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**Interview with
COL. GERALD GRAHAM, Ret.
AIDE DE CAMP GEN. MAC ARTHUR
September 28, 2002**

ORAL INTERVIEW
COL. GERALD GRAHAM, RET.
AIDE-DE-CAMP TO GEN MACARTHUR

This is Cork Morris. It's September 28th, 2002, and I am interviewing Gerald Graham in Fredericksburg, Texas. This interview is in support of the Center for the Pacific War Studies, archives for the National Museum of the Pacific War, Texas Parks and Wildlife. Usually, we start with when and where you were born, where your folks lived. We'll start there.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, I was born June 8, 1910, in Atlanta, Georgia.

MR. MORRIS: Who were your folks? What did they do?

MR. GRAHAM: My father was a dentist in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and my mother was a housewife.

MR. MORRIS: I guess you were a professional soldier before the war started.

MR. GRAHAM: Yes.

MR. MORRIS: Where did you enlist?

MR. GRAHAM: I enlisted in the Georgia National Guard in 1928. I enlisted in Troop C, 108th Calvary, Georgia National Guard. Back in those days we were horse calvary. Then we participated with the Army. We participated as horse calvary in the Louisiana and Mississippi maneuvers in 1938 and 1940.

In 1940, they took the horses away from our unit and most other calvary units in the United States. And they converted my unit into anti-aircraft, re-designated us from Troop 208th Calvary Georgia National Guard to Battery C, 101st Anti-aircraft Battalion. And during the year of 1941, we were stationed at Camp Stewart, Georgia, for training. Want me just to talk about my military career?

MR. MORRIS: Yeh, mostly.

MR. GRAHAM: You can just cut out what you want to. As I say, the year of 1941, we were stationed at Camp Stewart, Georgia, training as anti-aircraft. In February of 1942, my unit joined 7,000 other military personnel and boarded the Queen Mary for a 40-day and 40-night trip to Sydney, Australia. The same day we boarded the train and went to Brisbane, Australia, where we were given our anti-aircraft equipment and sailed from Brisbane to Port Moresby, New Guinea, arriving there on the third of May, 1942.

MR. MORRIS: Were you stationed at Fort Stewart when Pearl Harbor happened?

MR. GRAHAM: Yes.

MR. MORRIS: What happened immediately after that? Were you immediately mobilized?

MR. GRAHAM: Pearl Harbor was December 7, 1941, and we were already stationed at Camp Stewart within five years of 1941. So, yes, I was there when Pearl Harbor happened. The way I heard about it, my wife and I went over to the PX and the radio was announcing Pearl Harbor.

MR. MORRIS: How long after that did you ship out to the West Coast?

MR. GRAHAM: Well, from the 7th of December until February of '42. Two months after Pearl Harbor, we shipped out and less than six months after Pearl Harbor, I was in New Guinea shooting at Japanese planes.

MR. MORRIS: Refresh my mind as to what was going on in the Pacific at that time.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, you want me to go on from there and tell you how I went from unit to unit to unit, and how I became an aide to the General?

MR. MORRIS: Yeh, let's hear your side of the story.

MR. GRAHAM: I'll just tell the story then. As I said, we landed in Port Moresby on the 3rd of May, 1942, and I was a 1st Lt. in command of a platoon of anti-aircraft guns. Shortly thereafter, oh, incidentally my little 800-man battalion was the first American ground troops in New Guinea. Shortly after we arrived, I was transferred into the 40th Anti-Aircraft Brigade headquarters, which by that time included some Australian anti-aircraft that had come in and all of the American battalions. I was transferred from the

