

**Cornelius L. Gray
Veteran**

**Michael Russert
Wayne Clarke
Interviewers**

**Interviewed at
The Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters
Latham, New York
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Q: This is an interview of Cornelius Gray. It is Tuesday, July 30, 2002. This is The Division of Military and Naval Affairs Headquarters in Latham, New York. The Interviewer is Michael Russert. Could you tell me your name, date and place of your birth please?

CG: My name is Cornelius L. Gray. I was born 26 May, 1924 in Troy, New York.

Q: What was your Pre-World War II education?

CG: It was rather short. I attended Public School Twenty in Albany, New York up to the eighth grade, then to Christian Brothers Academy for four years graduating in June of 1942. My employment was a normal employment that a person of that age would have. You had newspaper routes, and ran groceries for the local grocers and things of that nature. Nothing that you would point to.

Q: Okay. Where were you and what do you remember when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

CG: It was a Sunday morning. My father was going up to get his oil changed to a place called the Red Roost that was abutted to (unclear @1:30) Golf Course in Albany. We were getting the car serviced at that time when a radio announcement came over that Pearl Harbor had been bombed.

It was quite a shock, I wasn't thinking very much about the U.S. entering the War at that time. Although I thought it might have been a "deja vu" type thing from World War I because you could see the blocks starting to fall into place.

Q: Did you Enlist, or were you Drafted?

CG: I took about three months to think about what I was going to do. I enrolled in Siena College (in Loudonville, NY) and attended for a couple of months while I investigated various things such as O.C.S. (Officer Candidate School) and things of that nature. It became apparent to me that I was not going to get any special program that I desired. In part because my eyesight wasn't twenty-twenty at that time.

I, eventually in December, decided I would like to Enlist. I went down to the Albany Post Office, was sworn in, and was sent to Fort Dix (New Jersey) for processing where we took some exams. We only stayed there for about ten days. Then we were sent down to Miami Beach (Florida) which was the Air Force Basic Training, the Army Air Force Basic Training at that time.

When I Enlisted, I indicated a preference for the then-branch of the Service called Tank Destroyers. But as things happen in the Army, they sent me to Air Force Basic. Despite my admonition that I was supposed to be a tank destroyer, they said "No, you are in the Army Air Force."

Apparently, after the exams that we had taken down at Fort Dix, I qualified for or was selected for, a Weather Observer school. I was sent to Chanute Field Air Force Base (Rantoul, Illinois), took a short course in weather observation, became an accredited Weather Observer, and was sent down to Blytheville Army Air Force Base in Blytheville, Arkansas. I performed Weather Observer Duties for a short period of about three months or so.

I was selected then for Overseas Shipment Processing through (@4:20 name unclear) Field, Utah and to Camp Anza, California where I was put on a Troop Ship, but we did not know the destination at that time. It was the USS Hermitage which formerly was the Conte Blancamano, an Italian luxury liner. Although it did not have any semblance to a luxury liner when they put us in those holds. It rather stank and was crowded in the quarters they had in the below decks.

We arrived at Karachi, India. It was only then we realized we were headed for the China-Burma-India area. We were transferred to another Troop Ship that was Her Majesty Ship, Ascania which brought us up to Karachi, India and we were billeted out to the (@5:26 unclear location) desert in a place called (@5:27 unclear). From there, as Weather Observers, we were broken up as a Unit and dispersed to various Weather Stations throughout India.

After about a year and a half as a Weather Observer, I was able to take advantage of a request by the then, but now defunct, Office of Strategic Services. They were looking for people to assume various Missions behind the Japanese Lines. Being a Weather Observer at that time, they thought they would like to establish Weather Stations in the rear of the Japanese.

I volunteered for this along with six or seven other individuals. We were sent down to Ceylon to a particular place called Camp (@6:19 unclear). We were trained down there in various aspects that we would need to operate on our own and in a denied area. We were trained in rudimentary communication. They taught us to be able to send and receive twenty words a minute in Morse Code, how to use a TR-1 (first Transistor Radio), and the hand generators.

They taught us a bit about weaponry. Not only ours, but weapons that we may come across. We were taught a small amount of medical abilities. Generally, how to treat people based on symptoms such as, not as opposed, but diagnostic type of medicine.

