

## **BRIGADIER GENERAL HENRY J. MULLER** **US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



Henry Muller entered the Army as a second lieutenant from the Infantry Reserve in 1940 and was commissioned in the Regular Army in 1942.

In May 1943, during World War II, then Maj. Muller was assigned as the G-2 of the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division in the Pacific, a position he held until the end of the war. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September 1944. When told about a Japanese prison camp at Los Baños, 30 miles behind enemy lines on Luzon in the Philippine Islands, he personally gathered intelligence from photo reconnaissance, guerilla reports, maps, and scouting missions conducted by his section's Provisional Reconnaissance Platoon. In collaboration with the Division's G-3, Muller developed a plan for a surprise three-prong land, amphibious, and airborne attack on the camp. Launched on February 23, 1945, the

successful raid liberated 2,147 American and Allied civilians with almost no casualties. Nearly 50 years after the raid, Gen. Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the raid "the textbook airborne operation for all ages and all armies," and the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division commander, Gen. Joseph Swing, recalled that it could not have succeeded "without perfect intelligence."

Following the war, Muller served as Assistant G-2 of the US Eighth Army during the occupation of Japan. He returned to the United States in 1947 and was assigned as Assistant G-2, Army Ground Forces, at Fort Monroe, Virginia. From 1950 to 1953, Lt. Col. Muller was appointed Special Assistant for Current Intelligence to the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In this capacity, he helped prepare and present the weekly intelligence briefings to President Harry Truman.

After completing the Spanish course in the Army Language School, he made use of his language training in El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Argentina, as well as in the Panama Canal Zone as Commandant of the Army's Jungle Warfare Training Center. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, then Col. Muller commanded the 503<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. His regiment was designated to be first to jump into Cuba shortly before the operation was canceled when Soviet freighters carrying missiles to Cuba turned back.

After his promotion to Brigadier General in March 1967, Gen. Muller served as Assistant Division Commander of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Vietnam and commanded the US Army Advisory Group in the I Corps Tactical Zone. His final assignment was

Commanding General of the Infantry Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, until his retirement in July 1971. He passed away on 31 January 2022 at the age of 104.

Gen. Muller's awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2017. He passed away on 31 January 2022 at the age of 104.