

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**COLONEL DAVID D.
"MICKEY" MARCUS**

Inducted 26 October 2017



Colonel David D. "Mickey" Marcus was born in New York City, New York, on Feb. 22, 1901. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1924, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Infantry. In 1926, he resigned his commission in the Regular Army and was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant in the Field Artillery of the Organized Reserve Corps. In 1940, he was commissioned as a captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the New York National Guard and was assigned to the Headquarters, 27th Infantry Division. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel upon being appointed Staff Judge Advocate for the 27th Infantry Division.

In 1943, he was promoted to colonel and assigned to the newly established Civil Affairs Division of the War Department as Chief of the Planning Branch. Col. Marcus played a major role in formulating policy and procedures and represented CAD in the negotiation of important international agreements at the major war conferences, including Cairo, Quebec, Tehran and Dumbarton Oaks. Detailed to the European Theater as a CAD liaison officer, he landed on Utah Beach on June 8, 1944, accompanying the 101st Airborne Division. He observed the early CA efforts on the beachhead and adjusted plans to the realities of the liberated territory. On his return to the CAD, he worked on the proposed charter of the United Nations, the Instruments of Surrender for Germany and Japan and post-war Military Government Policy.

At the end of the war, in response to a by-name-request from Gen. Lucius D. Clay, Military Governor of Germany, Col. Marcus was transferred to Headquarters, U.S. Forces, European Theater. He was appointed Deputy Chief and Executive Officer of the Internal Affairs and Communications Division of the U.S. Group Control Council. In July 1945, Col. Marcus was assigned as Deputy to the Military Governor of Berlin and coordinated with the British, French and Soviet representatives in the four-power control council. He returned to Washington in February 1946, and organized the legal infrastructure of the War Crimes Branch of CAD. In eight months, he recruited hundreds of judges, prosecutors, court officials and lawyers for war crime trials in Nuremburg and the Far East. He resigned his commission in 1947.

When the UN General Assembly voted in November 1947 for the division of Palestine into two states, he was recruited by the main underground Jewish fighting force as the military adviser to David Ben-Gurion, then head of the provisional government. He established a training school for officers, and the reorganization of the militia forces into a modern army. He wrote field manuals in long-hand by memory, based on the U.S. Army Doctrine, and adjusted to the local situation. His experience in Allied joint operations proved invaluable, and he established a general staff and command structure for the Israel Defense Forces. When fighting erupted, he was appointed the first general officer (Aluf) in the IDF and the Supreme Commander, Jewish Forces, Jerusalem Front in May 1948. Aluf Marcus broke the Arab Siege of Jerusalem just hours before a UN-supervised cease-fire. Aluf Marcus was accidentally killed on June 10, 1948.

In his civilian career, Col. Marcus was a lawyer. He received an LL.B. and JD from Brooklyn Law School. He served as a U.S. government lawyer, first in Treasury and then as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York City. He was then appointed as First Deputy and later Commissioner of Corrections of the City of New York. He was a nationally known prison reform advocate.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, American Defense Medal, American Theater Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal. His Allied award is the Commander, Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.