A large part of our training was Jungle Navigation. I personally liked demolition so I got quite a bit of training in Demolition work. We had other training areas, such as Observation, how to tell different aircraft and Navy ships and so forth. To identify them should we be in a position to observe them.

Q: Excuse me a second, who did most of this training? Were they Americans, or did you have the British training you?

CG: We were trained by a cross-section of individuals. There were some British people who were on the Staff, there were American civilians, there were American Officers. One of the civilian trainers that I remember, not very well. There was a fellow by the name of Eric Lindstrom (@8:21 spelling?) who was a Swede who had fought in several Wars, if you will, in various parts of the world. Sort of a soldier of fortune maybe. He was particularly adept at Jungle Navigation. We spent a lot of time with a compass and a map in our hands going here or there on the Island of Ceylon.

Eventually, they did insert us behind the Japanese Lines. Our Mission, since our training had become very extensive at that time, and very much varied.... I suppose what you might find going on in the Special Forces areas today, we went from just going in as a Weather Observer to various and much broader Missions.

Looking over some documents I had a couple of months ago, I remember one that charged us with looking for, and possibly preparing an air field for an American Group to come in and release Prisoners of War. We never got to the point of where we actually had reconnaissance the Prisoner of War Camps, but that was in our Mission. We were on our way toward that end when somebody dropped an Atom Bomb on Japan and we were relieved of any further aspects of that Mission. After that, things happened rather fast as you are well acquainted at the end of World War II to take the Military back down to a bare minimum.

Q: Can I go back for a second? What was your reaction to the nuclear bombing dropped in Japan?

CG: I had a very selfish reaction because, at that particular time, the Japanese had been aware of our presence. Our Unit consisted of myself and another American, and two Burma Riflemen that were sent behind the Lines. We had probably recruited and armed about three hundred Quaran (@11:07 spelling?) Tribesmen in pursuit of some aspects of our Mission and we had been a little bit of a thorn in their sides.

They reacted to this by sending forty-five dogs and nineteen hundred Line Troops down to see if they couldn't eradicate us. We had pulled off a couple of ambushes and I'm sure it made them a little bit upset by killing some of their (@11:35 unclear) Officers that had been set up to look for us.

I'm skipping over an awful lot of things that happened every day there that we could talk for two days about. I'm just giving you the general broad brush gist of what happened. If you have any specific information you would like, please break in and ask. But since these people were looking for us, and we knew they were "D-F-ing", alright "Directional Finders" using a method of triangulating radio signals that we were sending out radio messages, and were receiving air drops.

And by triangulation I mean they would pick up our radio signal from Point A, and another Unit would pick up our signal from Point B, and then they would shoot out a line, and wherever that line crossed would be where our transmission would supposedly be coming from. As I said, our communication tools were much more rudimentary then as they are today.

To answer your question, I was kind of elated that they had taken me off the hook because I felt that with the amount of pressure that was being put on us, it would have been pretty touch

and go as far as we were concerned over the next maybe thirty days. Whether we would have been able to come out of it or not I thought was a very highly debatable question. So, I probably owe my life to the Atom Bomb being dropped. That's from a selfish standpoint, I was pretty happy when it happened.

Q: What were your living conditions like? Did you have anybody resupplying you at all? Did you live off the land, what did you do?

CG: We took in a minimum amount, obviously, of food stuffs. We had provisions to be resupplied by air. This always didn't happen. Normally, we would get an air drop about every three or four weeks. In the meantime, we had two sources of food. One was a native (13:56 unclear) that we were recruiting and growing a hilltop-type of rice. Not in the rice paddy as we are used to seeing, but they just grew it up like you would wheat on the side of a hill. So we had some food sources from them. And of course since they were living there, they had food, but not very much.

We did a little hunting. I took the pains to bring a silenced twenty-two high standard automatic with me with twenty-two ammunition and I was able to supply our people with monkey meat quite a bit. So we lived off of monkeys for about a month as one of our main food sources.

One of the things that had been included in our Training at Camp Y and the Island of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) was Jungle Survival and some of the things we learned there helped a little bit. Not as much as you might think. Not like you could just run off into the woods and live off the land, but it did help. But we were able to augment our supplies a little bit from that.

Q: What about tropical diseases, like Dengue Fever or Malaria? Did you have any problems with that?