101st Anti-Aircraft to ??? Brigade headquarters staff as liaison officer between the anti-aircraft headquarters and the 5th Air Force which had just in the last few months arrived at Port Moresby. My job as liaison officer was to go from Port Moresby over the Owen Stanley Mountains on the Kokoda trail and wherever we would find an area flat enough and big enough for small planes to come in and drop replacement men and supplies, I would go in and determine what was needed in the way of anti-aircraft to protect those fields. During these trips back and forth, crossing Owen Stanley mountains, I met some of the general officers on General MacArthur's staff. At that time, Gen. MacArthur had a small advance echelon headquarters at Port Moresby, New Guinea, which was 1500 miles from his headquarters down in Australia. And from time to time, Gen. MacArthur and some of his officers would come up to his advance headquarters at Port Moresby and stay a few days or weeks and then go back down to Australia. And in the course of their coming to Port Moresby, his G2 General Willoughby and his G3 General Chamberlain came back and forth quite a few times, and I met them on several trips and got to know them quite well. And, apparently, they thought I must have been doing a pretty good job with what I was doing because they asked me if I would like to transfer out of the 101st. Anti-Aircraft into General MacArthur's headquarters. Of course, I was delighted because that meant sleeping in a

bed and having good food for a change instead of sleeping in the jungle. Oh, go back a minute, while I was still on the 40th Brigade headquarters, it became an opening back in the 101st. Anti-Aircraft that I had just left. It became an opening for an S3 on their staff. And I was 1st. Lt. then, so I transferred back and was promoted to Captain S3 in the 101st. Anti-Aircraft.

MR. MORRIS: What does an S3 do?

MR. GRAHAM: S3 is plans and training. The s's in Gen. Mac Arthur's headquarters become Gs, G1, 2, 3 and 4. In lesser units it's s's. So as a result of my meeting Gen. Chamberlain and Gen. Willoughby, as I mentioned a few minutes ago, as a result of talking to them and telling them I would like to be transferred to MacArthur's headquarters. About two weeks after I transferred back down to the 101st. Anti-Aircraft, an order came through transferring me from the 101st. Anti-Aircraft into General Mac- Arthur's headquarters. And I was stationed there as executive officer to the commanding officer of Mac-Arthur's advance echelon at Port Moresby. And then a few months later, they transferred the commanding officer of the advance echelon, who was a native, they transferred him back down to Australia and I became the commanding officer of MacArthur's advance headquarters at Port Moresby, New Guinea.

MR. MORRIS: What date was this?

MR. GRAHAM: Well, this would be in the latter part of 1942 or the early part of 1943. I can't remember the exact date. It must have been the latter part of '42. But anyway, I became the commanding officer of MacArthur's advance headquarters in Port Moresby, New Guinea. A few months later, as we began to push towards Japan, Gen. MacArthur decided that we needed another advance headquarters. From Port Moresby we were going to go up to Hollandia, which is getting closer to Japan. So I became commanding officer of that advance echelon landing in New Guinea. And doing both Port Moresby and Hollandia, General MacArthur coming back and forth, is where I met him and became associated with him. And apparently, he liked what I had been doing both at Port Moresby and Hollandia, because that's when he appointed me an Aide-de-Camp. And that was a job I held through the end of the war.

MR. MORRIS: So what were ??? the advance headquarters? Were these pretty rudimentary?

MR. GRAHAM: What the advance headquarters at Port Moresby, New Guinea, consisted of , before World War II started, Port Moresby, New Guinea, was just a tiny port that was used for ships coming in and taking out rubber and ??? which was a by-product of palm trees, I guess. There was many rubber plantations up in that area of New Guinea, but Port Moresby

was just a little tiny port where these ships would come in and take out these products. They also had built two or three very very small landing strips in Port Moresby for the executives in the Australian government to come in, and they supervised ????. At the end of World War I, they divided up New Guinea, which incidentally is the second largest island in the world, Greenland being the first and the largest. They divided up New Guinea into several parts. They gave Port Moresby and that area to the Australian government, they gave other parts to the Dutch government, and still farther-- anyway they divided New Guinea into several parts, so that when the war broke out, all of New Guinea and Papua, which included New Guinea, became under the jurisdiction of the Australian government. The Australian government built a home there for the overseer or the administrator of Papua, and this home was in Port Moresby. He had this big tropical home built there and then next to it a little guest house. So when the Americans came into Australia, they took over Papua, New Guinea, Port Moresby, New Guinea, as their headquarters. My job as the commanding officer of that advance, they called it the advance echelon for general headquarters, and my job was to stay there permanently and receive any of the officers that General MacArthur sent up from Australia. He would send officers up from time to time to the combat area to plan for the next operation, so they had to have a

