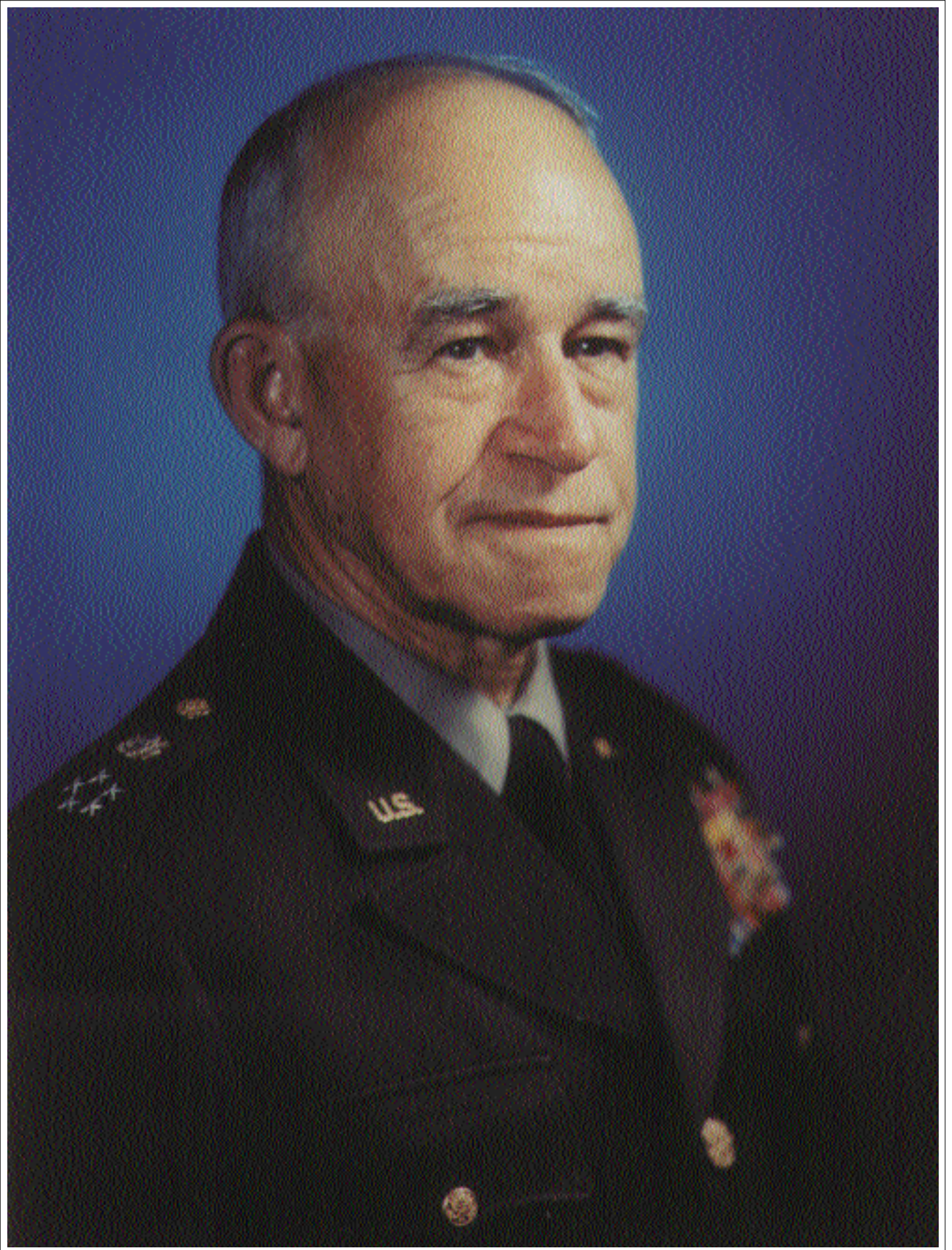


THE CHAIRMEN



OMAR NELSON BRADLEY

16 August 1949 — 15 August 1953

Omar Bradley was born in the farming village of Clark, Missouri, on 12 February 1893. His parents were poor, his boyhood austere. The US Military Academy appealed to Bradley as a means to an education without financial burden for his family. He received an appointment and graduated in 1915, ranking forty-fourth out of 164. His classmates included Dwight D. Eisenhower, James A. Van Fleet, and fifty-six other future generals from “the class the stars fell on.”

During World War I Bradley served with an infantry regiment which, to his chagrin, never left the United States. Most of his interwar assignments were spent as either student or teacher at military schools. In 1941, while Commandant of the Infantry School, Bradley became the first man in his class to reach the rank of brigadier general. During 1942 to 1943, he successively commanded the 82d and 28th Infantry Divisions.

In March 1943, at General Eisenhower’s request, Major General Bradley arrived in North Africa. There he joined II Corps as Deputy Commander under Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr. Bradley took command of II Corps for the final advance to Tunis and during the thirty-eight day Sicilian campaign served as a corps commander in Patton’s Seventh Army. Based upon Bradley’s exceptional qualities as a combat leader and his gift for getting along with the allies, Eisenhower chose him to be Army Group Commander for Operation OVERLORD, the invasion of France. During June and July 1944 Lieutenant General Bradley led the US First Army as it fought through the hedgerows of Normandy. On 1 August, just after the breakout

Omar N. Bradley
General of the Army



Lieutenant General Bradley, *center*, with General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major General J. Lawton Collins in France, July 1944.

at St. Lo, he took command of the 12th Army Group. When the European war came to an end in May 1945, Bradley (now a full general) commanded forty-three divisions and 1.3 million men, the largest body of American soldiers ever to serve under a US field commander. His modest demeanor and solicitude for his troops earned him the nickname “the GI’s General.”

With the coming of peace, President Harry S Truman named General Bradley to be

Administrator of the Bureau of Veterans’ Affairs; he began work in August 1945. Bradley returned to the Army on 7 February 1948, when he succeeded General Eisenhower as Chief of Staff. Three months later, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal asked Bradley to become his “principal military adviser.” Bradley was disinclined to leave his Army post after so short a time, and the Secretary of the Army felt that he could not spare Bradley. But when Eisenhower, whom Forrestal had



Lieutenant General Bradley pauses to autograph a GI's helmet in Germany, 1945.

appointed instead, later declined the newly created position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Bradley accepted.

He became the first Chairman on 16 August 1949. During his tenure, the United States began to create a collective security strategy with its allies. After the outbreak of the Korean War, it began to rebuild its military forces, which had been rapidly reduced at the end of World War II. Bradley played a central role in these efforts.

Upon becoming Chairman, Bradley had to deal immediately with the so-called "revolt of the admirals." Navy officers, fearing their service would have no role in a major war and resenting the cancellation of plans for a "super" carrier, assailed the concept of strategic bombing with nuclear weapons. The Air Force's B-36 bomber became their particular

target. General Bradley, who as Chief of Staff had been willing to reduce Army divisions in order to strengthen strategic air power, had no patience with what he saw as Navy parochialism. During congressional hearings, he delivered a much publicized call for service cooperation: "This is no time for 'fancy Dans' who won't hit the line with all they have on every play, unless they can call the signals. Each player on this team—whether he shines in the spotlight of the backfield or eats dirt in the line—must be all-American." Under new leadership, the Navy began taking a more conciliatory approach.

The Korean War dominated Bradley's tenure as Chairman. He wholeheartedly supported President Truman's decision to resist the North Korean attack and quickly became a key adviser to Truman. During the war's



President Harry S Truman promotes General Bradley to five-star rank, 22 September 1950.

first weeks, Bradley went daily to the White House to brief the President and present the recommendations of the Joint Chiefs.

