

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES J. DENHOLM
US Army, Retired (Deceased)



MG Charles Denholm graduated from the US Military Academy in 1938 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry.

Early during World War II, he served with the 16th Infantry Division. In May 1943, he was among 464 US and British prisoners of war (POWs) captured following the fierce fighting against German forces in the rugged mountains of northern Tunisia. Commanding the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Division, along with 150 of his Soldiers he was marched through Tunisia and loaded onto a freighter bound for Italian stockades. As luck would have it, the POW ship was attacked by allied planes. With the ship slowly sinking, the ship's captain freed the prisoners. Denholm was repatriated and returned to the fight. Later, after being injured in Sicily, he was evacuated to North Africa where he

joined the 36th Infantry Division. Throughout the war, he participated in campaigns in Algiers, Tunisia, Sicily, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, Anzio, Naples, and Ardennes-Alsace. He returned to the US in May 1945. At the time he was the Regimental Commander of the 143rd Infantry.

Following World War II, MG Denholm served at the Army Ground Forces Headquarters in Europe, at West Point, and at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. In 1952, he was assigned as the G3, Headquarters, 24th Infantry, Far East Command. In December of that year, he moved to an assignment in the G2, Headquarters, Far East Command and later Headquarters, Army Forces Far East.

After attending the Army War College, MG Denholm was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI), Department of the Army, in Washington. He served as Chief, Collection Division, until May 1960, when he transferred to Tehran, Iran, as an Advisory Team Commander for the Military Assistance Advisory Group. In 1962, MG Denholm became Chief of Staff, Second US Army at Fort Meade. He returned to the Office ACSI in September 1962 and was Acting ACSI for eight months in 1965.

MG Denholm then assumed command of the US Army Security Agency (ASA) from 1965 to 1973. MG Denholm was the longest serving commander in the history of either ASA or its successor, the US Army Intelligence and Security Command. During his tenure, the command grew from 15,000 members to more than 26,000 during the Vietnam conflict. Army cryptology achieved an unparalleled status in support of the ground commander in the Vietnam War. He also persuaded the Military Assistance Command Vietnam leadership not to remove certain airborne and fixed Communications Intelligence resources from the larger Signals Intelligence system.



MG Denholm inspects the front counter of the new bowling alley at Kagnev Station, Asmara, Ethiopia, 1968

He simultaneously led ASA through a massive buildup to meet the challenges of the Cold War. Five major field stations (two in Thailand and one each in Okinawa, Berlin, and Augsburg) were added to ASA's worldwide network. He was also actively involved in the standing up of two new tactical support battalions, the addition of airborne resources in support of US troops in Korea, and the deployment of ASA elements to provide support to tactical troops during the US intervention in the Dominican Republic.

Finally, under MG Denholm's direction, the Army took a number of technological steps forward, including new and improved airborne platforms, remote intercept, the deployment of several AN/FLR-9s, wideband intercept, secure voice for tactical forces, and increased use of computers in the tactical environment.

MG Denholm retired in 1973. His awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star for Valor (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Purple Heart (1 Oak Leaf Cluster).

MG Denholm was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1988. He passed away on 28 December 2006.