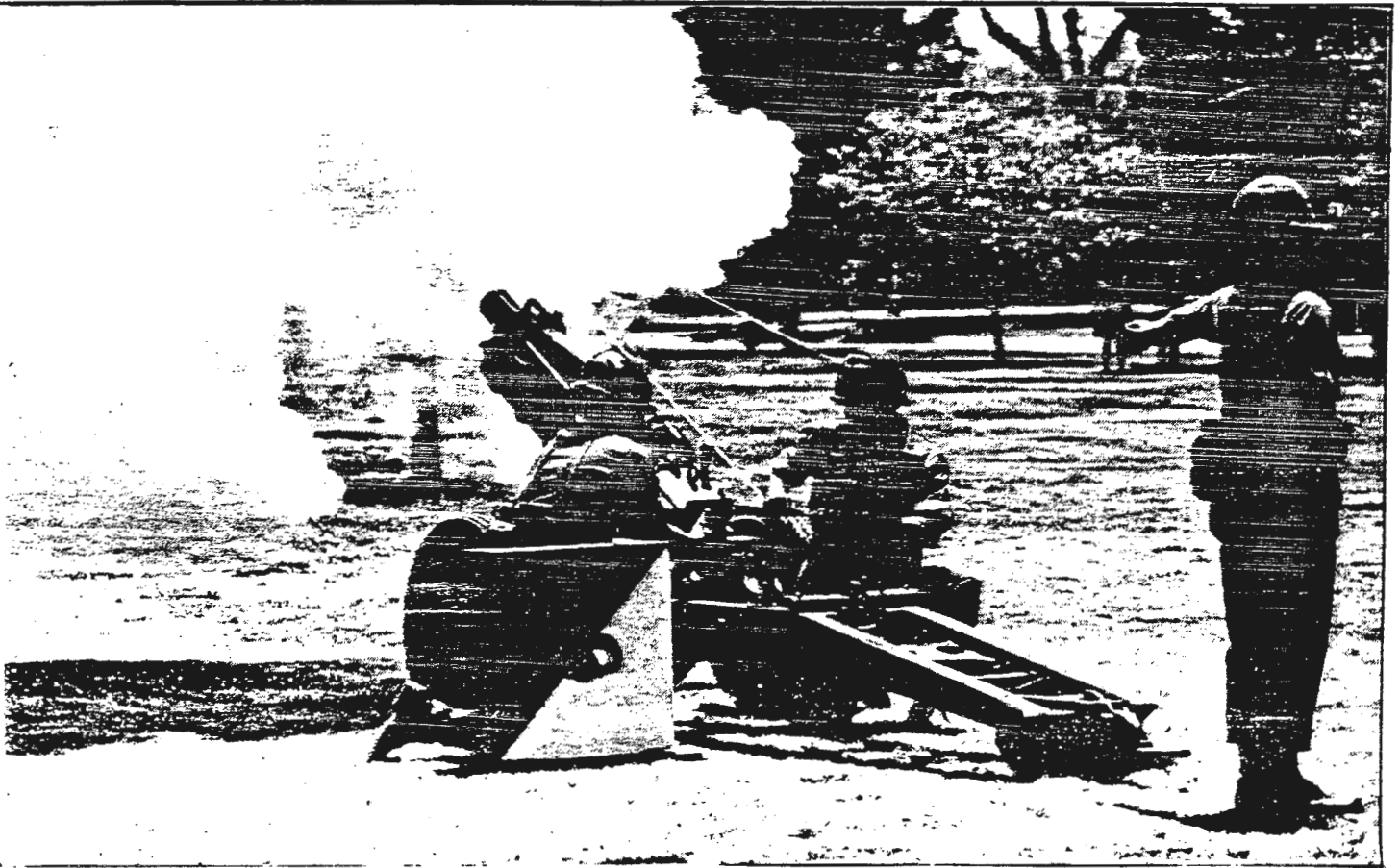
Photos by Rico Johnston



FULL HONORS—The Presidential Honor Guard, consisting of men from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, move GOA Bradley's casket on a Presidential plane as it makes its final trip for burial at Arlington National Cemetery.



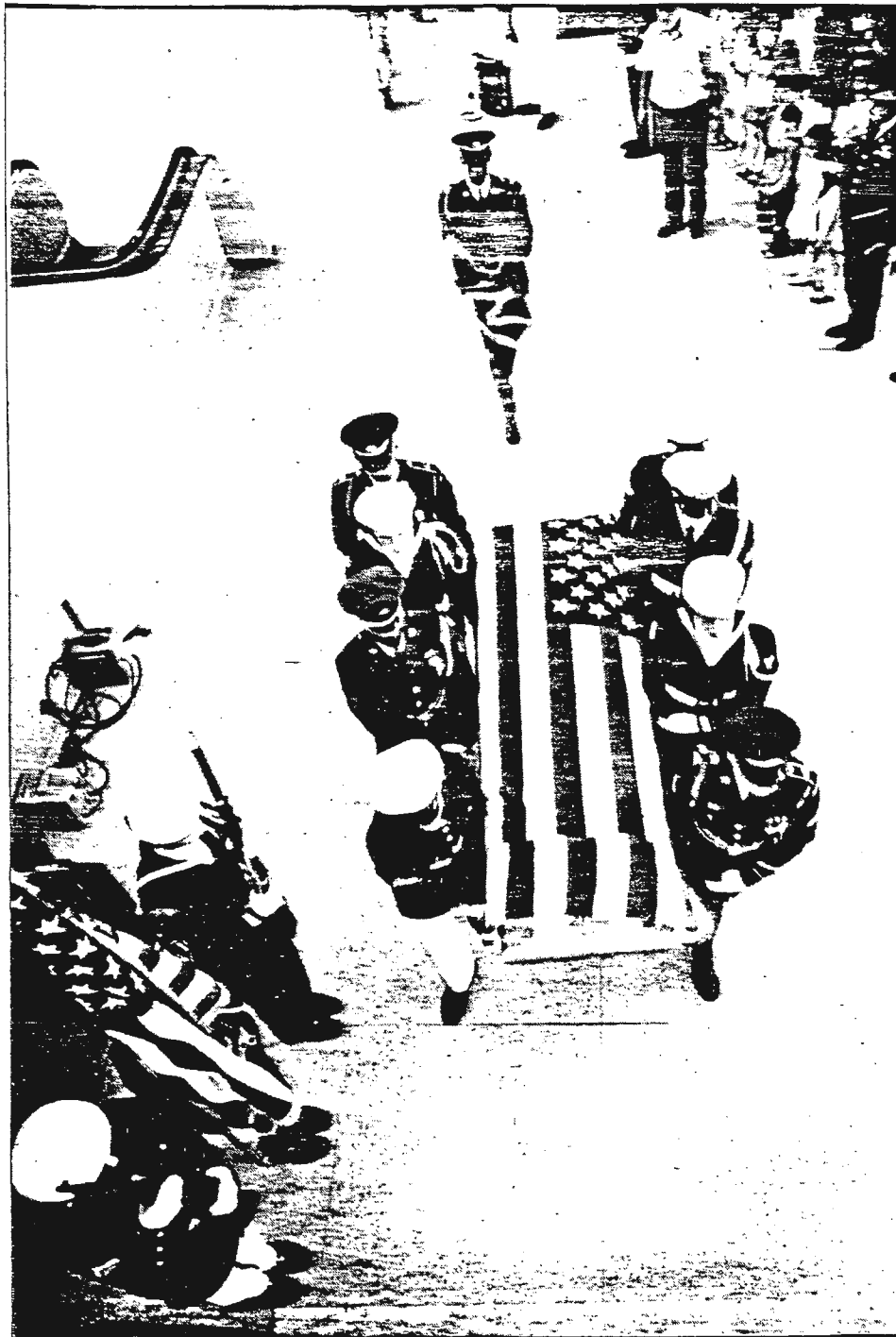
**PAYING RESPECT—Maj. (Ret.) and Mrs. Lewis Stevens pause to pay respect as GOA Omar N. Bradley lays in repose in Center Chapel.**