place to stay and a place from which to operate. And that was what the advance echelon comprised. And, of course, as the war increased, the size of that New Guinea headquarters increased. Representatives from all over the world would come into Australia to see Gen. Mac Arthur, and most of 'em wanted to see the combat area, so the General would send them up to Port Moresby. I would receive them and take care of them and see what they wanted. They wanted to go to the different islands where the combat was going on. I would have to take them wherever they wanted to go. In other words, I had to be their host. I had to look after them.

MR. MORRIS: Would you actually take 'em into combat zones, shooting and all that?

MR. GRAHAM: At times we were up into the combat areas, but mainly they wanted to go to the islands where the combat was taking place. And the politicians from Washington would come over to get their tickets punched, so they could say that they had been to the combat zone. So, of course, I was flooded with politicians. However, it had some bright spots in it, too. Whenever the entertainers would come over to entertain the troops, like Bob Hope, Jack Benny, ??? and those people, I had the privilege of inviting them to stay at MacArthur's headquarters. I had some very pleasant experiences with those people. Jack Benny stayed with me a week. Bob Hope stayed

with me a week, etc. This went on throughout the time until we left Hollandia.

MR. MORRIS: Where is Hollandia in relation to New Guinea?

MR. GRAHAM: Here's Australia, and 1500 miles away by air is the little port of Port Moresby. And then you go on up the coast to Hollandia. I can't remember how far it is but it is a considerable distance by air.

MR. MORRIS: When you got to Hollandia, did your duties pretty much stay the same?

MR. GRAHAM: My duties were exactly the same, except they were multiplied many many many times because we were getting that nearer to Japan and therefore more people were involved. I'll have to tell you a funny little incident that occurred there. I don't know if it's funny or not, but it is interesting. Gen. MacArthur was criticized very severely for having the palatial home built for his staff on a mountaintop in Hollandia. All the magazines and papers back in the United States were full of criticism. While your sons are sleeping in the jungles and eating whatever they can get a hold of, Gen. MacArthur is living in a palatial home atop this beautiful mountain. Well, it so happened that as commanding officer of the advance echelon, it was my responsibility to have that house built. So I went to the chief engineer and told him what Gen. Mac Arthur wanted. He wanted a house big

enough to accommodate the 17 generals that were going to be coming back and forth in the future. As a matter of fact, I don't believe Gen. MacArthur spent a total of six nights there, but he got very severe criticism. They also, in the same criticism, said that he not only built this beautiful, oh, I have to say the engineers made a mistake, they painted the darn thing white so from the air it stood out like a sore thumb, and that is why they say it was a palatial mansion. They also said that he also built a highway up from the seacoast up to his house on the mountain. They failed to mention that on each side of that road going up to the mountain, there was a hospital here, an engineer unit here, all the way up on each side of the road. On each side of the road there was military installations.

MR. MORRIS: What period of time when you moved up to Hollandia? What period of time are we now? Are we still in '43?

MR. GRAHAM: We are in '43, yes, early '44.

MR. MORRIS: What operations were going on at that time, combat operations?

MR. GRAHAM: Well, there was some mopping up various islands. I don't recall specifically which operation took place at which time. I was not involved in any of that. In the first place, I wasn't smart enough to be taken in on that. I had no part in the plans for combat operations.

MR. MORRIS: How big was MacArthur's staff?

MR. GRAHAM: It was tremendous. As I say, at one time or another, seventeen generals coming from Australia to my headquarters in Port Moresby and Hollandia. And at one time, we had forty war correspondents assigned to our headquarters. I remember at Port Moresby we had thirty full Colonels there, so you can imagine how many officers we had below the rank of full colonel, and I would estimate about two hundred enlisted personnel. So it was a tremendous headquarters.

