

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 17, 1953

Dear Bob:

Before I leave office, I want you to know how much I appreciate the loyal and devoted help you have given to me, and to the Government, in your service as Air Force Aide to the President.

Your handling of the Independence and other air travel has always been outstandingly efficient, and your work in other matters such as the airport security commission has been of real and lasting benefit to the country. You have always been cheerful and ready to do your utmost to make the President's job easier and more effective, and believe me I appreciate it more than I can say.

I wish you and Mrs. Landry every success and happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harry Truman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "H" and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Major General Robert B. Landry, USAF,
Air Force Aide to the President,
The White House.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1st Ind.

The White House, Washington, D. C., 19 January 1953

In compliance with above orders, you are released
from assignment as Air Force Aide to the President,
effective 20 January 1953.

Harry Truman

*Above orders were from the
U.S. Air Force assigning me to
the 2nd Air Force, Strategic Air
Command, as Deputy Commander.*

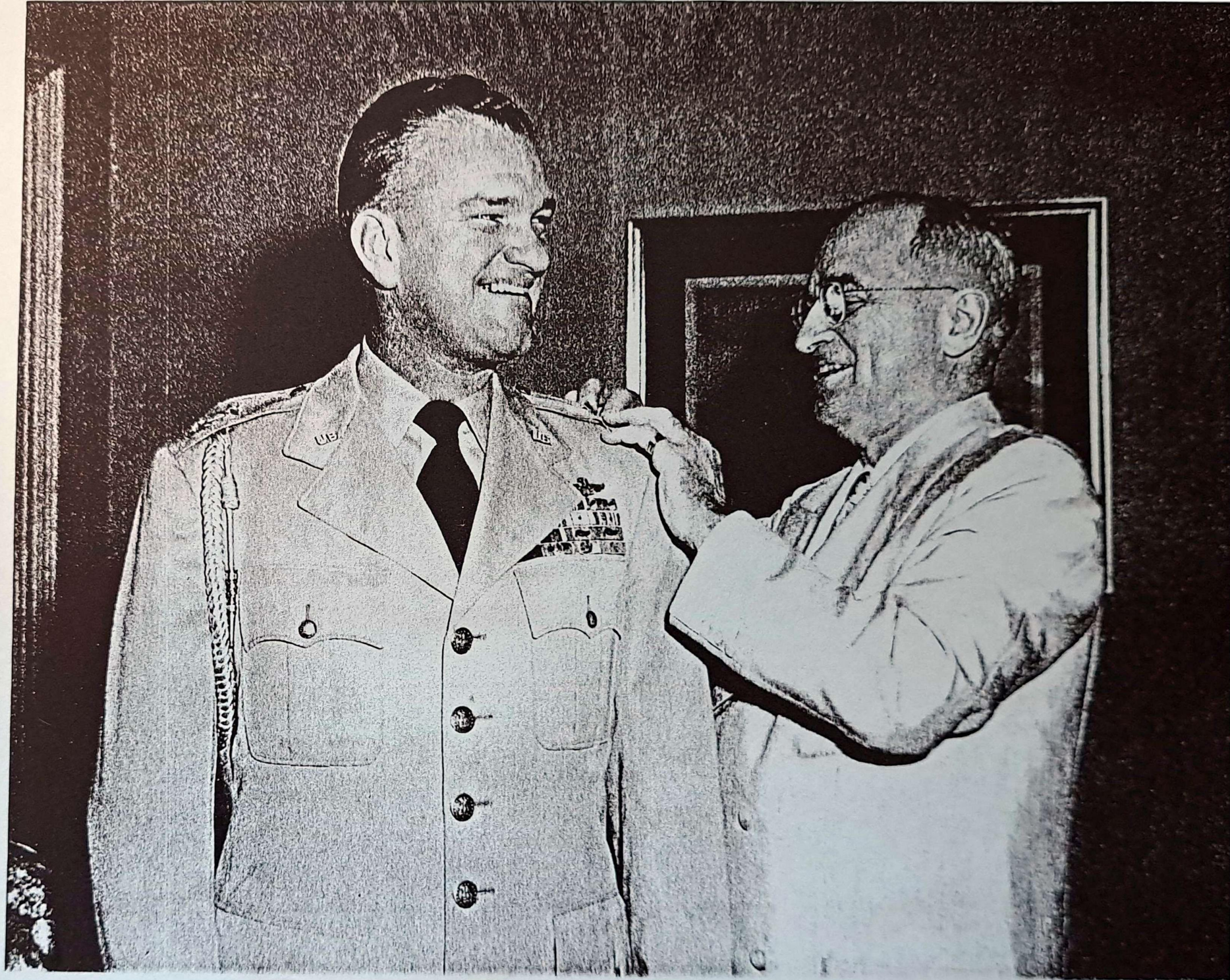
9 March 1952

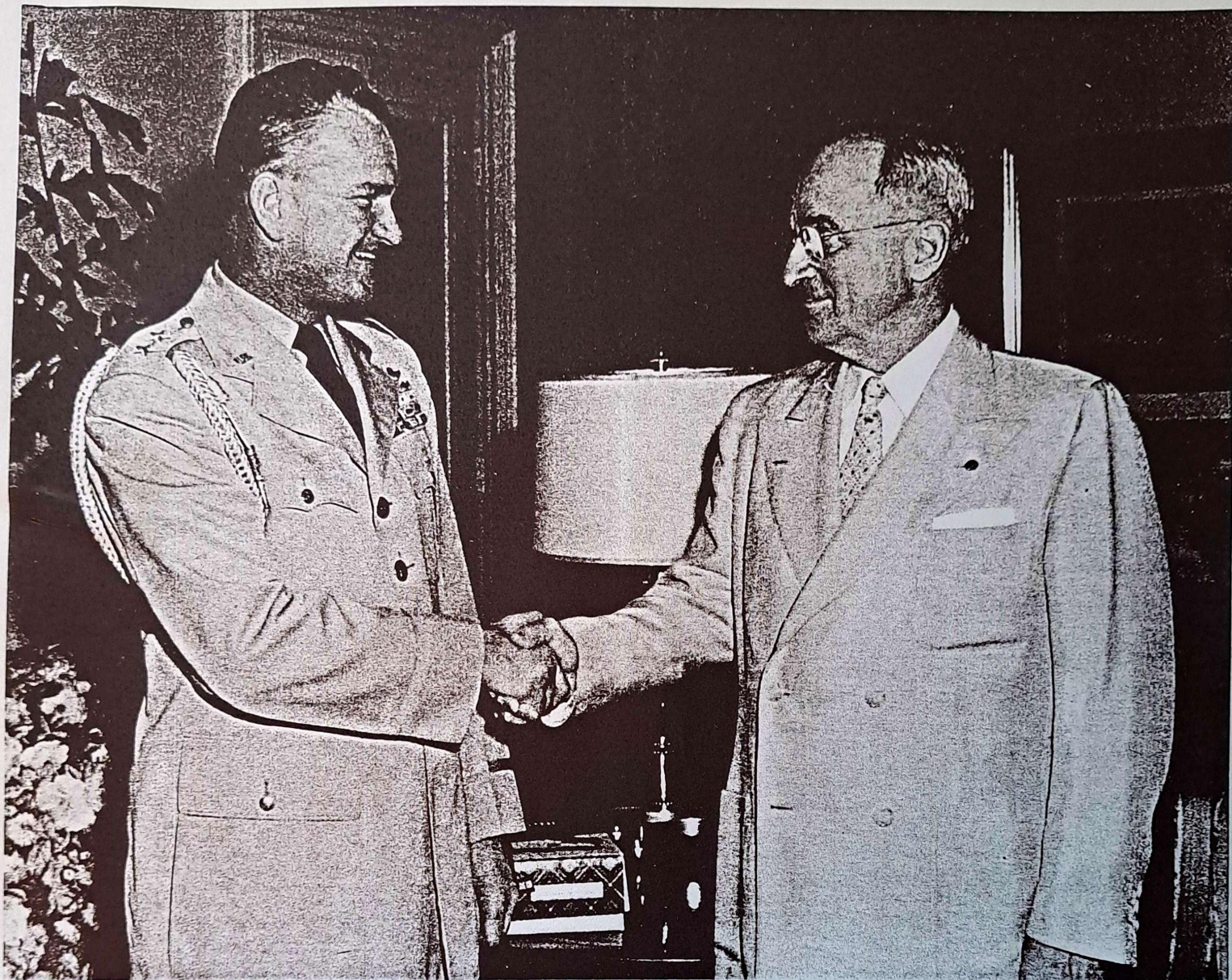
Key West, Florida

General Vandenberg, the President, General Landry,
Colonel McHugh



Key West, Florida
8 March 1952





8 March 1952

Key West, Florida

The President congratulates General Landry on his
promotion to Major General.

Landry Is Nominated To Be Major General