Despite the Korean War, Bradley saw the Soviet Union as the greatest threat to US security and Western Europe as the free world's greatest asset. Consequently, he opposed

expansion of the Korean conflict to include China. Such a war, he said, would be "the wrong war, at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and with the wrong enemy." He opposed proposals by the US commander in the Far East, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, for bombing and blockading

China. President Truman concurred. When General MacArthur persisted in public criticisms of this policy decision, the Joint Chiefs reluctantly agreed that the President should relieve MacArthur. Truman promptly did so and, at the recommendation of Bradley and the Chiefs, named General Matthew B. Ridgway as the new commander in the Far East.

The war in Korea and the fear of further communist aggression triggered a major rearmament effort. Between June 1950 and December 1952 the armed forces grew from 1.45 to 3.51 million men. General Bradley refereed an interservice debate over the nature of this expansion. Working closely with Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett, Bradley won JCS approval of a plan that emphasized Air Force expansion.

To deter aggression in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) set

about creating an integrated military structure. General Bradley played a key role in establishing this structure. He spent much time negotiating with his British and French counterparts over the organization of NATO's Atlantic and Mediterranean commands.

Omar Bradley was promoted to the rank of General of the Army on 22 September 1950. He was the only Chairman to attain five-star rank. His tenure as Chairman ended on 15 August 1953, three weeks after the Korean armistice. As a five-star general, however, he did not retire.

After leaving the chairmanship, Bradley joined the Bulova Watch Company, subsequently becoming chairman of the board. In March 1968 he was one of the "wise men" who reviewed Vietnam policy for President Lyndon B. Johnson. Bradley died in New York on 8 April 1981.

Omar Nelson Bradley

General of the Army

Promotions	Dates	
	Temporary	Permanent
2LT		12 Jun 15
1LT		13 Oct 16
CPT.		22 Aug 17
MAJ.	27 Jul 18.	19 Nov 20
CPT (postwar reduction)		04 Nov 22
MAJ		27 Jun 24
LTC.		22 Jul 36
COL		13 Nov 43
BG	24 Feb 41	31 May 44
MG	18 Feb 42	16 Sep 44
LTG.	09 Jun 43	
GEN	29 Mar 45.	31 Jan 49
Gen of the Army		22 Sep 50

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Troop duty with 14th Infantry Regiment in the West (incl Mexican border)	1915	1919
Professor, ROTC, South Dakota State College	1919	1920
Instructor, US Military Academy, West Point, NY	1920	1924
Student, Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA.	1924	1925
Infantry Unit Commander, 19th and 27th Infantry Regiments, HI.	1925	1927
National Guard and Reserve Affairs, Hawaiian Department	1927	1928
Student, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, KS	1928	1929
Instructor, Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA	1929	1933
Student, Army War College, Washington, DC	1933	1934
Instructor, Plans and Training Office, US Military Academy, West Point, NY.	1934	1938
War Department General Staff: Chief, Operations Branch, G-1, and Assistant Secretary, General Staff, Washington, DC	1938	1941
Commandant, Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA	1941	1942

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Commanding General, 82d Infantry Division, Camp Claiborne, LA	1942	1942
Commanding General, 28th Infantry Division, Camp Livingston, LA, and Camp Gordon Johnson, FL	1942	1943
Commanding General, II Corps, North Africa and Sicily	1943	1943
Commanding General, Field Forces, European Theater of Operations	1943	1943
Commanding General, First US Army and First US Army Group, later Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group, European Theater of Operations	1944	1945
Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, Veterans Administration, Washington, DC.	1945	1947
Chief of Staff, US Army, Washington, DC.	1948	1949
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC. . .	1949	1953

Principal US Military Decorations

- Army Distinguished Service Medal (with 3 oak leaf clusters)
- Navy Distinguished Service Medal
- Silver Star
- Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster)
- Bronze Star



ARTHUR WILLIAM RADFORD

15 August 1953 — 15 August 1957

Arthur Radford was born in Chicago, Illinois, on 27 February 1896. After growing up in Illinois and Iowa, he entered the US Naval Academy in 1912. Following graduation in 1916, he served during World War I on the battleship USS *South Carolina* in the Atlantic Fleet. Radford realized a boyhood dream to fly when he entered Navy flight training in 1920. He earned his wings the following year. For the next twenty years, he alternated among assignments with the fleet, naval air stations, and the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington, rising from lieutenant to captain.

Shortly before the United States entered World War II, Radford became Chief of the Navy's Aviation Training Division. Here he oversaw the expansion of the training program to meet the greatly increased requirements for Navy pilots during the early stages of the war. Promoted to rear admiral, he commanded a carrier division in the Pacific during 1943. After a brief assignment at the Navy Department, he returned to the Pacific in November 1944 to command another carrier division. For the remainder of the war, he directed carrier attacks against Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and Tokyo.

After a series of staff and command assignments in the immediate post-war period, Radford, now a vice admiral, became Vice Chief of Naval Operations in January 1948. In April 1949, as that tour was ending, the "revolt of the admirals" erupted in Washington. Senior naval officers objected strenuously to the Secretary of Defense's cancellation of a new "super" carrier. The Navy wanted the new carrier, which could carry larger planes, to establish its role in strategic nuclear warfare. The ensuing controversy led to a congressional

Admiral Arthur W. Radford
United States Navy



Rear Admiral Radford, *right*, on the bridge of the USS *Yorktown*, October 1944.

investigation, and Admiral Radford was called to testify. He supported the Navy's position and, in discussing future operations, argued that the threat of an atomic blitz would neither deter nor win a war. In retrospect, Radford's argument appears ironic, since, as Chairman, he would become a champion of "massive retaliation."

Upon being promoted to admiral in April 1949, Radford returned to the Pacific as Commander in Chief of the Pacific Command (CINCPAC). Forces under his command provided air and naval gunfire support to UN forces in the Korean War. Radford's command also sent US military advisers to assist the French in Indochina in the war against the Communist Viet Minh.

Impressed with Radford's performance as CINCPAC, President Eisenhower appointed him Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Admiral Radford assumed his duties on 15 August 1953. During Radford's tenure, President Eisenhower adopted the "New Look," a national security policy that emphasized Air Force and Navy forces over Army ground forces and provided for massive atomic retaliation in the event of general war. Radford vigorously supported the new policy and convinced a majority of his reluctant JCS colleagues to accept it as well.

In one controversial initiative related to the "New Look" and force planning, Admiral Radford did not succeed. During 1956 Radford proposed to the Chiefs drastic cuts in



Rear Admiral Radford being passed to his flagship, the USS *Saratoga*, in a breeches buoy, November 1944.

Army forces as a means of staying within the President's stringent fiscal ceiling. Units overseas would be reduced to small atomic-armed task forces, and the Marines, with atomic weapons, would have responsibility for limited war operations. When this proposal leaked to the press, the reaction in Congress and among the NATO allies resulted in no further action being taken.

Under Radford's leadership, plans drawn up by the JCS resulted in the establishment of a new unified Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) in 1954. The Joint Chiefs also undertook planning with the Canadian military for a North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), which was established in 1957.



Admiral Radford, *right*, with President Dwight D. Eisenhower and General Paul Ely, Chief of the French Armed Forces Staff, during a meeting in Washington to discuss the Indochina crisis, March 1954.

While Radford was Chairman, the Joint Chiefs of Staff dealt with a series of regional crises around the world, and Admiral Radford was always quick to advocate a strong US response. In late March 1954, when the French faced defeat at Dien Bien Phu, Radford on his own initiative convened a JCS meeting to consider a massive air strike in Vietnam. All the other JCS members opposed the idea, and President Eisenhower was unwilling to intervene unless important political conditions were met. They never were.