MR. MORRIS: Was there a security problem there?

MR. GRAHAM: You mean from the Japanese?

MR. MORRIS: Yes.

MR. GRAHAM: Of course. You see, when I landed in Port Moresby, as I said, the 3rd of May, 1942, that was less than six months after Pearl Harbor. Since the Japanese found out they couldn't hold on to Guadalcanal, they figured they had to have Port Moresby to use as a base to attack Australia. And since they couldn't take Port Moresby by water because our Navy was there to prevent that, they decided they would go by land. So Port Moresby is here, Owen Stanley Mountain range is here and over here on the coast on the other side of the mountains the Japanese landed at Buna, Gona, and San Hernanda, little seaports on that side of the mountain. They landed there and

came over the Owen Stanley Mountain range, hiking over the Kokoda trail. And they came within seventeen miles of Port Moresby. And thank God, the battle of the Coral Sea took place at that time, and of course our Navy won that battle, thereby saving Port Moresby and me.

MR. MORRIS: That must have cut off those Japanese troops from any kind of re-supply.

MR. GRAHAM: That's why the battle of the Coral Sea. It not only prevented them from taking Port Moresby, but from taking adjacent islands because we cut off their supplies.

MR. MORRIS: What happened to those Japanese troops? Did they surrender?

MR. GRAHAM: No. During the entire war, very very few Japanese surrendered. They thought that was the greatest disgrace that could happen to 'em. No, most of 'em were killed. In the meantime, while they were coming across the Owen Stanley Mountain range, while they were hiking across that, the Australians began sending in ground troops and eventually Americans started sending in ground troops, and they met the Japanese on the Kokoda trail coming over the mountain. And, of course, pushed them back to Buna, Kokoda, and San Hernanda and defeated them.

MR. MORRIS: Since the Japanese didn't have any transports, then they

were pretty much backed up to the beach then.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, they were. The American Infantry and the Australian Infantry pushed them back over the mountains and what few of 'em remained after they got back to Buna and San Hernanda, they were able to evacuate some of them, get them off the island. Most of them were killed.

MR. MORRIS: What sort of liaison was there between like the Australian Army and the United States Army? They worked together also?

MR. GRAHAM: Great. Together, shoulder to shoulder while fighting on the Owen Stanley Mountain range.

MR. MORRIS: I assume that's not the only operation they did jointly.

MR. GRAHAM: Oh, no. Throughout the entire war.

MR. MORRIS: You really don't hear much about the Australian Army.

MR. GRAHAM: No, actually I can't comment too much on that, because I don't know anything about it except what I would read in books that you could read in books. But the Australians were terrific combat people. They did a wonderful job in the Pacific war.

MR. MORRIS: When you became a, what does an Aide-de-Camp do?

MR. GRAHAM: That's a good question. An Aide-de-Camp is selected by a general as his assistant and as the name implies, an aide to generals. Now there the generals use aides for different purposes. For instance, Gen.

MacArthur had an aide who before the war was a world renowned journalist. He had another aide who was a physician who looked after the health of General MacArthur's headquarters staff, but he was also Gen. MacArthur's personal physician. He used me for many things. For instance, he would often send me to the different islands to check on the welfare and the morale of the combat troops. And around the headquarters and the office, I would make appointments for him. I would check his schedules. I would receive on his behalf VIPs from around the world, like Lord Mountbatten, various people from Washington. VIPs who would come in to see the General, my job was to take care of them, see that they had what they needed and wanted. One of my most pleasant jobs was we were now at Tacloban in the Philippines and the General called me in one day and he said, "Gerry, I'm gonna turn over to you my most valuable possession. And I thought what in the world is he gonna turn over to me, jewelry or gold or silver, what is it? He said, "I want you to go down to Australia and bring my wife and son up to Manila." Those were his most valuable possessions. He said, "Jean doesn't like to fly so I want you to go out in the harbor Brisbon and pick out a ship and bring her up to Manila." Well, I didn't know, and still don't know, a canoe from a battleship. So I went to the commanding officer of the base at Brisbane and told him what the problem was. He and I went out in the harbor

and picked out a little ship that was a refrigerator ship before the war, and it was loaded with soldiers and equipment going to Manila. So that's the ship that we selected for me to bring Mrs. Mac Arthur and the boy up to Manila. It was a very pleasant about a two- weeks voyage.