**FINAL SALUTE**—A 19-gun salute was fired as a final farewell to GOA Bradley.



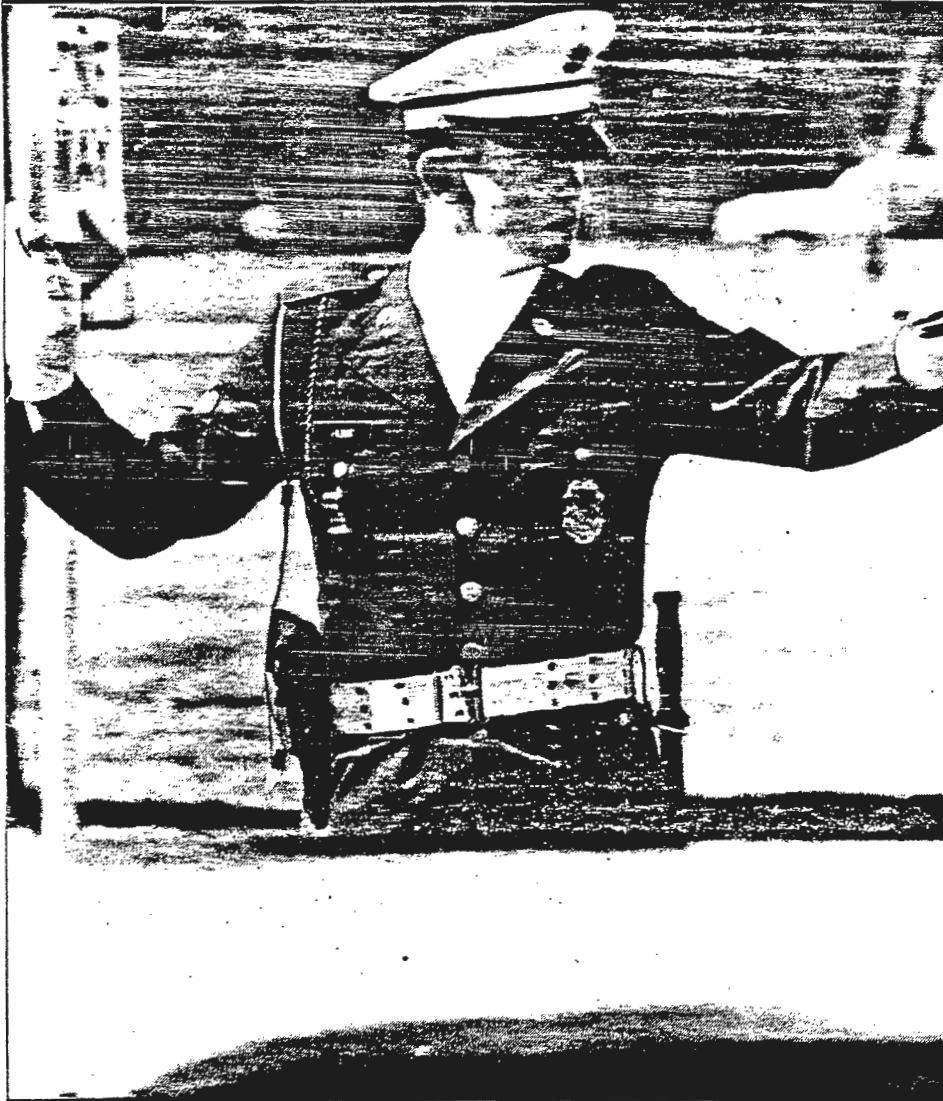
**NY, FEBRUARY 1945**—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, U.S. 12th Army Group, autographs the helmet of Pvt. John Powell, Syracuse, N.Y., at the 9th command post near Hurtgen.



**SOLEMN MOMENT**—The Presidential Honor Guard carry the body of General of the Army Bradley through the El Paso International Airport to a Presidential plane to Washington for burial.



**GENERAL'S WIDOW-Maj. Gen. John B. Oblinger, right, and Lt. Col. Courtney M. Rittger assist Mrs. Bradley into her car after her arrival in El Paso.**



**BUSY TIME—Sp4 James Lee Hunt, 591st MPCo., typifies Fort Bliss soldiers servicing military and civilian persons visiting Chapel No. 1 to pay respect and honor to the nation's last Five Star General. About 8,000 persons passed the General's casket.**





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

(By permission of Bill Mauldin and Wil-Jo Associates Inc.)

# 'GI's General' leaves a great legacy for all

by Ralph Dohme

Omar Nelson Bradley was a paradox—a fierce warrior and a peaceful man full of love and compassion for his fellow man.

He was dedicated to peace and freedom for all people of the world. He knew that peace and freedom didn't come without a price and five times in his lifetime the country was at war.

General of the Army Bradley is no longer with us—the Lord's will having been done. Yet, paradoxically he still lives with us and will continue to live with us for generations to come.

The life and ideals exemplified by Gen. Bradley are a legacy that should be deeply thought about, not only by Americans, but peoples throughout the world.

Gen. Bradley was a giant among men. He was a man of impressive physical stature that belied a warm and sensitive nature. He was a man of soft voice whose words carried the impact of a cannon blast. There were no pretensions in Gen. Bradley's makeup. He was the epitome of the old phrase "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

Gen. Bradley was never known to bully his way through. He didn't have to resort to a snake oil salesman's pitch to con his way. He was by no means a "smoothie." He didn't have to resort to such tactics. And above all he didn't bluff.

Gen. Bradley knew where he was. He knew his strengths and weaknesses. He understood human frailties—his own as well as others. He may not have liked them, but he understood them and made allowances.

And Gen. Bradley possessed another beautiful, manly trait all of us would do well to copy—he was never so engrossed in his own self-importance that he didn't know when to be quiet and listen, be it a private, sergeant or another general.

His professionalism and career progression put him in elbow-rubbing distance with all sorts of world leaders, kings, queens and presidents. But his heart was always with the common man. During the highlight of his illustrious career—World War II—he loved being in the field with his "grunts and doggies."

And they loved having him in their midst. He maintained a mutual bond with his men that was as strong as the Rock of Gibraltar and just as sincere.

After World War II, Gen. Bradley did not revel in the post-war glory and fanfare Americans tend to shower on their heroes. He had more important things to do and high on his priority was taking care of "the troops."

His leadership as head of the Veterans Administration assisted millions of broken bodies and souls to become physically well, emotionally sound, productive citizens. In the many phases of national hysteria during and after the "big one" Gen. Bradley never lost track of who he was and where he was.

Through wisdom that is beyond comprehension of man, the Lord put Omar Nelson Bradley in our midst because we needed a real giant. Through that same incomprehensible wisdom Omar Nelson Bradley has been called for another mission.

He leaves us a legacy. Let's hope and pray that we have the wisdom to copy and practice what he has given us.

Paradoxically one of the world's greatest warriors leaves us a legacy of peace, compassion, love and caring. What a wonderful gift.

## Omar Bradley

The appellation, affectionate, critical or otherwise, given to a person by his subordinates or peers often tells us all we need to know about the person. Omar Bradley was known as the "GIs' General," a designation which proclaimed that he had the respect, regard and fondness of the men in the ranks, particularly the infantrymen.

Bradley was the true troop leader. Men of Pennsylvania's 28th "Keystone" Division still talk of how Bradley would appear in their columns marching at night in their overseas preparations for the eventual fighting in Normandy and beyond. The general would chat briefly with individual soldiers, often without their realizing immediately they were talking to a general. And Bradley, one of only five men ever to attain the rank of five-star general, delighted in his acceptance by the "dog faces," or foot soldiers. "They consider me one of them," he once told an interviewer.

The sudden passing of Bradley, at 88, takes away the last of the five-star generals

and shoves farther into history the era that was World War II. In that conflict, the quiet, even shy Bradley commanded a force of more than a million men. He knew the anxious hours of the D-Day landings and the subsequent campaign into Germany that freed the world of Hitler and his evil works.

In keeping with his concern for those in his military charge, Bradley sought to lay out military operations in a manner least costly in casualties. And that fit another facet of his temperament. He was known as "the warrior who hates war."

