

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Nimitz Education and Research Center  
Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview With

Arlie Ray Horn  
Beaumont, Texas  
February 19, 2016  
29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division  
Army Special Forces  
D-Day

Mr. Misenhimer:

My name is Richard Misenhimer, today is February 19, 2016. I am interviewing Mr. Arlie Ray Horn by telephone. His phone number is 409-892-6169. His address is 5320 Rosemary Dr., Beaumont, Texas, 77708. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War, the Nimitz Education and Research Center, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

Arlie, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Now the first thing I need to do is read to you this agreement with the museum to make sure it is okay with you.

*"Agreement Read"*

Is that okay with you?

Mr. Horn:

Yes, I don't know nothing about the Pacific war though, I served in Europe.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The museum is dedicated to the Pacific War but for our oral history project we cover Europe we cover Pacific, we cover the home front, anything to do with World War II

Mr. Horn:

Okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the next thing I'd like to do is get an alternative contact, we find out that sometimes several years down the road try to get back in touch with a veteran he's moved or something. Do you have a son or a daughter or someone we could call if we needed to, to find you?

Mr. Horn:

I have a daughter here in town. I have also a son that lives in Houston

Mr. Misenhimer:

Either one, whichever one is better you think.

Mr. Horn:

Well it's my son.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, what is his name?

Mr. Horn:

Arlie, same as mine

Mr. Misenhimer:

He's junior?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you have a phone number for him?

Mr. Horn:

281-782-9141

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you have an address?

Mr. Horn:

He sold his home, but his office is there. So I don't know what his address is, I don't even know what his office address is, really. He owns his own building in town.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Alright, hopefully we'll never need that, but you never know. Now what is your birthdate?

Mr. Horn:

9/24/1924.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where were you born?

Mr. Horn:

Magnolia Springs, Texas.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what were your mother's and father's first names?

Mr. Horn:

My dad's name was Jackson, J-a-c-k-s-o-n.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And your mother?

Mr. Horn:

Lenora, L-e-n-o-r-a B-e-l-l-e. Lenora Belle.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Horn:

Had six brothers and four sisters.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were any of your brothers in World War II?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah, all of us was in World War II except one.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Are any of them still living?

Mr. Horn:

I got two of them still living, the younger ones, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The ones that were in World War II, you still have two of those living?

Mr. Horn:

Just one.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I'd like to get his name and phone number and interview him.

Mr. Horn:

Well I can't do it, he lives in Louisiana. I don't know what it is, I'd have to look it up.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, well what is his name?

Mr. Horn:

Dan, D-a-n.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Dan Horn. Now you grew up during the depression, how did the depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Horn:

Well, I didn't know we was in a depression (*laughter*). We didn't have a whole lot of anything. but you know we had all we wanted to eat. We raised it on a farm.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You lived on a farm you say?

Mr. Horn:

Uh-huh.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Was your dad a farmer?

Mr. Horn:

Yep.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have a garden?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have cows or chickens, that sort of thing?

Mr. Horn:

Had all, we had chickens, hogs, cows, horses. We had it all.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you had plenty of food then?

Mr. Horn:

Plenty of food, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Horn:

Kirbyville, Kirbyville, Texas.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And when did you graduate there?

Mr. Horn:

1941.

Mr. Misenhimer:

In May of '41?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you do when you graduated?

Mr. Horn:

Worked for my dad most of the time. wasn't nothing else to do. I was too young. I got out of school too quick.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, it's '42 when you graduated

Mr. Horn:

Yeah, right.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now on December 7, '41 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yes, very definitely.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how did you hear?

Mr. Horn:

Some of our friends that I grew up with was in the river bottom hunting. And I went down there, had to walk about three or four miles, they were spending the weekend down there or whatever it was. And I walked down there and while I was there someone else came and said that Pearl Harbor has been attacked. That's how I found out about it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And when you heard that, how did you think that would affect you?

Mr. Horn:

Well it just changed our whole way of thinking. You know we being attacked and well I looked around and we just saw each other. everybody 't seemed like ready to go to war.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So when did you go into the service?

Mr. Horn:

In July of '43.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So what did you do in that year between high school and going into the service?

Mr. Horn:

I worked for my dad just on the farm and different little jobs.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you went into the service were you drafted or did you volunteer?

Mr. Horn:

Drafted.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what branch did you go into?

