

## **MG George M. Gelston (Class 51-43)**

General Gelston began his military career by attendance at CMTC camps at Fort. Eustis, Virginia, in 1929 and 1930. He enlisted in the 113th Collecting Company, 104th Medical Regiment in July 1931, remaining with the unit until 1 December 1933. On 28 July 1942 he volunteered for active duty, and when he graduated from Officers Candidate School received a commission as 2nd lieutenant on 11 February 1943. He next attended Liaison Pilot Training, was rated as Liaison Pilot in July 1943, and assigned as Liaison Pilot for the 351st Field Artillery Battalion. He was promoted to 1st lieutenant in November 1943, transferred to the 351st Artillery Group as Group Air Officer in May 1944, and was promoted to captain in October 1944. He went with the 351st Field Artillery Group to the European Theater of Operations, in December 1944, participating in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns, and on VE Day was with the Group in Czechoslovakia. In July 1945, he was assigned to the 16th Major Port, LeHavre, as Air Officer operating air courier service. He returned to the United States in February 1946, was promoted to major in March 1946 and later released from active duty.

General Gelston joined the Maryland National Guard on 14 April 1947 as major with assignment as Division Artillery Air Officer for the 29th Infantry Division. He was reassigned as 29th Division Air Officer in February 1948. In December 1948, he was made S-4, 175th Infantry. In 1956 as a lieutenant colonel, Artillery, he was assigned as commanding officer and organized the 684th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, which was part of the on-site Air Defense of the Baltimore-Washington area, serving simultaneously as State Air Defense Officer for Maryland. In 1958, he organized, and in the grade of colonel, commanded the 691st Artillery Group (Air Defense).

In August 1960, General Gaston was made Commander of the State Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Maryland National Guard, and in June 1962, he was promoted to the State grade of brigadier general. He was appointed Assistant Adjutant General of Maryland and federally recognized as a brigadier general on 1 June 1963. Appointed Adjutant General on 1 January 1966 and federally recognized as major general of the Line effective 29 March 1966.

Decorations and Awards: American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two stars; World War II Victory Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 10-year device; Maryland Service Medal with 15-year bar.

The Maryland National Guard armory in White Oak was named in his honor.

MG Gelston died on February 17, 1970.