



Harold Henry Horstman

World War II
U.S. Army, Europe
103rd AAA AW Battalion
Battery C

Staff Sergeant

Harold Henry Horstman

Veterans
History
Project
Transcript

Interview conducted
June 19, 2014

Niles Public Library
Niles Public Library District
Niles, Illinois

3 1491 01189 7000

Niles Public Library District
6960 Oakton Street
Niles, Illinois 60714
(847) 663-1234



Niles Public Library District

Veterans History Project Transcript

Veteran: **Harold Henry Horstman** Rank: **Staff Sergeant**

Branch of Service: **U.S. Army** Theater: **World War II – Europe**

Unit: **103rd AAA AW Battalion Battery C**

Interview Date: June 19, 2014, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Place: Board Room, Niles Public Library

Equipment: Philips Digital Pocket Memo Recorder

Interviewer: Neil O'Shea

"This Veteran's History Project is being conducted on Thursday, June 19th, in the year 2014 here at the Niles Public Library. My name is Neil O'Shea, and I am a member of the Reference Staff, and I am privileged to be speaking with Harold Henry Horstman. Mr Horstman was born on November 30, 1917 in Grand Island, Nebraska and now lives in Morton Grove, Illinois. He has kindly consented to be interviewed for this project and here is his story of service during World War II." (interviewer's words)

Note: Mr. Horstman's wife, Bette, is also present during the interview and she addresses him as "Hal."

Mr. Horstman, do you recall when you entered the service?

Against my father's wishes, I was 19. I was sent to the Cavalry. (Veteran's words)

So they still had horses then?

Yes, they still had horses and I rode the same horse for 2 years.

I'm just curious what was the horse's name?

Jupiter

Good horse?

Good horse. I enjoyed taking care of him at the end of each day's ride. I had to - before I could go and take care of myself.

You had chosen to enlist in the Army on your own, then?

Yes.

So you were already serving in the Army when the war broke out?

No, I had been in the Philippines before the war broke out. I was discharged just before the war broke out and then I re-enlisted again.

Did you have the opportunity then to get back into the Cavalry?

No, there was no Cavalry then. It was all mechanical.

At that time were you still living in Nebraska?

No, I was then at Fort Meade, South Dakota, Troop F of the 4th Cavalry.

(Later, in conversation, Mr. Horstman would mention that he had served with the 4th Cavalry troops providing a Presidential guard for President Franklin D. Roosevelt at a dedication at Mt. Rushmore. Note: The Abraham Lincoln figure was dedicated on September 17, 1937, and the Teddy Roosevelt figure was dedicated was on July 2, 1939.)

Did you have an occupation at that time when you came out of the service that first time or were you able to secure employment or a job somewhere?

No. I didn't have a job.

When you re-enlisted was that in South Dakota?

No, that was Nebraska. Now, my father was proud of me; taking me into town and introducing me to everyone, as his son in the Calvary.

Did you choose the Army?

Yes.

That was what you wanted to do?

So you were inducted in Omaha?

That's where I finally went to get sworn in.

Did you find that the Army had changed much going from a peace-time outfit to a war-time outfit?

Yes, quite a bit. Men had different goals and many resented the army.

Now even though you had already been in the Army did you have to go through basic training again?

No, in fact I was a Private. I was sent to Ft. Sheridan where I helped train the new recruits.

So then from Nebraska you wind up at Ft Sheridan...

When I enlisted they told me, I could have three choices. I could have everything I want. So I said, "Why do I have to give you three choices? I want to go back to the Philippines."

They sent me to Ft Sheridan which I didn't want. I was in a Kentucky National Guard Unit which I didn't want.

So was that interesting, working with the gentlemen from Kentucky, a change of pace?

It was fine. It finally turned out they were alright.

Then after Ft Sheridan did you have go anywhere else for training?

Well, I went overseas in 1942.

So was that North Africa?

No, we went into Northern Ireland first. We didn't go to North Africa until November. I went over in April, 1942, so from April until November we were doing more or less training all the time in Northern Ireland.

Was it a dangerous crossing at that time, going over in the troop ship?

Yes, the U-Boats were out looking for us. I went over in the Aquitania, which at that time was the fourth largest ship.

Did you get sea-sick?