Mr. Horn:

Infantry.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Army Infantry, okay. And where did you take your basic training?

Mr. Horn:

Mineral Wells, Texas. Camp Wolters.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about that, what all happened in basics?

Mr. Horn:

It was seventeen weeks of basic training and it was very, very hot, I'll tell you that during that time. It was in the summertime.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What all did you do in basic?

Mr. Horn:

Just learn how to shoot a gun, which we already knew. But nevertheless, we had to learn how to shoot Army guns and so forth. Other than that and trained and got ourselves in good shape physically.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have a lot of marching?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yes. We had twenty-five mile marches, more than once.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have the obstacle course where you crawled under the machine gun shooting over you?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yes.



Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that?

Mr. Horn:

That didn't bother me too much, but it kind of gets your attention, I'll put it that way.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were your drill instructors pretty tough on you?

Mr. Horn:

Uh yes, pretty tough, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you live in there?

Mr. Horn:

Lived in barracks.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how was the food?

Mr. Horn:

It's pretty good. At that time they served us, a table, used to set the food on the table and they had KPs, kitchen police, you know served the tables. But before I got out of the basic training we went through like you go through a cafeteria, you go through with a plate and get your food and go back and sit down.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Anything particularly you recall from your basic training?

Mr. Horn:

Not really, it was really hard. Well hot weather more than anything else. Very definitely hot, it was ooh!

Mr. Misenhimer:

Hotter than where you grew up, huh?

Mr. Horn:

Yes correct.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you finished basic then what happened?

Mr. Horn:

I came back home for about four or five days and from there I went to Fort Meade, Maryland.

From that point there went to Scotland.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How d'd you travel to Fort Meade?

Mr. Horn:

Train.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that train trip?

Mr. Horn:

It was brand new to me, I'll put it that way.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You've probably never been that far from home before.

Mr. Horn:

That's correct.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you do in Fort Meade?

Mr. Horn:

I didn't do anything except waited till they got a boat load of people to send overseas. That's what we did, we didn't do any training at all while we were there. Wasn't there that long, about two weeks I think.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And so when did you depart to go overseas?

Mr. Horn:

I don't remember the date, but it was, I guess it was sometime in December or somewhere in that time frame?

Mr. Misenhimer:

What ship did you travel on?

Mr. Horn:

Oh, I want to say St. Mary or something like that. I don't remember the ship right off hand, I don't, I really don't.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of ship was it?

Mr. Horn:

It was a regular ship, it wasn't a commercial ship. It was a regular ship that they people sailed around the world on, you know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Ocean liner?

Mr. Horn:

Ocean liner, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What were the accommodations like on the ship?

Mr. Horn:

Real good, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And where did you go overseas?

Mr. Horn:

Went to Scotland. Went from there to England.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What all happened, just go ahead and tell me what happened when you got over there.

Mr. Horn:

Well I went to Scotland and then to Land's End, England. And I was put in Special Forces there and that's where I trained at Land's End. And then I was shipped to..., started the war. We trained about, I don't know four or five, six, eight months there at Land's End and we got on a ship and crossed the channel.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about Special Forces. what was that?

Mr. Horn:

Oh, it's kind of like the Green Beret or whatever you want to call it, something like that. We had a little green thing under our..., I had it on my sleeve, little patch.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what kind of training did you have for that?

Mr. Horn:

Very, very tough. Tough, tough, tough.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What were some things you did in the training?

Mr. Horn:

Well we shot some more guns and did all kinds of maneuvers. we mostly trained at night.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was the purpose of the Special Forces?

Mr. Horn:

Well they had special assignments, got into combat.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of special assignments would they be?

Mr. Horn:

Well go out and catch somebody at night and go behind the lines and get someone and bring them in for interrogation and so forth.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you were trained along those lines?

Mr. Horn:

You got it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when did you go across the English Channel?

Mr. Horn:

June the 6<sup>th</sup>, I was in the landing on June the 6<sup>th</sup> in 1944.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, D-Day.

Mr. Horn:

D-Day and I'll tell you while we're talking about it, the beach I landed on was Omaha.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you travel over on?

Mr. Horn:

LST. I got off the LST just before we got there and got on a LCVP. kind of had a front, you could let down the front and get off that way.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Just go ahead and tell me what all happened there.

