MAJOR GENERAL GARRISON B. COVERDALE US Army, Retired (Deceased)



MG Garrison Coverdale in 1945 (Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Clark)

MG Coverdale graduated from the US Military Academy in 1928 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in Field Artillery. He served with Artillery units for several years, including overseas tours in Hawaii and the Philippines. During World War II, MG Coverdale first served at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as Commander of the 26th Battalion, Field Artillery Replacement Training Center, and then as the G2 of the 103rd Infantry Division in Louisiana. In 1942, he was sent to China to establish the Chinese Army's artillery training center; he served as the school's commandant for a short period.

In 1944, while in command of the 5003rd Field Artillery Group in China, he was captured by the Japanese. MG Coverdale escaped after three days of captivity and, with the help of Chinese guerillas, he returned safely to Allied

territory after a hazardous three-week journey across China.

In 1949, he was temporarily assigned as the Deputy Chief of the United Nations Truce Supervision Mission in Palestine—a peace keeping force during the creation of Israel as a state. Six months later, he returned to Fort Sill as Director of the Artillery School, Department of Observation. After graduating from the National War College in 1951, he was assigned as Chief of the Collection and Dissemination Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, Department of the Army. He then spent a short time as Commander of the 306th Logistical Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Assigned to Korea in 1954, he commanded IX Corps Artillery for four months before going to Japan to command the Central Command, Far East Command, and the IX Corps Artillery, concurrently. MG Coverdale was next assigned as Deputy Commander for Area Affairs, Central Command and Deputy Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division, Army Forces, Far East.

Because of his past intelligence experience, MG Coverdale served as Deputy Director and Chief of Staff for the National Security Agency from 1957 to 1959. After attending the Senior Artillery Officers Surface-to-Air Missile Course at Fort Bliss, Texas, he assumed command of the 5th Region, US Army Air Defense Command, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. MG Coverdale then became Commandant of the Intelligence School at Fort Holabird from 1961 to 1963.



MG Coverdale (first row, center), Chief of the US Army Intelligence Corps, with the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association Policy Committee, Fort Holabird, 1962

MG Coverdale retired in 1964. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Army Commendation Medal.

MG Coverdale passed away in June 1988. He was posthumously inducted into the MI Hall of in 1989.