President Truman today nominated his Air Force aide, Brig. Gen. Robert B. Landry, for promotion to the temporary rank of major general.

The officer's permanent rating is that of colonel in the Air Force, but he got his star when he was made Presidential aide.

The Landry nomination was one of 38 giving promotions to Air Force officers.

There were 14 brigadier generals named for two-star rank; 23 colonels proposed for advancement to brigadier general and two reserve colonels also recommended for one-star rating.

Gen. Landry, during World War II service with the 8th Air Force in Europe, was one of the few men to command both fighter and bomber units.

THE EVENING STAR
23 January 1952

ONE, TWO, THREE and four star generals, of the United States Army and Air Force, and a single Admiral, USN, were awarded the Order of Military Merit of Cuba yesterday at a ceremony at the Cuban Embassy. To two Ambassadors and half a dozen other distinguished people went the National Order of Merit Carlos Manuel de Cespedes. The presentations by the Ambassador, Luis Machado, took place just before several hundred guests came in for a reception, to offer felicitations and to drink champagne.

Gen. J. Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff, was decorated with the medal of the Order of Military Merit. In this group also were Gen. Wade H. Haislip, Lieut. Gen. Charles L. Bolte, USA; President Truman's Military Aide, Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughn, USA; Brig. Gen. Robert B. Landry, USAF, the President's Air Force Aide; Maj. Gen. Wallace Graham, USAF, personal physician to President Truman; Rear Admiral Robert Lee Dennison, USN, Naval Aide to the President, and Capt. Ramon Benedetti, USA.