Mr. Horn:

Well when we left England on the LST it was midday on June the 4<sup>th</sup>. And we crossed over and the next thing I knew we turned around sometime during the night, it wasn't but about twenty-five miles across the channel. Anyhow I didn't know what was doing, boat came back out and next morning I looked, I said, "Hey we've been here before." I said, "This is another dry run." But anyhow that same day, we never got off the ship, turned around that evening on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June and we was over there on the morning of June 6<sup>th</sup>. And we got off of those, it was so rough, when we got off of the ship, we had to get off on rope ladders to get on the LCVPs to land, there were so many obstacles in the water we couldn't go in no closer on the LSTs. And so we

got the LCVPs. And from there on it was walk right in to gun fire.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Could your LCVP go all the way to the beach?

Mr. Horn:

No. No, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How far out were you?

Mr. Horn:

I don't know, we got off in water about waist deep.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then you had to wade in from there?

Mr. Horn:

That's correct.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me just what all happened, go ahead.

Mr. Horn:

Well it shot a lot of our people, in matter of fact I've been told this. I think it's in history books.

that 1200 people were killed that day out of my outfit, the 29<sup>th</sup> Division.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What division was that?

Mr. Horn:

29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Misenhimer:

29<sup>th</sup> Division, okay. Keep going, what else happened?

Mr. Horn:

Well it took us all day to get up the hill to the little place called Vierville. Not no hill, get up on the beach that's it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Keep going.

Mr. Horn:

And from there it was, you know when we got off we got reorganized again, kind of, because we were all mixed up. A lot of people, so many different things happening. We finally got together and we started pushing towards Saint-Lô. And the hedgerows was a big problem, we finally got some tanks up there and they couldn't help us none. They couldn't get over the hedgerows until someone invented something to punch two holes in a hedgerow. A hedgerow is a fence, a dirt fence about six, eight feet at the base and seven, eight feet high. And that called for a demolition crew to blow up the hedgerow where a tank could get through. And when they did that here come the artillery, the Germans to see where that smoke was coming from to start dropping artillery shells on us. So a lot of people were killed just trying to go through the..., in that area right there very first thing.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah those hedgerows were very bad.

Mr. Horn.

Yep, yep.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Horn:

Well we started fighting out trying to get to Saint-Lô, that took us forty, forty-four days I believe to get to Saint-l ô. A lot of people were killed, a lot of them wounded. And the weather was not conducive to fighting. You know in the infantry there's no place to lay down at night except on the ground or in a fox hole. It was raining a lot and cold and anyhow. The first forty-five days were pretty bad, exactly. It was the worst I think of all the war we had. When we took Saint-Lô then we had an open run of the country after that. That gave us a lot of leeway they could go in. so.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you first landed there, did you do anything in the way of Special Forces, things special, you know?

Mr. Horn:

No, they had shown me all the gun emplacements, but everything was so disorganized I didn't do anything other than try to get up on the beach.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now the article in the paper I saw mentioned that you had a friend, Jack Harris. Were you there together on the beach?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah, he and I were together.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well then what happened when you got to Saint-Lô?

Mr. Horn:

Well when we got to Saint-Lô we went through Belgium, Holland and then we turned around and went back down to France and took the Breton Peninsula, Brest, France. And that was another battle down in that area. It was a pretty good battle at Brest. Then we got out of that, we went on into Germany.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Keep going.

Mr. Horn:

We had to fight, now we wasn't riding, we had to fight or walk or run most of the way up there, so all that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Horn:

Well I got shot in Brest, France. And I got shot in the chest, it come out under my armpit. The



guy was about ten feet from me and shot me. He was laying down in the gate. And I went back to the hospital for a few days. And I come back up on the front line and fought on and fought on and fought on. And then we got into Germany and fought through Germany. I got shot again. I got shot three different times.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you get shot the second time?

Mr. Horn:

In the buttocks. I was laying down and the guy was up in a building. He saw me, shot me right in the buttocks. But it didn't require no real..., just I got patched up and stayed on the front lines. Just kind of ripped my butt up, but other than that I was okay.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How about the third time, where was that?

Mr. Horn:

In the leg, in the leg. My right leg.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of a wound was that?

Mr. Horn:

It's pretty bad wound, but I got over that too. I went and got it all wrapped up and day or two off and back on the front lines.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you went back every time?