MR. MORRIS: What point of the war when you brought them up?

MR. GRAHAM: That was probably February or March of 1945, because by then we had re-captured Manila, and it was safe to bring her. Although when Mrs. MacArthur and I arrived at Manila, they were still fighting in the half of the city of Manila. But the house that the General took over to occupy in Manila, that part of the city was safe.

MR. MORRIS: When MacArthur finally got back to the Philippines, you were his aide at this point?

MR. GRAHAM: I was his aide until the end of the war, yes.

MR. MORRIS: Did he essentially follow, I know the front was real jaded, island by island, but did he pretty much follow that front all the way?

MR. GRAHAM: Follow what?

MR. MORRIS: The island by island fighting.

MR. GRAHAM: Oh, absolutely. He was with the combat troops constantly although his headquarters was in Australia. He would come to Port Moresby and stay a short time and from there go to one of the islands where the

combat was taking place and visit there. Then he would come back either to Port Moresby, his advance headquarters, or go directly back to Australia. And he continued this throughout the war. He was constantly going to the islands where the combat was taking place.

MR. MORRIS: Was he the Governor of Japan or head of the occupation?

MR. GRAHAM: Yes. When we captured Tokyo and moved into Tokyo, of course, he became the head of the occupation forces.

MR. MORRIS: Did he retain most of his staff?

MR. GRAHAM: Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, he and I lived at the American Embassy in Japan. Before the war, there was a six-story office building in Tokyo owned by Dai-ichi Insurance Company, which is the largest insurance company in Japan. So we took over that building and used that as our headquarters, as MacArthur's headquarters.

MR. MORRIS: What shape was Tokyo in? Pretty beat up?

MR. GRAHAM: Practically demolished because, of course, before we moved into Tokyo, our planes had been over so many times bombing them and then later fire-bombing them. And most of the homes and buildings in Japan were wood structures and this fire-bombing just about demolished everything they had. But according to the planning, they spared the Emperor's palace, they spared certain sections of Tokyo that the General

knew that he was going to use after we captured Japan. So there were very few areas in Tokyo that were not damaged, but those were not damaged.

MR. MORRIS: Well, did your duties change?

MR. GRAHAM: No, my duties remained the same until the time I left. And not being a career soldier, and having been over there for four years, and having been married just a year before Pearl Harbor, I was anxious to get out and go back to my civilian life. So after the surrender, I asked to be relieved and he relieved me and I came back to the States and was released from the service.

MR. MORRIS: Were you on the MISSOURI when they signed?

MR. GRAHAM: I was, yes. I, also, just before we went on the MISSOURI for the surrender ceremony, the General had me receive Gen. Wainwright who had been a prisoner of the Japanese all during the war. And when they released him from prison, he came to Manila for the surrender ceremony. And the General had me receive him and I have a very nice picture standing on the front steps of Gen. Mac-Arthur's home in Manila with Gen. Wainwright.

MR. MORRIS: Was Gen. Wainwright incarcerated in the Philippines or back in Japan?

MR. GRAHAM: Japan. You see, when Gen. MacArthur and his forces were

pushed back down to the Bataan Peninsula during the war, Gen. MacArthur moved onto Corregidor. You know about Corregidor. When it became apparent to Washington that the Japanese were going to take even Corregidor, President Roosevelt ordered Gen. MacArthur to get off of Corregidor and go to Australia and start preparing troops to go back and capture Japan. When Roosevelt ordered Gen. MacArthur off, Gen. MacArthur pleaded with him and said "I can't leave my troops. A commanding officer doesn't leave his troops in combat." A short time later, Roosevelt ordered him again. He said, "I can appreciate your reason for not wanting to leave, but it is important for you to leave 'em and go back and prepare your return." And finally on the third time Roosevelt ordered him back, he left. He left Corregidor and went back down to Australia. But when he left, he left Gen. Wainwright in command of all of the Allied forces in the Philippines and adjoining areas.