Receiving the National Order of Merit Carlos Manuel de Cespedes were the Ambassador of El Salvador, Dr. Hector Castro; the Honduran Ambassador, Rafael Heliador Valle; former Senator George Wharton Pepper of Philadelphia; Dr. Federico de Onis, Columbia University Hispanic Institute; David A. Skeen former president of the International Lions Club; Erle Cocke, former National Commander of the American Legion; Mrs. Willis Reed, president of the National Auxiliary, American Legion, and Danton Walker, newspaper columnist.

THE WASHINGTON POST
29 January 1952

Gen. Landry Is Promoted



MAJ. GEN. R. B. LANDRY of New Orleans, received a promotion from brigadier general. Landry is air aide to Pres. Truman and is stationed in Washington. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Landry, 3312 Burdette.

THE NEW ORLEANS ITEM
3 February 1952



Using binoculars to watch yesterday's air show at Andrews Field and obviously enjoying it is President Truman.



Review. An air by the Air Force Band (above) opened a special air progress show at Andrews Field yesterday. In the background is a B-36, world's largest bomber. Below are, left to right, Secretary of Army Kenneth Royall, President Truman, Col. Robert Landry, Mr. Truman's Air Force aide, and Col. David Schilling, director of operations for the show, seen leaving the XB-47.



WASH. TIMES-HERALD
FEB. 16, 1949



I.N.P.

The Last Laugh

President Truman shouts good naturedly to youngsters in the cargo compartment of a "Flying Boxcar." With him are Col. David Schilling (left) and Brig. Gen. Robert Landry.



I.N.P.

It Was Easier Going Up

President Truman had a time trying to descend the ladder from the hatch of a Northrop Flying Wing at Andrews field. At left is Brig. Gen. Landry.

Air Force Shows Off for Truman And Vinson, Too

By ESTELLE GAINES

The Air Force yesterday put on its best flying show for President Truman, Cabinet members and those kingpins of the Congress who apportion defense appropriations.

Stars of the show at Andrews field were the grand old fighting ships of the past—the B-17, B-25, B-26 and B-29—and the swooshing jets and new bombers of the present.

Good Artillery Auxiliary

Mr. Truman apparently shared the pride of the Air Force in the impressive display, swiveling his head to keep binoculars on the fancy flying.

Afterwards, the World War I artillery captain remarked that the Air Force would make a good auxiliary to the field artillery.

When the B-47—the plane which recently unofficially broke the transcontinental speed record—took off, it engulfed the President and the approximately 200 notables in a dense sulphurous fog, which soon was dispelled by the wind.

A team of five F-80s doing perfect aerial acrobatics and a mass flight of 16 B-36s going over at 500 feet (what, for them, looks like rooftop level) were the high-points, along with the Flying Wings.

"Wing" Attracts Attention

The show was held at the request of chairman Vinson, of Georgia, of the House armed services committee, who asked the Air Force to bring its newest and best aircraft to Washington to show other members of Congress.

The Flying Wing, known officially as the YB-49, is our most powerful, longest-ranging jet bomber. Circling the field in wide sweeps while conventional planes

both old and new roared past the President, the Flying Wing looked like a mythical personification of flight itself. Sens. Ferguson (R) of Michigan, Russell (D) of Georgia, Lodge (R) of Massachusetts, and Ellender (D) of Louisiana were among observers who could not take their eyes off it.

Streaking across the field in a "race" with the world's fastest jet fighter, the F-86, the B-47 looked equally spectacular. It was the

Ike Was There, Too

WHILE President Truman was being greeted effusively by the brass, a smiling, unobtrusive man in a light brown topcoat strolled around the field making a workmanlike inspection of the planes.

He was Gen. Eisenhower, in civilian clothes and unescorted by the numerous flunkies provided other officials. Officers commented, "He always likes to make his own observations."

His path crossed the President's at the B-36, they shook hands warmly, but only then was "Ike" shunted into the limelight.

same ship which flew from Washington State to Andrews Field Feb. 8 in three hours and 46 minutes at an average of 607.2 miles an hour. Maj. Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, 15th Air Force commander who served as commentator for the show, warned that the superspeed of the F-86 would be obvious for only a few seconds, but even so most onlookers missed it.

Youthful General From La. Acts As President's Air Force Aide

N. O. Combat Pilot Had
Stars Pinned on
by Truman

By EDWARD JAMIESON
of the Times' Washington Staff
Washington, Feb. 5.—As President Truman rushed from receptions to dinners, from breakfasts to lunches during inaugural week, wearing out much younger Secret Service men and reporters, always in the background was a trim, youthful and much be-ribboned air force officer.

For Brigadier General Robert B. Landry, the president's Air Force aide, however, it was just a breeze when compared to the years of combat duty he served with the 8th Air Force in Europe.

In selecting the 29-year-old Louisiana to be the first Air Force aide ever assigned to the President of the United States a year ago, the Air Force high command paid tribute to one of its outstanding young officers of World War II. Not only was Landry on combat duty from March, 1942, one of the first air officers to reach England, but he remained in the European theatre until well after the war was over.