CG: Yeah, I contracted Dengue Fever. And, where it is kind of at a loss now, I think I first came across it about a year ago for the first time since I was in World War II. Dengue Fever I had before I went in. I kind of took to the Medical Training when we were being cross-trained and all these different aspects of our work.

I became the Medic and brought a little Medical Kit with me, which proved invaluable to some extent. This was before the days of penicillin. You didn't have penicillin. One of the things that seemed if not prevalent, at least obvious down there were these large sores and carbuncles (staph infection) that would break out on people.

When I came back, they put me in a hospital I had a couple of them. The doctor diagnosed it as GOK. I asked "what's that?" he said "God Only Knows". But we had sulfur salves and sulfur dolomite powder to use on open sores. I was able to use that to treat some of the villagers. One of my patients was the Headman's wife, or mother rather, scratch wife. He became very beholding to me because I had cured his mother of this big, painful carbuncle-type of sore she had.

So all of those little things helped because the (@17:14 unclear) were a hill-tribe of people who were probably not too far removed from probably the Headhunter stage. They did not have a real high value of life. A lot of people were being killed for various political reasons, and personal reasons. Some people thought they were getting too close to us and maybe incurring our favor or some maybe thought it would be politically expedite if they didn't have

anybody else that was going to be able to help us and reap any reward, whatever that would be in the future.

Q: Now where was this that you were exactly?

CG: Okay, we jumped into Burma along a place called the Innochichong (@18:05 spelling) Where the Innochichong (chong meaning river and the Midlaug Chaung (@18:13 spelling) met. That was the general area. Now this area is down in the Archipelago of Burma and Thailand, the Malaysian Peninsula south of Rangoon by about two hundred miles I would say.

We were quite far behind the Japanese Lines because they could not drop us with the normal aircraft. They had to put us in a B-24 (Consolidated/Liberator) and use different techniques to get you out, get your equipment dropped than normally. It wasn't the traditional hook-up (Cornelius demonstrates with his hand held up in the air), stand in the door and watch the green light go on and go out. They had to take a little bit more pains, they could only drop two of us at once. Then they had to come back and drop our supplies which made me a little bit nervous because I didn't want the plane to criss-cross in a particular area when you went in. That's another story. They made two or three attempts to drop us. And when they did drop us, they dropped us in the wrong place, with the wrong equipment, all of that sort of thing.

I do have an Interaction Report of that particular Mission if it ever comes to the point where you wanted a lucid date on it. I could bring a copy down. I don't know if I mentioned in addition to World War II, I have already served in Korea and I have served in Vietnam, and I had orders for Desert Storm.

Q: Oh yes, when you have finished your discussion of World War II, we will just keep on going.

CG: Well, I can wrap the discussion up rather quickly because after the Atomic Bomb was dropped, we were evacuated or extricated. They sent what looked like a PT (Patrol Torpedo) Boat, but it was a Bridge High-speed Motor Launch down and picked us up at a set of coordinates, that they radioed in to us and said they would meet us on the shore.

We were evacuated from Rangoon, we had lunch in Rangoon, then back to Calcutta. From Calcutta we were flown back down to Ceylon where as members of the 404th OSS (Office of Strategic Services) Detachment, under Lord Louis Mountbatten. So they were returning us to our Home Base.

I only stayed there for about a week, then was given orders to go back to Calcutta and was flown back. I was put on a ship where I was at the race track, a place they call the race track outside of Calcutta. A large depot, just processing people. Getting them on ships, sending them back. After a twenty-eight day voyage, we landed in New York City.

We were sent down from New York to Fort Meade in Maryland where I was discharged. I was put on a train and the whole thing happened so fast you didn't hardly have any time to know what was happening. They just wanted you out of the Army because they had to cut the Military down at that time. I guess we had about fourteen million people and they had to get about twelve million of them out real fast.

At that particular point I just wanted to get back to civilian life. I didn't feel that I wanted to stay in the Military at that time. I think one of my main objectives was to get home and sleep

in my own bed, or any bed. (laughter)

Anyway, I was discharged in October, the 11th I think, in 1945. From the time they had dropped the Atomic Bomb in August you can see it wasn't very long. Not much happened, administratively, to us or anything.