MR. MORRIS: Were you with MacArthur when he left Corregidor?

MR. GRAHAM: No. You see, I was still in the Anti-Aircraft Battalion. I joined him in Australia and I went from Australia, to New Guinea, to the Philippines, to Japan with Gen. MacArthur.

MR. MORRIS: So how long were you with him in Japan?

MR. GRAHAM: Only from October of '45 through the end of '45.

MR. MORRIS: Well, I guess it must have been a very strange change from

fighting the Japanese to all of a sudden trying to rebuild that country.

MR. GRAHAM: Well, it was very interesting. All during the war, people in Washington kept telling the General, we want you to try the Emperor as a war criminal. And Gen. MacArthur kept telling them, "No, that's not the thing to do." The Japanese people are so fanatic and they've proven that by the fact that very very few of their soldiers ever surrendered. They figured that death was an honor to the Emperor, and they figured it by using the kamikaze planes whose pilots knew they were going to die when they would dive their airplane into one of our ships. And Gen. MacArthur said, "The Japanese people are such fanatics that the best way and easiest way for us to rule Japan is through the Emperor. And I can set up so that nothing goes on in Japan except under the orders that I give, but I give them through the Emperor, because they worship the Emperor." I guess during the messages back and forth from Washington to Gen. MacArthur, they kept insisting that MacArthur do certain things. He said, "Look, either give me bread and supplies and equipment to help bring these people out of this chaos or give me more men and more bullets. Give me food and supplies or men and bullets. It's gonna take one or the other." Also Washington issued orders that there be no fraternization. We don't want the soldiers to take the Japanese girls, we don't want inter-marriages or anything like that. Again, MacArthur

said that's wrong. Said, that's not the American way. And he got his way about it. So to sum it up, the way things turned out and the way he rebuilt Japan, he was right in every instance in his thinking.

MR. MORRIS: Yes, how history would have to suggest that for certain.

MR. GRAHAM: You see, Gen. MacArthur had known the oriental mind from years and years of experience having served over there. His father before him was a general and he served in the Philippines. What most people don't know or don't remember is that Gen. MacArthur was not in the American Army when Pearl Harbor broke out. He had been appointed head of all the armed forces in the Philippines and he was working for the Philippine government. He was a three-star general and President Roosevelt called him back into the United States Army and appointed him eventually as the commanding officer of the Southwest Pacific area.

MR. MORRIS: We hear a lot of stories about MacArthur being real sort of imperial acting. Did you find that? Or how was he to work for?

MR. GRAHAM: Well, I'm on a panel to talk while I'm here. That's the purpose of bringing me here to Fredericksburg. I'm to speak on Sunday, and one of the subjects I'm going to talk about is his relationship between the men on his command. One of the things I'm going to say is that all during the war the critics and the armchair quarterbacks had a field day because they had all

these top American commanders, the Army, Navy, and Air Force, etc. They had all those people to criticize and ridicule and they really did it. As an example, do you remember when we were trying to go into Leyte in the Philippines, they drew up this story about Admiral Halsey following this decoy fleet of the Japanese which took him away from the battle of Leyte. The critics made a big field day out of that, but the same critics didn't waste any ink praising Admiral Halsey for the great work he did when he was suffering the tortures of hell with shingles. And if any of you has ever had shingles like I have, you know what torture is. He did a magnificent job all the while he was suffering from these shingles. So much so that he finally had to be temporarily removed and sent back to the hospital to recover. Then, of course, thank goodness he was later put back in active duty. The same critics jumped on MacArthur for petty little things. They accused him, someone gave him the name "Dugout Doug". Well, I can truthfully say that I have been through many many strafings by the Japanese, bomb raids by the Japanese, and I have never never seen Gen. MacArthur get in a dugout or slip trench. The rest of us were around him when these raids came. The rest of us would run as fast as we could and jump in a slip trench. The General would just sit at his desk and wait until they were over. These critics were attacking his lack of bravery. He was always jumping in dugouts to defend