In the Formosa Straits crisis in early 1955, when the Chinese Communists seemed ready to attack the Nationalist-held islands of Quemoy and Matsu and then assault Formosa, Admiral Radford concluded that the situation could not be stabilized “without the Chinese Communists getting a bloody nose.” He favored a pre-emptive attack unless they ceased their buildup. If war came, Radford argued before the National Security Council, all the advantages would rest with the United States. President Eisenhower,

however, chose a more restrained, flexible approach, and the Chinese Communists backed away from military threats.

When President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal Company, triggering the Suez Crisis of 1956, Admiral Radford led a united JCS in recommending military action. Nasser must be stopped, they said, by military intervention if necessary. President Eisenhower disagreed and later took strong action to stop the invasion of Egypt launched by Britain, France, and Israel.

Admiral Radford retired from military service on 15 August 1957 but remained

active in national security matters. President Eisenhower and Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy continued to call on him for advice, and during the next several years he conducted studies for the government. He strongly supported President Eisenhower's call for reorganizing the Department of Defense in 1958 and urged Congress to strengthen the authority of the Chairman. In retirement, he served as a consultant for the Bankers' Trust Company and as a director of several other firms. Admiral Radford died at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center on 17 August 1973.

Arthur William Radford

Admiral, USN

Promotions

Dates

	Temporary	Permanent
ENS.		03 Jun 16
LTJG	01 Jul 17.	03 Jun 19
LT.	01 Jan 18	01 Jul 20
LCDR		17 Feb 27
CDR		01 Jul 36
CAPT.		01 Jan 42
RADM	21 Jul 43.	07 Aug 47
VADM	25 May 46	
ADM.		07 Apr 49

Assignments

Dates

	From	To
USS <i>South Carolina</i>	1916.	1918
Aide on Staff, Division ONE, Battleship Force ONE, Atlantic Fleet	1918.	1919
Aide on Staff and Flag Lieutenant, Division ONE, Pacific Fleet	1919.	1920
Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL	1920.	1921
Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, DC.	1921.	1923
Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet	1923.	1925
VO Squadron ONE, Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet	1925.	1927
Naval Air Station, San Diego, CA.	1927.	1929
Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet (additional duty commanding Alaskan Aerial Survey Detachment)	1929.	1929
USS <i>Saratoga</i>	1929.	1930
Commanding Officer, VF Squadron ONE-B, Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet	1930.	1931
Aide and Flag Secretary, Aircraft, Battle Force, US Fleet	1931.	1932
Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, DC.	1932.	1935
Navigation Officer, USS <i>Wright</i>	1935.	1936
Staff, Aircraft, Battle Force.	1936	1937
Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station,		

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Seattle, WA	1937	1940
Executive Officer, USS <i>Yorktown</i>	1940	1941
Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, DC	1941	1941
TENTH Naval District (establishment Naval Air Station, Trinidad, BWI and duty as Commanding Officer)	1941	1941
Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department, Washington, DC	1941	1943
Carrier Division TWO	1943	1943
Commander, Carrier Division ELEVEN	1943	1943
Chief of Staff and Aide, Aircraft, Pacific Fleet	1943	1944
Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air, Navy Department (additional duty alternate member Special Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee on Reorganization of National Defense)	1944	1944
Commander, Carrier Division SIX, US Pacific Fleet	1944	1945
Commanding Officer, Fleet Air, Seattle, WA	1945	1945
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air)	1946	1947
Commander, SECOND Task Fleet	1947	1947
Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, DC	1948	1949
Commander in Chief, Pacific and High Commissioner, Trust Territory of Pacific Islands	1949	1953
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.	1953	1957

Principal US Military Decorations

Navy Distinguished Service Medal (with 3 gold stars)
 Legion of Merit (with gold star)



NATHAN FARRAGUT TWINING

15 August 1957 — 30 September 1960

Nathan Twining was born in Monroe, Wisconsin, on 11 October 1897. His family later moved to Oregon, where he joined the National Guard in 1916 and saw service along the Mexican border. Rising to first sergeant in the Guard, Twining won appointment to the US Military Academy in 1917. As the result of an accelerated wartime program, he graduated just over a year later in November 1918.

After initial infantry assignments, Twining attended flight school and transferred to the Army Air Service in 1926. During the next several years, he was a flying instructor and then served with pursuit and attack groups stationed around the country and in Hawaii and with the Army Mail Service. After he completed the Air Corps Tactical School and the Army Command and General Staff School, he was Air Corps Technical Supervisor at the San Antonio Air Depot. Staff assignments with the Office of the Chief of the Army Air Corps in the years 1940 to 1942 rounded out his experience and brought promotion from major to brigadier general.

General Twining began his World War II combat experience in July 1942 as Chief of Staff of the US Army Air Forces in the South Pacific area. In January 1943 he assumed command of the Thirteenth Air Force and in February was promoted to major general. While flying a B-17, Twining crashlanded in the Coral Sea. He and his crew floated in rubber life rafts in shark-infested waters for six days and five nights before being rescued. In July 1943 he became Commander of Aircraft, Solomon Islands, one of the first combined air commands in US history, with tactical control of all Army, Navy, Marine, and Allied Air Forces in the South Pacific.

General Nathan F. Twining
United States Air Force



Brigadier General Twining, following his rescue after six days and five nights adrift in a rubber raft in the Coral Sea, February 1943.

In late 1943 Twining was transferred to the Mediterranean theater, where he assumed command of the Fifteenth Air Force and the Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Forces. His Allied command not only supported operations in Italy and southern France but also conducted bombing raids against Germany, Austria, and Romania. With the surrender of Germany, Twining returned to the Pacific. Now a lieutenant general, he commanded the Twentieth Air Force. Forces under his command launched B-29 attacks against the Japanese home islands, and planes under his command dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

After World War II, Twining commanded the Air Materiel Command at Wright Field in Ohio. With the creation of the US Air Force in 1947, he took command of the newly established Alaskan Command. In 1950 he joined the Air Staff. After serving briefly as Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, he received his fourth star and assumed duties as Vice Chief of Staff.

In 1953 General Twining became Chief of Staff of the Air Force. In that position, he worked diligently for the development of aircraft, missiles, and weapons for his service. In 1956 President Dwight Eisenhower selected him to lead a delegation of technical experts



Major General Twining, *center*, in Italy with Lieutenant General Carl A. Spaatz, *left*, and Lieutenant General Ira C. Eaker, *right*, 1944.

invited to inspect Soviet air facilities. This was the first visit by US officers to the Soviet Union since World War II.

General Twining became the third Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 15 August 1957. Just ten days after he took office, the Soviet Union announced the successful launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile and, less than two months later, placed the first artificial earth satellite, *Sputnik*, in orbit. It appeared that the Soviet Union had or would soon have the capability to launch missile attacks against the United States. General Twining endorsed steps to strengthen and protect strategic retaliatory forces but saw no

reason for the large accelerated buildup favored by the Air Force. Twining was confident that the Strategic Air Command was superior to its Soviet counterpart. He opposed any major change in US strategy and, like his predecessor Admiral Arthur Radford, remained a firm advocate of the Eisenhower policy of main, but not sole, reliance on nuclear weapons.

Three crises occurred while Twining was Chairman. The first one began on 14 July 1958, when a coup toppled the pro-Western government in Iraq. The president of neighboring Lebanon, concerned about maintaining his regime, appealed for US assistance. Radical



General Twining makes a statement to the press before his trip to the Soviet Union, July 1956.