No, not that time.

When you were in Northern Ireland doing the training, did it seem that the time passed slowly?

No, actually it kind of went kind of fast.

Do you recall where you were stationed in Northern Ireland at that time?

We were at Stormont Palace in Northern Ireland - that was the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland's estate. And that's where I learned to play golf. I also played later at the Old Course, St. Andrews.

Yes, they have excellent golf courses.

We could get a pass to go to the golf course but we couldn't get a pass to go into Belfast so we went over to the golf course and there were old gentlemen who let us use their clubs.

That wasn't the Royal Down Golf Club?

No.

A beautiful golf course, they didn't use lawn mowers to keep the grass down; they used sheep.

So you enjoyed your time in the Northern Ireland.

Yes, so we were there in 1942 from April until November and then we went to North Africa.

And at this time do you recall what unit you were in?

103rd Antiaircraft Battalion, Special Weapons. And don't ask me how I remember that (chuckle).

I'm sure it made an impression. Now Special Weapons, does that suggest that you received special training.

After we got through training in Ireland, I had a 20-man unit with a half-track with a 40mm Bofer and a half-track with quadripule 50 caliber machine guns and a single machine gun.

From Northern Ireland then did you go to England?

No, we went to Sicily.

So you were in the invasion of Sicily, wow.

That was the first invasion, I don't know how long.

At D-Day we went four days after D-Day. When we went in Sicily, we went in at H-Hour plus 20 minutes - we were 20 minutes after the first wave.

Were you under the leadership of General Patton at that time?

I was sometimes which I didn't like. I didn't like him.

Why?

Well, one reason was when he slapped that man in a hospital.

You heard all about that.

Yes.

And then when we were in Sicily. After the campaign was over, I was walking out to my gun and I was carrying my leggings in my hand. The car stopped on the road and Patton fined me for being out of uniform. Then we had to do close-order drill. He was something else.

At that time what would a fine be, that would be a deduction from your army pay?

Yes, 15 bucks – that was a lot of money. If there were 3 men in the cab of a truck, he gave a fine.

So \$15 that might be what you would make in a week?

Well, a Sergeant made \$54 a month.

So you were a Sergeant at this time. Were you promoted when you were in England or Northern Ireland?

No, we took the train from Ft. Sheridan, when we left, we went to Indiagap Town, Pennsylvania, and then on the train to New York and they made me from Private to Sergeant.

Mr. Horstman, you're wearing a Bronze Star cap today. Where did you receive your Bronze Star?

In Germany.

So the Allies take Sicily and then from Sicily do you sail to France or Italy.

We went to back to France to re-organize.

On D-Day I went in 4 days later, 4 days later after the first wave. It was still something.

So you're probably going through those hedgerows in mechanized vehicles.

You talk about hedgerows, and some of the people here think it's a group of hedges. Some of those hedgerows were 20 feet across where they kept building dirt and up.

I recently interviewed a veteran who came in after you did. He went through France but he didn't think the French people were that nice.

I thought they were nice but the best people that I was treated by were the Belgians. But the French treated us nice.

Perhaps, this a stupid question, were there many times when you were really frightened?

Yes, you all do. You're human.

So when you're progressing across Northern France and Belgium, were you involved in the Battle of the Bulge, in the Ardennes Forest?

No, I got out before then. I was wounded in November, the 11th, of 1944, just before the Battle of Bulge so I missed that.

Where were you wounded?

In Germany.

Was it bullet?

No, it was a concussion, a back injury from the bomb blast. I was blown on to a hedgerow. *(Note: Mr. Horstman's Enlistments sheet with chronology indicates he was also wounded previously.)*

So then were you sent to the Military Field Hospital?

First, I went to the field hospital, lying on a stretcher strapped to a jeep. I went to a hospital in Paris that we had taken over. It was a maternity hospital that the government had taken over. Then I went to one, La Haye-du-Puits that's on the French peninsula, then to England, then Long Island and from Long Island I went to Texas. I was in the hospital almost 8 months.

Wow, 8 months to recover from that severe back trauma that was caused by the concussion. That concussion was caused by a bomb or shell?

A shell. We were having heavy shelling and I was going up to the gun and that's the last I remember.

Was the shell an 88?