himself. I can remember when we invaded Borneo. We landed /// in Borneo, and he and I were walking along the beach and all of a sudden the Japanese opened fire from the nearby jungles. I and the rest of the people around the General hit the sand as quickly as we could, but the General just stood there looking at the jungle. We people who were close to him constantly begged him not to take unnecessary chances, not to expose himself like that. His reply was always, "I have to set the example for the men under me." I can remember more than I like to think about the many many times that I had close calls in the four years I was over there, but I never had any closer calls than those when I was with the General. So, if he wasn't brave, I don't know what it takes to be brave. Also, the same critics, magazines and newspapers in the States were also full of these things all during the war. So much so, that I used to think that it darned near approached treason. The severe criticism that these people were giving all of our leading commanders all over the world, because their criticism was so severe. As I said, I felt at times the criticism was so severe and so unjust that it was darn near treason in my opinion. Because it definitely affected the morale of the combat troops and I know it affected the morale of the people at home, because I was constantly getting letters from my home in America. Some of the petty things that they accused Gen. MacArthur of, and I can talk about because I was personally

involved, they accused Gen. MacArthur of being conceited, arrogant, etc. They said he was always putting on an act like a Shakespearean actor. When he was talking in his office he would pace back and forth while he was talking with his hands behind his back and his voice would rise and fall and they accused him of being a Shakespearean actor. Well, one night we were on a ship going into a landing the next day on some island, I don't remember which one, and just before we went to bed the General said, "Let's go up on deck and get some exercise." So he and I went up on deck, he shrugged off, nobody there but just the General and me and he started talking. And if he talked in his office or anywhere he was, if he was talking and he liked to talk to somebody, he liked somebody as a sounding board. As he talked he would walk back and forth, back and forth his hands behind his back, and here we were up there on this ship in the pitch black dark, he was walking back and forth with his hands behind his back, and sure enough, his voice would rise and fall as he talked. And I suddenly thought well I can understand now why these critics think he's putting on an act. Would he put on act for me in the pitch dark in the middle of the night? Someone who was with him constantly day and night. He wouldn't put on an act for me. So this is the way the critics had a field day.

MR. MORRIS: I know you weren't working for him at the time, but how did

you feel when Truman relieved him in Korea?

MR. GRAHAM: Well, I can't comment on that, and I won't because this is where Gen. MacArthur got so much bad publicity and severe criticism. People who had never seen the General and never talked to him, had never probably talked to people close to him, talked about these things and made up their own minds what happened, why he was relieved, etc. I won't comment on it because I wasn't there and all I know about it is what I've heard and read. So I'll just leave it there.

MR. MORRIS: Anything else you need to add to this.

MR. GRAHAM: I don't think so. I think that pretty well covers what I did for four years.

MR. MORRIS: How did you feel when you got back, you know, after World War II was over? What did you do from then on?

MR. GRAHAM: Well, having been in the horse calvary before the war and enjoyed it, I learned to love horses. I had never ridden a horse before I joined the horse calvary, and incidentally, the reason I joined the military service in 1928. I was born and reared in Atlanta, Georgia. I used to go out to Fort McPherson in Atlanta on a Sunday afternoon to watch the Army play polo. I thought what a great game, I'd love to play that. And they say well, it'd be a good idea to learn to ride a horse before you play polo. So having never been

on a horse before, I decided that the best way for me to learn to play polo was to join the calvary. And back in those days, remember this was 1928, only two groups of people played polo in America, extremely wealthy, and I never had any money, or the military service. It was the only people who could afford to play polo, because it's a terribly expensive game. So I decided the way for me to learn to play polo was to join the horse calvary, and since Troop 208 Calvary was stationed in Atlanta, Georgia, I joined them. And after a couple of years, I became proficient enough to play on the varsity polo team, and, incidentally, I played many times against Gen. George Patton. He was quite a horseman, he was an old calvary man. And in various locations I had the pleasure of playing in California against Walt Disney, Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, some of those people as a civilian and military. But that's why I went into the military service in the beginning, was to learn to play polo.