The lingering feeling for General Bradley was demonstrated a year or so ago after a football game at West Point. Men of World War II age, and their wives, knowing Bradley was at the game, waited outside the superintendent's loge of the stadium when the game ended. As General Bradley was pushed in his wheelchair, to a waiting car, the crowd broke into a warm hand-clapping. The general acknowledged the salute. It was a touching moment.

Comment

JOHN P. ROCHE

# Bradley Left Limelight To Others

It's good they had such a dignified, unfrenzied funeral for General of the Army Omar N. Bradley; I think he too would be pleased. Not that Bradley didn't enjoy his perks, but he had a healthy disdain for fancy trappings: Once queried why he failed to wear his five or six decks of medals, he allegedly chuckled wryly and observed, "I let George (Patton) wear them for both of us."

War was his business, but he never had a love affair with violence.

One can spot three personality types who historically have reached top commands in the American Army. There are the brilliant prima donnas such as Winfield Scott, who began his career as "old fuss and feathers" with a victory in the War of 1812.

Scott, of course, prefigured General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, and like the latter had great political ambitions. Neither had a chance: Scott was one-upped by his rival Mexican War general, "Old Zack" Taylor, whose characteristic uniform was a linen duster and a straw hat. Taylor was a good "people's" general who was elected president. In a sense, Dwight Eisenhower was his spiritual heir: they both specialized in conspicuous simplicity.

**Old Photo**

Indeed, every year I break out a news photo taken in July 1932, and show it to my class in American Civilization. There are two officers, unidentified, who have just routed the mighty forces of the Bonus Army from Washington. One is truly a Caesar, chest bedecked with medals, magnificent features and eyes with the look of eagles. The other, a major, looks initially like the organ grinder's monkey. Simple uniform, not a medal to be seen, patently Caesar's stooge.

Yet when you look closely at Maj. Eisenhower's features, there is no sign of dog-like devotion but rather an element of caustic, deprecating scorn. The man who later observed he "learned acting" from Mac-



GEN. OMAR N. BRADLEY

Arthur, was secretly amused at the charade. Suffice it to say that the tradition of conspicuous simplicity ran from Taylor through U.S. Grant to Ike.

There is a third notable tradition: the brilliant, anything but professionally humble, but authentically simple generals. William T. Sherman, and to balance the ticket for the benefit of my Southern friends, Joseph E. Johnston, CSA, were early examples. They knew their business, were spectacular low-key professionals, would not tolerate nonsense even if it meant resigning, and they left the limelight to others. They are the historical peers of Omar Bradley, and - as in "Brad's" case - their contributions are invariably underestimated.

**Never Forgave Montgomery**

Omar Bradley, who had almost a million and a half troops under his command, saw his mission as defeating the Wehrmacht with minimal casualties. He did not seek a risk-free operation but a careful weighing of odds: When the odds were good and the payoff worth it, Bradley would strike decisively. He never forgave British Field Marshal Montgomery, for example, for not leaping to close the Falaise gap and bag the whole German Seventh Army instead of only 70,000.

On the other hand it is inconceivable that Bradley would have taken Eisenhower's stance on Montgomery's cherished "Market Garden" operation, the "Bridge Too Far." Despite intercepts of Nazi top secret messages revealing that two S.S. Panzer divisions and a very tough general had been moved to Arnhem, where Anglo-American airborne units were scheduled to hit, Ike refused to cancel the disaster.

Again after the surprise Nazi December 1944 Ardennes offensive, which stunned all hands because the Germans were supposed to be in chaos, Eisenhower wobbled when Monty demanded total command of Allied ground forces, including Bradley's Third Army group.

Bradley threw no theatrical scene: he simply said he would resign. Ike knew his West Point classmate was not a "resigner," one who threatened to quit once a month if frustrated, and backed off. Bradley led his troops to the Elbe. The last of the Great Captains, he is gone, and the Republic has lost its pre-eminent democratic soldier.

RED SMITH | Sports of The Times

# Omar Bradley, Soldier and Athlete

**A**LONG with the daily assortment of publicity handouts, bills and solicitations came a letter from Red Reeder, soldier, author and athlete.

As a soldier, Col. Russell Potter Reeder Jr. lost a leg on D-Day plus six and received the first Distinguished Service Cross awarded in Normandy during World War II. As a biographer, historian and writer of fiction, he won distinction as King of the Literary Frontier. As an athlete, he played football at West Point, captained the Army baseball team and hit .413 in spring training with the New York Giants. John McGraw offered him \$5,000 a year to join the Giants' organization, but Red couldn't bring himself to resign his commission, and he stayed on with the military at \$1,716 a year.

Red is 78 now, and retired. For the last several years, he has been battling a type of partial paralysis, the effect of an anti-tetanus shot that went wrong. It is an enervating ailment, but it hasn't dimmed Red's spirit or loyalties. One of his heroes was Gen. Omar Bradley, the soldier and athlete from Clark, Mo.

When Bradley was a five-star general, he liked to visit Toots Shor's and relax with the jovial proprietor. One evening Toots told him, "Red Reeder and his wonderful wife, Dort, were here this afternoon."

"Red fought for me in Normandy," Bradley said. "If he hadn't been wounded, he would have made three-star general."

Next time Toots saw Reeder he said, "General Bradley says that if

you hadn't been wounded, you'd have been a two-star general."

A week later they were on the phone. "By the way," Toots said, "General Bradley says if you hadn't been wounded, you would have been a brigadier general."

"Look," Red said, "I don't want to hear any more from General Bradley or you. First thing you know, I'll lose my retirement pay as colonel."

In the letter dated last Tuesday, Red writes:

"They are burying Omar Nelson Bradley today in Arlington, the Missouri boy who served 69 years in the U.S. Army.

"Sixty-seven years back, the dim lights below stands in Philadelphia's Franklin Field changed the Army football team's dressing room into a cave. Coach Charlie Daly paced the floor nervously. A cadet manager barged in and said, 'Sir, the midshipmen are marching onto the field.'

"'Never mind the Navy!' Daly yelled. 'First team, on your feet!' Cadet Bradley, center, sat on a mattress with other substitutes. Daly dispatched the first team, then shouted at the subs, 'Get out of here, you phlegmatic bunch of sheep!'

"The game was rough. Cadet John J. McEwan, 'the Giant from Minnesota,' staggered to the sideline with a head injury. Omar Bradley dashed in to play center. In 1914 players didn't wear numbers, and neither the sports records nor Walter Camp, dean of American football, noted the substitution.

"Bradley's play was superb. McEwan liked to tell the story. For

years he would say, 'Camp thought Omar Bradley was me. Omar made me all-American.'

"On the diamond Cadet Bradley, outfielder, exhibited one of the best throwing arms ever seen on Doubleday Field. His muscles had been built up in boyhood over two summers of unloading gondola coal cars with a shovel, at 17 cents an hour.

"The West Point coach, Sammy Strang, who had played both the infield and outfield for the Giants, summed him up: 'A .383 line-drive hitter. But throw? Heavens! In one game he threw the ball over the backstop. The catcher couldn't have got it with a 30-foot ladder.'

"In a senior year Bradley got picked off first base in the Navy game at the Point. This gored him for 50 years. 'Worst umpiring I ever saw. I was safe!'"

Cure the Blues's feet have been a headache for LeRoy Jolley through most of the colt's preparation for the Kentucky Derby. The horse suffered a quarter-crack as a 2-year-old, developed an infection in the foot and had to grow a new hoof. Then he came up sore just before the Bahamas at Hialeah, and dried blood was found on a horseshoe nail.

Finally Jolley was able to start him in a seven-furlong allowance that Cure the Blues won easily. In his second race since October, he lost by a fiercely contested nose in the one-mile Gotham Stakes, and he appears to be fit for tomorrow's Wood Memorial at Aqueduct. He will probably

beat this field and go on to Churchill Downs with a chance to become Jolley's third Derby winner in six years.

The first was the hardest for LeRoy. In 1975, Foolish Pleasure tore the frogs of both front feet in the Florida Derby, and the trainer doubted that he could ever get him ready for Kentucky. Jolley nursed him along, and, as the Wood drew near, Foolish Pleasure drew post position No. 15, the extreme outside.