Yes. To me that was the best gun in the war. You could use that for anti-aircraft, anti-tank, infantry they'd use it for everything. All you have to do is to change the shell.

So you came out of the service in 1945?

Yes,

Were you released in Chicago?

No, I was released at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

They probably gave you a railway pass or fare to get back.

They give you travel money to get back home.

Were you able to stay in touch with some of your buddies from the Army?

We did, stayed in pretty close touch. We had 3 reunions. The last one was 1970. The man who was responsible for the reunions passed away, and nobody took over so 1970 was the last reunion. We had one here in Chicago, one in Pittsburgh and one in New York.

And this was the 103rd Anti-aircraft, special weapons?

Yes.

Pardon me for hopping around; do you recall where in Germany you were injured?

Yes, just right before we got to Cologne between Aachen and Cologne

When you came out of the Army, was it hard for you to get a job?

I didn't try right away. I was getting 60% disability.

So you always remember World War II, everyday.

One of things I remember in Germany before we took Aachen. They were dive-bombing, our planes, you could see the bombs going right over our heads. We were that close to Aachen.

Were there any other incidents or experiences that stand out in your mind, any situations that were funny or unusual?

I don't remember them, but when we had the reunions all the funny incidents used to come up. You forget about the other ones. You might remember somebody that was killed.

So you saw a lot of combat. Is there anything general description you could make about being in combat that people might not realize or understand.

It is hell. But you do what you have to. That's the way it goes.

One veteran told me that it is just chaos, completely chaos.

One time when we were in Sicily, we were on a ridge just beyond the beach and we had our gun position there. One day looking out, we could see the two plains. There were only 2 plains in Sicily. Medina and Gela. We were at plain of Gela. All our troops, we could see them; they were coming back. It was so funny. We had to take our quarter millimeters. Usually we had armor-piercing, weren't detonating and tracers in it so we had to take everything out but the armor piercing and load our gun with armor piercing. All the shell which we couldn't have knocked off one of those tanks anyway. But it was just funny, all it once they started going back again.

Were you impressed by any of your officers?

Yes, I had some real good ones and I had some lousy ones too.

I think the best officer I had was out in the cavalry because they were all outdoor men, the officers, rode the horses and everything. They were the best officers.

At the end of the war officers would go to Officer Candidate School. They'd send them over there and they didn't know from shinola.

So when you're back home and feeling a little better, did you join any of the veterans organizations?

I've been a member of the American Legion for 69 years. I also belong to the VFW and the Disabled American Veterans.

You made an Honor Flight.

Yes, in May, 2010.

That must have been a wonderful experience.

That was the best day of my life. It made you feel like you really did something. When I got discharged from Texas, I got the bus and went back to Nebraska. It was nothing. It was like you went to the store or something and came back. That trip really made you realize what you had done.

It is amazing the debt that the United States and the world owes to your generation because you had to fight on two fronts and project American power across all the distance. I don't know what the world would like be without "the Greatest Generation."

The other fact, it seems to me, is that all these vets, most of them, had a good high school education.

I had 9th grade.

Well, you had a good 9 years of education. It seems that the American army went from almost nothing to millions of men from all over the country.

The Sergeants in the American army made the army. When I went in, there were 180,000 men in the Army. We got more than that scattered around the world today. It was the Sergeants who did the training.

When I got in, I trained the 52nd Training Battalion - which is Torrey Pines Golf Course now, up on the mountain right out of La Jolla and after the 52nd, I organized the 57th. Hell, I didn't do it alone. I helped organize the 57th and trained Selective Service there. We were training Selective Service and after the training period, we were making the best men Corporals. They didn't know enough to be Corporals, but you had to have them to keep the lid on.

I had a Captain, Captain . . . , I can't think of his name, he was writing a book, "Blundering to Victory" and I wish he had finished it. Teddy Poe! He taught school at Millersberg Military Institute. I think it was in Kentucky, 'course he was a Kentuckian.

Some of the Kentucky men were good fighters.

I had never any trouble after they adopted me I guess. I'll give you a good example. When we went to Ft. Sheridan, on the top floor they had a '22 rifle range. And if you weren't from Kentucky, I never fired anything .