I think they put me in for a couple of medals. I never heard any more about it and I suspected the people who received the requests were probably on the same boat that I was on going home. That was probably was something very acceptable to both of us.

I came back in October, 1945 and in January of '46 I re-entered Sienna College. They took me back in, they were very nice. They were very amiable to taking anybody back in that had been in the Service and giving them a chance at their education. The G.I. Bill was prevalent. We were all taking advantage of that. I took advantage of the G.I. Bill, I studied at Sienna until 1949 -50 and received a Degree. From there I went down to Georgetown University (in Washington, D.C.) and continued my studies down there and was in the School of Foreign Service in Georgetown when Korea started.

It was sort of deja vu all over again, what am I gonna do now? I considered going back at that time, I suppose it was a patriotic feeling whether I thought it was my duty or what. I thought I should go back. I had been discharged as a graded Sargent, and a Staff Sargent in the Reserves. I received a Second Lieutenant's Commission while I was down at Georgetown. I had applied for it.

I was recalled to Active Duty. The dates are going to be a little bit hazy here but that would have been about early 1951. I was sent to Fort Holabird, Maryland probably because of my O.S.S. involvement which was being considered as Intelligence at that time. As you know the O.S.S. was to become the C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency) and other portions of it was to become the Special Forces.

A small part of the Mission was transferred to the State Department, but we sort of claim lineage in both the Special Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency.

So I was sent to Fort Holabird which was in the Intelligence school and enrolled in Counter-Intelligence Specialist or Specialty. I went through the Basic Training there. They probably felt I needed to learn a little bit more about the Military so they sent me to Fort Benning, Georgia for about six months. I completed the Officer's Course at Fort Benning.

I was returned to Washington, D.C. as a Counter-Intelligence Special Agent and served with the 116th for a short time. Deja vu again, I was sent out to Camp Stoneman in California in preparation for Overseas shipment. I wound up in Japan as a lot of Second Lieutenants did with all the Special little Mess Officer, Accounting Officer, Pay Officer -type of jobs. I was there for a short time.

I was then sent to Korea where I was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division. I served with the 7th Infantry Division for approximately a year while they were on the Line. That co-incided with the end of the Korean Conflict. As the Peace Treaty took place, I was relieved of Duty with the 7th Division and sent to the 1st Marine Division and assigned the duty of looking into the Prisoner of War Exchange.

We interviewed and obtained information on all the Prisoners of War coming back, and tried to obtain information on those that were known to be Prisoners but hadn't been serviced as a result of the Panmunjom Prisoner Exchange.

I came back on a ship, still interviewing the individuals that were recently released Prisoners, ours. I filed reports when we arrived in California after some administrative details were taken place. With the release of the Prisoners we were given Leave. I returned to Albany, New York where I was living at that time.

My next Assignment was in Newark, New Jersey and Trenton, New Jersey as a Counter-Intelligent Specialist wearing civilian clothes now, going around performing background investigations or whatever security aspects that we were involved with.

The Counter-Intelligence Corps, in those days that your probably understand – the Members were Special Agents that wore civilian clothes and charged with investigation of certain crimes like treason, espionage, sabotage, subversive activities, and the security of classified information. I spent some time at the Field Offices in Newark and Trenton. By this time I had been married before I left for Korea.

Q: What year did you get married?

CG: My wife's gonna kill me. (laughter) In 195....., we've been married for about fifty-two years. Your math is better than mine! But I do know we were married and had a child in Newark. Mary Jo (@30:27 spelling?) who still resides with us and recently yelled at me just before I left the house today.

From Trenton, I was sent out to the Presidio of Monterey in California which was in the Army Language School. I studied Chinese Mandarin for fifty weeks out there, we had two weeks off. So it was approximately a year's course.

Q: I've got two questions about two individuals, you probably weren't over there when he was there but how did you feel about MacArthur and his relief by President Truman?

CG: In Korea?

MR: Yes.

CG: I felt Truman was right because I felt that obedience in the Military was something that can't be ignored. MacArthur obviously ignored and was not paying attention to the chain of command. I didn't like the way it ended. I would be hoping he would, as old soldiers do, go away in the end in a glorified way. But I felt Truman was very justified and had no other recourse at that time. I think Truman attempted to go in the other direction very, very much. But he just had his hands tied and MacArthur did not give him any breathing room. He had no one particular body to blame really, except himself.