Arab nationalism, encouraged by the USSR, appeared to threaten Western interests. Speaking for the Joint Chiefs, Twining told President Eisenhower that he saw “no alternative but to go in.” The President promptly decided to act. Marines began landing at Beirut on 15 July, followed by Army troops. With the arrival of approximately 14,000 US personnel, enough stability existed for Lebanese factions to work out a political

compromise and for US forces to withdraw by the end of October.

Another crisis soon followed in the Far East when the Chinese Communists began bombardment of the Nationalist-held islands of Quemoy and Matsu off the Chinese mainland. With the eruption of this crisis during August 1958, General Twining and the Chiefs quickly agreed that the United States should not permit the loss of the islands to the

communists. They recommended the use of whatever force was necessary, including atomic weapons. General Twining forcefully presented their recommendations to the President. Eisenhower agreed that a show of force was needed but took great care to keep his military options open. He ordered the Seventh Fleet, plus two carriers from the Mediterranean, to the Formosa Strait and provided convoy protection in international waters for Chinese Nationalist supply ships bound for the offshore islands. The show of force, combined with various political initiatives, worked. The bombardment ceased and the crisis passed.

The third crisis came in November 1958, when the USSR announced its intention to transfer its access and occupation functions in East Germany to the East German government unless West Berlin became a demilitarized "free city" within six months. President Eisenhower responded with a firm but low-key approach. Twining told the President that the JCS feared that the United States would "go half way" in meeting Soviet provocations and "then quit." They believed that the United States had to be ready to risk general war. Some Service Chiefs favored a major

mobilization, but Twining told the Chief Executive that he saw no need to go that far. President Eisenhower, however, held resolutely to his low-key approach, and the Soviets backed away from their deadline.

During 1959 and 1960 General Twining played a central role in working out new procedures for coordinating nuclear strike plans. The advent of land-based missiles and *Polaris* submarines to complement the bomber fleet created major complications in target assignments, command, and control. Twining collaborated with Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates to create the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff and the Single Integrated Operational Plan, arrangements which lasted throughout the Cold War.

Following major surgery, General Twining elected to retire on 30 September 1960, midway through his second term, before a new administration took office. During the next decade he worked as vice chairman of the publishing firm Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. In 1966 the firm published Twining's views on the state of national defense under the title *Neither Liberty nor Safety*. General Twining died on 29 March 1982 at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Nathan Farragut Twining

General, USAF

Promotions	Dates	
	Temporary	Permanent
2LT	01 Nov 18	
1LT	01 Jan 20	20 Nov 23
CPT.	20 Apr 35	01 Sep 35
MAJ	07 Oct 38	01 Jul 40
LTC	22 Jul 41.	12 Nov 42
COL	01 Feb 42	
BG	17 Jun 42	10 Jul 46
MG	05 Feb 43	19 Feb 48
LTG.	05 Jun 45	
GEN	10 Oct 50	

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Assigned duty, US Military Academy, West Point, NY	1918	1919
Tour of Observation, France, Belgium, Italy and Germany	1919	1919
Student, Basic Course, Infantry School; then Commanding Officer, 'C' and later 'B' Companies, 29th Infantry, Camp Benning, GA	1919	1922
Aide-de-Camp to BG B. A. Poore, Camp Travis, TX, Fort Logan, CO, and later Fort Sam Houston, TX	1922	1923
Student, Air Service Primary and later Advanced Flying School, Brooks and Kelly Fields, TX.	1923	1924
Instructor, Air Corps Primary Flying School, Brooks Field, TX, and later March Field, CA	1924	1930
Adjutant and Commanding Officer, 18th Pursuit Group and later Commanding Officer, 26th Attack Squadron, Schofield Barracks, HI	1930	1932
Pilot and Operations Officer, 8th Attack Squadron; then Pilot and Commanding Officer, 90th Attack Squadron; then Pilot and Mess Officer, 60th Services Squadron, Fort Crockett, TX	1932	1934
Engineering Officer, Central Zone, Chicago, IL.	1934	1934
Post and Group Adjutant and later Commanding Officer, 3d Attack Group, 3d Attack Wing, Headquarters Detachment; then Assistant Operations Officer, 3d Wing, Barksdale Field, LA.	1934	1935

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Student, Air Corps Tactical School, Maxwell Field, AL	1935	1936
Student, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, KS	1936	1937
Air Corps Technical Supervisor, San Antonio Air Depot, Duncan Field, TX	1937	1940
Assistant Chief and later Chief, Technical Inspection Section, Office, Chief of Air Corps; then Assistant Executive Officer, Chief of Staff of the Army Air Force, Washington, DC.	1940	1942
Chief of Staff, US Army Air Forces; then Commanding General, Thirteenth Air Force, South Pacific	1942	1943
Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, Mediterranean Theater	1943	1945
Temporary Duty with Headquarters, Army Air Force (Liaison and Planning, Headquarters US Army Strategic Air Force), Washington, DC	1945	1945
Commanding General, Twentieth Air Force, Pacific .	1945	1945
Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright Field, OH	1945	1947
Commander in Chief, Alaskan Command, Fort Richardson, AK	1947	1950
Acting Deputy Chief of Staff (Personnel); then Vice Chief of Staff; then temporarily assumed duties of Chief of Staff; then resumed duties as Vice Chief of Staff, US Air Force, Washington, DC	1950	1953
Chief of Staff, US Air Force, Washington, DC.	1953	1957
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC. . .	1957	1960

Principal US Military Decorations

- Army Distinguished Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster)
- Navy Distinguished Service Medal
- Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster)
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star
- Air Medal (with oak leaf cluster)
- Commendation Ribbon



LYMAN LOUIS LEMNITZER

1 October 1960 — 30 September 1962

Lyman Lemnitzer was born on 29 August 1899 in Honesdale, a small town in northeastern Pennsylvania. At his older brother's urging, he entered the US Military Academy, graduating in 1920. Over the next twenty years he served with coast artillery units, taught at West Point and the Coast Artillery School, and attended the Command and General Staff School and the Army War College.

In 1941, as the Army began to expand, Major Lemnitzer was transferred from an antiaircraft artillery brigade at Camp Stewart, Georgia, to the War Plans Division of the War Department General Staff. There and in subsequent assignments with General Headquarters, US Army, and Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, he participated in the planning for the mobilization and training of the rapidly expanding wartime Army and for the projected Allied landings in North Africa. Promotions came rapidly, and by June 1942 Lemnitzer was a brigadier general.

Two months later he went to England as Commanding General of the 34th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade. Because of his familiarity with the plans for the upcoming North African operation, he was soon assigned to General Dwight Eisenhower's Allied Force Headquarters as Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, responsible for final preparations for Operation TORCH, the upcoming North African invasion. In October 1942 Lemnitzer accompanied General Mark Clark as second in command on a secret submarine mission to Algeria to meet with friendly French to enlist their assistance with the invasion. Lemnitzer won the Legion of Merit for his participation in this mission.

General Lyman L. Lemnitzer
United States Army



Brigadier General Lemnitzer, *center*, with Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, *left*, and General Sir Harold Alexander, *right*, at Anzio, Italy, January 1944.

In January 1943 Lemnitzer became Deputy Chief of Staff to Clark in Morocco, where he worked to organize the US Fifth Army. After resuming active command of his brigade, he led it through the Tunisian campaign and the early landing phases of the Sicily campaign.

Thereafter, Lemnitzer served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff to British General (later Field Marshal) Sir Harold Alexander, who was Commander in Chief, 15th Army Group and later Supreme Allied Com-

mander, Mediterranean. Lemnitzer, who was promoted to major general in 1944, also served as Chief of Staff to the Commanding General of the (US) Mediterranean Theater of Operations. In March 1945 he travelled incognito to Switzerland, where he met with German representatives and began discussions that resulted in the unconditional surrender of German forces in Italy and southern Austria.