As a lieutenant colonel in the 8th fighter command, part of the famous 8th Air Force, he commanded a fighter group during the early part of the war. Later, he was placed in command of a bomber group, the only officer in the 8th who commanded both types during the war. In all, he flew thirty-one missions and holds two distinguished flying crosses, one as a fighter pilot and one as a bomber pilot.

Of all his thrills, including appointment as the president's aide, however, the greatest of all was given the veteran air officer only last December 21.

Call from Truman

Word was sent to his office in the White House that the president had called a staff meeting and he should come at once. Unsuspectingly, he walked into the president's office where all the top members of the president's staff had gathered. He was surprised, of course, when he glimpsed his wife and two children near the president, but he still was unaware what was going on.

Not until the President called him over, pulled out two shining silver stars, and personally began to pull the eagles of a full colonel off the shoulders of his uniform did the aide realize what was actually hap-

N. O. Man Truman Advisor



One of the few who wasn't worried at President Truman's grueling pace during the inauguration week was Brigadier General Robert B. Landry, above. For the young general it was a breeze compared with the combat periods he endured in war service.

THE SHREVEPORT TIMES
Shreveport, Louisiana
6 February 1949

pening. He was getting a best Christmas present any army man could receive, his general's stars from the commander-in-chief himself.

General Landry, who was born in New Orleans December 1, 1909, chose a military career after attending Tulane university as an electrical and mechanical engineering student. He entered West Point and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1932. The following year, he transferred to the air corps and received his flight training at Kelly Field, Texas.

Saw the War Start

Landry saw the opening shots fired in the war, having been stationed at Hickman Field, Hawaii, when the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor and the air field December 7, 1941. At that time, he was assistant operations officer of the field and aide to Major General Fred L. Martin, commanding general of the air force in Hawaii.

He was immediately recalled to the mainland and assigned to the 8th Air Force, being hastily reinforced for movement to England. He first commanded the famous 56th fighter group of the 8th, and later commanded the 403rd heavy bombardment group. He is rated as a command pilot. His combat service included participation in the air offensives against Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe, the Ardennes and Rhineland.

After the war, Landry became a member of the joint operations review board of the Army and Navy staff college, and an instructor at the National War college here. On August 1, 1947, he was named executive officer to the Chief of Staff of the United States army air Force. He

was assigned to the president the following February.

In addition to his two DFC's, General Landry wears the Legion of Merit, the air medal, the Croix de Guerre, bestowed by both France and Belgium, as well as several other medals awarded him by foreign governments.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Landry of New Orleans and married the former Mildred Plauche of the same city. They have two children, Robert B. Jr., and Mildred Roberta.

Truman Leaves for Missouri; Plane Faces 70-M.P.H. Winds

By the Associated Press

President Truman left by plane today for Independence, Mo., to spend Christmas.

Accompanying him were a secretarial staff and his personal physician, Brig. Gen. Wallace H. Graham; Mrs. Graham and the two Graham children.

The presidential plane, Independence, took off at 10:07 a.m. Ordinarily it is a four-hour flight to Kansas City, but airport officials said that the plane would be bucking 70-mile-an-hour headwinds today. From Kansas City, the presidential party will drive to Independence.

Mr. Truman left in a holiday mood. Just before boarding the plane, he

waved to reporters and the crowd seeing him off and said:

"I hope Santa Claus brings you everything you want."

The President plans to return to Washington next Wednesday. He was not able to put away the cares of office entirely for his holiday. Along with presents for his family, he took with him a brief case full of work for himself.

The paper work includes a three-page memorandum on the current economic situation, left with him yesterday by Dr. Edwin G. Nourse, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

The briefcase also contains material for his State-of-the-Union message to the new Congress. He will work on some phases of that message during his stay in Missouri.

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH DEC. 23, 1948



TRUMAN AIDE BECOMES A GENERAL—President Truman (right) pins the star of a brigadier-general on Robert B. Landry, his Air Force aide, in a ceremony at the White House, Tuesday. Landry was promoted from the rank of colonel.

The Evening Star
Washington
December 23, 1948

President's Air Forces Aid Gets Surprise Boost in Rank

Col. Robert B. Landry of New Orleans, Air Forces aid to President Truman, got a surprise Christmas gift from his commander-in-chief Tuesday when the president pinned a brigadier general's star on him.

A Washington dispatch said the 39-year-old Air Forces veteran was called into Mr. Truman's office without advance notice and found his wife and two children on hand for the ceremony.

His promotion was among a series in the Air Forces approved Tuesday by the president.

Gen. Landry became the first presidential air forces aid February 7 under the newly-formed separate air arm. He was appointed executive assistant to Gen. Carl Spaatz, Air Forces chief now retired, in September, 1947, and has lived in Washington with his family since that time.

A 1932 graduate of West Point, Gen. Landry received his flight training at Barksdale Field, Shreveport. He was stationed at Hickam Field in Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked.

Later he commanded the 56th fighter group for the Eighth Air Force in England, and was direc-

tor of fighters for the Eighth strategic bombing command.

