

COLONEL FRANK B. ROWLETT **US Army, Retired (Deceased)**



A native of Rose Hill, Virginia, COL Rowlett graduated from Emory and Henry College in 1929 with degrees in chemistry and math. He was the first Cryptanalyst recruited by the War Department when the Signal Intelligence Service (SIS) was formed in 1930. Rowlett was placed in charge of the Army's work on Japanese diplomatic intercepts. In 1939, he supervised the team of code-breakers, who, after 18 months of effort, cracked Japan's highest level diplomatic cipher system, known as PURPLE. COL Rowlett was known as the man who created MAGIC, the name given to the intelligence obtained from PURPLE. He once said that he felt that his greatest contribution to the PURPLE project was his confidence that the machine would be solved.

By the end of the war, the Army controlled a worldwide network of intercept stations. COL Rowlett was a pioneer in the development of signals intelligence from its beginning in the Signals Intelligence Service. He served in the Army from 1942 to 1946, rising to the rank of Colonel. After World War II, COL Rowlett entered civil service and played a significant role in shaping the future of US cryptologic operations, to include the unification of the three service cryptologic agencies. This led to the establishment of the Armed Forces Security Agency, which later became the National Security Agency (NSA).

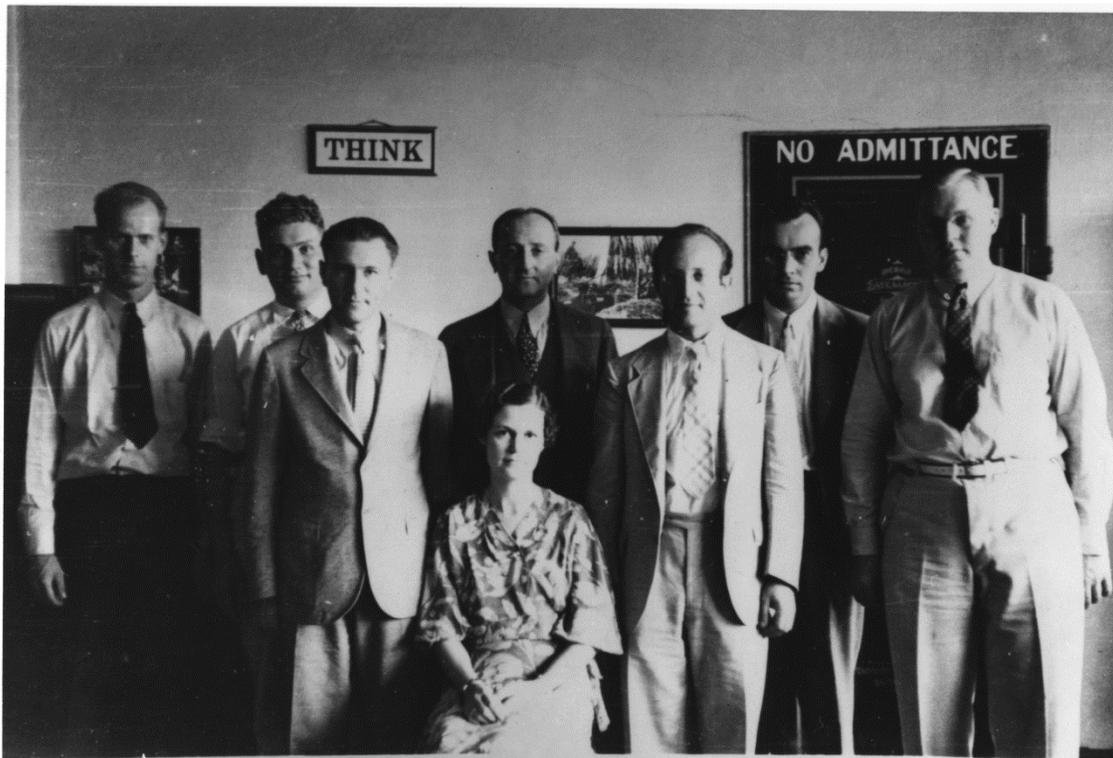
In 1952, COL Rowlett served in the Central Intelligence Agency as a Senior Staff Officer and Cryptologic Advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence before returning to NSA in 1957. Until his retirement in 1965, he served as the Special Assistant to the Director, NSA, and served four different directors. He led a study group that prepared the way for the founding of the National Cryptologic School, and in 1965, became the school's first commandant.

COL Rowlett was awarded the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service, the National Security Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Order of the British Empire. In 1964, the US Congress awarded him \$100,000 as partial compensation for cryptographic inventions that had been held secret by the government.

COL Rowlett was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1988. COL Rowlett passed away in June 1998 at the age of 90.



Frank Rowlett served in the Army from 1942-1946, reaching the rank of Colonel.



The SIS about 1935: Seated, Mrs. Louise Newkirk Nelson; Standing, Left to Right: Mr. H. F. Bearce, Dr. Solomon Kullback, Captain Harrod G. Miller, USA, Mr. William F. Friedman, Dr. A. Sinkov, Lt. L. T. Jones, USCG, and Mr. Frank