

MS 1

**BRADLEY, FOLLETT, MAJOR GENERAL
U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE (RETIRED)
1890-1952**

**Linear ft.: 1.2
Approx. no. pgs. 3,000**

Papers, 1905-1967

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Follett Bradley was born at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, on 12 Feb 1890. He was graduated from the United States Naval Academy and commissioned an ensign on 4 Jun 1910. Bradley served in the Navy until 24 Jan 1912, when he was appointed a second lieutenant of Field Artillery in the Regular Army. He was promoted to first lieutenant on July 1, 1916; to captain on 15 May 1917; to major (temporary) on 2 Jul 1918; and to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on 30 Jul 1918. Bradley reverted to his permanent rank of captain on 13 Feb 1920, and was promoted to major on 1 Jul 1920; to lieutenant colonel on 1 Aug 1935; to colonel (temporary) on 26 Aug 1936; to brigadier general (temporary) on 1 Oct 1940; and to major general (temporary) on 25 Feb 1942. Bradley first served with the 6th Field Artillery at Fort Riley, Kansas. A pioneer in aviation in 1912 he participated in several flights in an early Wright biplane at Fort Riley in connection with experiments in the conduct of field artillery fire. In 1914, Bradley accompanied his regiment to Laredo, Texas. In Jun 1914, he was detailed in the Ordnance Department and ordered to the Sandy Hook Proving Ground, New Jersey, and was graduated in 1915 from the Ordnance School of Application.

During 1916, Bradley learned to fly at Mineola, Long Island, New York. In Aug 1917, he was ordered overseas, serving under the Air Commander, American Expeditionary Forces, Zone of Advance, with duty connected with the armament of airplanes and aerial gunnery. During his service overseas he piloted Curtiss, Nieuport, Spad, and DeHaviland type airplanes. On 26 Nov 1917, he received the rating of Junior Military Aviator.

Relieved from duty with the Air Service on 10 Jan 1918, Bradley was assigned to the 17th

Field Artillery. He took part in the Aisne defensive, in the capture of Vaux in Jul 1918, and in the Aisne-Marne offensive from 18-26 Jul. He was cited for gallantry and received the Silver Star and the French Croix de Guerre with palm and bronze star. In Sep 1918, he returned to the United States and was placed on duty as an instructor at the Artillery School of Fire at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During the course of his service at this post, he held the positions of Director, Artillery School of Fire; Officer in Charge of Flying; Commandant, Air Service Observation and Communications School; and Executive Officer of the artillery school.

In Aug 1921, Bradley was assigned as a student at the Air Service Engineering School at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, and upon graduation in August of the following year was transferred to Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois, as Assistant Commandant of the Air Service Technical School. While stationed at Chanute Field, General Bradley participated as a pilot in the Pulitzer Air Races held in the fall of 1922 at Selfridge Field, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, and took second place in the contest for the Liberty Engine Builders' Trophy.

Transferred to the Panama Canal Department in Aug 1923, he served in the dual capacity of Commanding Officer of France Field and of the 6th Composite Group. He also served for a time as Air Officer of the Panama Canal Department. Upon the completion of his tour of duty in Panama, he was assigned in Sep 1926 as a student at the Air Corps Tactical School, then at Langley Field, Virginia. Graduating the following year, he continued in the capacity of student for another year, this time at the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He then returned to Langley Field for duty as instructor at the Air Corps Tactical School.

From Aug 1931-Jun 1933, he completed the courses at the Army War College, Washington, D.C., and the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island.

In Jun 1933, Bradley was assigned to duty at Mitchel Field, New York, as Commanding Officer of the 9th Observation Group. He served in the capacity of Chief Inspector when the Army Air Corps took over the operation of the air mail, Feb-Jun 1934. In Jun 1934, he was detailed as a member of the War Department General Staff and assigned to the War Plans Division, remaining on this duty until 1 Mar 1935. Bradley was then assigned to duty at the headquarters of the General Headquarters Air Force, Langley Field, Virginia, as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, for Military Intelligence. He served in that capacity until Jan 1938, when he was ordered to Moffett Field, California, where he served as Commanding Officer until Jun 1939. He was then transferred to Puerto Rico as Department Air Officer. On 20 Nov 1940, he was assigned to command the 13th Composite Wing, Puerto Rico.