After the war, Lemnitzer was the senior Army member of the Joint Strategic Survey Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He then

served for two years as Deputy Commandant of the National War College. Concurrently, he headed the US delegation to the meetings of the Military Committee of the Five Brussels Pact Powers in London, which led to the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Late in 1949 Lemnitzer became the first Director of the Office of Military Assistance in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he was instrumental in setting up the US Military Assistance Program.

From December 1951 until July 1952, Lemnitzer commanded the 7th Infantry Division, leading it in the Korean War battles of Heartbreak Ridge and the Punch Bowl. Promoted to lieutenant general in August 1952, he became the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Research. In 1955 he assumed command of US Army Forces, Far East, and the Eighth US Army. Shortly thereafter, having received his fourth star, he became Commander in Chief of the United Nations and Far East Command and Governor of the Ryukyu Islands. In July 1957 he became Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and two years later its Chief of Staff. Appointed by President Eisenhower, Lemnitzer became the fourth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1960.

Soon after John F. Kennedy became President in 1961, the failure of the Bay of Pigs operation caused him to question the judgment of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A brigade of anti-communist exiles, trained and directed by the CIA, landed in Cuba at the Bay of Pigs but was quickly overwhelmed by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's forces. President Kennedy believed that the Joint Chiefs had served him poorly by failing to review the CIA's plan thoroughly and express their own reservations forthrightly. The President directed that, henceforth, the Joint Chiefs must be "more than military men" and supply "dynamic and imaginative leadership" in Cold War operations.

General Lemnitzer considered the President's criticisms unfair. The Chiefs, he maintained, had never awarded the plan their "approval;" they simply had rendered an "appraisal" that, given surprise plus air supremacy, the brigade could establish itself ashore. Yet, without consulting the Joint Chiefs, President Kennedy had changed the landing site and cancelled a strike by the exiles' aircraft. Nevertheless, this military setback early in the Kennedy presidency damaged Lemnitzer's relationship with the new President.

In the other crises which came in quick succession in 1961, General Lemnitzer's recommendations for forceful responses met with mixed success. Friendly regimes in Southeast Asia were foundering. In Laos, by late April the communist Pathet Lao had advanced so rapidly that US-backed forces there seemed about to disintegrate. General Lemnitzer urged intervention by SEATO forces, not by the United States alone. Lemnitzer also favored a deployment of US combat forces to bolster the government of South Vietnam, which was struggling with a growing communist insurgency. President Kennedy decided against military intervention in Laos and, instead of deploying combat forces to South Vietnam, gradually increased the number of American advisers there.

When the USSR threatened to end the Western powers' access rights to Berlin, General Lemnitzer favored a major expansion of conventional forces to demonstrate US determination and allow a wide range of responses. The President agreed to an expansion but on a smaller scale. On 13 August 1961, when the communists began building a wall around West Berlin, the administration was so taken by surprise that Lemnitzer thought "everyone appeared to be hopeless, helpless, and harmless." He proposed that a 1600-man battle group be sent down the



Major General Lemnitzer, *right*, with General Matthew B. Ridgway, *left*, and General James A. Van Fleet, *center*, in Korea, January 1952.

Helmstedt-to-Berlin autobahn. Many of the President's civilian advisers assailed the proposal as needlessly provocative. President Kennedy, however, ruled in Lemnitzer's favor; the battle group reached Berlin without

trouble. During autumn, as the overall US buildup proceeded, the Soviets backed away from a confrontation over Berlin.

When Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara proposed putting the combat-



General Lemnitzer, *third from right*, in South Vietnam with Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara; General Paul D. Harkins, Commander, US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; and Major General Nguyen Khanh, Army, Republic of Vietnam, May 1962.

ready forces of the US Strategic Army Corps and the Air Force Tactical Air Command under a unified commander, the Chiefs were divided in their response. Lemnitzer, however, supported the McNamara initiative, and in 1961 the US Strike Command was created.

In response to Secretary McNamara's introduction of a new planning, programming, and budgeting system (PPBS), General Lemnitzer in June 1962 established his own

Special Studies Group to conduct analyses for the Joint Chiefs. This group played an increasingly important role in defining JCS positions.

There was a basic difference between Lemnitzer and the President over how best to respond to the anticipated increase in communist-sponsored "wars of national liberation." Kennedy had great confidence in the efficacy of special forces and other counterinsurgency capabilities. Lemnitzer believed that,

historically, regular forces had played a key role in defeating insurgencies. Believing that Lemnitzer was not sufficiently innovative to pursue the type of warfare most appropriate for the Third World, Kennedy did not appoint Lemnitzer to a second term as Chairman. Instead, the President nominated General Lemnitzer to the position of Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (SACEUR), where regular forces still played a paramount role.

General Lemnitzer's tenure as Chairman ended on 30 September 1962. He became

Commander in Chief of the US European Command (CINCEUR) on 1 November 1962 and SACEUR on 1 January 1963. He served as SACEUR until his retirement on 1 July 1969.

In retirement, Lemnitzer served in 1975 on the Commission on CIA Activities within the United States and from 1976 to 1978 on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. In 1987 President Ronald Reagan presented him the Medal of Freedom. General Lemnitzer died on 12 November 1988 in Washington, DC.

Lyman Louis Lemnitzer

General, USA

Promotions	Dates	
	Temporary	Permanent
2LT.		02 Jul 20
1LT.		09 Jun 25
CPT		01 Aug 35
MAJ		01 Jul 40
LTC	11 Dec 41	02 Jul 43
COL	11 Jun 42	
BG	25 Jun 42	24 Jan 48
MG	27 May 44	29 Apr 52
LTG.	01 Aug 52	
GEN	25 Mar 55	

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Student, Coast Artillery School, Fort Monroe, VA	1920	1921
10th and 59th Coastal Artillery Regiments	1921	1926
Instructor, US Military Academy, West Point, NY	1926	1930
Student, Coast Artillery School, Fort Monroe, VA	1930	1931
Troop and Staff Officer, 60th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment	1931	1934
Instructor, US Military Academy, West Point, NY	1934	1935
Student, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, KS	1935	1936
Instructor, Coast Artillery School, Fort Monroe, VA	1936	1939
Student, Army War College, Washington, DC	1939	1940
Battalion Commander and S-3, 70th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment	1940	1940
Executive Officer and S-3, 38th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade	1940	1941
Office of Assistant G-3, and then Assistant G-3, War Plans Division, War Department General Staff, Washington, DC	1941	1942
Chief of Plans Division, Army Ground Forces,		

Washington, DC	1942	1942
Assignments		Dates
	From	To
Commanding General, 34th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade, Norfolk, VA and England (European Theater of Operations)	1942	1942
Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, Allied Force Headquarters (European Theater of Operations: England and North Africa) and Commanding General, 34th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade	1942	1943
Deputy Chief of Staff, Fifth US Army, Commanding General, 34th Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade (North Africa), and Antiaircraft Artillery Commander, Seventh Army (North Africa and Sicily)	1943	1944
Deputy Chief of Staff, 15th Army Group (later Allied Armies in Italy), and later Deputy Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean	1944	1945
Chief of Staff, Allied Forces Headquarters (Italy) and Headquarters, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, US Army (MTOUSA)	1945	1945
Army Member of Joint Strategic Survey Committee, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC	1945	1947
Deputy Commandant, National War College, Washington, DC	1947	1949
Director of Military Assistance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Washington, DC.	1949	1950
Commanding General, 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, KY	1950	1951
Commanding General, 7th Infantry Division, Far East Command (FECOM), Korea	1951	1952
Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Research, Office, Chief of Staff, Army, Washington, DC.	1952	1955
Commanding General, Army Forces, Far East and Eighth Army.	1955	1955
Commander in Chief, Far East and United Nations Command	1955	1957
Vice Chief of Staff, US Army, Washington, DC.	1957	1959
Chief of Staff, US Army, Washington, DC.	1959	1960
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.	1960	1962
Commander in Chief, US European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe (1963)	1962	1969

Principal US Military Decorations

Army Distinguished Service Medal (with 3 oak leaf clusters)

Silver Star

Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer)

Legion of Merit



MAXWELL DAVENPORT TAYLOR

1 October 1962 — 1 July 1964

Maxwell Taylor was born on 26 August 1901 in the small Missouri town of Keytesville, near Kansas City. After attending Northeast High School and Kansas City Junior College, he entered the US Military Academy, graduating fourth in his class in 1922.