Gen. Landry is married to the former Miss Mildred Plauche of New Orleans. They have a daughter, 13, and a son, 7. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Landry, live in New Orleans.



BRIG. GEN. LANDRY

N.Y. TIMES DEC. 22, 1948

TRUMAN PROMOTES AIDE

Pins Brigadier General's Stars on Landry of Air Force

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (UP)—Col. Robert B. Landry, Air Force aide to President Truman, today received a sparkling Christmas present—the stars of a brigadier general.

In a surprise ceremony, the President pinned the stars on General Landry's tunic this afternoon while Mrs. Landry and the two Landry children looked on.

WASH. EVENING STAR DEC. 22, 1948

Air Force Promotions Include Truman Aide

By the Associated Press

President Truman pinned a brigadier general's star yesterday on his Air Force aide, Col. Robert B. Landry.

It was an unexpected Christmas present. Col. Landry was called into Mr. Truman's office without advance notice to find his wife and two children on hand for the ceremony.

His promotion was among a series in the Air Force approved yesterday by Mr. Truman. Promoted to major general were:

Richard C. Coupland, West Point, Va.; Robert W. Burns, Stanley, Wis.; Kenneth P. McNaughton, Alto, Mich.; Thomas S. Power, New York City; and Cary A. Brandt, Fort Niobara, Nebr.

Raised to brigadier general along with Col. Landry were:

A. Robert Ginsburgh, Rochester, N. Y.; Wallace G. Smith, Buffalo, N. Y.; James F. Early, Worcester, Mass.; James E. Briggs, New York City; Howard G. Bunker, South Bend, Ind.; Millard Lewis, Washington; Walter C. Sweeney, Jr., Wheeling, W. Va.; and Pierpont M. Hamilton, Tuxedo, N. Y.

The promotions are temporary and subject to Senate confirmation.

WASH. POST DEC. 22, 1948

Truman Makes His Air Force Aide Brigadier General

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Vaughan Lifted a Curtain

Mixup Gave Him No Permanent Scars,
But Disclosed White House Fussin'

By Doris Fleenor

Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan's brief career as chief military aide to President Truman was a boon to comedians and cartoonists and it will do the relatively unimportant Gen. Vaughan no harm.

The glimpse it gave, however, into the fussin', feudin' and fightin' among the White House "palace guard" made it not quite so funny to those genuinely interested in the President's fortunes. Perhaps it wasn't even very funny to the President, who was compelled to make a goat of Gen. Vaughan, his friend.



Doris Fleenor

The immediately current version of the affair was that Gen. Vaughan once more spoke out of turn and had to be spanked for it, but this is not quite true or fair to the general. It was, of course, a rather natural assumption, as Gen. Vaughan has frequently lightened the present stodgy White House scene by putting his large foot into his capacious mouth.

The fact is that the President did plan originally to make his old friend National Defense aide, ranking three underlings in War, Navy and Air. This would repeat the unification pattern, which puts the Secretary of National Defense in the cabinet, with secretaries for the three departments reporting to him. Aide John Steelman was directed by Mr. Truman to devise the plan.

That the President should so decide to elevate Gen. Vaughan is a true reflection of their intimacy. Mr. Truman has a close and peculiar tie with his old Missouri National Guard comrade. It is possible to imagine that other members of the Truman administration would be here if some one else were President, but not Gen. Vaughan. That cheerful extrovert admits it: has fre-

quently asserted that if anything happened to the boss, he'd rush back home before the West Pointers could catch him.

Gen. Vaughan is not interested in Government policy, inflation, or the Marshall Plan; he is interested in Harry Truman and stands by, to joke, berate or damn the world according to the President's mood.

On that fateful morning—Friday—last week, the presidential staff met as usual with the boss and it was Gen. Vaughan's understanding that the new Defense aide plan was okayed for release that day. During the afternoon, reporters stopped him in the White House lobby and inquired about it. Assuming it had been announced, Gen. Vaughan—with the candor natural to him—let fall a slight gloat about his new importance. The next thing he knew Press Secretary Charles Ross had called in the press, denied it all and said the aides had equal rank.

Publicly Gen. Vaughan said he guessed he was in the same category as Mr. Ross' action in the matter. One of the less well-kept Washington secrets.

Ross was irked. In the same category is the fact that Mr. Ross has long been irked by Gen. Vaughan's disposition to be chatty with reporters, allowing them to loaf in his quarters.

Vaughan partisans blame Ross. Mr. Ross' friends suggest that the three departments got busy on the telephone when they saw the flash on the proposed setup and forced the presidential retreat. In any case, with a maximum of publicity, the President pulled the rug from under his close friend.

The new setup endows Mr. Truman with five military aides of high rank as opposed to the old peacetime two—one from War and one from Navy. The Truman military staff: Chief of Staff, Admiral William Leahy, who has all the stripes there are; War, Maj. Gen. Vaughan; Navy, Capt. Robert L. Dennison; Air, Col. Robert B. Landry; Veterans' Administration liaison, Col. Louis H. Renfrow. Mr. Truman was also the first Vice President who ever had a military aide—the then Col. Vaughan.

