

## Edward L. Rowny

Edward L. Rowny's career reflects the diversity of duties that an Engineer officer may be called upon to perform-soldier, engineer, combat leader, senior commander, diplomat, and negotiator.

Rowny began his military career in **1937** when he entered the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in June 1941 and attended the Basic Engineer Course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Upon completing the course, he was assigned to the 41st Engineer Regiment, Fort McClellan, Alabama, where he was a company commander and later the S-3 of the regiment.

Later Rowny became the operations officer for Task Force 5889, the designation of the 41st Regiment when sent to Liberia, Africa, to build an airfield. It would be the first unit to go overseas in World War II.

The commanding officer of the 41st Engineer Regiment, Colonel "Smokey Joe" Wood, was promoted to brigadier general in 1942 and returned to the United States to establish the cadre for the 92d Division, and he brought Rowny back to work for him. The 92d was an all black division with white officers.

The division was located in four areas with each regiment in a different state. After a year of training separately, the division moved to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where it assembled as a unit for the first time. Initially, Rowny was a company commander and later an assistant G-3. When the 92d assembled at Fort Huachuca, he became the division engineer and commander of the 317th Engineer Battalion.

The 92d Infantry Division landed in Italy in April 1944 with Major General Ned Almond as the division commander. By that time, most of the white officers in the Engineer battalion had been replaced by black officers. During severe fighting by the division, seven of the nine infantry battalion commanders were either killed or wounded in one week, and Rowny was selected to command an infantry battalion. He later commanded a division task force that drove through to the German rear to attack and keep occupied the German reserve while the division tried to punch through the German front. The task force performed admirably as a "decoy," but the division failed to achieve its objective.

Later on, the 442d Nisei regiment and the 473d Regiment, a white regiment, joined the division. The three 92d regiments were joined into one regiment, and these three made up the division. This newly reorganized division continued to drive up to the west coast of Italy until the end of the war. When the division was reorganized, Rowny became the division G-3W. During his service in Italy, Rowny earned two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, a Combat Infantryman Badge, and a Commendation Ribbon.

The day after the war ended in Europe, Rowny left for the states and was assigned to the War Department General Staff where he worked for General Marshall as an Army planner. He initially worked on plans for the invasion of Japan. At the end of his tour in the Pentagon, he went to Yale University where he earned a master of arts degree in international relations and a master of science in civil engineering.

In September 1949, Lieutenant Colonel Rowny was assigned to the Far East Command as a plans officer. He helped draw up plans for the Inchon Invasion and participated in the invasion as the Engineer, X Corps, working again for General Ned Almond, the corps commander.

After Seoul was captured, X Corps landed on the east coast at Hamhung. When the Chinese attacked X Corps in November 1950, Rowny was personally involved in the evacuation of troops, first at Hagaru-ri with the building of an airfield to evacuate wounded troops, and at Koto-ri with the construction of a bridge, parachuted into the area by the Air Force. Rowny was in charge of the final evacuation, but his boat blew up in the harbor and he was temporarily stranded until rescued by the Air Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Rowny transferred to the Infantry in July 1951. He was executive officer, 38th Infantry Regiment, then chief of staff, 2d Division for two months before taking command of the 38th Infantry Regiment. He earned a Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, and an Air Medal while in Korea.

In September 1952, Rowny reported to the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, as an instructor, and attended the Airborne Course. The Army now began to integrate the helicopter into the Army for reconnaissance, attack, logistics, and evacuation of casualties. Rowny also taught off-duty voluntary courses called PROFIT (professional improvement time). One of his ideas was to assist infantry ground attacks with nuclear weapons, followed by troops attacking behind enemy lines by helicopter. But he was ahead of his times. A student in the class, Congressman Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, called the chief of staff of the Army concerning the Army's reluctance to move into the nuclear and helicopter age. The Pentagon called Rowny in to tell him the Army had no interest in nuclear weapons and helicopters on the battlefield, and to stop teaching the course.

From Benning, Rowny went to the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, in February 1955, and from there was assigned as deputy secretary of the general staff at

SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers, Europe) under General Gruenther, and later as secretary of the staff at SHAPE. These were highly demanding jobs. During his assignment at SHAPE, the Germans were brought into the organization and others besides Anglo-Americans began to fill key positions.

His next assignment was to the National War College in August **1958**. After graduation he was appointed the Army member of the chairman's **staff** group, U.S. Army Element, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, D.C., then under General Lyman L. Lemnitzer. He was shortly promoted to brigadier general.

At the end of his tour, he was assigned to the 82d Airborne Division in September **1961** as assistant division commander for support. He also worked for General Howze who commanded the **18th** Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. The Howze Board tested helicopters in nuclear situations, in "sky cavalry" roles for land warfare, and in counterinsurgency operations. Rowny was director of tests.

Having finished his work on the Howze Board, Rowny was then sent to Vietnam as chief of the Army Concept Team in Vietnam (ACTIV) where he worked on nation-building concepts. One of the projects he worked on was the use of armed helicopters (swarm of bees) in fighting the Viet Cong.

After Vietnam, Rowny headed a special division within the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Washington, D.C., **to further** air mobility in the Army. He had some 15 officers who had worked on the Howze Board, and another who had worked with him in Vietnam. Rowny's group oversaw the writing of the Army doctrine for air mobility and designing of organizations to incorporate air mobility into the Army.

In 1965 Rowny went to Europe to become the commanding general of the 24th Division. After a year in the 24th Division, Rowny brought the unit from the bottom rating to first in maintenance and first in training in VII Corps. General O'Meara then made Rowny the deputy chief of staff for logistics (DCSLOG) and put him in charge of FRELOC (fast relocation from France) which had fallen behind and had just six months to go for completion. Rowny made the deadline.

Rowny left his DCSLOG assignment and became deputy chief of staff to the United States Command for Europe in Stuttgart for a year before returning to the United States to become deputy chief of research and development, U.S. Army. After a short ten months on the job, Rowny was sent to Korea in July 1970 to become commanding general, I Corps. He was promoted to lieutenant general in September 1970. While commanding general, I Corps, Rowny oversaw the phase-out of the U.S. 7th division and the phase-in of a Korean division. He also presided over the integration of the corps headquarters with Korean officers.

In July 1971, Rowny became deputy chairman for the NATO military committee. He was appointed chairman of the mutual and balanced force reduction, a new group established by Rowny.

He was then made the representative, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT), Washington, D.C. Rowny held this job for over six years during three presidencies. He retired in 1979 in disagreement over SALT II with the Carter administration.

In late 1979 he was called by then Governor Reagan who asked to meet him. After the meeting Reagan asked him to come work for him. When Reagan was elected president, Rowny became chief U.S. negotiator for the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (START). Rowny could only negotiate from weakness because of 15 years of neglect of the armed forces, but President Reagan began a five-year modernization program of the armed forces. A high priority was placed on improving C<sup>3</sup>I: command, control, communications, and intelligence.

President Reagan appointed Rowny special advisor to the president and secretary of state for arms control matters in January 1985. He performed this function until June 1990 when he resigned.

Rowny has continued his face pace in retirement. In October 1992 he published ***It Takes One to Tango***, his book on how five presidents dealt with the Russians. He presently teaches courses at George Washington University on international negotiations. He was also on the group that helped with the return of Paderewski's remains to Poland. On 25 May 1993, Rowny was presented with the West Point Distinguished Graduate Award.