Mr. Horn:

Every time. None of them was all that serious, I'm talking about like when I got 't in the chest they just missed the most important thing, my heart. The bullet came out under my arm.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you were shot by a rifle or what?

Mr. Horn:

Rifle, rifle yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Wasn't a machine gun?

Mr. Horn:

No, no machine gun.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when y'all left the Omaha Beach area going in, you had to fight all the way across France. is that right?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah, our first obstacle was Saint-Lô. We took Saint-Lô after we broke the Germans back. That was where we broke their backs. From there on in it was just we had the run of the whole country.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was the worst opposition you had?

Mr. Horn:

Well it was hard to take the town, you know when we take the town we'd have to clean out the houses. I'd say that would be the worst thing. We were under something facing fire, gun fire all the time. That was day one until the war ended. That and artillery shells. Other than that, that's basically what happened. And then they sent me home for thirty days. I came back to Beaumont, Texas for thirty days. I went back up from battle and spent thirty days here in Beaumont. I met my future wife and we corresponded. When I got back we got married on 2/22/46. Went back to the war and was there the rest of the time over there. Then I came home. Went to Mississippi over here and tried to build our country back. That and I'm here now.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Horn:

I came home after that, you know I told you I took the..., I'm one of the very few people to ever come off the front lines. I got the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and all the. Bronze Arrowhead, all the medals. And I had a lot of combat time, so they sent me home for a month. I came back here and then I went back up on the front lines until the war ended.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now about what date did you come home?

Mr. Horn:

It was in early December. Didn't have to be at the base until after Christmas and I got ready and went back.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you were not there for the Battle of the Bulge is that right?

Mr. Horn:

I was at the Battle of the Bulge. just before it started I had gotten to Paris when the Battle of the Bulge hit. And they kept me in Paris for about a week until they stopped the Battle of the Bulge and then they let me come on home.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then about when did you get back?

Mr. Horn:

I got back in the latter part of January, '45.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then what happened?

Mr. Horn:

Well we fought a little bit more but not all that much. We fought up to the Elbe River, the military boundary. And sat there and waited for the Russians to take their part of the country over there on the other side. And then from that point on we just went to training again for like we was going to have to start another war.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And then what happened?

Mr. Horn:

I don't remember anything happening except we just had to kill time, that's most of it. Had all the Germans on the other side ahead of the Russians, we let them come through our lines and we took all them. They come across the river, the Germans did, so they surrendered to us. And then I was put in charge of moving POWs from Bremen, Germany all over the country at 2500 a load, on a train load. And when that was over with I stayed as long as I could then. but I had to be on a list. I got out with the 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. They came home and I got out with the 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was October the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Horn:

1945.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When Germany surrendered on May the 8<sup>th</sup>, did y'all have any kind of a celebration then?

Mr. Horn:

No.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you do?

Mr. Horn:

Well we didn't even realize it. They just..., before they surrendered we thought it was over with before they declared war ended. We was on one side of the river and the Russians on the other side. The Elbe River, E-I-b-e, Elbe River.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what did you do from the time the war was over until you came home in October? Or when did you come home, in October?

Mr. Horn:

I came home October the 18<sup>th</sup>, '45.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, that's when you got discharged?

Mr. Horn:

I got discharged, that's correct.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what did you do from May till October?

Mr. Horn:

Well I stayed in Europe. After the war ended and my parents', my momma's people is from Denmark, I looked and tried to find some of my relatives. And of course I was in charge of moving POWs. So that took up most of my time doing just that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

In that article written up you mention that you and Jack Harris had been back to back sometime with some fighting, tell me that story.

Mr. Horn:

Well I don't like to talk about the killing people, but you know that's a... anyhow. I had a couple of people in my outfit that was captured and they went on a patrol and got captured and they shot them and killed them, the Germans did. And we found them about two days later, when we took the ground, we had to try to move forward all the time. And we made a vow that we never would surrender, we would die first. And so we became blood brothers. He was my second in command. I was the platoon Sergeant. I was over forty something people. And I'm nineteen years old and I've got forty-four people under me.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You and he were back to back in some kind of a battle, is that correct?

Mr. Horn:

That's correct. We were surrounded and it looked like it was the end for us, but we finally made up our minds we're going to shoot it out. So we got back to back and started shooting. Got

away with it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And that's when you became blood brothers? Tell me about becoming blood brothers.