Commissioned as an Army engineer, Taylor transferred in 1926 to the field artillery and served one year with the 10th Field Artillery. Thereafter, most of his assignments before World War II made use of his fluency in foreign languages. He taught French and Spanish at West Point. Then in the 1930s he was attached to the US Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, and served as Assistant Military Attaché in Peking, China. In June 1940 Taylor was sent on a special hemispheric defense mission to Latin America. In December 1940 he returned to an artillery assignment as Commander of the 12th Field Artillery Battalion at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

When the United States entered World War II, Major Taylor was serving in the Office of the Secretary of the War Department General Staff. Promoted to colonel in June 1942, he was assigned as Chief of Staff to Brigadier General Matthew Ridgway at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Taylor helped Ridgway transform the 82d Infantry Division into the Army's first airborne division.

Following promotion to brigadier general in December 1942, Taylor took command of the 82d Division Artillery, which saw combat in Sicily and Italy from July 1943 through early 1944. On 7 September 1943 he participated in a daring secret mission behind enemy lines to Rome just twenty-four hours before the scheduled invasion of Italy. His judgment that the risks of

General Maxwell D. Taylor
United States Army



Lieutenant General Taylor in Korea, February 1953.

an airborne landing near Rome were too great resulted in cancellation of the planned air drop. In March 1944 Taylor assumed command of the 101st Airborne Division. He was promoted to major general in June. Taylor parachuted with the division into Normandy on D-Day and commanded it during the

airborne invasion of Holland and in the Ardennes and Central European campaigns.

In September 1945 Major General Taylor became the Superintendent of West Point. After four years at the Academy, he filled successive assignments as Chief of Staff of the European Command; the first US commander

in Berlin; and, on the Army Staff, Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and, after promotion to lieutenant general in August 1951, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Administration.

On 11 February 1953 Lieutenant General Taylor assumed command of the Eighth US Army. Under his command, the Eighth Army engaged in the Korean War's last round of bitter fighting. Taylor received his fourth star on 23 June 1953. After the 27 July 1953 armistice, he presided over several massive exchanges of prisoners, helped expand the Republic of Korea's army, and administered the US military assistance program for the Republic of Korea. In November 1954 he assumed command of all US ground forces in Korea, Japan, and Okinawa and, in April 1955, of the US Far East Command and the United Nations Command in Korea.

Appointed Chief of Staff of the Army on 30 June 1955, Taylor served in that position for four years. During his tenure he advocated less reliance on the doctrine of massive nuclear retaliation to a Soviet attack and more dependence on flexible response. Taylor's fight against cutbacks in Army strength put him at odds with his old commander, President Dwight Eisenhower. To make the best use of reduced forces, Taylor decided to substitute firepower for manpower. Under his supervision, the Army replaced the old triangular organization of the infantry division with three regiments with a "pentomic" organization of five small, self-contained battle groups able to disperse or concentrate rapidly on the atomic battlefield and capitalize on the US advantage in tactical nuclear weapons. While Taylor was Chief of Staff, the Army also enforced court-ordered school desegregation in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957 and, together with the US Marines, protected the government of Lebanon during 1958.

After retiring from active duty in July 1959, General Taylor criticized US strategic planning and joint organization in *The Uncertain Trumpet*, published in 1960. This book influenced President John F. Kennedy's decision to adopt the strategy of flexible response. Taylor then pursued a civilian career, first as chairman of the board of the Mexican Light and Power Company and later as president of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York.

In 1961, at President Kennedy's request, General Taylor returned to public service. In April the President asked him to lead a group to investigate the Bay of Pigs debacle, which had badly shaken the President's confidence in the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Kennedy then recalled Taylor to active duty as his Military Representative at the White House. It was in this capacity that General Taylor first became involved in the expanding US military effort in Southeast Asia. In late 1961, after visiting Saigon, Taylor recommended sending 5,000 to 8,000 US support troops to help South Vietnam resist the growing Viet Cong insurgency.

Impressed with Taylor's advice and ability, President Kennedy appointed him Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 October 1962. Just two weeks after Taylor became Chairman, the United States obtained the first definite evidence that the Soviet Union was secretly establishing missile sites and developing an offensive nuclear capability in Cuba. General Taylor was a member of the Executive Committee (EXCOMM) of the National Security Council, the small group of officials that the President summoned to advise him on a daily basis during the Cuban missile crisis. Speaking on behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Taylor recommended air strikes against Cuba, naval quarantine of the island, and preparation for an invasion. President Kennedy on 22 October directed a naval quarantine of Cuba, alerted a force of some 250,000 men for a



Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy swears in General Taylor as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1 October 1962. President John F. Kennedy looks on.

possible invasion, and called upon the Soviet Union to withdraw its missiles, but he reserved air strikes as a last resort. The Soviet Union removed the missiles in mid-November, and the crisis passed.

On arms control, General Taylor reversed his longstanding opposition to a nuclear test ban and convinced the Chiefs to do likewise. They had opposed such a treaty as an invitation for the Soviet Union to carry on test-

ing secretly in order to achieve nuclear supremacy. During August 1963, in what Taylor later described as his greatest “diplomatic” triumph, he persuaded his colleagues that a limited test ban was compatible with national security. Following endorsement by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Senate approved the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty with the Soviet Union on 24 September 1963.



General Taylor in South Vietnam, 1963.

While General Taylor was Chairman, the deteriorating situation in South Vietnam increasingly occupied the attention of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A coup in Saigon, resulting in the assassination of President Ngo Dinh Diem in early November 1963, unleashed further political instability in South Vietnam. The Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese patrons exploited the turmoil by intensifying attacks in the countryside and against US military advisers in South Vietnam. In March 1964 the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, directed the Joint Chiefs of Staff to draw up plans for retaliatory air strikes against North Vietnam. Following

trips to Saigon in the spring of 1964, General Taylor and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara urged continued support of the South Vietnamese counterinsurgency effort, short of US ground combat involvement. They did recommend planning for air strikes and possible commando raids against North Vietnam, a course that was not followed until after Taylor's retirement.

On 1 July 1964 President Johnson named Taylor the US Ambassador to South Vietnam, and General Taylor retired from military service for a second time. In Saigon, Ambassador Taylor witnessed both the introduction of US ground combat troops into South

Vietnam and the launching of a US air campaign against North Vietnam, actions that had been actively considered while he was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After resigning as ambassador in mid-1965, Taylor served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and as a special adviser to President Johnson. He was president of the Institute for Defense Analyses

from 1966 to 1969. Throughout his retirement General Taylor wrote and lectured widely on defense and national security matters. His major works include *Responsibility and Response* (1967), *Swords and Plowshares* (1972), *Changing Dynamics of National Security* (1974), and *Precarious Security* (1976). General Taylor died at Walter Reed Army Medical Center on 19 April 1987.

