Army officer, 1918-49; campaign advisor to Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1951-52.

[The Eisenhower Library staff has noticed several instances in which names have been misspelled in this transcript. In this finding aid the spelling used in the transcript is given, with the correctly spelled name noted in brackets immediately following.]

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1 [Sept. 23, 1970; pp. 1-24] Ancestry. Career of father Alexander S. Clay, U.S. Senator from Georgia: his attitudes on sugar trade, annexation of Hawaii and other possessions; relations with other senators; Georgia politics; Negro suffrage; financial investments; farm property; will and estate. Clay’s mother; family life in Marietta, Georgia, and Washington, D.C. Prohibition. Clay’s early schooling; sports; engineering school; assignment to Europe after World War I.


Interview #3 [Oct. 12, 1970; pp. 62-89] Ancestry. Comments on Civil War service of ancestors; his father’s schooling and marriage; ages and descriptions of Clay’s siblings. Clay’s appointment to West Point; trip to the Academy; comments on life as a cadet; promotions of graduates; comments on various classmates and instructors; discipline; Clay’s studies in math; efficiency reports; Clay’s interest in field artillery vs. engineering; Engineers School; problems of married cadets. Clay’s marriage to a Catholic; how he met his wife; dating. First assignment to Camp Humphreys, Virginia; work as an instructor; Camp Lee, Virginia; assignment to Engineers School. Living conditions on base; engagement to his wife and first home.


MacArthur and Eisenhower as commanders of occupation forces. Problems in transportation of supplies by Services of Supply.


U.S. contributions to Germany: German economy, parochial schools. Clay’s return to U.S. and retirement.


[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Jean Smith, 1970-71]