

MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES A. WILLOUGHBY US Army, Retired (Deceased)



Charles Willoughby was born in Heidelberg, Germany on 8 March 1892. He immigrated to the United States in 1910 where he finished his education and obtained US citizenship. He enlisted in the Army in October of that year, and served for three years in the Infantry. In 1913 he enrolled in college, completing his Bachelor of Arts degree the following year. In May 1914, Willoughby was commissioned a Major in the Officers Volunteer Corps, the forerunner of the Officers Reserve Corps. He vacated this to accept a Regular Army commission as a Second Lieutenant in August 1916.

In November 1916 Willoughby served with the 35th Infantry on border patrol duty at Nogales, Arizona. When America entered World War I, he transferred to the 16th Infantry and sailed for France to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces in

June 1917. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Air Corps, becoming a Military Aviator. In May 1918, he served as Officer in Charge of Aerial Mail, Aviation Station, Washington, DC, helping to pioneer the development of the first Aerial Mail Service. He left the Air Corps in December 1918, returning to his basic branch of Infantry.

In October 1919, Willoughby served as Company Commander, Machine Gun Company, 24th Infantry, Camp Furlong, Columbus, New Mexico. From 1921 to 1923, he served as both Company Commander and Battalion Commander, Assistant Fire Marshall, and Regimental Machine Gun Officer of the 65th Infantry, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Returning to the United States, he spent several months with the War Department's Military Intelligence Division in preparation for Military Attaché duty in Caracas, Venezuela; Bogota, Colombia; and Quito, Ecuador.

In September 1928, then MAJ Willoughby was a student in the Advanced Course at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. The next year he attended Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where he also served as an Instructor of both Intelligence and Military History. In 1936 he graduated from the Army War College in Washington, DC and returned to Fort Benning as an Instructor at the Infantry School. During this four-year tour he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

After a brief tour as Technical Director of the Army's Military Dictionary Project, Willoughby was assigned as logistics officer in the headquarters of the Philippine Department in Manila. During this time he planned roads, depots, ports on Bataan and Corregidor.

In 1941, COL Willoughby became the G2 of the newly established US Army Forces, Far East. He continued as GEN Douglas MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence for the Southwest Pacific Area through the end of the war, rising in rank to Brigadier and then Major General. Willoughby was one of the few key men who accompanied GEN MacArthur on the escape from Corregidor to Australia in March 1942. During his time as MacArthur's G2, MG Willoughby created a number of agencies to coordinate allied intelligence and oversee linguistic, geographical and clandestine operations: the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section, Allied Intelligence Bureau, and Allied Geographical Section were all under his control.

After the war, MG Willoughby stayed with MacArthur during the occupation of Japan, and continued to serve him during the Korean War.

MG Willoughby retired from active duty on 31 August 1951. He passed away in 1972.

MG Willoughby was posthumously inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1988, and Willoughby Barracks on Fort Huachuca was named in his honor on 1 July 1994.



MG Charles A. Willoughby, left, G2 on GEN MacArthur's staff, is seen with members of the 16-man Japanese surrender arrangement delegation upon arrival at General Hdqs., in Manila, to present their credentials from Emperor Hirohito. Second from left is LTG Kawabe Takashiro, Vice Chief of the Imperial Staff and head of the delegation.



MG Charles A. Willoughby, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, stands in front of a map in his office. Japan, 1945.



BG Willoughby is shown in his office, Australia, 16 August 1942.