Mr. Horn:

Well we were sitting down before, way before that, for two or three weeks or so before that. We had found two of the guys that was in our outfit that had been killed, murdered. They'd been captured and they killed them, you know. And we saw what they had done to them and so we decided, I told him, I said, "I'm not going to surrender, ever." And he said, "Me either." I said, "Okay." I picked up a little... , off my bayonet, stuck it in my finger and a little blood come out and he did the same with his. We touched fingers, we gonna fight till we die. That was that. We made that agreement and both of us lived.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now you mentioned you had a couple of nicknames that the people called you. What were those nicknames?

Mr. Horn:

Spearhead and arrowhead.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And how did they come up with those names?

Mr. Horn:

Well we lead everything. We weren't supposed to but we didn't ask nobody to do anything we wouldn't do ourselves. so... You know if you have something to do, I'd always say I wasn't supposed to do it myself. but they would say I want you to go on a patrol tonight and see what's happening, take somebody if you can. and so forth and so on. And they'd say if you don't go, I'll go. There was only three of us to go at one time at night because why have all of us killed at one time. We'd go out there three at a time and do what we had to do and come back. at night. And every once in a while we'd bring a prisoner back with us.

Mr. Misenhimer:

This article that I read was about you getting the French Legion of Honour, tell me about that.

Mr. Horn:

Well I got a letter from the Consulate General from France. Wanted to award me that medal. He wanted me to come to San Antonio to do it. So I went to San Antonio and he personally pinned it on my chest in San Antonio, Texas. And I told him then, I said, "I've got a friend of mine that fought just like I did, he needs to be awarded the same thing." Everybody ought to got one, but I said, "For especially him." So they sent the medal and then they wanted me to go up and present it to him in Beckville, Texas. I did that about three, four weeks ago. That's where you got that picture I guess of us.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, right. And now when they were awarding yours, said there was a fly over of airplanes?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That was quite a ceremony, right?

Mr. Horn:

Oh it was, it was all the dignitaries, all the big wheels.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you were overseas and you're fighting there, what would you consider your most frightening time?

Mr. Horn:

I really don't know it. I tell everybody I never did get scared but one time. It lasted from the time I got there until I left.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When what?

Mr. Horn:

I said I used to tell all my people that I never did get scared but one time. It lasted from the time

I got there until I got out of the Army. *(laughter)*

Mr. Misenhimer:

One time, okay.

Mr. Horn:

Oh it was one thing the good Lord blessed me with is I didn't show fear. I don't care how bad it was and thank the Lord for that. I didn't show fear. So that was a plus. So many people would break down and you know cry when they're in battle and it looked like we're all going to get killed and so forth. But nevertheless we made it. It was a real experience, put it that way.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you think of the medics?

Mr. Horn:

I had one in my platoon, you know I had a medic. But he was never on the front, right up on the front you know, he stayed behind where we called him if we needed him. And we needed him a lot of times, it was tough. Patch yourself from time to time, you know getting shot through an arm or something like that, or a leg or whatever. Artillery shrapnel hit you, knock a hole in you and not too bad just enough to get taped up pretty good and then move on.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was the morale in your outfit?

Mr. Horn:

Real good.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When Japan surrendered on August the 14<sup>th</sup> did you all hear about that?

Mr. Horn:

Uh yeah, uh-hum.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Any kind of celebration then?

Mr. Horn:



There was celebration then, we were still in Germany, had a good celebration.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What all did you do?

Mr. Horn:

Drank some vodka. *(laughter)*

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Russians?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah I did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was that?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah. We met the Russians at the Elbe river and we crossed the river, wasn't supposed to. But went across, had a boat there, the Elbe river is about like the Mississippi, big big wide river. We crossed the river in some boats, little old boats, and caught up with them over there on their side.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were they friendly enough?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yeah they were friendly.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever hear Axis Sally on the radio?

Mr. Horn:

Uh-uh, I never did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you hear of her?

Mr. Horn:

Well I heard of her, yes. I never did hear her, no

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when they dropped the first atomic bomb, did y'all hear about that?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah I heard about that, yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And what was the reaction when you heard?

