

MAJOR WALTER UNRATH
US Army, Retired
Department of Army Civilian, Retired (Deceased)



In 1939, at the age of 16, Walter Unrath joined the 258th Field Artillery Regiment and served in Hawaii. Honorably discharged in the fall of 1939, he reenlisted in the US Army in 1940. In 1942, he entered Officers Candidate School, graduating in February 1943 as a Second Lieutenant. He served as a Combat Commander in Europe until the end of World War II.

While in Europe, Unrath was assigned temporary duty with the US Army Counter Intelligence Corps (94th CIC Team). In this position he performed investigative and interrogation functions which led to the arrest of many designated German War Criminals (automatic arrestees). He returned to the United States in the fall of 1945 for separation, but reenlisted a few months later as a Master Sergeant and served in

the office of the US Army Reserve for New York. In the summer of 1946, Unrath returned to active duty as an officer.

From 1946-1948, Unrath served as a Special Agent for the US Army Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), with duties that ranged from Field Investigator to Chief, Investigations and Operations, 108th CIC Detachment. In the latter role, he managed a staff of 45 with responsibility for all CI investigations, CI services and CI operations conducted by subordinate field units covering all of New England, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. He directed and supervised investigations of personnel for security and loyalty; conducted investigations involving espionage, subversion and disaffection suspects; completed security surveys and inspections of the First US Army military and industrial installations, analyzed reports and provided liaison with other federal investigative and intelligence agencies; and prepared, reviewed, analyzed and evaluated CI and investigative surveys, studies and reports.

As a Regional Technical Specialist from 1948-1952, MAJ Unrath supervised military and CI field teams charged with the CI and investigative coverage of a geographical area of West Germany with a population of approximately four million people. He was responsible for the control, security and deployment of all covert and overt indigenous sources of information and modus operandi utilized in covert operations. He directed

and participated in highly sensitive and specialized investigations and interrogations regarding subversive and espionage suspects and agents.

As the Chief, Technical Specialist Division, Headquarters 66th CIC Group, MAJ Unrath personally supervised a staff of 31, but was the operational supervisor over 12 subordinate regions covering the US Army, Europe, including the Bremen Enclave, the US Sector of Berlin, and within the Communications Zone in France. He instituted and maintained an original group operational cost accounting system involving vast sums of confidential funds while directing the operational control of those funds theater-wide.

MAJ Unrath served with the 902nd MI Group from 1952-1953. First as the Chief of Operations and later as the Chief, Technical Specialist Division, he conducted special high-level and critically sensitive investigations. When he transferred to serve as the Assistant Group S3 of the 66th CIC Group, he became responsible for the development, promulgation, and implementation of all group operations plans, policies and procedures concerning classified CI covert operations within the jurisdiction of the US Army, Europe.

His last assignment on active duty was as an Operations Officer with the 108th CIC Group which had supervisory responsibility over four major operational branches. He retired from the military in June 1958 and immediately entered civil service as a Military Intelligence Specialist assigned to the 115th MI Group, Sixth US Army, where the scope of his responsibility expanded to include the eight most western United States. In 1961, he moved to the 513th MI Group and held various positions of increasing responsibility. After sixteen years in the civil service serving as a Military Intelligence professional, Mr. Unrath retired a second time in 1974 from the position of Chief, Collection Division, Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, US Army, Pacific.

The list of awards and decorations bestowed upon MAJ Unrath throughout his career include the Bronze Star for Valor, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star, and the Meritorious Civilian Service Award from both the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army, Intelligence.

MAJ Unrath published his memoirs in 1997, entitled, *A Soldier's Legacy: The Life and Times of a Soldier*.

MAJ Unrath was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2002. He passed away in 2006.



**MAJ Walter Unrath, United States Army, 1935-1958
(Taken from his book, *A Soldier's Legacy*)**