(Released by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

WASH.
TIMES - HERALD
FEB. 11, 1948

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

How 'Chief' Vaughan

By Drew Pearson

Harry Truman has the patience of Job when it comes to his likable, grandstanding, trouble-causing military aide, Harry Vaughan. But he nearly lost his patience—for keeps—when Vaughan tried to promise himself to be top White House aide last week. In fact, Vaughan came very near promoting himself right out of a job.



Vaughan

Here's the inside story of what happened:

Vaughan handed the President a slip of paper, purportedly announcing the appointment of Col. Robert B. Landry as the new White House aide for the Air Forces. On the slip of paper Vaughan had also listed himself as "chief armed forces aide and coordinator of veterans' affairs." The other Army, Navy and Air Force aides were listed as his assistants. This was a new departure in White House history, since hitherto all White House aides have been of equal rank. There has been no top boss.

The President glanced at Vaughan's handiwork, but did not read it—the same mistake he made when Henry Wallace sent him his speech on Russia. Innocently, Truman thought it was an announcement of Colonel Landry's appointment as Air Force aide, and gave the Vaughan list to Charlie Ross, White House publicity chief, with instructions to release it to the press.

Ross read the list later in his own office and hit the ceiling. Taking Vaughan's slip of paper, Ross rushed back to the President's office and asked if Truman had read Vaughan's memo thoroughly. The President looked at it. Then he also hit the ceiling.

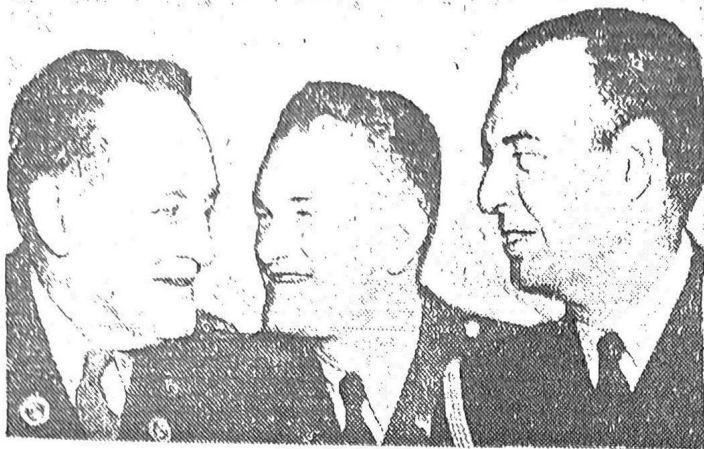
Meantime, Vaughan, irked at Ross for withholding the news from the press, held his own press conference, and announced himself as boss of all White House aids.

For the next 3 hours the White House was in an uproar. No one inside the White House is supposed to make a statement to the press except Press Secretary Ross, and debate raged on the expediency of repudiating Vaughan's unauthorized statement to the press. Truman was furious at his military aide, but hesitated to slap him down publicly.

Finally, it was decided to announce that Vaughan's self-promotion announcement was a "misapprehension." Privately, however, Truman used much stronger language in dressing-down Vaughan for the trouble he had caused. After it was over, the precocious former manufacturers' representative from St. Louis seemed quite content to keep his old job in the ranks of the four armed forces aides to President Truman.

THE WASHINGTON POST
FEBRUARY 11, 1948
PAGE 1

Vaughan Dubs Self Top Aide But Truman Helps Him Down



Associated Press Photo

After "reinforcement" from Air, here's the President's trio of aides. They are Maj. Gen. Harry Vaughan (left), military aide; Col. Robert B. Landry, whose appointment yesterday as air aide resulted from the recent establishment of the separate Air Force; and Capt. Robert L. Dennison, naval aide

By Edward T. Folliard
Post Reporter

Like the king of France in the nursery rhyme, Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan went up a hill yesterday and then came down, to find himself right where he started—on the same level with two other White House aides.

For a time it looked as if he would be boss man among the aides.

General Vaughan, who has an affinity for hot water, announced

himself that he was to be "chief Armed Forces aide," with three assistants. This went out over the news wires.

About three hours later, White House Press Secretary Charles G. Ross called reporters into his office and said that there had been some "misapprehension."

"I desire to state on behalf of

the President," Ross said, "that there has been no change in the set-up here. There are three aides of equal rank. There is no top aide, no chief of Armed Forces aide."

He listed the three: General Vaughan, representing the Army; Capt. Robert L. Dennison, representing the Navy, and Col. Robert B. Landry, representing the Air Force.

The appointment of Colonel Landry, a survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack, was announced early yesterday. It was in recognition of the new status of the Air Force under the Armed Forces Unification Act.

A report got around that there was to be a new Army aide in addition to General Vaughan.

General Vaughan, appearing in the White House lobby, was asked about this. It was then that he told reporters that he was to be the head man, with the others ranking as assistants. From his statement, it was concluded that Col. Louis H. Renfrow would be the new Army aide.

In hauling General Vaughan down from his summit, however, Secretary Ross explained that Colonel Renfrow was to be only an assistant aide and would not rank with the others.

Defense Secretary James Forrestal was with President Truman while Ross was making the announcement and it was thought that perhaps Vaughan was the issue. On his way out of Mr. Truman's office, however, Forrestal shook his head and said:

"That's one thing I'm glad I don't know about."

