

MAJOR ANN BRAY US Army, Retired (Deceased)



MAJ Ann Bray enlisted in the Army as a private in 1943 at age 38. Before this time, she had already achieved success as a newspaper journalist and teacher. After Basic Training, Ann's assignments concentrated on journalism, public relations, and writing. Her work ethic and zeal for learning got her into Officer's Candidate School and earned her a commission. What intrigued her most, however, was the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC).

Never having been shy, Ann submitted her request to attend CIC training as soon as the field was opened to women. She made it into the second basic course that included women and became one of the very first women in the counterintelligence field. The former high school teacher/reporter became a Special Agent, countering the efforts of spies and anyone attempting espionage, sabotage, or subversion against the United States.

MAJ Bray spent five years in Japan before, during, and after the Korean War. During the occupation of Japan, she was serving at the 441st CIC Headquarters in Tokyo where she wrote most of the summaries that went to General MacArthur during the investigation of the North Korean Espionage Ring. The investigation was incredibly complex and difficult, made more so by the fact that Koreans living in Japan spoke both languages and had no particular loyalty to either nation. Plus, Japan had no laws against espionage, so arrest was impossible. Spies were well funded, supplied, and recruited, owing to the high value the Communists placed on intelligence and espionage in general. However, CIC agents from the 441st found a way to identify suspected enemy agents and were able to arrest 200 individuals from several interconnected spy rings, protecting the surprise of the United Nations troop landings at Inchon.

Following this assignment, she served a tour with the 902^d Intelligence Corps Group in Washington, D.C. She was then assigned to Fort Holabird as one of the key editors of the 30-volume history of CIC that was written in the mid-1950s. Bray directed the collection, research, and writing of the history, a monumental work, as she described in the prologue of her summary, *The Spy Catchers*, years later:

The original compilation of more than one million words resulted from research of the records of approximately 300 CIC Detachments operating in a total of more than 60 countries...during a period of 33 years. An estimated 25,000 CIC Agents were involved in activities which were recorded in some way or other.... It was necessary to comb the files of every Army Records Depository, study the pages of every Army Group, Army, Corps, and Division to find references to activities of CIC, quite often at times amounting to one brief sentence in several pages of hastily typewritten notes of the activity of that one day for that unit. Volume after volume of correspondence files kept by the G-2 and by various CIC units also were studied page by page as were many volumes of Monthly and Periodic Intelligence Summaries. In addition to the study of all these documents, many persons were interviewed and nearly 100 collateral reference books read or screened.”

Encompassing 30 volumes, much of this history was classified, but it remains the most comprehensive historical account of a major portion of the Military Intelligence story.

After several years on the CIC history project, she served a tour with the 66th MI Group in Stuttgart, Germany, and then returned to Fort Holabird in 1961 as Mobilization Officer for the CIC throughout the US.

Ann retired from the Army in 1963, received her Master's degree, and continued teaching. During this time, she condensed the 30-volume history of CIC into a manuscript of CIC in World War II titled “The Spy Catcher: CIC in Combat in World War II.” She supplemented the official data with information gained through personal interviews with former agents. With her death from emphysema fast approaching, Ann managed to complete the first draft of her book. She died in 1976, but not before the English authors Ian Sayer and Douglas Botting received the rights to her manuscript. Their book, based on her work, was published in 1989 under the title *America’s Secret Army: The Untold Story of the Counter Intelligence Corps*.

MAJ Bray was inducted posthumously into the Hall of Fame in 1989.