Q: At a time when you were doing background checks and so on, another controversial figure, how did you feel about Joseph McCarthy?

CG: When I was in New Jersey, I was involved in the surveillance of some of the principles in that case. Cohn, the lawyer (Roy Cohn- McCarthy's Chief Counsel) that you may remember from those days. A fella that was the son of the hotel magnate who was in the Army whose name began with an S (Mike makes an attempt to guess) but Cornelius replies

“Close but no cigar” and Mike says “I just can’t remember his name”. It’s a famous name in the hotel business, but him, and a couple of more individuals, that I was involved with surveillance detail. I don’t really know that much about it except that I was writing reports of where they were, at what time, and who they were talking to and that type of thing.

Q: Ok, so let’s continue.

CG: Okay, let’s see, I was in New Jersey huh? I went to the Presidio, after that I was given an assignment to go to the Far East again and served in Japan, Okinawa and Korea. A sort of a myriad of jobs. When I got to Japan, I was assigned to the 442nd Counter-Intelligence Corps Unit, a billet in Tokyo. As jobs came up, it seems like I was a fireman over there. We were moving Atomic weapons back into Korea.

Q: What year was this approximately?

CG: About 1955 or 56, in there. I should have brought a chronology of dates. But we moving an Honest John (short-range surface to surface tactical ballistic rocket) Atomic Rocket Battalion and a large cannon that was Atomic-capable. This was against the tenets of the Cease-Fire that we had signed which said nobody would bring in new and additional weapons and so forth. So that was kind of like a security-type walk we were running.

I was assigned as a Security Officer for the then 100th Rocket Battalion. In fact, I think we got the designation while we were moving, as the 100th rocket. I don’t know what happened to them. I don’t see them on the Army’s list anymore. It was a Nike or Honest John- type of unit, and we did have the War-head with us. We were Atomic-capable.

So we went over there, and got set up there. Once that was completed and they were there and set, I was relieved from my Intelligence Duty there and sent back to Tokyo. I was then sent with the Special Forces. I suppose having had Jump-training and being Jump qualified and so forth, they might have selected me for that reason.

The Special Operations Detachment-Far East, which was in fact was Special Forces but not using that designation were being sent down to Okinawa. I was sent down with them as part of the movement down to get them settled. It sounds like I might have had a lot to say or do about things, but actually that was not the case. I was just assigned and told to do this job or that job. That’s all that happened.

I got them settled in Okinawa, and was sent back to Tokyo.

By this time, a lot of my time had expired on my Tour and I was then sent again back to the United States. Again, to the 108th CIC Detachment that was headquartered in New York City, but my Duty Station was in Syracuse, NY and again back into civilian clothes and pushing doorbells as we used to term it. Running background investigations, and so forth.

I spent a year or so in Syracuse and was then sent back to Fort Holabird, Maryland for about the fifth time. They kept sending me back for short courses on this or that. But this time, they sent me back for a year-course in Advanced Intelligence Operations. So I spent a year in Fort Holabird. Upon graduation in fact I stayed over and took another course in something they called Field Operations which was vetting individuals that would go into a denied area to obtain information and that type of thing.

Q: Now what years were these, in the late ‘50’s or early 60’s?

CG: This would have been early 60's. At my request, and having quite a bit of Overseas Service in the Far East, I asked if I could be sent to Europe. Just as a matter of personal preference. My assignments in the Far East had been a little bit jumbled up in as much I was being moved every once in a while. I could not have my wife and daughter with me. So I felt that would be a little bit more of a stable Tour over in Europe. So they assigned me to Headquarters- 5th Corps in Frankfurt Germany where we enjoyed a four year Tour. A lot of sight-seeing type travel around Europe.

@40:00 **voice** says "we're gonna stop the tape"

@40:05 resumes **MR:** You said the Reaction Report from Burma, and some things we could copy and put into your file

@40:17 **voice** says "okay, we're good"

CG: Are we rolling yet? Okay, so four years in Europe with a lot of Field Operations and exercises with Headquarters -5th Corps because we were then kind of chomping at the bit with the Russian Cold War Syndrome being on. Check Point Charlie (symbol of Cold War in Berlin where Soviet and American tanks briefly faced each other at border) was in the news every night. They were building walls to segregate us in Europe that we knew were there. They were divided and subdivided into different areas: British, French, United States or the Russians.