MR. MORRIS: So you got into the horse business after you got out?

MR. GRAHAM: Oh, yes, yes. What happened after World War II, I came back and very fortunately in Culver, Indiana, which is about an hour's drive south of Chicago, there's a military school named Culver Military Academy and the school is about a hundred years old. It's a prep school and they had regular army personnel officers there as instructors. Fortunately for me, they

had a calvary unit there with the same equipment, same training manuals and everything that the old horse calvary had used for many years. So they needed someone to come in and be the director of the department of horsemanship, and they gave me that job. I had a hundred and fifty black horses, I had a polo team, which in addition to being director of the department, I coached the polo team. I'd take 'em to Yale to play, take 'em to play Cornell every year, take 'em to Canada, take 'em to Arizona, take 'em all over the country to play polo. I also had an exhibition unit that performed like the Royal Mounted Police performance, beautiful performance, mounted on horseback accompanied by the music of a band. And I would send them all over the country exhibiting. And every four years when we'd get a new president in Washington, we would send a hundred men and a hundred horses to Washington and ride in the inaugural parade. So that's what I did after the war until I finally retired.

MR. MORRIS: Was your polo team any good?

MR. GRAHAM: We won about, I believe, eighty-five percent of our games at Culver. And we played any and every team we could get, other schools or civilian teams, any team we could get a game with.

MR. MORRIS: Did you ever play the Army, or were they out of the polo business by then?

MR. GRAHAM: Oh, yes. As I told you, they took our horses in the 208th Calvary, they took our horses away in October of '40, and then gradually they took horses away from all the other National Guard units around the country and the regular army calvary units around the country. So I can't remember the date, but I would say that by the end of 1941 there was no more horses left in the service in the United States, except those horses that were used in Washington for the burial ceremonies at Arlington. And they still use those. They have two teams, a team of white horses and a team of black horses and they alternate funerals. I have something that I think you personally would be interested in, I know you can't use it on your tape, but these are my insignia that I wore as an aide to a five-star general. And remember, at that time, there were only five five-star generals in the United States Army.

MR. MORRIS: At the time, what rank were you?

MR. GRAHAM: I finally got to be a Colonel at the end of the war. This is the insignias that we would wear on our uniform like this, on our collar if we didn't wear a coat, and this is the shoulder patches that we wore on our uniforms, GH2 General Headquarters. I thought you might be interested in seeing those.

MR. MORRIS: Very much so. I would think that if you were an aide to a five-star General, pretty much everybody knew who you were anyway, right?

MR. GRAHAM: You see, when a general officer, let's say he was the first rank of a general, is a Brigadier General, he one star; then he's promoted to a Major General, there's two stars, then he's promoted to a three-star general, which is a Lt. General, and finally he's promoted to a four-star general. Now that was all that we had ever had before World War II, but in World War II President Roosevelt created the job of General of the Army and had these made up special for the general; a five-star and his insignia was the same thing except it was just five stars. And the aides insignia was here with five stars. And if you remember, there was Gen. MacArthur, Gen. Eisenhower, Gen. Arnold (head of the Air Force), Gen. Bradley, and then, of course, they had some five-star admirals, Nimitz, Halsey, and I don't remember the rest of 'em, King, of course.

MR. MORRIS: What was Marshall?

MR. GRAHAM: Marshall was a five-star, that's the other Army. I feel that this is a disjointed interview...

MR. MORRIS: No, no, no. This is just fine.

MR. GRAHAM: But it gives an idea of the little part that I played.

MR. MORRIS: Well, everybody played their part. Well, thanks very much. I appreciate your taking your time.

MR. GRAHAM: Sure, I've enjoyed being with you.

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