Jolley and John L. Greer, the owner, had a plane waiting to take the horse to Keeneland if they decided he wasn't ready for the Wood. They would run him instead in the Bluegrass Stakes five days later. In the end, though, they decided to chance it in the Wood.

Foolish Pleasure beat Bombay Duck half a length. Two weeks later Foolish Pleasure won the Derby, and on the backstretch Bombay Duck was hit by a beer can thrown by some clown in the infield.

Last year Jolley tried the filly, Genuine Risk, against males in the Wood. When she finished third, he decided not to send her to Kentucky. "I found out what I wanted to learn yesterday," he said the next morning. "No use shipping her 1,000 miles to learn it again."

After consultation with the owners, Bert and Diana Firestone, LeRoy changed his mind. Genuine Risk's mind was on love, but on Saturday, May 3, she attended to business long enough to become the first Derby winner of her sex in 65 years, the second ever.

## Pointers On a Great Old Soldier

Your otherwise good editorial commentary on General of the Army Omar N. Bradley (April 10) was carelessly flawed. Your misquote of his "wrong war" statement is reminiscent of the press's handling of President Eisenhower's speech referring to the "military-industrial complex." Gen. Bradley was talking about expansion of the Korean War, not the Vietnam (Indochina) War which he did say was "the right war, in the right place, at the right time."

As a former aide de camp to this wonderful legend, I believe you are out of step in comparing him with George McClellan. If you were a student of the Civil War, you would know that McClellan was a pompous prima donna who coveted his commander-in-chief's station, avoided confrontation with the enemy, paraded his troops ceremoniously but not to battle, and probably helped prolong the war. Gen. Bradley, on the other hand, moved boldly, while showing compassion for his troops.

And he was unpretentious. I wish more officers of my generation had met him.

Incidentally, his title was "General of the Army," not "General of the Armies," a title held only by John Pershing and, posthumously, by George Washington. Gen. Bradley followed Gen. Eisenhower as the Army's chief of staff, but Gen. Bradley was first chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Your editorial incorrectly referred to Gen. Bradley as "General of the Armies." This title was conferred by Congress on only one individual — John J. Pershing. The correct title is "General of the Army."

Norman H. Horwitz, M.D.  
Chevy Chase, Md.



OMAR N. BRADLEY



# The Cathedral Messenger

WESTWOOD HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

10808 Le Conte Avenue (213) 208-8576  
Los Angeles, California 90024

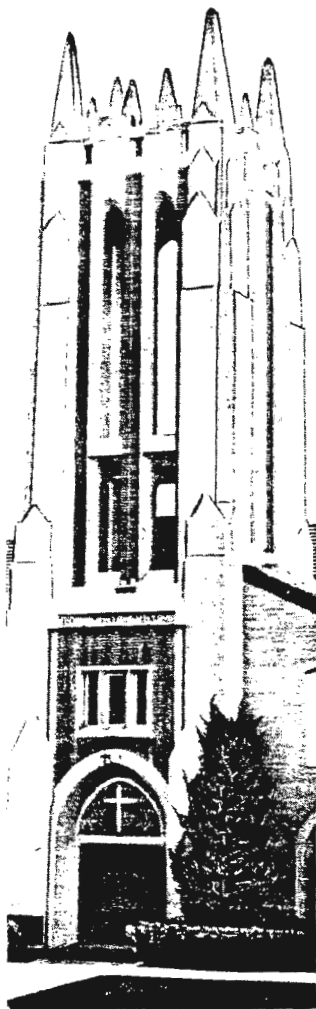
Dr. Myron J. Taylor, *Minister*

John C. Wakefield, *Associate Minister*

Volume 41

April 19, 1981

Number 16



## **In Memoriam: General Omar Nelson Bradley**

The most illustrious member of the Westwood Hills Christian Church has been laid to rest with the highest honors his country can bestow in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C. During their years in Los Angeles, General and Mrs. Bradley were members of the Westwood Hills Christian Church. General Bradley was the last of the Army's five-star generals and the soldier who served on active duty longer than any other man in U.S. History. Ernie Pyle called him "the GI's General." His troops liked his modesty and appreciated his compassion and concern for their welfare.

I know him as a gentle, unassuming man. He never appeared to be impressed with himself. I remember how he took time to shake hands with a young man in a wheel-chair once following a Church service. I remember how we sat by the pool at his home in the Hollywood hills and talked about military history, D-Day at Normandy and the state of the country. That was the day I baptized Mrs. Bradley. He never forgot the influence of his boyhood church back in Moberly, Missouri.

General Bradley left us all a legacy of integrity, wisdom and faith in God. His wife described him as "a warrior who hates war." He once said, "the way to win an atomic war is to make certain it never starts." Perhaps his most famous quotation was his assessment of the age in which we live -- "ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants."

We shall always remember what a privilege it was to have him among us. To his wife we extend our sympathy. His passing leaves a lonesome spot against the sky.

Myron J. Taylor

Sunday, April 19, 1981  
9:00 Church School, University Class  
10:00 Morning Worship  
Sermon: "Who Is This Jesus?"  
11:15 - Coffee Fellowship on the West Lawn

# The Five-Star G.I.'s General

*Omar Nelson Bradley: 1893-1981*

In 1943 Major General Omar Bradley arrived at the Tunisian front to serve as field adviser to his onetime West Point classmate Dwight Eisenhower. Bradley at 50 was a career officer who had never seen a day of action on the battlefield. Yet during the next two years, he was to lead American soldiers through some of the bloodiest fighting of World War II—the final defeat of the Germans' Afrika Korps, the invasion of Sicily, and, as commander of the U.S. First Army, the historic Normandy invasion. In 1945, after the Allies' near defeat at the Battle of the Bulge, Bradley led the sweep across the Rhine and the meeting of U.S. and Soviet troops at the Elbe. He was by then commander of the Twelfth Army Group, a mass of 1.3 million troops that formed the largest American force ever united under one man's command.



At West Point

In the memories of those who served under him, Omar Nelson Bradley always remained "the G.I.'s general." He was a tireless infantry leader who seemed to be everywhere at once. Dressed in a grimy old trench coat, his fatigues stuffed into his boots, "Brad" would frequently abandon his desk at headquarters for flights to the front in a Piper Cub. There, he insisted on inspecting everything from forward outposts to latrines. Though not noted for eloquence, he enjoyed addressing the troops in his flat Missouri twang, and he gave them plain talk. "Fellows like me have been in this business a long time," he told a unit being trained for the D-day invasion. "And you know we wouldn't be arranging this unless we were fairly sure it would work."

It did work, of course, largely because Bradley was—in sharp contrast to flamboyant General George S. Patton Jr.—a methodical, textbook commander who shunned flashy or risky tactics. Instead, he trusted meticulous preparation for slow, cautious assaults that held a solid chance of success. When a fellow officer, Major General William B. Kean Jr., expressed a mild worry about the awesome task of planning for the Normandy invasion, Bradley replied: "But, Bill, who in the Army knows more about it than we do?"

The son of a schoolteacher and a seamstress from central Missouri, Bradley found the prospect of going to college too



Honored at Washington dinner in 1972

expensive after graduating from high school. Instead, he took the advice of his Sunday school superintendent and applied for admission to West Point. He graduated in 1915, 44th in a class of 164; among his classmates were 30 officers—including Ike—who served as generals in World War II.

Bradley held 28 different Army posts while working his way up through a series of teaching, training and ad-

ministrative assignments. After the war, his fellow Missourian Harry Truman nominated Bradley as the first postwar head of the Veterans Administration and then, in 1949, as first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that position, Bradley was awarded the fifth star, accorded to a General of the Army, a title held by only four other men since the Civil War: George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Henry H. ("Hap") Arnold and Eisenhower.

After two terms as head of the Joint Chiefs, Bradley later joined the Bulova Watch Co. and served as its chairman from 1958 until stepping down in 1973. The old soldier spent his last four years at Fort Bliss in Texas, where he sometimes lectured on leadership. In accepting West Point's highest honor, the Sylvanus Thayer Award, in 1973, Bradley reflected on the low prestige of the military after the Viet Nam War. "The profession of arms is often a lonely profession. It is misunderstood by many. My wife has called me a warrior who hates war. I am sure that is true of all of us."