Q: Were you still working in Intelligence when you were there?

CG: I had an Intelligence assignment in the 5th Corps, yes. But I was in uniform, not undercover in civilian clothes while I was in Europe. I concluded my Tour over there as a Head of an MI (Military Intelligence) Detachment at a Corps level Unit, 5th Corps to be specific. I had some interesting experiences over there which I'm not sure we should go into at this particular time. And they may still be Classified so I can't speak to that unless I find out a little bit more of what I'm doing.

We were returned to the States and I was sent out to Albuquerque, New Mexico where I was assigned to an organization called DASA, Defense Atomic Support Agency. This was nothing more than The Atomic Weapons Program. I did a couple of years there and was involved in Military Security more than Intelligence.

Another aspect of Counter Intelligence was the Security of Classified Information. So I was involved with the Weapons Program and took a couple of courses out there at a place called Sandia Base. There were a network of Bases that were involved in this Program and I did a little bit of traveling back and forth.

Both as part of an Inspector General Inspection Team, and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Security Advisor for Protection of Classified Information and Materiel. While I was at Sandia my wife and I enjoyed it out there very much. We liked New Mexico I received Orders for Vietnam and was sent over and assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry.

Q: What year was that?

CG: Probably about 1964 or '65, maybe into '66. Again, I apologize for not having these

dates at the tip of my fingers. I served as the Commanding Officer of the 541st MID, which was a portion of an assigned Unit to the 11th Cav. Just about everything the 11th Cav had was on tracks, except we had wheeled Jeeps with machine guns on them.

I almost said we had a good year in Vietnam (laughs) I don't know if we had a good year. And you can't use enjoyable either, what word can you use? I suppose I can say a beneficial year there. I felt as if we were doing something that was in the overall scheme of things, beneficial to mankind. I thought we were, at that point in time preventing the subjugation of a large portion of Southeast Asia.

Although it might have been politically advantageous to us to do that, it was also personally advantageous to us because we were on the right side of the ethical and moral questions. That was my approach to Vietnam. I'm sure that was not universally shared back here in the United States at that time. I thought we were doing a service to the people in South Vietnam in keeping those who wanted to stay free, free.

They all didn't like us obviously. There were those that I am sure were ready, willing, and able to shoot us if they had the opportunity. But in any event, the normal things would happen in a combat situation. You ran your Reconnaissance Patrols, you ran your Ambush Patrols, you did what you had to do. One thing I did not agree to was I thought when you took land or territory, you should keep it. But that was not the case in Vietnam. You took it then you went someplace else and then you came back and would try to take it all over again the next day.

I never really understood that particular concept. I wasn't too happy with that concept because I didn't like casualties. One of my aims was to prevent as many casualties on my own people as we could. That was first and foremost in my mind at all times. Even if you had to hold back a little bit.

I came back from Vietnam, and now I am assigned to the 113th CIC (Counterintelligence Corps) Detachment with Duty Station in Detroit, Michigan. I stayed there until August of 1968, at which time I felt, now I had for retirement purpose about twenty-seven plus years in the Military. I felt this was the time to get out and get another job and prepare myself for a second career. And also, give my wife and daughter a little bit more stability. They had been great troopers putting their stuff on moving vans every time I came home with a smile on my face and said "Hey, we're going to....." you know. (laughs) They put up with that, so I figured I owe them a little bit.

I returned here, near to the Albany/Watervliet, NY area. Within a month I was lucky enough to be picked up by the then Atomic Energy Commission. I stayed with them for about four or five years until they came out with a program saying you could not receive two pensions from the government. So I was forced to leave them. I took a year off and traveled in Europe with my daughter to give her a little bit of a sophistication.

I came back and was picked up by General Dynamics. And again, because of my association with the Atomic Weapons Program I got picked up by Admiral Rickover and his Navy Nuclear Propulsion Program. I was sent up to the (@49 unclear) site for the SAG Project where I was the Security Administrator, and all the jobs you don't want-Labor Relations, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), everything you get in trouble with, they

gave me. They were nice enough to give me a retirement plan when that job concluded up there. So that brings you kind of up to date. Since that time I have been kind of working for my wife, doing what she tells me to do. (laughs)

Q: That is probably the hardest job you've had!