Mr. Horn:

I was proud of Truman for taking that action I'll tell you that right now. They were trying to kill us and it's like when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor they were over here making peace and they flew out, left the country and bombed Pearl Harbor you know. And that's what really aggravated me, I didn't shoot no Japs. I wasn't in that area, but it didn't bother me to kill people who were trying to kill us, I'll tell you that right now. And I still don't. I wasn't shooting nobody, I don't plan on shooting nobody but if it comes down to that, what the heck. If you're trying to kill me, I'm gonna kill you if I get a chance

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now April the 12<sup>th</sup> of '45 President Roosevelt died, did you all hear about that?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yeah. Matter of fact, I voted for Roosevelt that last term. They brought the thing up on the front lines, the thing to vote with. First time I ever voted a ticket like that. It was at night, they brought it up at night. Brought the ballot up and I signed it and they took it back. And it wasn't long he died after that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What would you consider your worst day?

Mr. Horn:

I'd say the worst day would be D-Day Getting on the beach. Or maybe taking Saint-Lô, I don't know which would be the worst. Every day was bad. put it that way. Every day was bad, if you're in battle. You know we had to keep moving forward all the time, we had to take the fight

to them. They were already set up, had gun emplacements. So we had to take it away from them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now when you got out did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Horn:

I had a lot of trouble, I did. I just couldn't sleep, had my problem at night. I had a lot of problems with that. I got married and I just had a lot of problems. But I worked through it and got through with it and I did pretty good. I worked for Mobil Oil thirty plus years, all over the world, Exxon Mobil.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you use your G.I. Bill for anything?

Mr. Horn:

I used that G.I. Bill to go to school on. I sure did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go to school?

Mr. Horn:

Over in Louisiana at Ruston, Louisiana. Worked and go to school too, so it was **hard** but I did it. Went to night school.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you major in in college?

Mr. Horn:

Planning Engineer.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Now what ribbons and medals did you get?

Mr. Horn:

I got the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Bronze Arrowhead. That's for landing on D-Day. that Arrowhead, a small medal that goes on your ribbon. And of course I got three Purple Hearts and

I got a whole mess of medals I came home with. The ones that made all the difference were the Silver Star and the Bronze Star.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How about Battle Stars, how many Battle Stars did you get?

Mr. Horn:

Four.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you had any reunions of your outfit?

Mr. Horn:

No, I never have. I kept up with one guy, Jack Harris. I've kept up with four different people, they're all gone now. And he's still here, but he's got Alzheimer's now.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was the highest rank you got to?

Mr. Horn:

Tech Sergeant, three up and two down on the stripes on my arm.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have you been on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.?

Mr. Horn:

Yeah, I was sent up there not too long ago.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that?

Mr. Horn:

Good.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's a good organization I think.

Mr. Horn:

Yes, very good. And I enjoyed it, of course I served in the Texas Silver-haired in the Legislature

for two terms. I served two terms in the Texas Silver-haired Legislature and two terms in the National (Silver-haired) Congress in Washington. D.C.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well let's see, what else do you recall from your time in World War II?

Mr. Horn:

Gosh, I don't know, I don't remember. I don't remember anything specific other than I was just trying to make it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you get home from World War II with any souvenirs?

Mr. Horn:

No, I brought one pistol home that's it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You still have it?

Mr. Horn:

I gave it to my son.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see any USO shows?

Mr. Horn:

Oh yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Who all did you see?

Mr. Horn:

Bob Hope two or three times, I know twice he was. Had to walk about fifty miles to see him one time. I was in England then.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Horn:

Nah, I never had no dealings with them. I sure didn't.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see that sign, "Kilroy was here?"

Mr. Horn:

I've seen that sign, yes. "Kilroy was here."

Mr. Misenhimer:

It was everywhere.

Mr. Horn:

Yep.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is there anything else you've thought of from your time in World War II?

Mr. Horn:

No, but I'll tell you what there's a guy that lives in their area down there, that I know of him. I think I've met him, but I've learned about him. Let's see....

Mr. Misenhimer:

Well Arlie that's all the questions I have unless you've thought of something else

Mr. Horn:

Well thank you so much, Richard. It's a pleasure talking with you and God bless you.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Thank you. Well thank you for your time today and for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Horn:

Thank you.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Thank you, bye now.

Mr. Horn:

Bye, bye.

*(End of interview)*

Transcribed by:  
Gayle Misenhimer  
Harlingen, Texas  
April 20, 2016

Oral History by:  
Richard Misenhimer  
P.O. Box 3453  
Alice, Texas 78333  
Home: (361) 664-4071  
Cell: (361) 701-5848