Maxwell Davenport Taylor

General, USA

Promotions	Dates	
	Temporary	Permanent
2LT		13 Jun 22
1LT		09 Mar 27
CPT.		21 Aug 35
MAJ		09 Jul 40
LTC	01 Jan 42	13 Jun 45
COL	24 Jun 42	
BG	11 Dec 42.	24 Jan 48
MG	21 Jun 44.	08 Mar 52
LTG	01 Aug 51	
GEN.	23 Jun 53	

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Student, Engineer School, Fort Humphreys, VA, and Officer, 17th Engineers, Camp Meade, MD	1922	1923
3d Engineers, Schofield Barracks, HI	1923	1926
6th Engineers, Camp Lewis, WA; transferred to 10th Field Artillery	1926	1927
Student of French language, Paris, France; then Instructor, US Military Academy, West Point, NY	1927	1932
Student, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, OK	1932	1933
Student, Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, KS	1933	1935
Student of Japanese language, US Embassy, Tokyo, Japan; Assistant Military Attaché, Peking, China (1937)	1935	1939
Student, Army War College, Washington, DC	1939	1940
Member, War Plans Division, on Hemisphere Defense Mission to Latin America	1940	1940
Commander, 12th Artillery Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, TX	1940	1941
Office of Secretary, General Staff, War Department, Washington, DC	1941	1942
Chief of Staff, 82d Airborne Division, Camp Claiborne, LA; then Division Artillery Commander, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC	1942	1943

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
Division Artillery Commander, 82d Airborne Division, Sicily and Italy	1943	1944
Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, Normandy, Western and Central Europe	1944	1945
Superintendent, US Military Academy, West Point, NY	1945	1949
Chief of Staff, European Command, Heidelberg, Germany	1949	1949
US Commander, Berlin	1949	1951
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3 and Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Administration, Department of the Army, Washington, DC	1951	1953
Commanding General, Eighth Army, Korea, Army Forces, Far East	1953	1954
Commanding General, US Army Forces, Far East and Eighth US Army, Far East Command	1954	1955
Commander in Chief, Far East Command	1955	1955
Chief of Staff, US Army, Washington, DC	1955	1959
Retired from active service, 30 June 1959		
Recalled to active duty, 01 July 1961		
Military Representative of the President, Washington, DC	1961	1962
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.	1962	1964

Principal US Military Decorations

Distinguished Service Cross
Army Distinguished Service Medal (with 3 oak leaf clusters)
Silver Star (with oak leaf cluster)
Legion of Merit
Bronze Star
Purple Heart



EARLE GILMORE WHEELER

3 July 1964 — 2 July 1970

Earle Wheeler was born in Washington, DC, on 13 January 1908. After attending Eastern High School, he joined the DC National Guard at the age of sixteen and rose to the rank of sergeant. He then entered the US Military Academy in 1928. After graduating in 1932, Wheeler spent the next twelve years as an infantry officer, serving from company to division level. He also taught mathematics at West Point and graduated from the Command and General Staff College. In 1942 he commanded an infantry battalion.

During World War II Wheeler rose to colonel. As Chief of Staff of the 63d Infantry Division, he went overseas with the division in December 1944. Wheeler participated in campaigns that halted the German drive in Alsace-Lorraine, breached the Siegfried Line, seized Heidelberg, and crossed the Danube. He was selected to lead an assault regiment against Hitler's mountain fortress in the Bavarian Alps but missed his opportunity for combat command when Germany surrendered as the operation was about to begin.

After the war, Wheeler served in a variety of command and staff assignments. He commanded the 351st Infantry Regiment in Italy in 1951 and 1952. He was then assigned to Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy, first as Readiness Officer and then as Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations. On his return to the United States in 1955, Wheeler joined the Army Staff as Director of Plans in the Office of the Operations Deputy. He was promoted to major general in December 1955 and in 1957 became Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations. While serving in that position, he was chosen to head a joint committee to study ways to make interservice planning and decision making more effective.

General Earle G. Wheeler
United States Army



Colonel Wheeler inspects an honor guard in Trieste, November 1951.

From 1958 until 1960 Wheeler commanded the 2d Armored Division and III Corps in Texas. Promoted to lieutenant general, Wheeler returned to the Pentagon in 1960 as Director of the Joint Staff. In March 1962 the Army promoted him to general and he was assigned as Deputy Commander in Chief of the European Command.

After only seven months Wheeler returned to Washington in October 1962 as Chief of Staff of the Army. In addition to developing the Army's air assault division and improving the overseas reinforcement system, he helped persuade the other Service

Chiefs to support the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty with the Soviet Union. During Wheeler's twenty-one months in office, Army troops were deployed for possible use during both the Cuban missile crisis and civil rights disturbances in Mississippi and Alabama. Following a visit to South Vietnam in late 1962, Wheeler argued for augmenting US support troops and advisers to help the Saigon government deal more effectively with the Viet Cong insurgency.

General Wheeler became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 3 July 1964. During the next four years he was a regular attendee

at President Lyndon Johnson's Tuesday luncheons of senior policy advisers and at other high-level national security conferences. Wheeler's influence, however, was overshadowed by that of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. As Chairman, General Wheeler worked with marked success to eliminate dissents or "splits" in JCS recommendations, which, he believed, only invited interference by McNamara. But Wheeler's approach did not succeed. Unanimity did not translate into greater JCS influence, and McNamara determined military policies to a degree that none of his predecessors had approached.

The Vietnam War consumed much of Wheeler's time and energy during the six years he served as Chairman. Initially, Wheeler and the Chiefs believed that US air power—without ground troops or the risk of a land war with China—could assist South Vietnam in defeating communist aggression. Throughout late 1964 and early 1965, Wheeler presented the President and his civilian advisers JCS recommendations for retaliatory air strikes and then for a sustained air campaign against North Vietnam. In February 1965 President Johnson approved a bombing campaign, though not on the scale recommended by the Chiefs. By the time the air operations got under way the following month, the situation in South Vietnam had worsened. Wheeler and his JCS colleagues no longer thought an air campaign alone would suffice and recommended the commitment of ground forces. Although Johnson approved ground force deployments, they were not of the magnitude preferred by the Chiefs.

From 1965 through early 1968, Wheeler led the Chiefs in recommending an expanded air campaign against North Vietnam and increased deployment of ground troops to South Vietnam. Johnson listened carefully to Wheeler and approved gradually expanded bombing and larger force deployments, but

always at slower and smaller rates than those advocated by the Chiefs. Such "gradualism," Wheeler and his colleagues argued, failed to punish the enemy sufficiently to force him to end the war in Vietnam.

The Tet offensive of January 1968 marked a turning point in Wheeler's and the Joint Chiefs' influence on the conduct of the war. Although the offensive was costly for the enemy, it proved a psychological victory. The magnitude of the surprise attack greatly increased opposition to the war in the United States. As a consequence, President Johnson disregarded JCS advice and proceeded to limit the bombing of North Vietnam, place a hold on further troop increases in South Vietnam, and call for negotiations to end the fighting. Wheeler continued to attend all high-level White House meetings on Vietnam and to consider himself a personal friend of Johnson. But no longer did his recommendations and advice on the war carry the clout with the President that they once had. In July 1968, however, Johnson sought and received congressional approval to extend Wheeler's chairmanship for an additional year.

