

# Why the Brink Hotel is not the “Brinks Hotel”

Many of us have the habit of referring to the Brink Hotel (BOQ) as the “Brinks Hotel” or sometimes the “Brink’s Hotel.” Both are incorrect. It is not the “Brink’s Hotel” because it was never owned by “Brink.” It is not the “Brinks Hotel” because it is named for BGEN Francis G. Brink, Chief of the Military advisory Group in Saigon at the time of his death on June 24, 1952.

A web search on his name will result in a number of links. The following is taken from “Signatures of War by Caitlin Dazey.

## Brigadier-General Francis Gerald Brink

1893 -1952; Age 59

Francis Gerard Brink was born in Marathon, New York on August 22, 1893. He was a loving man, married to a Miss Florence Tryon Roos Brink before joining the military. After studying hard, he received his B.A. from Cornell University in 1916. Francis was then commissioned into the Infantry, Officers Reserve Corps in 1917. After graduating Brink then worked as an instructor at the Infantry School between 1921 and 1923.

Francis then worked as the Assistant Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Louisiana State University between 1928 and 1934. After graduating from Command and General Staff School in 1936, he then became the commander of 31st Infantry, located in the Philippine Islands between 1938 and 1941. There it can be assumed that Brink was one of the soldiers that helped train the Philippine Army.

Between 1941 and 1942 Brink worked under a British Allied Commander, General Wavell, in Burma. Burma is in Southeast Asia and at the time it was under the influence of British imperialism.

From 1942 to 1944 he worked as a staff officer in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations (CBI.) CBI's mission was to aid and support Chinese armies to thwart a major Japanese raid. Shortly after Brink turned 51 he was promoted to a Brigadier General in November of 1944. Francis Brink worked as the Chief of Operations Division of the Southeast Asia Command 1944-1945. Brink resided at the US Army Headquarters in China 1945-1946. In 1950 he was appointed to be the chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, South Vietnam, and remained chief until his death on June 24, 1952.

Two weeks after he returned from Vietnam, on June 24, 1952, he was found shot in an office at the Pentagon Building and died in route to Walter Reed Hospital.