

# No Sword and No Kneeling, Schwarzkopf Is Knighted

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In a brief private ceremony in his office at MacDill Air Force Base here, Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf today became the ninth American military officer to receive an honorary knighthood from a King or Queen of England.

Because he is not a British subject, General Schwarzkopf did not have to kneel and be tapped on the shoulder by Queen Elizabeth II when he was knighted. The Queen simply handed him a box containing the cross and silver star of the Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, British Embassy officials said. The ceremony was closed to the news media and public.

In recent days, the Queen's intention to honor General Schwarzkopf only added to widespread speculation about a political future for the victorious commander of the Persian Gulf war. But today the general seemed to flatly rule out any such move. An Emphatic Answer

As he stood outside Central Command Headquarters here moments before the Queen arrived this morning, reporters who were positioned about 20 yards away shouted questions at him.

Would he run for public office, the General was asked.

"No," he said.

And in case anyone had any doubts, he mouthed an "N" and an "O" and drew the two letters in the air before him.

Then the Queen arrived with her retinue. Before the ceremony, the Queen was led by General Schwarzkopf on a tour of the war room. There she saw a four-minute video of fighting from the gulf war.

Next, she was shown the crisis situation room with five lights -- labeled "cocked pistol," "fast pace," "roundhouse," "double take," and "fade out" -- designating different levels of alert for the Central Command forces.

In a light rain, the Queen was given a quick tour, which included seeing two F-16 fighter jets and a receiving line filled with military personnel who had served in the gulf war and their families. Big Crowd in Texas

The Queen, Prince Philip and their party then boarded a Concorde jet and flew to Texas, the next stop on the royal couple's 13-day official visit to the United States. Upon landing at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Queen Elizabeth became the first British monrach to visit Texas, according to the British Consul General in Houston, John Garner.

The royal entourage was driven to the state capitol, where a crowd of thousands spilled over the broad lawn. Many women wore flower-bedecked straw hats. Little girls, some carrying ruffled parasols, looked as though they had dressed for an English tea party as they waited in the sun.

The Salute Battery of the Texas Army Guard gave a 21-gun salute when the Queen stepped from her limousine. When she was led by Gov. Ann Richards through a saber arch to the Capitol steps, the University of Texas Longhorn Band burst into "The Yellow Rose of Texas."

Mayor Lee Cooke welcomed the Queen and told of how the Capitol, a red granite Italian Renaissance Revival structure completed in 1888, was built with the help of British investors. Texas, cash-poor and land-rich at the time, traded three million acres to a Chicago syndicate with British stockholders to build the capitol. Praise for Texans

The Queen gave a brief speech on the Capitol steps that centered on a theme of mutual economic ties between Texas and Britain.

"The strength of Texas expertise has notably helped us to find and use the oil fields in the North Sea," she said. "The New World has returned to develop the Old."

There was tumultuous cheering when the Queen observed that "lesser mortals are pitied for their misfortune in not being born Texan."

The honorary knighthood is the highest honor Britain can bestow on a foreigner. The knighthood has two ranks. Britain bestowed the top rank, Knight Grand Cross, on Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and five other American commanders: two generals, George C. Marshall and Douglas MacArthur, and three admirals, Chester W. Nimitz, William D. Leahy and Ernest J. King.

General Schwarzkopf received the second rank, that of knight commander, as did Gens. Mark Clark and Matthew Ridgway before him.

Other Americans, including former President Ronald Reagan in 1989 have also received honorary knighthoods.

A similar honor has been given to Lieut. Gen. Khaled Bin Sultan, the Saudi field commander in the gulf war.

Foreign recipients do not use the title "sir," and after the Queen's departure, General Schwarzkopf told reporters: "Nobody is going to call me 'sir.' A few may call me 'General Sir.' "

He said he had thanked the Queen for the honor, adding that Americans and British were "brothers in arms, comrades in arms," and that the knighthood honored them as well.

He called the Queen and Prince Philip, whom he first met at a White House state dinner last week, "lovely, charming people."

Asked if he had been nervous about meeting the Queen and receiving the knighthood, the general said that by comparison, "Saddam was a piece of cake."

But he added that the royal couple "go out of their way to make sure people like me aren't nervous." Awards in New York

Former First Lady Nancy Reagan and General Schwarzkopf shared a stage last night when they received 1991 Albert Schweitzer Leadership Awards at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Manhattan.

Also honored was Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, chairman of Merck & Company, a pharmaceutical concern. The awards were presented by the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation, an organization started by the actor to recognize and develop leadership qualities among high school sophomores.

General Schwarzkopf's award was presented by Andrea Turnbough, a 10-year-old fifth grader from El Paso, Tex., who became the General's pen pal during the Persian Gulf war.

In her first letter to him last fall, written as part of a class project to correspond with troops, Andrea said she was writing to him because she thought he as the commander might not get any letters.

She said that, in her view, his most important job was to "make sure that your soldiers don't give up, no matter how hard things get."

She added in a postscript: "I live in the desert all the time. It's not so bad."

General Schwarzkopf told the 800 guests at last night's dinner that Andrea's letter had come at a "very low point" when fears about the allied effort were considerable, but that her letter "provided me just the inspiration I needed to try a little harder to take care of my troops."

He also added a postscript, "You're right, the desert is not so bad."

Mrs. Reagan's award was for her "Just Say No" campaign to fight drug abuse. Dr. Vagelos was honored for his efforts to provide drugs needed in third world countries at minimal or no cost.

Photo: Citing his leadership during the Persian Gulf war, Queen Elizabeth II bestowed an honorary knighthood on Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf yesterday. With the Queen and the general was his wife, Brenda. (Agence France-Presse)

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