On 19 Jul 1941, Gen. Bradley was assigned to command the 3rd Bombardment Wing, at MacDill Field, Florida. On 29 Sep 1941, he was placed in charge of the 3rd Bomber Command, at Drew Field, Florida. In Mar 1942, he was assigned Commanding General, First Air Force, Mitchell Field, New York. He was relieved of that command in Jul 1942 to go to Russia on a special mission for the President of the United States.

In Aug 1942, Bradley was sent to Russia on a special mission with the rank of minister for the purpose of opening an airway for the delivery of lend-lease aircraft to Russia under their own power from factories in the United States through Great Falls, Alaska, and Siberia. He returned to Washington, D.C., in Dec 1942, mission accomplished with some 8,000 airplanes being delivered along that route. In Mar 1943, he was assigned as the Air Inspector, Headquarters Army Air Forces, Washington, D.C., and remained in this assignment until he was forced to retire from active service following a heart attack in the fall of 1943. Bradley's official retirement date was 30 Apr 1944.

Gen. Bradley was awarded the Silver Star and the French Croix de Guerre with palm and bronze star, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying

Cross, World War I Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal. He was a command pilot and a qualified technical observer. He was married and had two daughters. Bradley died of a heart attack on 4 Aug 1952 in Mineola, Long Island.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection relates to Bradley's military career and his duties with the Sperry Corporation following his service retirement. The most significant part of the material deals with Bradley's special mission to Russia. At the request of the President of the United States, Bradley received the rank of minister for the purpose of opening an airway for the delivery of lend-lease aircraft to Russia from factories in the United States through Great Falls, Alaska and Siberia. Some 8,000 planes were delivered to Russian bases along this route during the fall and winter of 1942. The balance of the material contains information relative to Bradley's training at the Naval Academy, advanced training, military assignments and his civilian employment.

This collection consists of three boxes of manuscript material arranged in nine series: Series 1) Correspondence, 1905-1934, 1941-1952; Series 2) Reports, 1942, 1947, 1951; Series 3) Messages, "Bradley Mission," 1942; Series 4) Personal and Special Orders, 1912-1944; Series 5) 201 File, 1928, 1942; Series 6) Speeches and Addresses, 1935, 1947, 1950, 1951, 1957; Series 7) Printed Matter, 1944-1967; Series 8) News Clippings, 1938-1947; Series 9) Photographs, c.a., 1905-1911, 1942-1952.

SERIES ONE: CORRESPONDENCE, 1905-1934, 1941-1952, consists of five folders which relate to Bradley's activities relative to his entrance to the Naval Academy in 1906 and his graduation in 1910, his assignments in the Navy, Army and his duties in the Army Air Corps from World War I to World War II, 1944. Also included are papers regarding his duties with respect to the Army Inspectors Office and his employment as an aeronautical consultant to the Sperry Corporation as assistant to the president.

SERIES TWO: REPORTS, 1942, 1947, 1951, consists of data which reveals the story of the "Bradley Mission." In Aug 1942, Bradley was sent to Russia on a special mission with the rank of minister for the purpose of opening an airway for the delivery of lend-lease aircraft to be flown to Russia by Russian pilots who were to ferry the planes to their bases from Alaska. The planes were to be flown from American factories to Alaska by U.S. Army Air Corps pilots. The series contains record of the plans, conversations, friction and confusion which resulted from the lack of coordination and understanding which existed between the American and Russian representatives of both the military and the diplomats responsible for making the decisions. The route was finally established and some 8,000 planes were delivered to Russia.

SERIES THREE: MESSAGES, "BRADLEY MISSION," 1942, consists of a folder which contains all the incoming and outgoing messages that Bradley received or sent regarding his mission to Russia.

SERIES FOUR: PERSONAL AND SPECIAL ORDERS, 1912-1944, consists of a collection of special orders for assignments of duty and personal orders. The orders pertain to official

matters of Bradley's military career from his first assignment following his graduation from the Naval Academy to his disability retirement.