By act of Congress, five-star generals cannot retire, and thus Bradley served 69 years on active duty—longer than any other soldier in U.S. history. Although largely confined to a wheelchair by arthritis in recent years, he served as grand marshal of Ronald Reagan's Inauguration parade last January. Bradley flew to Manhattan last week to attend a dinner in his honor given by the New York chapter of the Association of the United States Army. Shortly after the ceremonies were completed, the G.I.'s general died, of cardiac arrest, at the age of 88.



With Patton, left, and Britain's Montgomery in France before the end of World War II

*The master of a lonely profession and a warrior who hated war.*

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## Taps for General Bradley

He clashed with British Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery and his relations with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, while friendly, were never especially warm. But Gen. Omar N. Bradley was always popular with his troops, and their nickname for him, the "GI's general," meant as much as his greatest military triumph—leading more than a million troops to victory over a German counteroffensive and establishing the first Allied link-up with the Soviet Army. His death last week at the age of 88 marked the passing of America's only remaining five-star general and the end of the long-

est active military career in the nation's history.

Bradley, named Omar because his mother thought it would distinguish him from all the other Bradleys in Missouri, entered World War II without any combat experience. A West Point-educated "book general," he regarded war as a series of mathematical problems—to be approached, he said, "slow and sure." "Never use intuition," he once said, advice he followed himself when playing the horses. From his hospital bed, Ronald Reagan eulogized: "He was the GI's general because he was, always, a GI."



Karsh of Ottawa



An obituary of the last of America's five-star officers, General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, a story on the nation's final salute to the general and photos of his long career begin on Page 32.

# Omar Bradley, 'GI's General,' Dies

By LEE EWING  
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Omar N. Bradley, soldier, died April 8.

The nation's last five-star general had completed more than 69 years of military service when he died in New York after suffering a heart attack. He was 88.

Presidents praised him, universities showered him with honorary degrees, dozens of nations bedecked him with their highest military decorations, but he was best known as "the GI's General."

Gen. Bradley won the affection of his troops in part because of his reputation for winning battles without losing lives unnecessarily.

During his long military career, Gen. Bradley achieved a number of notable firsts. In 1944, he took command of the 12th U.S. Army Group in Europe, a force of 1.3 million combat troops.

The 12th consisted of Gen. Courtney Hodges' First Army, Gen. George Patton's Third, Lt. Gen. William Simpson's Ninth and Lt. Gen. Leonard Gerow's Fifteenth.

Gen. Bradley was the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, serving two terms, from August 1949, to August 1953. He succeeded a West Point classmate, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, as Army Chief of Staff, serving from 1948 to August 1949, and was first Chairman of the Military Committee of the fledgling North Atlantic Treaty Organization, serving from 1949 to 1950.

But the longtime military leader rated his reorganization of the Veterans Administration, which he headed from Aug. 15, 1945, to Dec. 1, 1947, as possibly his most ambitious assignment.

"Congress had just passed the GI Bill giving veterans many benefits and it was my job to work out a system that would

give our men every possible break," the general told an Army audience early in 1976. "It was a joyful experience."

Born in Clark, Mo., Feb. 12, 1893, Gen. Bradley was named Omar for an editor friend of the family and Nelson for the local doctor. His father, a teacher and farmer, died in 1908 and the mother and son moved to Moberly, Mo., that year.

He was appointed to the Military Academy in 1911 and graduated 44th in the Class of 1915, which became known as "the class the stars fell on." Of the 164 members of the class, 59 became generals, among them Bradley and Eisenhower, who had 10 of the 111 stars worn by members of the class.

Gen. Bradley was the first member of the class to become a brigadier general, receiving his first star in February 1941, when he was promoted from lieutenant colonel. At the recommendation of Gen. George C. Marshall, he was assigned as commandant of the Infantry School, where he set up the Infantry Officer Candidate program.

He had earned the temporary rank of major in 1918 during World War I service with the 14th Infantry, but he reverted to captain in January 1920 when the Army was reduced after the war. He was promoted to major in July 1920, and reverted to captain again in November 1922. Finally, on June 25, 1924, he received his permanent promotion to major.

In the peacetime Army of the '20s and '30s, Gen. Bradley served two tours as an instructor at the Military Academy and attended the Infantry School, Command and General Staff School and the Army War College.

In 1938, two years after he was promoted to lieutenant colonel, he reported to Washington for General Staff duty, serving until ordered to Fort Benning in 1941.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Gen. Bradley took command of the 82d Inf (soon to become the 82d Abn) as a major the invasion and in the subsequent breakthrough at St. Lo, which cleared the way for the liberation of France.

Gen. Bradley received his fourth star in the spring of 1945 as commander of the 12th Army Group. He was nominated for promotion to General of the Army on Sept. 18, 1950, by President Harry S. Truman and was appointed to that rank effective Sept. 22, 1950. He was one of five Army five-star general officers. (The others were Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, George C. Marshall and Henry H. (Hap) Arnold.)

Gen. Bradley married Mary Quayle of Moberly, Mo., on Dec. 28, 1916. Mrs. Bradley died in December 1965, and the following year, the general married Kitty Buhler, a screenwriter who was working on a film based on his life.

The Bradleys lived in Los Angeles for years, and for a time he commuted to New York where he, beginning in 1953, served as an executive of the Bulova Watch Company. He was named chairman of the board in 1958.

In 1951, his memoir, *A Soldier's Story*, was published and became a best-seller.

Gen. Bradley, who had led the largest American fighting force ever assembled under a single field commander, once said, "As far as I am concerned, war itself is immoral."

He considered the Korean war "a great military disaster," and said it was "the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time, with the wrong enemy."

Despite the controversy surrounding the Vietnam War, Gen. Bradley said in 1967, "I think this is the right war with the right enemy."

Throughout his career, Gen. Bradley maintained the trim appearance of an athlete. At West Point, he played football, but he was best known for his strong throwing arm and his .383 batting average.

In 1975 he suffered a stroke, and in recent years he often appeared in a wheelchair.

In November 1977, Gen. Bradley moved to Fort Bliss, Tex., where he maintained an office. On occasion, he visited Washington to confer with senior military officials, and he often addressed groups of soldiers.

Gen. Bradley showed the wit that was his hallmark in a 1976 talk at the Air Defense School at Fort Bliss. Noting that many junior officers complain about how long it takes to get promoted, Gen. Bradley wryly suggested they consider his predicament: "I have almost 30 years time in grade — and no chance for promotion."

Half a century earlier, Gen. Bradley had feared that his military career was doomed because he had not served overseas during World War I. But he later found that having missed World War I combat was an advantage of sorts, for he was less attuned to the "trench war mentality" of many who had fought in that war, and thus could readily adapt to the more open style of warfare based on maneuver that prevailed in World War II.

Gen. Bradley's performance in World War II bore out a prediction about him that appeared in the 1915 yearbook of the Military Academy:

"His most prominent characteristic is 'getting there,' and if he keeps up the clip he's started, some of us will some day be bragging to our grandchildren that, 'Sure, General Bradley was a classmate of mine.'"

Through the years, classmates kept in touch with Gen. Bradley, and he with them.

