

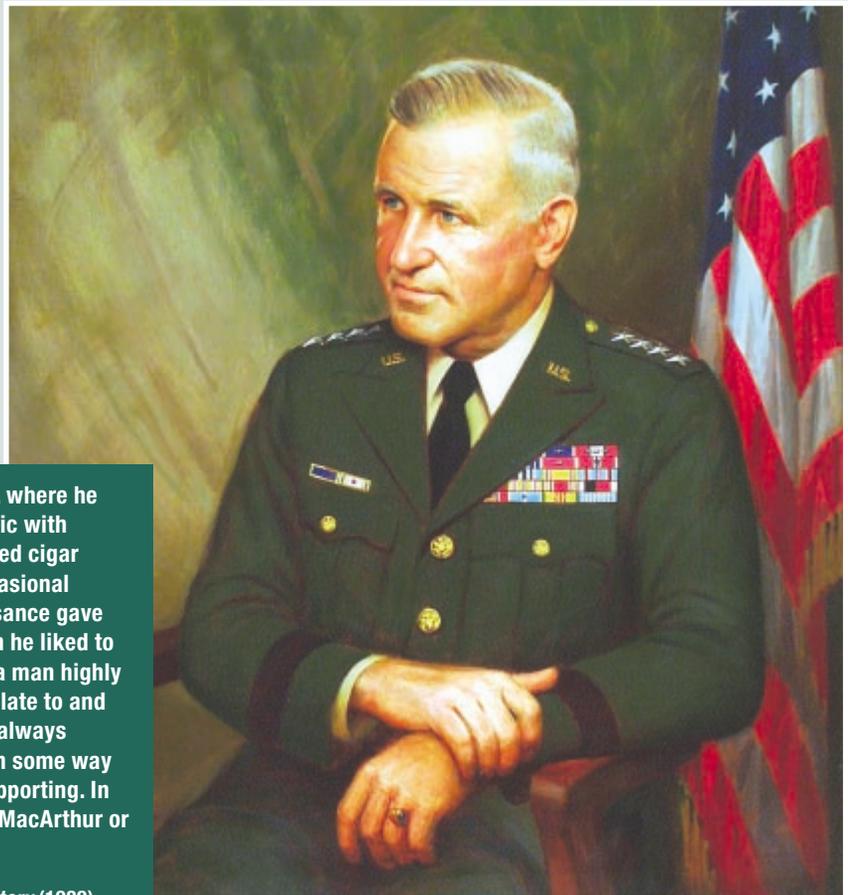
# General Creighton Williams Abrams, Jr.

(1914–74)

Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

## VITA

**B**orn in Springfield, Massachusetts; graduated from U.S. Military Academy (1936) and assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (1936–40); company commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division (1941–42); battalion commander, 37<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment (1942–43); commanded 37<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion and Combat Command B, 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division (1943–45); served on Army General Staff and with war plans section, Army Ground Forces (1945–46); director of tactics, Armored School (1946–48); attended U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (1948–49); commanded 63<sup>d</sup> Tank Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (1949–51); commanded 2<sup>d</sup> Armored Cavalry (1951–52); attended U.S. Army War College (1952–53); served successively as chief of staff for I, X, and IX Corps, U.S. Army Forces, Far East (1953–54); chief of staff, Armor Center (1954–56); deputy assistant chief of staff for Reserve components (1956–59); assistant division commander, 3<sup>d</sup> Armored Division (1959–60); deputy chief of staff for military operations, U.S. Army, Europe (1960); commanded 3<sup>d</sup> Armored Division (1960–62); assistant deputy chief of staff and director of operations, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (1962–63); assistant chief of staff for force development (1963); commanded V Corps (1963–64); acting Vice Chief of Staff and Vice Chief of Staff of U.S. Army (1964–67); Deputy Commander and then Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (1967–72); Chief of Staff of U.S. Army (1972–74); died in Washington.



U.S. Army Center of Military History

Abrams spent considerable time in Germany, where he developed his appreciation for classical music with which he relaxed after busy days. His clenched cigar (of good quality), determined scowl, and occasional outbursts of profane rage over some malfeasance gave the image of a tough, fighting tanker—which he liked to project. Beneath this surface, however, was a man highly sensitive to subtleties, particularly able to relate to and respect allies of different backgrounds, and always willing to take a secondary position . . . if it in some way could advance the cause his country was supporting. In short, he was more the Eisenhower than the MacArthur or the Patton.

—William Colby, *Last Victory* (1989)

Portrait by  
Herbert Elmer Abrams