



2005

Interview with Elijah Cobb

Elijah Cobb

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LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

COBB, Elijah

COBB, Elijah

Enlisted: 1942

Interviewed: March 15, 2005

Interviewer: Avella Michelle Knowlin

Indexed By: Bailey Stewart

Length: 00:43:43

Abstract: On March 15, 2005, Elijah Cobb's granddaughter, Avella Michelle Knowlin, interviews him about his past experiences in World War II. He also adds information about where he worked and what he was involved in within the companies he worked for. He mainly worked for an Engineer Headquarters Company in the Army, and after getting home from being in the war he worked for smaller companies within his town of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Keywords: World War II, Headquarters Company, Georgetown, South Carolina, African-American, Army, South Pacific, Japan, Papua New Guinea

Interview Session (00:43:43): MP3 File

Time

- 00:00:00 *Start of Interview/ Interviewer's Introduction*
- 00:00:05 *Question:* Where was the interview with Elijah Cobb? *Answer:* Elijah Cobb's interview was on March 15th, 2005 at his home in Georgetown, South Carolina by his granddaughter, Avella Michelle Knowlin.
- 00:00:36 *Question:* What branch of service did you serve in? *Answer:* Cobb served in an Engineer Headquarters Company, which was a black company.
- 00:01:12 *Question:* Where did you serve? *Answer:* Cobb served in the South West Pacific, which is the New Guinea.
- 00:01:20 *Question:* Were you drafted or enlisted? *Answer:* Cobb was drafted and was living at his home with his parents at the time.

- 00:01:48 *Question:* Were you able to pick which service branch you wanted or did they pick? *Answer:* Cobb was not able to pick, they picked it for him. He was drafted into the Army and was shipped out after a couple of days.
- 00:04:20 *Question:* Were you nervous about going straight into the Army and being shipped just a couple of days after? *Answer:* Cobb did not get nervous because he did not pay attention much, so he didn't know much about what he was doing.
- 00:04:48 *Question:* Did you have to go to a boot camp or training? *Answer:* Yes, Cobb went to boot camp and was very excited to start in his service. He stationed in Japan, in the South West Pacific in the first couple of days. Cobb got through boot camp fairly easy.
- 00:07:30 *Question:* Where did you go when you served in World War II? *Answer:* Cobb served in South Pacific and went on a ship. There was around 15,000 men on the ship. The ship was parked in the middle of the ocean and he and others were not allowed to leave the ship at any time.
- 00:10:35 *Question:* What was your main job? *Answer:* Cobb's main job was being a soldier and marching with the other men on the ship.
- 00:15:40 *Question:* Were you ever a prisoner of war? *Answer:* No, Cobb was never a prisoner of the war. But he did receive awards and metals.
- 00:16:05 *Question:* Did you ever keep in touch with your family back home. *Answer:* Yes, Cobb sent his friends and family letters, during the war and his time working.
- 00:18:25 *Question:* Did you ever have down time to relax and enjoy a few things? *Answer:* Yes, Cobb and the other men had time to relax and play a few games here and there while not in battle.
- 00:19:15 *Question:* Were you ever on leave? *Answer:* Yes, Cobb was on leave and he left and went home to spend time with his parents, other family and friends.
- 00:21:00 *Question:* Where did you travel the most? *Answer:* Cobb traveled all through the United States, and he also went to Japan.
- 00:30:40 *Question:* How long were you in Japan? *Answer:* Cobb was over there for 15 months and he first went in 1942.
- 00:31:37 *Question:* When you went home after your service ended, did you go to work or school? *Answer:* When Cobb got home, he went straight to veteran's school, which is supported by his service.

- 00:37:40 *Question:* Did you work anywhere at home after the war? *Answer:* Yes, Cobb was working at the Dave Company and other smaller jobs around this time.
- 00:40:12 *Question:* Have you ever been to any reunions for your company? *Answer:* Yes, Cobb is involved within a reunion for veterans around his town in Georgetown, South Carolina.
- 00:41:00 [no question] Avella and Elijah have last minute conversations before end of interview.
- 00:43:43 **End of Interview**