CG: It's the worst job I've ever had, my efficiency reports are terrible. I get no vacation, no pay. My mission is changed four or five times a day! Gentlemen, I don't have any more to add.

Q: Do you think your feelings about our presence, our mission in Vietnam have ever changed?

CG: Overall, no. I don't know that anybody can say they like any of the wars they have been in. I think you would be a different type of cat if you say you enjoyed a war. Or you wanted to be in a war. But we have had five hundred wars since World War II of various types. There are probably four or five going on in the world today. I don't know how you get away from this extension of politics, which is the Armed Forces. And the employment of the Armed Forces as an extension of politics. It would be nice if we could, but I have no way to tell you that is ever going to happen.

Q: Well, thank you very much. I think this was a very fascinating interview. Do you have any other things you might want to add?

CG: Gee, I think I talked for quite a while.

Q: We don't want to turn the camera off and have you think of something else.

CG: Well of course, when you are going back over an extended period of your life, and you are trying to recall things in sequence, and you are a little bit like I am – ill prepared it wasn't as war-gameness as I should have. I hope that it made sense with enough continuity there.

MR: What experience do you think of your long career in the Military was the most memorable to you? Or was it the overall experience most memorable?

CG: The Military, of course as everyone knows, has so many facets of life in it. Just as a civilian community has. The Military has doctors, lawyers, Indian Chiefs. They have veterinarians, architects, engineers. They have everything that you can point to in civilian life. It is duplicated in the Military.

So whatever your background or experience is going be, by nature it has to be very myopic. It has to be centered down as to where you were and what you were doing. An Infantryman might feel, or a Special Forces person might feel this is the way things are. And as I say, it is very myopic.

I have always been interested since the Military in the Intelligence aspects of our Government. What we have been doing, how we have been doing it, and whether we had been doing it as well as we should be doing it. I suppose that's because of your background and how your associations with various things have gone.

I feel that I was lucky in the Military and I was able to have a very wide breath of experience. The Military, I thought was a good choice, if even as I sit here today I'm never going to become rich being a soldier. But you are going to gain a lot of other things. You are going to gain from your experiences, your associations.

I came away with the thought that I was probably associated with the highest type of constituents of fellow human beings while I was in the Army that I will ever be associated with. Not only from an intelligence standpoint, or an academic standpoint, but from an ethical and moral standpoint. That may sound like something that someone may want to challenge me on, but that is my true experience with the members of the Military. By and large I will put them up against any segment of the human race that you can look at. But it has been a long time too.

The one thing I did not mention, at some point in time when Desert Storm was going on, they sent me Orders with an Assignment to Fort Drum (New York), complete with MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) and all that. They never took effect because the bottom line was I was told to be prepared to move in seven days from the date you receive the telephone call, or a telegram. They did call me a couple of times just to verify I was able to be contacted. But I never got any further than that and I'm not sure the Army would have been too happy with my physical abilities for Desert Storm! (laugh)

Q: Do you belong to any Veterans Associations?

CG: A lot of them. I am active in the North Albany American Legion Post. I don't hold any office, but I'm active down there. I belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I belong to any number of organizations affiliated with groups that I had served with. I mentioned Bob Burns, I belong to the China/Burma/India Theater Group. I belong to the 11th Armored Calvary Association and have gone to a couple of their reunions. I belong to the 7th Infantry Division Association. I belong to what is now the Society of OSS. It used to be The OSS Veterans, but there's not too many of us left I guess. Probably a couple more that I can't think of. I'm not active in any of them. I send them my dues and let it go at that. Yeah, I've got the Burma Star Association over in England, I belong to The Burma Stars.

Q: Have you maintained contact with any of the people you served with?

CG: Minimally, there are just a couple of people that are still with us. A fellow down in Miami, Florida worked for the Miami Herald, I've exchanged phone calls with him at Christmas time. But it's "how are you? how's the wife?" that's it. I don't have any ongoing contacts. A few that I had with people I felt were very close to me have passed on.

Q: Okay, well thank you very much.

CG: Okay.....[Cornelius raises his cup to camera.]