

W. F. Friedman Retires, Expert on Secret Codes

One of the world's leading experts on secret codes, William F. Friedman, retired from the National Security Agency today after Government service that extends back to World War I.

Mr. Friedman is widely recognized for his achievements in the field of cryptology. He received the Government highest civilian decoration, the Medal of Merit, in 1946 for his work during World War II, and the Army's highest civilian decoration, the Exceptional Service Award, for the same reason in 1944.

He has authored several treatises on cryptology and has invented cryptographic devices and machines. A bill is pending in the Senate to pay him \$100,000 for all rights to his inventions now used by the Government.

Although heart trouble has forced him to retire from active service, he will continue to do work in the field.

"There are lots of things to do at home in the libraries," he said. "The work is of a secret nature, but I can only describe it as useful and interesting work—in the field in which

I have carried on for so many years."

A native of Russia, Mr. Friedman graduated from Cornell University and served with the Army Signal Corps, doing code work for Army Intelligence.

After the war, he went to work as a civilian for the Army Signal Corps in Washington as

a cryptologist. He transferred to the National Security Agency when that organization was formed and retired as special assistant to the agency director at the top Civil Service grade—18.

He and his wife intend to continue living at 310 Second street S.E. "in the capital of the world, both political and literary." The Friedmans won an award last April from the Folger Shakespeare Library here for a manuscript (which they hope to publish soon) titled "A Cryptologist Looks at Shakespeare."