I think we might be coming to the end of the interview, and there are always two questions that they recommend that we ask the veterans. And in your case, you've already anticipated this a little bit. Mr. Horstman how do you think your service and military experiences affected your life?

I don't know. I think you learn a lot. It sure as heck doesn't hurt anybody to serve. If you're going to be a bad person, you're going to be a bad person whether you're in the service or not. You can't blame the service for anything. And I enjoyed it.

You must have it because you were in '36.

If I hadn't had the medical discharge, I probably would have stayed in.

I wonder if you would have wound up in Korea.

Probably. Or if I had stayed in, I might have wound up in Viet Nam.

And then Mr. Horstman, has your military experience influenced your thinking about war?

Yes, I think there is a lot of useless fighting going on. And some of these countries, they get their arms probably from us and Russia, and then they use them against us.

Mr. Horstman, is there anything you would like to add that we have not covered in this interview?

I think he should tell you why he was bounced from Sergeant to Private eight times.
(words of Bette Horstman, his fiancé who was also present during the interview)

No, not that many times.

Oh, pardon me.

Mr. Horstman's wife, Bette, has just suggested that her husband might mention why he was demoted so many times.

Well, a few times, they'd take advantage of me. The funny part is, even when I was a Private I always did the Sergeant's job. Like one Colonel said, "I'm going to break you, you're down, but you're not out."

Was there a tradition of military service in your family?

No, in fact, I was the first one to go in.

Did you have brothers or sister who served?

My brother went in and a nephew went in.

Did they all go in the Army?

My brother went in the Army. He fought, he was on the Burma Road, a combat engineer.

And my nephew was in the Air Corps in the South Pacific.

It's funny, when I joined the Army, I was just 18, and you had to get your parents' signature so my dad wasn't going to sign for me. Finally, one of my brothers talked him into it so he said, "You're no son of mine. Don't ever come home." The first time I went home, he takes me all over and says, "This is my son; he is in the Cavalry."

Dads are like that.

He came over from Germany when he was 10 years old. He had no use for the military.

So even though they demoted you, they needed you. They raised you up again.

That's the first time anyone has mentioned about the importance of the Sergeants in building this Army to go overseas and the effective mobilization.

Yes.

So you must have had a good Sergeant who trained you.

Very good. I was trained first as Selective Service in the Cavalry. And then I trained Selective Service myself. I trained recruits in the Philippines. I trained recruits in the Cavalry after I was promoted.

So on your first tour of duty with the Army you went to the Philippines to train?

No, I was in the Cavalry then. And then in 1938, I went; I was in the Philippines, 1938 to 1940, the 52nd Coastal Artillery.

The Philippines must have been warm at times.

I didn't notice it. I think I just acclimated myself to any climate I was in.

I think that must be a wonderful talent for a soldier.

I know in South Dakota I had mounted guard a lot. We had bearskin coats that everybody wore because it got pretty cold there and we still had to ride a horse.

So when you were out there in the Philippines in 1938, did you sense there was any danger coming out there?

Yeah, but I don't think we figured Japan. In fact, we spent a month on guns on special duty. In the Philippines I was on a little island in Manila Bay. I think there was 109 men there. We had enough men to take care of one gun. But we had two 14" guns, two 12" guns, two 6" guns. We had eight 35mm breech positions, machine gun nests, and all we could care of was the one gun. They just let the Army go.

"Why did they take care of just one gun?" asks Bette.

Well, it took that many. The 14" you had four men to load the projectile in there and then you had four men on the powder bag. You had your spotters out there. You had men down in the hole getting the next round of ammunition ready, that was all the men could do.

Were those guns designed to target ships?

Yes, they were disappearing carriage. There was a big parapet. The guns were below that. You're ready to fire, you push a button and the gun comes up and then after you fire, the gun goes back then you load them. You couldn't see them. But that was made before airplanes with the airplanes they could still see you.

American airpower was an important factor.

Yes, it was.

When we first went over, the Germans had the air power but after we got the air superiority and it was a completely different war then too.

So those guns that you worked on, operated, in the Philippines was that on an island near Manila?

It was about 30 miles from Manila. Manila and Manila Bay is like a big horseshoe and across the front was seven miles and we had Corregidor, Fort Hughes, Front Drum and Ft Frank. We had 4 army bases across the front. I was on Fort Hughes and the last six months I was over there I was on Corregidor.