General Vaughan, a Missourian and a crony of Mr. Truman since they met in an Army training camp back in the 1920s, has often figured in the news since he came to the White House. It was he who conceived the idea of having Winston Churchill speak at his alma mater in Fulton, Mo.

Before this, Vaughan had been quoted as saying that Churchill was a "gaudy old gentleman." In that same speech, he compared Presidents Roosevelt and Truman by saying:

"It's just like having a fancy dinner of caviar over a long period. Sometimes you like to get back to ham and eggs."

Colonel Landry, the new Air Force aide at the White House, was born in New Orleans 38 years ago, attended the Jesuit High School, Tulane University, and entered West Point in 1928.

He was at Hickam Field, Hawaii, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Later on, in Europe, he was director of fighter planes in Gen. Jimmy Doolittle's Eighth Air Force and played a notable role in the bombardment of the continent.

Colonel and Mrs. Landry (the former Mildred Plauche of New Orleans) live at 4125 Military rd. nw., with Robert B. jr., and Myl-dred Roberta, who are students at the Blessed Sacrament School.

WASH. POST
Feb. 7, 1948

Vaughan Publicly Spanked By White House in Aide Mixup

General's Claim of Special Rank On Truman Staff Refuted by Sec. Ross

By United Press

Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, President Truman's military aide, announced yesterday he had been made chief of the President's expanded military staff, but a few hours later White House Press Secretary Ross publicly corrected him.

Vaughan told reporters about 1 p.m. that he had been designated "chief armed services aide," and that three other military aides representing the Army, Navy and Air Force would be "assistant aides."

Ross Calls Newsmen

Three hours later Ross called newsmen into his office. He said he wished to state "on the part of the President that there has

been no change in the set-up here."

"There will be three aides all ranking equally—a military aide, a Naval aide and an Air Force aide—and that is all," Ross said.

Asked why Vaughan had announced a new title for himself, Ross said: "There seems to have been some misapprehension."

It all came about after the White House disclosed that President Truman had named Col. Robert Landry, of New Orleans, as his Air Force aide, a new post called for by the Armed Services merger act.

Corrects Renfrow Report

Ross also corrected another Vaughan "misapprehension" which apparently grew out of the Landry appointment.

Vaughan had said that Col.

Louis H. Renfrow would serve along with Landry and Capt. Robert L. Dennison, Mr. Truman's Naval aide, as an assistant aide for the Army and as assistant coordinator of veterans' affairs.

Ross said that was not so. Renfrow, he added, is only an assistant to Vaughan and does not rank with the three aides.

Emphasizing that there would be "no outranking," Ross said: "It is as it always was."

Vaughan is a Missourian and an old personal friend of Mr. Truman. When Mr. Truman was elected Vice President, he asked for Vaughan as his aide. When Mr. Truman became President, Vaughan was named his military aide.

Vaughan later was made a permanent major general in the Officers Reserve Corps by Mr. Truman. He formerly was a lieutenant colonel of field artillery on the permanent reserve list.

WASH. TIMES-HERALD
Feb. 7, 1948

Gen. Vaughan Enjoys New Title Until President Hears of It



Gen. Vaughan, who has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, is seen here with other officers. The promotion was announced by the War Department on Jan. 1, 1944. Gen. Vaughan is the first of the War Department's officers to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant general since the death of Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1934. The promotion was made by the War Department's War Relocation Authority, which is the War Department's only agency for the promotion of officers of the War Department's War Relocation Authority.

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Vaughan's Self-Elevation in Rank Fails in Brief White House 'Coup'

By ANTHONY LEVIERO

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6—The White House was shaken today by a "palace coup" in which Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, President Truman's military aide, announced his own elevation to be "Chief Armed Forces Aide." He did not hold the position long.

The coup, which seemingly would have reduced the Army, Navy and Air Force aides to assistants to General Vaughan, was short-lived but was marked by anger and tension. Only the White House correspondents seemed to enjoy the action, which occurred in the spacious lobby of the White House Executive offices.

President Truman acquired today for the first time an Air Force aide. An Army colonel also was added to his staff. This augmentation of the "palace guard" apparently inspired General Vaughan, the President's long-time friend, to change the old order of things.

In his usual morning news conference at 10:30 o'clock, Charles G. Ross, the President's secretary, announced that Col. Robert B. Landry, a native of New Orleans, would be the Air Force aide. This was in keeping with unification of the armed forces, by which the Air Force became an independent department.

About two hours later a radio reporter encountered General Vaughan in the lobby and the general casually mentioned the new title. Word got to the press room and all the correspondents streaked out.

Yes, it was true, he was now Chief Armed Forces Aide, said General Vaughan. He was angry and did some cussing, somewhat like a trooper. He explained he had given an announcement of the changes to Mr. Ross for issuance to the press.

"Instead of giving it to you fellows," said General Vaughan, "he

(Mr. Ross) goes walking into the President's office with it."

