

U.S. Army Military History Institute  
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Biographies

## OMAR N. BRADLEY

### A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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**WORLD WAR II**

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From the papers of LTG Raymond S. McLain.

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**VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, 1945-1947**

U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Military Affairs. Reemployment Rights of Veterans. Hearings, 79<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, 1946. 42 p. UB357.A53.  
Bradley's testimony appears on pp. 2-7.

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### **CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (1949-1953)**

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\_\_\_\_\_ & Smith, Beverly. A Soldier's Farewell. US?: Saturday Evening Post, 1953. 9 p. E745B7A55.

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Korb, Lawrence J. The Joint Chiefs of Staff: The First Twenty-five Years. Bloomington, IN: IN U, 1976. 210 p. UB223.K67.  
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U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Armed Services. An Act to Authorize the President to Appoint General Omar N. Bradley to the Permanent Grade of General of the Army. Hearings, 81<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, 14 Sep 1950. 19 p. UB412.B7.A2.

### **See also:**

-Bibliography on Joint Chiefs of Staff in Joint.

**PERSONAL PAPERS (1942-1953)**

Blair, Clay & Joan Collection. Papers. 35 Boxes. Arch.

Research materials gathered during writing of several books including A General's Life...Bradley.

Bradley, Omar N. Papers. 30 Boxes. Arch.

Personal files, writings, speeches, and clippings. Much relates to postwar period.

Papers of officers associated closely with Bradley chiefly between 1942 and 1953:

Bennett, Donald V.-memoirs  
Clay, Lucius D.-memoirs  
Gay, Hobart-diary  
Gray, Gordon-official papers.  
Hamlett, Barksdale-memoirs  
Handy, Thomas-memoirs  
Hansen, Chester-diary and other papers  
Harkins, Paul-memoirs  
Hershey, Lewis-memoirs and other papers  
Hull, John-autobiography  
Moses, Raymond-diary and other papers  
Pace, Frank-memoirs  
Parks, Floyd-diary  
Ridgway, Matthew-memoirs and other papers

**BRADLEY WRITINGS**

Bradley, Omar N. "The Collected Speeches of General Omar Bradley, 1945-1949." s.l.: s.n., 1949?  
1 vol. E745.B7.A48.

\_\_\_\_\_. "The Collected Writings of General Omar N. Bradley." 5 vols. n.p., n.d. E745.B7.A5v.1-5.  
Various speeches, interviews, broadcasts, etc, 1945-1971.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Magazine Articles by General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, 1947-1969." Wash, DC: Dept of  
Defense, 1970-71. 4 vols. E745.B7.A25.

\_\_\_\_\_. "On Leadership." Parameters (Sep 1981): pp. 1-7. Per.  
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**NOTE: BRADLEY A BOY SCOUT?**

In response to an inquiry, it was determined that General Omar N. Bradley was not a Boy Scout in his youth. The Scouting movement began in England under Robert Baden-Powell in 1907, and the Boy Scouts of America formed a few years later, Feb 1910. At that time, Omar Bradley, born 12 Feb 1893, was already 17 years old and about to graduate from high school. He entered the US Military Academy the next year. This matter of timing may explain his absence from formal Scouting.

In remarks at a 1974 Scout ceremony, General Bradley regretted not having had the opportunity to join Scouting when he was eligible. (See his Collected Writings, Vol. VI, p. 37; E745.B7.A5).

The possibility exists that Bradley participated in a local youth program or activity that resembled Boy Scouting. Information on his activities in Moberly, MO, 1908-1916, may be available from the Randolph County Historical Society, 107<sup>th</sup> North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Moberly, MO 65270.

**NOTE: BRADLEY AS TRAINER EQUAL TO MCNAIR**

This note resulted when a retired general officer took exception to a remark made by the Hon John O. Marsh, Secretary Army, at AWC graduation exercises, Jun 1981, and reprinted in Alumni Association's Newsletter, Sep 1981.

In his remarks, Sec Marsh categorized Great Captains as either creative or doctrinal/conventional, giving examples of each. He placed General Omar N. Bradley in the latter category, citing his mastery of years of training and doctrine that enabled him "to build the Army of World War II." General Bradley thus received credit for an accomplishment that many would more properly assign to General Lesley J. McNair.

To be sure, the overall impact of General McNair on the WWII army is not as widely appreciated as it should be. Unfortunately no full-length, satisfactory biography of him has yet appeared to publicize his vital contribution in organizing and training the Army Ground Forces.

He has received a certain amount of recognition. In 1943 Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall related in his biennial report that training and organization by McNair had "achieved remarkable results that today are paying heavy dividends on the battlefield." Six months after McNair's accidental death in France, a brief tribute biography was published aptly entitled McNair: Educator of an Army. The volume on training in the official history series United States Army in World War II is replete with references to McNair. However, administrators and staff officers do not attract the same historical attention as do top field commanders, especially those who are highly successful. We still await, for example, a full-length biography of Walter Bedell Smith, Eisenhower's Chief of Staff in Europe.

General Bradley, of course, is best recognized as the empathetic "G.I.'s General" and the able commander of the largest American army ever fielded under a single commander. However, his contribution to training was by no means insignificant. His early career included many years as a formal instructor, and he served as Commandant of the Infantry School in 1941. He commanded two infantry divisions (the 92<sup>nd</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>) during their mobilization training in 1942. In Tunisia and Sicily, he commanded American troops who first learned the lessons of actual combat. Later, commanding all U.S. combat forces in England, he supervised the training and preparations for the cross-channel invasion. Although Bradley's role as a trainer was not as fundamental or sustained as McNair's, it may be fairly said that he, too, instrumentally built the fighting forces.

In assessing Bradley, noted military historian, Martin Blumenson, predicts that he will be remembered for, among other things, his "superb work as combat trainer and commander."