When the Japanese invaded, I wonder if those guns were fired.

I imagine they were but as I say without air power the air power to protect you there is no protection.

So after Pearl Harbor and all his news comes of the Japanese invasion, you can picture these places they are rolling into.

Yes.

Well, Mr. Horstman, you have a great memory for these items of geography and equipment and officers.

Well, Bette is the real hero. She was stationed in Saipan.

Maybe Bette will tell us about that in a few minutes.

At this point, Mr. Horstman, I think we'll conclude the interview.

Thank you.

Thank you very much. And thank you for your service.

Addendum from Mrs. Horstman's interview

During a discussion of the performance of the Veterans Administration in Mrs. Horstman interview, which took place after this interview, Mr. Horstman went on to recall further incidents from his service to his country. Her local interview and transcript can also be read on the Niles Public Library's website.

I remember that time in Paris. This Sergeant from the 26th Infantry Division walked in and he had been wounded 2 or 3 times. He walked in stripped his back pack off and said, "I've had it; I'm through." Now that's the kind of guy Patton slapped because he wouldn't go through with it. Is that right? How can you blame somebody for that? Now they got these all these fancy words for it now; then they called it battle fatigue.

Mr. Horstman, you're wearing that pin. Is that for the Big Red One?

Yes.

Mr. Horstman, you said with the concussion you were thrown into a pit. What kind of a pit was it?

We had our gun in it. For a 40mm you had to dig and you had outriggers on it, and I did a landing across the outrigger.

And that 40mm gun. They could shoot a shell.

It is automatic; you have 8 rounds in a clip. Probably the best gun we had for low flying aircraft. The 50 was a good one too. The halftrack with a 50 you had power off it do the turrets they had on a plane, well, we had that on a halftrack. You could swing it in different directions.

There was the time in England with the Barracks, that's the Women's British organization. The sergeants were having a party so they invited sergeants from our outfit. So we got a bottle of this kind of wine and a bottle of this kind and mixed them. Needless to say, I got a little inebriated. But this friend of mine was making a play for the Lieutenant and she was going with one of our officers. And he didn't go for that.

Anyway when they picked me up I was walking along holding my blouse with one sleeve and walking down the road, but they put us in jail over night. The next morning, "C'mon, get cleaned up. The old man wants to see you." From the jail we had to walk through the mess hall to get to the captain's office. "Hey there's the two guys they got in for rape." I was kind of scared then, but there was nothing to it.

But one little incident like that so they break for crying out loud.

Mr. Horstman, while you were in the cavalry. You said you were up in Mt. Rushmore.

Yes, we would guard the President while he dedicated the first two faces.

So that would have been President Franklin Roosevelt?

Yes,

You must have been a respected member of the Army to have been honored with that duty?

No, you had to do your job and that was part of it.

And we all had a rifle loaded and locked and a pistol loaded and locked. The platform they were speaking on, and I was at the bottom of the platform. No one was supposed to go up or down. So this gentleman comes up in a suit and tie says, "I'm going up there." I said, "Well, you can start, but you'll never get to the top." And I showed him the rifle and he came back down. It was a Congressman, some Congressman.

Mrs. Horstman: And then you were in charge and everybody else went to Chicago but you stayed.

That was the National Guard, Officer of the day. They always have to have a charge of quarters. So when I got with the Kentucky National Guard, the first weekend they made an acting corporal so I was charge of quarters. They usually do that with their junior officers. Next week they got me down as Acting Corporal. So I went into the Captain and said, "What is this?" He said, well, you're an Acting Corporal aren't you." "I said, well, you can shove that up your but if you think I'm going to stay here every weekend." Then I was busted from Acting Corporal!

Reader's Notes

Sadly, Mr. Horstman passed away just 2 months after this interview on August 17, 2014.

At his wake a summary of his life appeared in his memorial booklet. This is the excerpt pertinent to the interview which you have just read.

“A native of Grand Island, Nebraska, he was the last of 12 children of Henry & Frieda (Kremake) Horstman, a poor family, made more so by the Great Depression.