SERIES FIVE: 201 FILE, 1928, 1942, consists of one folder of information relative to personal records which were retained in his 201 personal folder. These papers relate to promotions, assignments, and transfers associated with his duties with the U.S. Army Air Corps.

SERIES SIX: SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES, 1935, 1947, 1950, 1951, 1957, consists of one folder and contains copies of speeches which are relative to his mission in Russia to establish an air route for receiving American planes; Bradley's views about promotion regulations for the Army Air Corps and the proposed Army promotion bill; his 1947 speech at the Air University entitled, "The Retirement Phase of an Officers Career;" Memorial Day Address 1951; "Pre-World War II Military Air Doctrines;" presented to the War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1951; a statement by Follett Bradley before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; remarks by Bradley at a George Washington celebration; and an address given by Colonel Marshall A. Elkins, 7 Apr 1957, dedicating a building at Mitchel Air Force Base in honor of Major General Follett Bradley.

SERIES SEVEN: PRINTED MATTER, 1944-1967, consists of the following printed material: "Sperry 15 Year Club," 15 Jan 1944; a series written by Bradley relative to the "Unification of the Services," 1946; "Computing and Compensating Sights for Aerial Gunnery," Sperryscope, Vol. X, No. 3, May 1944; "Soviet Stalling Tactics in the Forties" by Richard C. Lukas, Aerospace Historian, Vol. XIV, No. 1, spring 1967, pgs. 51-60. The article by Lukas gives a vivid description of Bradley's assignment and his masterful way of accomplishing his mission to Russia under difficult conditions.

SERIES EIGHT: NEWS-CLIPPINGS, 1938-1947, consists of a folder which contains newsprints of photographs and comments relative to Bradley's military assignments, his duties, and individuals with whom he was associated. News clippings relate to the "Bradley Mission" to Russia and stories of visits by Wendell Willkie, Winston Churchill and other top diplomats of the early forties.

SERIES NINE: PHOTOGRAPHS, ca. 1905-1911, 1942-1952, undated, consists of two folders of photographs the majority of which are not captioned. The photographs include a series taken at the Naval Academy between 1905 and 1911, several taken at Moffett Field in California; many taken during the "Bradley Mission" which contain photographs of Winston Churchill, Wendell Willkie. Also included are photographs of Bradley during his employment with the Sperry Corporation as an aeronautical consultant.

ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

SERIES ONE **CORRESPONDENCE, 1905-1934, 1941-1952**

BOX ONE

Folder 1	1905-1911.
Folder 2	1912-1934.
Folder 3	1941-1944.
Folder 4	1945-1950.
Folder 5	1951-1952.

SERIES 'TWO **REPORTS, 1942, 1947, 1951**

BOX ONE

Folder 6	1942, 1947, 1951.
----------	-------------------

SERIES THREE **MESSAGES "BRADLEY MISSION," 1942**

BOX TWO

Folder 1	Messges, incoming, outgoing, 1942.
----------	------------------------------------

SERIES FOUR **PERSONAL AND SPECIAL ORDERS, 1912-1944**

BOX TWO

Folder 2	1912-1944.
----------	------------

SERIES FIVE **201 FILE, 1928, 1942**

BOX TWO

Folder 3	1928, 1942.
----------	-------------

SERIES SIX **SPEECHES AND ADDRESSES, 1935; 1947; 1950; 1951; 1957**

BOX TWO

Folder 4	1935, 1947, 1950, 1951, 1957.
----------	-------------------------------

SERIES SEVEN **PRINTED MATIER, 1944-1967**

BOX TWO

Folder 5 1944-1967.

SERIES EIGHT **NEWS CLIPPINGS, 1938-1947**

BOX THREE

Folder 1 1938-1947.

SERIES NINE **PHOTOGRAPHS, ca. 1905-1911, ca. 1942-1952**

BOX THREE

Folder 2 ca. 1905-1911, ca. 1942-1952.

Folder 3 ca. 1942-1952.