

# Chicago Chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association Newsletter

October 2019



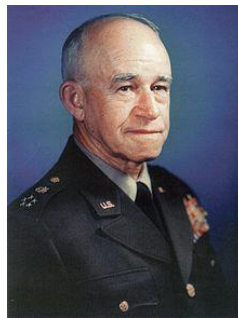
## Chicago Chapter Officers:

- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary: Mark Mueller
- Vice Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Historian: Glenn T. Granat
- Service Officers: Mark Mueller and Glenn T. Granat

## Upcoming Events:

- **Happy 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Chicago Chapter World War 2 Veteran Stan Gryga. Stan served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne from Casablanca to Berlin!**
- **13 October 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at Rock Bottom Brewery and Restaurant in Warrenville IL, 14:00-16:00. Officer nominations!
- **10 November 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at The Ram Restaurant in Rosemont, IL, 14:00-16:00. Officer elections!
- **8 December 2019:** Chicago Chapter Holiday at The Ram Restaurant in Rosemont, IL, 14:00-16:00.

## General Omar Nelson Bradley



General Bradley saw distinguished service in North Africa and Western Europe/World War II. Normandy through to the end of the war in Europe, Bradley commanded all U.S. ground forces invading Germany from the west: forty-three divisions and 1.3 million men, the largest body of American soldiers ever to serve under a single U.S. field commander. After the war, Bradley headed the Veterans Administration and became Army Chief of Staff. In 1949, Bradley was appointed the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and he retired from active service in 1953.

Bradley was the last of only nine people to hold a five-star rank. Graduated from West Point in 1915 as part of "the class the stars fell on". 59 general officers from the class, including Bradley and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

March 25, 1942 Bradley, assumed command of the 82nd Infantry Division. Bradley oversaw the 82<sup>nd</sup>'s transformation into the first American Airborne Division. In August the division was re-designated as the 82nd Airborne Division. Bradley relinquished command to Major General Matthew B. Ridgway.

D-Day: commanded three corps directed at the Utah Beach and Omaha Beach. July, he planned Operation Cobra. Cobra called for the use of strategic bombers to attack German lines. Began on July 25, with a short, intensive bombardment. Bradley was horrified when 77 planes bombed short and dropped bombs on their own troops, including General Lesley J. McNair. A bomb landed squarely on McNair and threw his body sixty feet and mangled it beyond recognition except for the three stars on his collar.

The bombing was successful in knocking out the enemy communication system, rendering German troops confused and ineffective, and opened the way for the ground offensive. Bradley sent in three infantry divisions. the 9<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> to move behind the bombing. The infantry succeeded in cracking the German defenses, opening the way for advances by armored forces commanded by Patton to sweep around the German lines.

Market Garden: Bradley favored an advance into the Saarland, or a two-thrust assault on the Saarland and the Ruhr Area. Montgomery argued for a narrow thrust across the Lower Rhine, with all Allied ground forces under his personal command. Generals George Marshall and Hap Arnold were eager to use the First Allied Airborne Army to cross the Rhine, so Eisenhower agreed to Operation Market-Garden. Bradley opposed Operation Market Garden, and bitterly protested to Eisenhower the priority of supplies given to Montgomery, but Eisenhower, mindful of British public opinion regarding damage from V-1 missile launches in the north, refused to make any changes.

Bradley's command took the initial brunt of the Battle of the Bulge. Eisenhower placed Bradley's First and Ninth Armies under temporary command of Montgomery. Bradley was incensed, began shouting at Eisenhower: "By God, Ike, I cannot be responsible to the American people if you do this. I resign." Eisenhower replied evenly "Brad, I, not you, am responsible to the American people. Your resignation therefore means absolutely nothing." Bradley, made one more protest, then fell silent as Eisenhower concluded "Well, Brad, those are my orders."

His memoirs, *A Soldier's Story* (ghostwritten by aide de camp Chester B. Hansen). He took the opportunity to attack Field Marshal Montgomery's 1945 claims to have won the Battle of the Bulge. Bradley's last public appearance was the guest of honor at the inauguration of President Reagan: January 20, 1981.

No insignia  
*No pin insignia in  
1915*

Cadet, United States Military Academy: August 1, 1911

Second Lieutenant, United States Army: June 12, 1915



First Lieutenant, United States Army: July 1, 1916



Captain, United States Army: May 15, 1917



Temporary Major, National Army: June 17, 1918 to January 22, 1920



Major, National Army: July 1, 1920



Captain, Regular Army (reverted to permanent rank\*): November 4, 1922



Major, Regular Army: June 25, 1924



Lieutenant Colonel, Regular Army: July 26, 1936



Brigadier General, Army of the United States: February 24, 1941



Major General, Army of the United States: February 15, 1942



Lieutenant General, Army of the United States: June 2, 1943



Colonel, Regular Army: October 1, 1943\*\*



Brigadier General, Regular Army: September 1, 1943\*\*



Major General, Regular Army: September 8, 1944



General, Army of the United States: March 12, 1945



General, Regular Army: January 31, 1949



General of the Army, Regular Army: September 22, 1950



Defense Distinguished Service Medal



Army Distinguished Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters)



Navy Distinguished Service Medal



Silver Star



Legion of Merit (w/oak leaf cluster)



Bronze Star Medal



Presidential Medal of Freedom



Mexican Border Service Medal



World War I Victory Medal



American Defense Service Medal



American Campaign Medal



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one silver and three campaign stars



World War II Victory Medal



Army of Occupation Medal with Germany clasp



National Defense Service Medal



## Czechoslovakia



War Cross 1939–1945

## France



French *Croix de guerre* with silver palm

## Luxembourg



Luxembourg War Cross

## Poland



Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta

## Russia / Soviet Union



Order of Suvorov (1st class)



Order of Kutuzov (1st class)

## United Kingdom



British Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath

- 1911: Cadet, United States Military Academy
- 1915: 14th Infantry Regiment
- 1919: ROTC professor, [South Dakota State College](#)
- 1920: Instructor, [United States Military Academy](#) (West Point)
- 1924: Infantry School Student, Fort Benning, Georgia
- 1925: Commanding Officer, 19th and 27th Infantry Regiments
- 1927: Office of National Guard and Reserve Affairs, Hawaiian Department
- 1928: Student, Command and General Staff School
- 1929: Instructor, Fort Benning, [Infantry School](#)
- 1934: Student, [United States Army War College](#)
- 1934: Plans and Training Office, USMA West Point
- 1938: War Department General Staff, G-1 Chief of Operations Branch and Assistant Secretary of the General Staff
- 1941: Commandant, Infantry School Fort Benning
- **1942: Commanding General, 82nd Infantry Division and 28th Infantry Division**
- 1943: Commanding General, II Corps, North Africa and Sicily
- 1943: Commanding General, Field Forces European Theater
- 1944: Commanding General, First Army (Later 1st and 12th U.S. Army Groups)
- 1945: Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration
- 1948: United States Army Chief of Staff
- 1949: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 1953: Retired from active service



General Omar Bradley, 1949



Bradley at West Point



Lt Gen Bradley, listen as General Lawton Collins describes how the city of Cherbourg was taken.



Army Chief of Staff General George Marshall (center) and Army Air Forces Commander General Henry H. Arnold confer with Bradley on the beach at Normandy in 1944.



General Bradley's headstone in Arlington Cemetery