In 1936, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the Army, served in our last horse cavalry regiment with the same horse, Jupiter, for two years. He was then transferred overseas, to the Coast Artillery in the Philippines Islands. When he returned he was discharged in November 1940, the last troopship to leave before the Japanese invasion of the islands. Shortly, thereafter, he reenlisted and was sent to Ft. Sheridan. His hope was to return to fight with his former comrades in the Philippines, however he was sent to Fort Sheridan to train the inexperienced Kentucky National Guard. Soon, however, he sailed to Northern Ireland with some of the First U.S. troops to reach Europe. Promoted again to Sergeant, eight times, his comment was, "they misunderstood me". He went AWOL four times over various women. He was placed in charge of 20 men equipped with a truck mount of 40 mm. gun & a half - track with a quad 50 caliber machine gun mount. Their assignment was to protect advanced U.S. combat elements from low flying enemy aircraft.

In November 1942 he landed in Morocco with General George Patton's force and our first clash with German and Fascist Italian armies in World War II. The campaign continued across North Africa and then on to amphibious the assault of Sicily. Returning to England, Hal's unit was attached to the famous 1st. Division (Big Red) to prepare for D-Day. He landed on the Omaha Beach on day 4.

In the months which followed they fought in some of the bloodiest battles of the war, across France, Belgium and into Nazi Germany. There Hal's fighting days ended in a German artillery barrage, where he obtained a severe back injury.

He returned home after months at various hospitals with a Bronze Star for valor, with four stars & Purple Heart, along with a Good Conduct medal.

He was chosen to be the first WWII veteran to command the American Legion, Rogers Park Post #108, where he succeeded in tripling their membership. It was there he met another veteran. Captain Bette Sachs, Army Physical therapist. The two were married in 1952.”

AND

Scanned copies of relevant photographs and Mr. Horstman's Army records follow and complement the interview record.



Picture of Mr. Horstman, taken as Sergeant in Cavalry in 1938.

Membership Card
2015
The American Legion

 

IL DEPT. 0108 POST NO. 101155274 MEMBER ID NO. CONT. YRS. 69

HAROLD HORSTMAN
THE ABOVE MEMBER HAS PAID DUES IN THE POST INDICATED
Sgt. Alvin C. York of Tennessee - World War I, Medal of Honor Recipient

CHICAGO

Commander James Bond
AUTHORIZED POST OFFICER

NOT VALID UNLESS COUNTERSIGNED BY MEMBER

Thanks for still serving America.

Mr. Horstman's American Legion card of 69 years.



Mr. Horstman standing outside red telephone kiosk or booth in Northern Ireland during World War II.

ENLISTMENTS

April 4, 1936 - September 1, 1938

September 2, 1938 - September 7, 1941

January 19, 1942 - April 24, 1945

Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois January 19, 1942
Ft. Sheridan, Illinois January 24 - Apr. 21, 1942
Buffalo, N.Y. April 22, 1942
Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania April 23, 1942

Sailed Apr. 29

Cable from Northern Ireland May 21, 1942
Africa Oct., 1942 -----Sicily July, 1943
England Dec, 1943- -----Normandy June 9, 1944

Wounded June 25-----England July, 1944

France Aug., 1944 -----Belgium September 8, 1944
Germany October 7, 1944

Wounded November 11, 1944

France November 28, 1944 ---- England December 9, 1944
New York Jan 24, 1945 Landed and phoned
Texas January 29, 1945
Sick leave Chicago February 27 - March 14, 1945

ADDRESSES

Harold H. Horstman 6860614

Battery G-59th C.A.
Ft. Hughes, Philippines
Ft. Mills, Philippines

Battery E 65th C.C. (A.A) ----January 21, 1941
Camp Haan, California

Battery C 52nd C.C. ----July, 1941
Battery E 57th C.C. Training Bn.
Camp Callan, San Diego, California

Battery C-103 C.A. (Bn.) (Sep.)
%P.O. New York City
A.P.O. 1083----May, 1942
" " 813----June 1942
" " 302----December, 1942
" " 758----September, 1943
Battery C-103 A.A.A. (Bn.) (Sep.)
A.P.O. #1----Dec. 1943
" " 230-- " "

Detachment of Patients

4144 U.S. Army Hospital Plant

A.P.O 647----July 1944

" " 204

" " 316

Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital----January 29, 1945

Annex 4 Co.F.

Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas

SEPARATION

**ARMY
QUALIFICATION**

RECORD

LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL HORSTMAN HAROLD H.		ARMY SERIAL NUMBER 6 860 614	GRADE Sgt	DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 19 Jan 42	SEX M	DATE OF BIRTH 30 Nov 17
PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES (Street and Number - City - County - State) 1630 North Shore Avenue, Chicago (Cook) Illinois						

HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED 10	LAST YEAR OF ATTENDANCE 1932	HIGHEST DEGREE RECEIVED -	CIVILIAN EDUCATION MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY Academic		NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED Grand Island High School Grand Island, Nebraska
COURSE		NO. HRS.	OTHER TRAINING OR SCHOOLS		NO. HRS.
Completed 3 months course in Saddlery at Troop School,			4th Cavalry		
during previous enlistment - 1932					

SERVICE SCHOOL			COURSE			YES OR HRS. RATING			ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM		
									INSTITUTION WHERE ENROLLED		
									CURRICULUM AND TERM (COURSE OF TRAINING PURSUED)		
									NO. OF WEEKS GRADUATED		
									YES NO		

MAIN OCCUPATION (TITLE) Soldier		CIVILIAN OCCUPATIONS	
JOB SUMMARY Served 5-1/3 years in Cavalry and Coast Artillery. Learned horsemanship and saddle making in cavalry. Gave basic training to cadremen of Selective Service unit for 1 year. Was Sergeant in charge of supplying all food, clothing, and equipment for battery located near Corregidor on Philippines. Requisitioned supplies		SECONDARY OCCUPATION (TITLE) -	
JOB SUMMARY and kept records for 9 months.			
NO. OF LAST DATE OF EMPLOY- YEARS MONTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER	NO. OF LAST DATE OF EMPLOY- YEARS MONTH	NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER
5-4/12	Sep 1941 United States Army		

MILITARY SPECIALTIES										
YEARS	MONTHS	GRADE	PRINCIPAL DUTY		ARMY CODE	NO. YEARS	MONTHS	GRADE	PRINCIPAL DUTY	
2	0	Sgt	Anti-aircraft Artillery NCO, Special Weapons		598					

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATION (Shown by title)

Anti-aircraft Artillery Non-commissioned Officer - Special Weapons

Was Section Chief in charge of 20 men equipped with one 40 m.m. Bofers Gun and a half track mounting four 50 caliber machine guns. Operated against enemy in Arica, Sicily, France, Belgium and Germany. Commanded crew and weapons in protection of advanced combat elements against low flying enemy aircraft. Supervised technical deployment of guns designating field of fire, type of target and location of firing positions. Supervised tactical and mechanical training of crew members. Awarded Bronze Star Medal for action against enemy. Spent total of 5 years overseas including previous enlistments.

**THIS FORM WILL NOT BE REPLACED
IF LOST OR DESTROYED. SAVE IT.**

* THIS INFORMATION BASED ON SOLDIER'S STATEMENT. (Indicate by * any items not supported by military records)

DATE OF SEPARATION APR 24 1945	SIGNATURE OF SOLDIER <i>Harold H. Horstman</i>	SIGNATURE OF SEPARATION CLASSIFICATION OFFICER <i>Glenn R. Negley</i> Glenn R. Negley, Capt AC
--	---	---



Mr. Horstman presides as 1st World War II veteran to be elected as Commander of the American Legion Post for the Rogers Park group in Chicago.

The Party Times

EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Look Who's Turning 95!

We are pleased to host a 95th surprise party for

~~~~~  
**Harold  
Henry  
Horstman**  
~~~~~

December 1st, 2012
2:00 pm to 6:00 pm



Morton Grove
Moose Lodge
6419 Chestnut Street
Morton Grove, IL. 60053



Mickey (630) 385-2698 ~ Tina (847) 287-0895 ~ Bette (847) 337-0664

Local surprise party honoring Mr. Horstman in 2012.



Bette Horstman and Harold Horstman in Washington, DC on the day of their Honor Flight, May 12, 2010.



Annual Veterans Day display at the Niles Public Library during November, 2014, honoring the military service of the Horstmans.