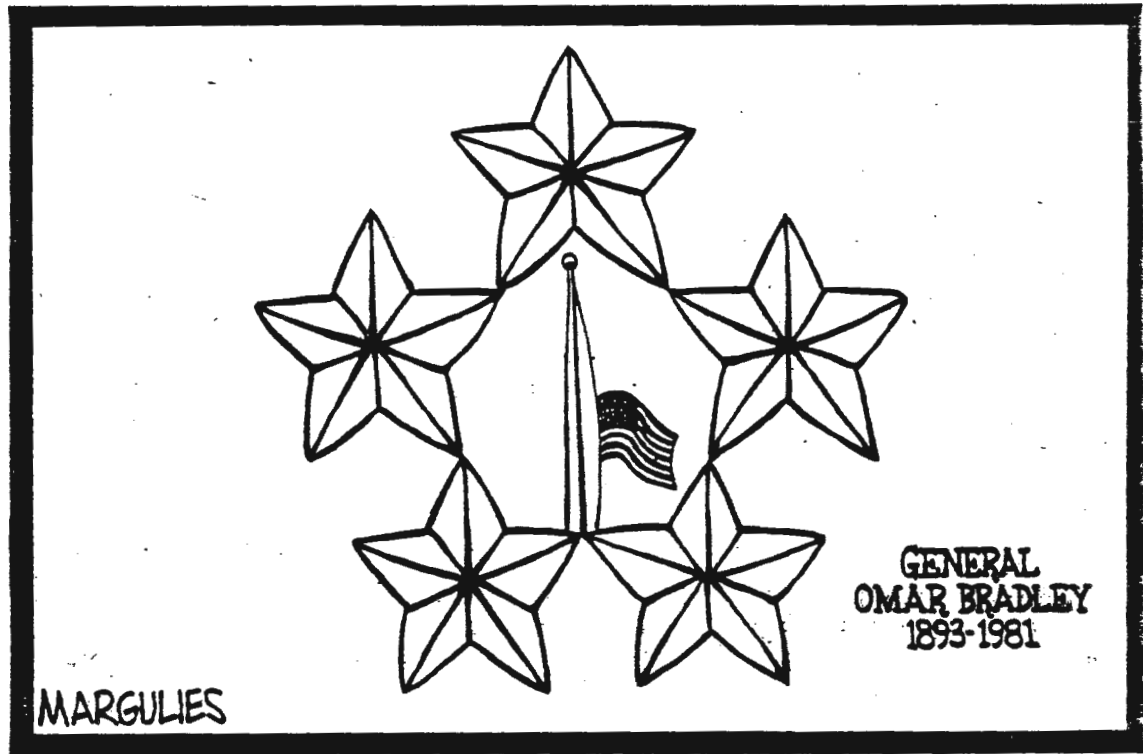
"The Army is like one big family," he told a group of officers at Fort Bliss. "When a buddy leaves, you don't say 'goodbye' — just, 'See you at the next post.' And usually you do."

It was to see some of his buddies that Gen. Bradley flew in early April from Fort Bliss to New York. He was attending a dinner meeting of the local chapter of the Association of the United States Army at the 21 Club when he suffered a cardiac arrest. He was rushed to St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Cen-

ter where doctors sought in vain to revive him. He was pronounced dead at 7:35 p.m.

Before long, the tributes began pouring in, including one from a successor to Bradley.

"With his passing, the Army and our nation have lost one of the most devoted and selfless men to ever wear the military uniform of the United States," said Gen. Edward C. Meyer, the current Army Chief of Staff. "Today's soldiers will miss him."



Visiting with soldiers in their club in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1947, Gen. Bradley shows the warmth that earned him the nickname of "the GI's General." Bradley then was chief of the Veterans Administration.



# Final Salute for Hero

By LAURIE PARKER  
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Ceremonial honor guards from each of the uniformed services were scheduled to participate in the funeral procession for General of the Army Omar N. Bradley here on April 14.

Gen. Bradley, the last World War II-era five-star general, died of a heart attack in New York on April 8.

The next morning, an honor guard from Fort Hamilton, N.Y., escorted the general's body and his widow, Kitty, to Kennedy International Airport. There, Air Force One, the aircraft normally reserved for the president of the United States, was to carry the general's body to El Paso, Tex., from where it later would be taken to Fort Bliss, the Bradleys' home since 1977.

A spokesman at Fort Bliss said Gen. Bradley was to lie in repose at the post's Chapel 1 until April 13, when the body would be taken to Washington, D.C., for a special military funeral.

An honor guard from the 3rd U.S. Inf, the "Old Guard" at Fort Myer, Va., was to accompany the body from New York to Texas and back to Washington, a spokesman for the military District of Washington told Army Times.

Plans called for Air Force One to land at Andrews AFB, Md. on the afternoon of Monday, April 13. From Andrews, the body would be taken to the National Cathedral, where it would lie in repose in the Bethlehem Chapel until Tuesday at noon.

It then would be taken into the cathedral for a funeral service, scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

Following a brief service, Gen. Bradley was to be taken from the cathedral to 16th Street and Constitution Avenue, where his casket would be transferred from a hearse to the traditional procession for a funeral procession across the Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery where burial was scheduled at approximately 3 p.m.

A spokesman for MDW, which is responsible for funeral arrangements here, said the U.S.

Army Band and the U.S. Marine Corps Band would take part in the cortege.

In addition to honor and ceremonial guards from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, the procession would include companies from each of the four service academies and a composite company of women from each service branch.

Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, Army Secretary John O. Marsh and the other service secretaries were expected to attend the funeral.



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower (left), Supreme Allied Commander, talks with then-Lt. Gen. Bradley (right) and Maj. Gen. Louis A. Craig, CG of the 9th Inf Div, at Bugenbach, Germany, in 1944. Bradley then was CG of the 12th Army Group.



General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at his desk in the



Entering the U.S. Military Academy in 1911, Gen. Bradley graduated 11th in the Class of 1915, known as "the class the stars fell on."



The frailty of his advancing age confined him to a wheelchair, but Gen. Bradley rendered a smart salute during presentation of the colors at the Sun Bowl football game at El Paso, Tex., Dec. 22, 1979.

# Letters

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## *Thanks El Paso!*

**EDITOR:** I request the following letter be published in the El Paso Herald-Post to express my appreciation for the support rendered by the citizens of El Paso in paying tribute to General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.

"I thank the citizens of El Paso who made that special effort to pay tribute to General of the Army Omar N. Bradley upon his death 8 April. The tributes and honors rendered by all El Pasoans, whether it was by flying the flag at half staff in their homes or businesses, or visiting Chapel One to pay personal respects, or just offering a silent prayer in their homes, were much appreciated by the Bradley family and staff.

"On behalf of the men and women at Fort Bliss, I would like to thank all those who visited the chapel and the two honors ceremonies for the General and for your cooperation in making this a fitting farewell to one of our Nation's most valiant military leaders.

"General Bradley loved El Paso and the people of this city. It is not hard to see why as you paid your respects by the thousands. I am personally indebted not only to the civic leaders of the El Paso community but to every citizen who helped us honor this great American hero." — John B. Oblinger, Jr., Major General, USA, Commanding.

## *Personal thanks*

**EDITOR:** Please accept my personal thanks for the manner in which The El Paso Herald-Post covered the death and memorial services for General of the Army Omar N. Bradley.

The news and photo coverage provided a

fitting tribute to one of Fort Bliss and El Paso's most distinguished residents. General Bradley was a great military leader and your coverage provided El Pasoans with a reminder of his achievements.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the professional and mature manner in which your reporters and photographers combined their need to cover the story and their respect for the occasion.—Edward M. McDonald, LTC, GS, Public Affairs Officer, Fort Bliss.

## —Readers write—

### *Word of thanks*

I thank the citizens of El Paso who made that special effort to pay tribute to General of the Army Omar N. Bradley upon his death April 8.

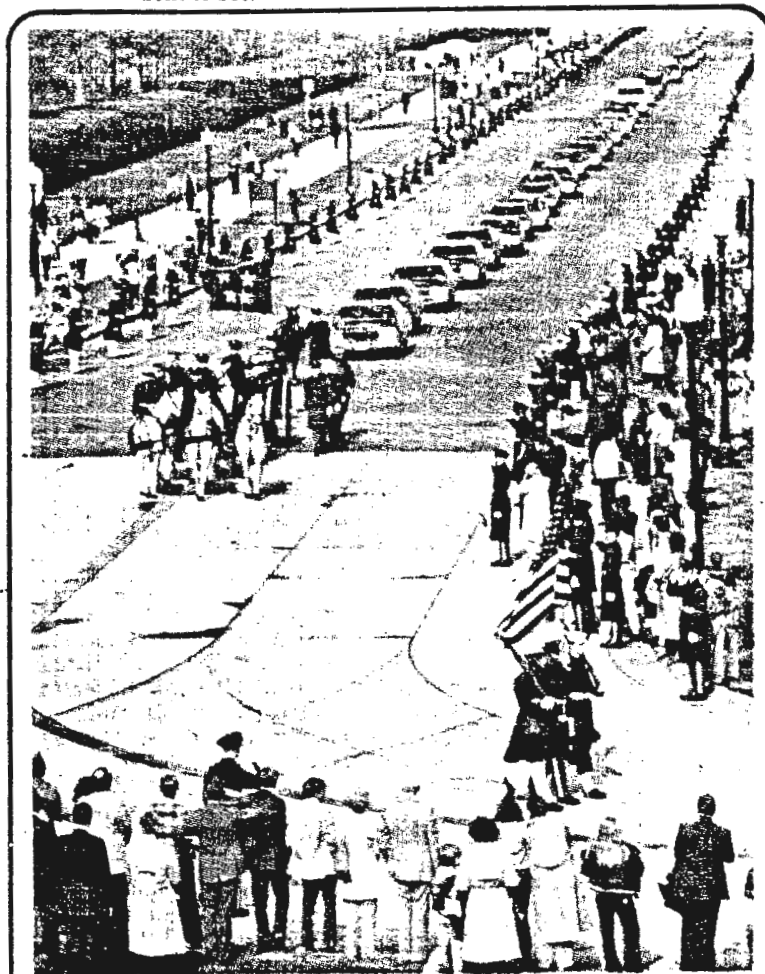
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—John B. Oblinger Jr.  
Commanding general  
Fort Bliss