Predicts Change in Listings

Then the general proceeded to explain the new set-up. He referred the reporters to the Congressional Directory, in which the President's aides are listed. In the future, he added, the listings below his name would be:

Assistant aide, Capt. Robert L. Dennison of the Navy, recently commander of the battleship Missouri, who succeeded Rear Admiral James J. Fossitt about two weeks ago as Presidential naval aide.

Assistant aide, Col. Robert B. Landry of the Air Force.

Assistant aide, Col. Louis H. Renfrow of the Army, assigned to the White House today.

"Some time in 1950," continued General Vaughan, "maybe there'll be a President who will be pro-Navy. Then the Navy man will be top aide."

News tickers soon tapped off the changes, as announced by General Vaughan. A copy of a United Press report was on Mr. Ross's desk when he summoned the reporters at about 4 P. M.

"I desire to say in behalf of the President," said Mr. Ross, "that there is no change in the White House set-up. There will be a military aide, a naval aide and an Air Force aide. There is no ranking among these aides. The three aides are from the three coordinated services."

Ross Appears Nettled

Mr. Ross was asked about the Vaughan announcement. He replied, "There seems to have been some misapprehension." Apparently nettled by the whole business, he explained that Colonel Renfrow would be an assistant to General Vaughan, particularly in the latter's capacity of White House coordinator of veterans' affairs.

Colonel Renfrow has been in charge of legislative matters in the Office of Selective Service Records for six years.

Colonel Landry, a West Pointer, served as commander of the Fifty-sixth Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force and also as Director of Fighters in Gen. Jimmie Doolittle's Eighth Air Force Strategic Bombing Command.

General Vaughan, a reserve officer, had considerable combat experience in World War I.

After Mr. Ross had restored the status quo ante the correspondents tried to reach General Vaughan and learned that he was in the President's office.

Tonight he was reached and he said he "was not sore at anybody." He seemed to imply that under unification he ought to and would get the new title. His parting words were:

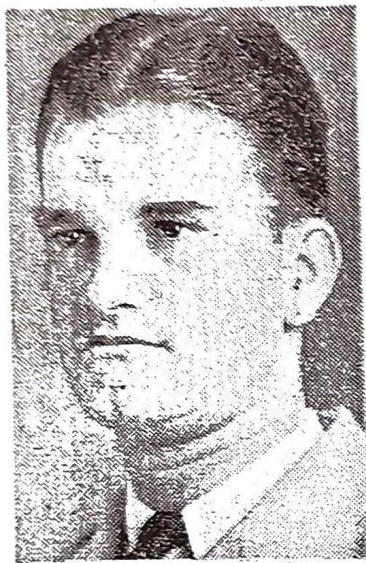
"It's as much of a misdemeanor to be premature as it is to be inaccurate."

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NEW AIR FORCE AIDE JOINS PRESIDENTIAL STAFF



Col. Robert B. Landry, who was appointed by the Chief Executive yesterday, with Maj. Gen. Harry H.



ROBERT B. LANDRY

Col. Landry Named Truman's Air Aid

Col. Robert B. Landry, 38, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Landry, 3818 Prytania, today was appointed Air Forces aid to President Truman.

He is the first to be selected from the newly created separate Air Forces.

The New Orleans veteran was executive officer to Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, Air Force chief. He served on the staff of Gen. James Doolittle at the end of World War II.

During the war, Landry was cited for leading an assault of B-17s against German communications and transports in 1945. He has received the Air Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and three oak leaf clusters.

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—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
COL. ROBERT B. LANDRY

Named Air Force Aide to President

A New Orleanian was picked Friday by President Truman to be the first presidential air force aid under the newly created separate air force.

He is Col. Robert B. Landry, 38, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Landry, 3818 Prytania, who has served with the air arm since shortly after his graduation from West Point in 1932.

He was at Hickham Field in Hawaii when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor and later joined the Eighth Air Force in England, commanding the 56th Fighter Group and acting as director of fighters in the Eighth Air Force Strategic Bombing Command. Since the war he has been on duty in Washington.

His addition to the White House staff resulted from the establishment of an air force separate from the army. He will serve with Major General Harry H. Vaughan of the army and Captain Robert L. Dennison, naval aid.

Col. Landry holds the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and the Croix de Guerre with palm from the French provisional government and the Belgian government.

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COL. ROBERT B. LANDRY
... presidential aide

Landry Named Truman Aide

President Truman has named Col. Robert B. Landry of New Orleans as his aide to represent the newly-created Air Force.

Col. Landry, who is 38, will serve on the White House staff with Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, Army aide, and Capt. Robert L. Dennison, Naval aide.

Col. Landry's appointment resulted from the establishment of an Air Force separate from the Army. Gen. Vaughan has been representing both the Army and Air Force.

The officer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Landry of New Orleans. His father is a special assistant to the state attorney-general.

Col. Landry has been serving in Washington as executive officer to Gen. Carl Spaatz, Air Force chief.

Col. Landry was graduated from West Point in 1932, after completing Jesuit High School and attending Tulane University.

He received his pilot's wings in 1935 and was stationed in Hawaii when the Japanese attacked the island.

Later he went to England with the Eighth Air Force and as commander of a Thunderbolt squadron, had at least one Nazi plane to his credit.

NEW ORLEANS
ITEM

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