Though preoccupied with the war, President Johnson planned to begin negotiations with the Soviet Union for strategic arms limitations. In July 1968 Wheeler established the position of Assistant to the Chairman for Strategic Arms Negotiations. Toward the end of General Wheeler's tenure as Chairman, President Richard Nixon's Secretary of Defense, Melvin Laird, authorized a support staff for the position, and this office became the focal point for military support to the US delegation to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT).

In 1969 President Nixon secured another year's extension of Wheeler's tenure as Chairman. Determined to end US involvement in the war, Nixon adopted a policy of Vietnamization, the gradual withdrawal of US

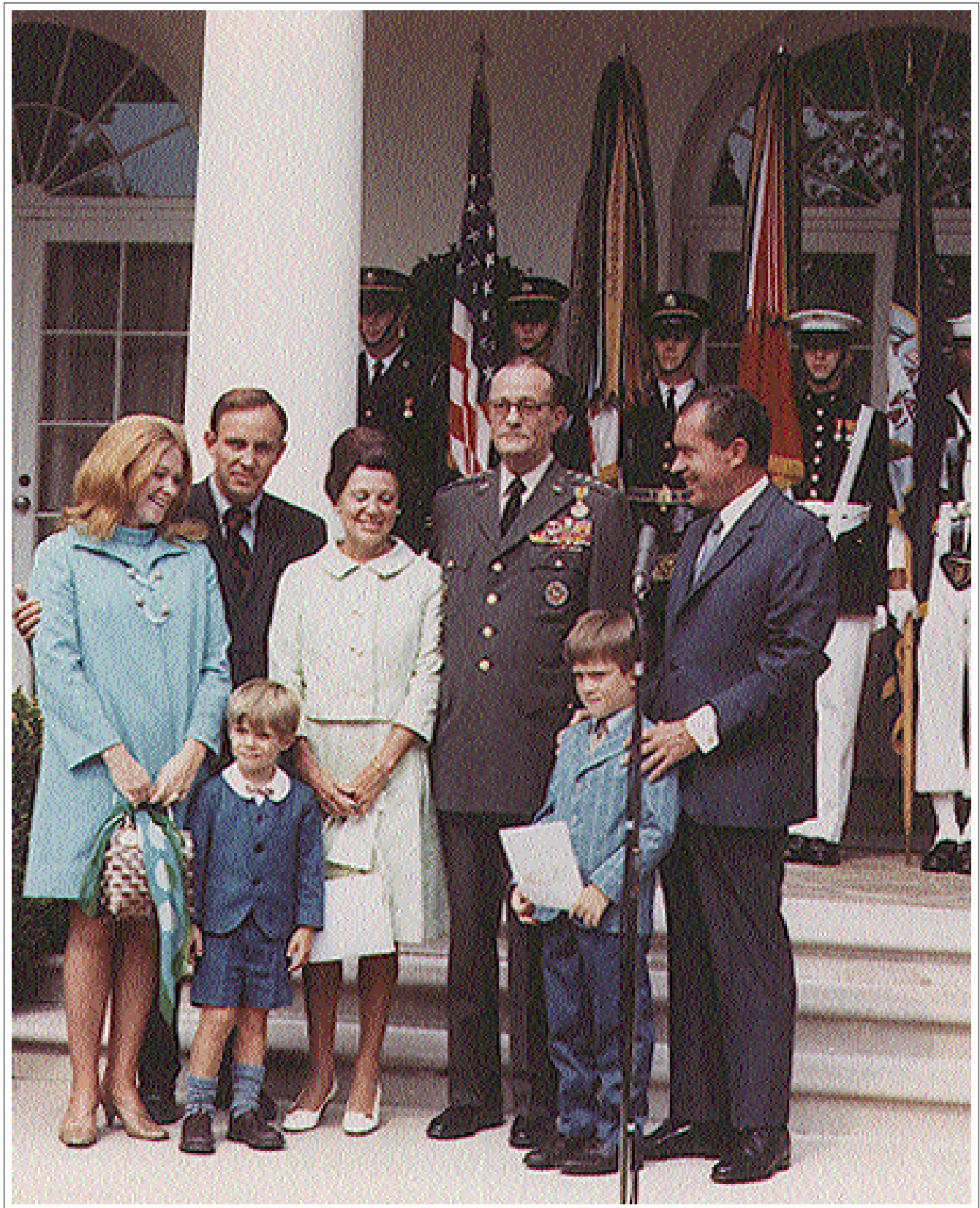


General Wheeler and General Creighton W. Abrams in South Vietnam, October 1969.

forces and buildup of South Vietnamese combat capabilities, while also negotiating with the North Vietnamese. Nixon sought the advice of Wheeler and the Chiefs but often did not heed it. Political necessity compelled larger and faster US withdrawals than Wheeler and his colleagues thought prudent.

General Wheeler retired on 2 July 1970 after an unprecedented six years in office.

Those who knew him best detected his great frustration over his failure to win civilian approval of the strategy that he believed would win the war in Vietnam. The stress of these six years led to several heart attacks that greatly weakened Wheeler's health. He died on 18 December 1975 in Frederick, Maryland.



General Wheeler and his family with President Richard M. Nixon following a ceremony at the White House, where Wheeler received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, 9 July 1970.

Earle Gilmore Wheeler

General, USA

Promotions	Dates	
	Temporary	Permanent
2LT		10 Jun 32
1LT		01 Aug 35
CPT.	09 Sep 40	10 Jun 42
MAJ	01 Feb 42	
LTC.	11 Nov 42	
COL	26 Jun 43	
LTC (postwar reduction)	01 Jul 47.	01 Jul 48
COL	07 Sep 50	06 Oct 53
BG	08 Nov 52.	13 May 60
MG	21 Dec 55	30 Jun 61
LTG.	21 Apr 60	
GEN	01 Mar 62	

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
29th Infantry, Fort Benning, GA	1932	1936
Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA	1936	1937
15th Infantry Regiment, Tientsin, China, and Fort Lewis, WA	1937	1940
Instructor, US Military Academy, West Point, NY	1940	1941
Aide-de-Camp to Commanding General, 36th Infantry Division, Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bowie, TX	1941	1941
Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS	1941	1942
Battalion Commander, 141st Infantry Regiment, Camp Blanding, FL	1942	1942
G-3, 99th Infantry Division; Chief of Staff, 63rd Infantry Division, Camp Van Dorn, MS	1942	1944
Chief of Staff, 63d Infantry Division, European Theater of Operations	1944	1945
Instructor, Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, OK	1945	1946
Deputy Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Western Base Section, France	1946	1947

Assignments	Dates	
	From	To
G-3, Headquarters, US Constabulary, Heidelberg, Germany	1947	1949
Student, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, DC	1949	1950
Member, Joint Intelligence Group, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC	1950	1951
Commanding Officer, 351st Infantry Regiment, Trieste; then Deputy Commanding General, US Troops, Trieste	1951	1952
Readiness Officer, then Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, Allied Forces, Southern Europe (NATO), Naples, Italy.	1952	1955
Director of Plans, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, US Army, Washington, DC	1955	1957
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Washington, DC	1957	1958
Commanding General, 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, TX	1958	1959
Commanding General, III Corps and 2d Armored Division, Fort Hood, TX	1959	1960
Director, Joint Staff, Washington, DC	1960	1962
Deputy Commander in Chief, US European Command, Camp des Loges, France.	1962	1962
Chief of Staff, US Army, Washington, DC	1962	1964
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.	1964	1970

Principal US Military Decorations

Defense Distinguished Service Medal
 Army Distinguished Service Medal (with 2 oak leaf clusters)
 Navy Distinguished Service Medal
 Air Force Distinguished Service Medal
 Legion of Merit
 Bronze Star (with oak leaf cluster)
 Army Commendation Medal (with oak leaf cluster)