FC:  
LDR:  
PAC:



Times Photo by Kate Patterson

### ***A Final Tribute***

The funeral procession bearing the body of General of the Army Omar Bradley from Washington National Cathedral to Arlington National Cemetery crosses the Memorial Bridge in Washington April 14. Story and pictures are on Page 20.

# 'Soldier's Soldier' Given Final Salute

By LEE EWING

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — A red flag spangled with five white stars stood beside the casket of General of the Army Omar N. Bradley as old soldiers and civilian leaders gathered in the Washington Cathedral April 14 to salute him.

Earlier, Gen. Bradley's body had lain in repose at Fort Bliss, Tex., his last home, and in the Bethlehem Chapel of the cathedral while old comrades and ordinary people he had never met filed past his bier to honor the nation's last five-star officer.

Vice President George Bush, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were among the ranking officials who came to pay respects, but wartime colleagues and other peacetime friends abounded.

Gen. Bradley, the son of a small town school teacher and farmer, numbered among his honorary pallbearers some of America's most distinguished leaders: Gen. (Ret.) J. Lawton Collins; Gen. (Ret.) Andrew Goodpaster; Ambassador Averill Harriman; comedian Bob Hope; Gen. (Ret.) Lyman L. Lemnitzer; Gen. John W. Vessey; Gen. (Ret.) Bruce Palmer Jr.; Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Elwood R. Quesada; Gen. (Ret.) Matthew B. Ridgway; former senator Stuart Symington; FBI Director William H. Webster; Gen. (Ret.) William C. Westmoreland, and Gen. (Ret.) Fred C. Weyand.

A wartime associate, Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Francis L. Sampson, USA, Ret., eulogized Gen. Bradley, his voice at times quavering with emotion. In many ways, he said, Gen. Bradley resembled Abraham Lincoln, for both were Midwestern farm boys who rose to national eminence by serving the

nation in time of great crisis.

Sampson praised Gen. Bradley as much for his humility and modesty as for his soldierly qualities, noting that he preferred to be known as "the Soldier's Soldier," a title he cherished because it reflected the affection of the men he led.

"I'm sure he felt more comfortable in a field uniform than he did in a dress (uniform)" Sampson said. "I recall having seen him from a distance at Normandy and I wouldn't have recognized him as a general if he hadn't been wearing stars."

"I'm sure the Eisenhower Jacket was not designed for Omar Bradley," Sampson said, for Gen. Bradley was often seen tugging down the front of the jacket to cover his belt buckle. On his lanky frame, Sampson recalled, "His trousers always seemed a little too baggy." And, he added, "He forever wore those double-buckle combat boots — they had to be the most atrocious-looking footwear ever invented by man."

Although Gen. Bradley considered the lives of his men to be a precious trust, Sampson said, he, like Lincoln, believed that "there is no acceptable substitute for freedom — not even life."

At the conclusion of the service, the Army Chorus sang the West Point Hymn and the vast vaulted spaces of the cathedral resounded with the phrase, "to the Corps, to the Corps, to the Corps."

Escorted by pallbearers from each military service, the casket was solemnly transported to 16th Street and Constitution Avenue, where it was transferred to the traditional caisson for the stately procession across the Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery.

There, those assembled looked up as a flight of three F-15 Eagle fighters in the missing-man formation streaked low through the gray skies over the Potomac.

The caisson, drawn by six gray horses and followed by the riderless black horse that symbolizes a fallen soldier, drew up to the hill-top gravesite overlooking the Lincoln Memorial.

The horses twitched their ears and tossed their heads as the Army Band struck up, successively, "Dogface Soldier," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," four ruffles and flourishes, "The General's March" and, finally, the song traditionally used to signal the end of West Point dances, "Army Blue."

Military people, privates and generals alike, snapped to rigid attention and saluted as the flag-draped casket was borne to the grave, preceded by a color guard and followed by the general's red flag.

A 19-gun salute boomed across the hills, the firing party smartly fired three volleys and a bugler stood to one side and played "Taps."

The final prayers were offered, the American flag on the casket was gently folded and presented to Mrs. Bradley and the band played one last time. When the music stopped, the red flag with five stars was gone.



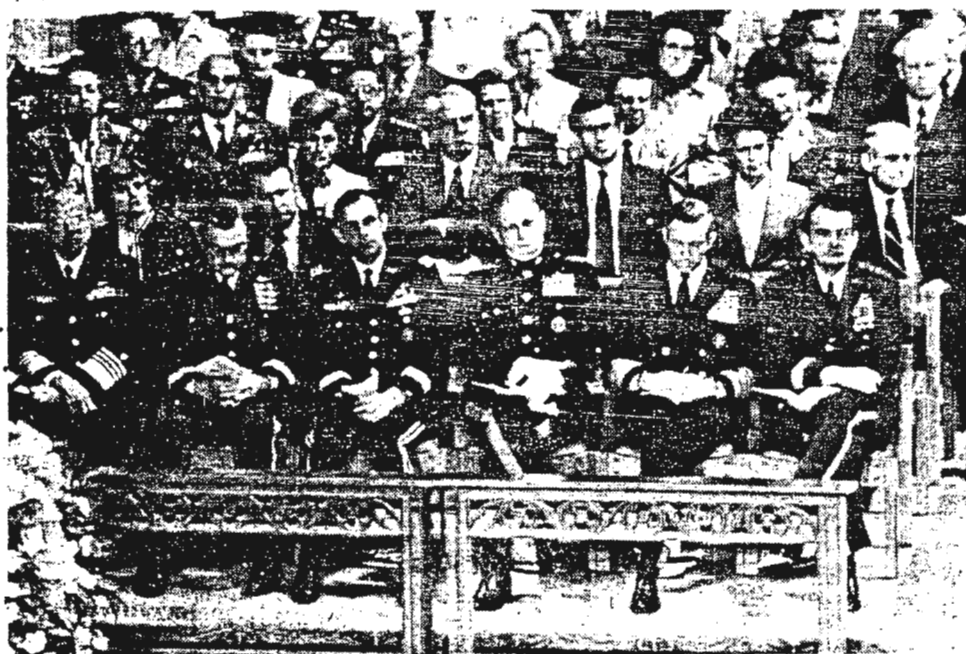


↑  
**RIGHT:** As Gen. Bradley's five-star flag dips in salute, a bugler sounds a traditional "Taps" in Arlington National Cemetery.

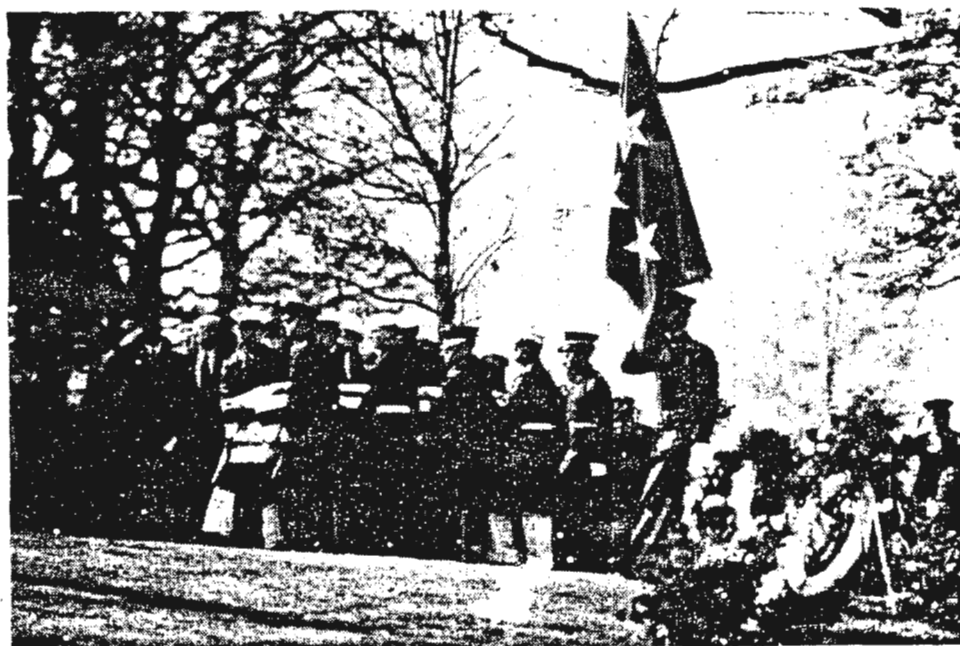
Times Photos by Joseph Matera



→  
**ABOVE:** Among those attending services in Washington National Cathedral were (front row, from left) Vice President George Bush, Mrs. Barbara Bush, Mrs. Nancy Reagan, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Mrs. Patricia Haig, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and Joseph M.A.H. Jims, Secretary General of NATO.



The Joint Chiefs of Staff were among the ranking officials who paid their respects to the late General of the Army Omar N. Bradley during funeral services April 14.



In the sunshine of an April afternoon, the body of Gen. Bradley is borne by pallbearers from each of the services to its final resting place in Arlington National Cemetery.

## Bradley's Example

**S**OLDIERS OF ALL ranks can profit by studying the career of Omar Nelson Bradley and by seeking to emulate him. They may not achieve the distinction of wearing five silver stars on their shoulders, but they are sure to improve themselves and to perform their difficult tasks better.

Bradley was exemplary as a tactician, as a leader and as a human being, but his attitude toward career advancement deserves special notice.

While many of his West Point classmates went on to glory in World War I, Bradley was given more mundane Stateside assignments. For a time, he believed that he had no future as a military officer because he had not had a chance to command troops in battle. Even then, traces of what came to be known as "ticket-punching" existed.

When the War to End All Wars ended in 1918, Bradley was a captain, and it was a long six years before he was promoted to permanent major. The Army shrank during the post-war period, and promotion was slow for virtually everyone.

In 1924, he was assigned to Fort Benning as a student, still harboring grave concern that he would never amount to much in the Army because of his lack of combat command time. But rather than brooding about what might have been, he applied himself diligently to learning the art of war.

Still, it took Bradley 12 years to trade his gold oak leaves for silver ones. During this time, he was developing as a soldier and as a leader, quietly preparing himself to do the best possible job if he should have to fight.

All his professional dedication and peacetime preparation eventually paid off — not only for Bradley, but for his country. When the call came, he was ready. In 1941, Omar Bradley was advanced from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general, becoming the first member of his illustrious class to wear a star.

The rest of this soldier's story is well known. Soon after Pearl Harbor, he was given command of the 82d Div. A year later he was picked to be Eisenhower's personal representative in North Africa. He went on to command the II Corps in Tunisia and the First Army in Normandy. A few months after the historic breakthrough at St. Lo, he took command of the 12th Army Group, which numbered 1.3 million men — nearly twice the size of the entire Army today.

Today's soldiers, like Bradley, serve in peacetime, when their primary mission is to deter war by preparing to fight and win. They often feel unappreciated by the public and perhaps by their superiors. While ambitious soldiers naturally yearn for advancement in rank and responsibility, the best of them, again like Bradley, spurn careerism in favor of professionalism. They do their best in every assignment, whether it be routine or glamorous, for they know that they owe it to the troops they may someday have to lead in combat to concentrate on honing fighting skills rather than punching tickets and polishing apples.

As long as there are such soldiers, the nation can be assured that the spirit of Omar Bradley was not laid to rest at Arlington.

# Bradley: 'Blessed With Understanding'

By Col. (USA-Ret.) W.S. WHITEHEAD

*The writer, a golfing companion of Gen. Bradley, recalls the private side of the nation's last five-star general, who died April 8.*

In his biography, *A Soldier's Story*, Gen. Bradley wrote, "Where there are people there is pride and ambition, prejudice and conflict. In generals, as in all other men, capabilities cannot always obscure weaknesses, nor can talents hide faults."

Yet, in all the years I knew Brad, I came to believe that he had no unusual ambitions or pride, and, above all, no prejudices or conflicts. As a West Point classmate of Brad once observed, "He had the qualities of dependability, reliability, singlemindedness of purpose, innate modesty, friendliness and devotion to duty."

Brad and I had golf lockers close by at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, Va., in the late '40s and part of the '50s. On the day it

was reported that President Truman was planning to name him Army Chief of Staff, I jokingly asked Brad whether I must now address him as "General Bradley."

His reply was quick and somewhat sharp: "Whitey, my friends know me as Brad, and this is the way it will continue as far as I'm concerned."

While during office hours Gen. Bradley grappled with the great problems of our time, when he relaxed on the golf course, one could see the gentler side of his nature.

One Sunday morning he appeared on the first tee wearing shorts and displaying a large bandage on a shin. A would-be joker asked him whether the bandage was evidence that the general had been involved in disorderly conduct. "No," he replied quickly, "I hit my shin on a rocker rung while I was walking my very sick grandchild most of the night." It didn't take long for the joker to evaporate.

It wasn't just his grandchildren that drew

his concern. I shall never forget his abruptly stopping on a walk through the woods of a golf course to gently retrieve an isolated young rabbit and place it with the litter.

His kindness was again evident in 1962 when a Korean military attache asked my help in obtaining a copy of *A Soldier's Story*, which was then out of print. Frankly, I was somewhat dubious about whether Brad could help, for the attache was only a major and there were many people of higher rank who coveted the few copies of the book remaining. But on February 5, Brad wrote me a note saying he had sent the Korean major an autographed copy of his book with his best wishes.

Small incidents, true, but they strengthened my conviction that Gen. Bradley was one of the greatest soldiers this country has ever produced. He knew how to shoot straight at the enemy, but he also was blessed with more than his share of human understanding and he showered it on those he met.



*Mrs. Omar N. Bradley  
Room 2E664, The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310*

19 April 1981

Thank you, EL PASO, for your warmth  
and for your love. It made his life  
richer and fuller.

Thank you, WILLIAM BEAUMONT ARMY  
MEDICAL CENTER, for bringing him back  
so many times these past three and  
a-half years. You gave him health  
and productivity from the confines of  
his wheelchair.

Thank you, FORT BLISS, for providing  
us a haven and an environment in which  
he could practice his craft, soldiering,  
to the very end.

Thank you, all. We never will forget  
you.

*Mrs. Omar N. Bradley*

Mrs. Omar N. Bradley

# Letters

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## *We never will forget*

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Thank you, FORT BLISS, for providing us a haven and an environment in which he could practice his craft, soldiering, to the very end.

Thank you, all. We never will forget you. —  
**Mrs. Omar N. Bradley**



## —Readers write—

### *Mrs. Bradley's gratitude*

I thank El Pasoans for their warmth and love.

It made my late husband's life richer and fuller.

I also thank Beaumont Army Medical Center for so many times these past 3½ years when Beaumont gave him health and productivity from the confines of his wheelchair.

And I thank Fort Bliss for providing us a haven and an environment in which he could practice his craft — soldiering — to the very end.

We never will forget all of these people.

—Mrs. Omac Bradley  
Washington, D.C.