

**John Gorham
Veteran**

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Interviewers**

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[Veteran's wording is garbled]

Q: Could you give me a full name, Date of birth and place of birth?

JG: I am John Arthur Gorham and I was born in Stillwater, NY on Sep 2, 1906.

Q: What was your education background before u went into service? Do you remember where you were and what your feelings were when you heard about Pearl Harbor?

JG: Well, I'll tell you what I thought, with a very knife in the back but we've been, I wore that camp Upton one Destructo heart.

Q: Oh, so you were already in the service?

JG: Yes.

Q: Were you drafted or did you enlist?

JG: I'm retract.

Q: Alright, on June 1941 you went right to camp up them?

JG: Yeah, we lived there and secure older Mr. Goodman's Kemal of maneuvers around that time and we're discharged got within their own help to two months and they were called back when this stock pot.

Q: What was your unit?

JG: I was in a NP outfit

Q: Did you receive special training to become a member of the military police?

JG: Yeah, you have to qualify for further jobs. And from there around we were transferred out to the induction center and from there we went to Rochester NY, we went from there to Buffalo, and we went back to Fort Dix and that's where it all happened, you got shots and prepared for going for overseas but you know what there was a funny thing when they transfer, they regular words are clothing and then that should rather dignity to wonder call that away from you and your dog away the ghosts.

Q: Were you train to ride a motorcycle or did you already know how to drive?

JG: I already know how to drive. In the service, u have to qualify every 3 months to ride coz if you do your nervous or anything here qualified for that job, they practice you to train.

Q: What kind of motorcycle did u have?

JG: That was 45 small one.

Q: So, that was the old flathead motor, right?

JG: Yeah.

Q: Did you have to ride it off the road in the woods and fields or just on the road?

JG: Yeah, we were training to jump over tricks and lay your machine down and fire on the targets at a certain rate, you know. They put u to do that and the hill climbing, that would that another course. I heard it is awful low and there's a cross where you go up the hill and had to pull amount. I can hang up on mount couple times. The third time I thought someone going to make it and I made it.

Q: When you first went in what kind of gun did u use? Did u use the old three?

JG: No, at that time we used foreign territory guns and the beach in Virginia and there were aircraft guns that they full locked up.

Q: Do you remember when u went oversea?

JG: I think it was in 41.

Q: Did you go over on the Elizabeth? It was a single ship or did you hope going to convoy?

JG: We're all alone because the Elizabeth is the best ship and it took us four and half days.

Q: What did u do when u went to England?

JG: I was transfer to Air Force and that's where our work began.

Q: So, were you at the 8th Air Force? You're attached to the 8th Air Force?

JG: What is the funny thing is they changed, it's a gate there forcing teacher Khmer person, they changed our loyal. Our teachers were forced to listen the lest changing, in the word that I was at Burton Raider Temple.

Q: Now, you were with the fighter Units?

JG: They did mostly get repairs on all types of ship with the supply air base.

Q: What was your job there? You were NP?

JG: Mostly convoying.

Q: So, you rode with the convoy, did you ride the motorcycle over?

JG: Yes, our first job was over there. I returned the bullets, Landon wasn't into production yet. So, we said ship over there p-38, delivered the ships and the decks, and our job was to get the doctor to Air Base. We rode down the road in convoy with the deep front and the chief on the back.

Q: The wings are folded up?

JG: Yeah, there is three wheels and to keep them under control, we had to have two people, one on the front and one on the back. We also had the tractor trailers on the back of the convoy with the widgets load of the parts.

Q: When you were escorting in the motorcycle, did you carry a gun?

JG: Sometime, we had a tommy gun and a 45.

Q: Where did you carry the tommy gun?

JG: In the hood which is attached to the cycle and we were taking the training with a motorcycle with a speed of 30, lay it down and fire at the target. That was part of the training jersey.

Q: Those bokes were pretty heavy though, weren't they?

JG: 45 were too small, they were too big present.

Q: Now, while you were in England, did you experience the buzz bombs and v2 is coming in or any of the bombing by the Germans?

JG: Yes, for real much they could never pin point us, they are all around us but the closest they come with about 4 miles, they were the V2 are whistling the sound before they hit, and then everything is silent and then you will hear the entrance, like a whistle.

Q: Did you ever have much contact with English people?

JG: Oh yeah, we had a lot of friends and they were quite friendly with us.

Q: Do they have the same kind of motorcycle you have?

JG: No, they had the small one but they could out-performed us because they run cooler than ours and they weren't that big.

Q: Now you stayed in the England for the entire time overseas? Where did you go into?

JG: Yes, if I have to go on convoy some place, I would never head one point and it's wrong because my job was to deliver the convoy and bring it back.

Q: What rank were you at that point?

JG: So that way, we're never in one place long enough to say I was there. You have taken your convoy trip trigger ordinance at Bowen and that was our job, we commend.

Q: What rank were you?

JG: PFC, yeah PFC.

Q: Did you stay a PFC the whole time you were in?

JG: Yes.

Q: Now did you have to work on motorcycles too or you just drive them?

JG: No, all we did was to make sure they were clean, and we have to standing things like our ruffles and things.

Q: When you rode a motorcycle, did you wear a metal helmet or a Claude?

JG: I got a special helmet and I couldn't tell you the names.

Q: So, you have a special helmet then did you wear any other special equipment?

JG: Yeah, we wore calvary Bridget's in boots what is out outfit priority.

Q: Did you wear a jacket or just your shirt?

JG: We had our jacket and in winter time, we had a pretty slim jacket.

Q: Did you ever get to see a USO shows while you were over there?

JG: Oh yes.

Q: Who did you see?

JG: Yeah, who is Richie Mafair and Kate Francis and the Bob Hope and Joe Lewis.

Q: When did you return to the U.S?

JG: In 1945.

Q: Do you remember what your reaction was the death of President Roosevelt?

JG: Well, it was surprise to me because nobody knew that he would even sick.

Q: Were you in England during the announcement of the surrender Germany?

JG: Yes.

Q: What was it like there when it was announced?

JG: I will tell you, there were a long time with the lights out and then when the lights were lunched, they sing that old sound but the light went off and went in again, they really celebrated, they were brave people for sacrificing.

Q: When you were discharged did you use the GI Bill at all?

JG: Yes, I bought a home on the counter to charge GI Bill.

Q: Did you get marry when you got home?

JG: I was married when I was in England.

Q: So, did you marry someone from England?

JG: Yeah, I married in 1945.

Q: And you brought her back with you?

JG: She got three months ahead when I get here.

Q: Did you ever use the 5220 Club?

JG: No.

Q: How about did you join any veteran organizations or have you ever tried?

JG: (---) that's the only club that I brought in.

Q: Did you ever keep in contact with anyone you served with?

JG: I never met many of my oversea friends because they all come in after I did.

Q: How do you think being in a service changed or affected your life?

JG: The greatest education I read. When you go on the service, they teach us to choose your company because you have all types in the services. So, you can't be on your toes and that's a greatest education.

Q: Did you continue to ride motorcycles after war?

JG: No, I think I had enough because I did get some bumps and bounces.

Q: Now this photograph, is this you?

JG: Yes.

Q: Could you tell us when was that taken?

JG: That was taken may be couple months before I going home.

Q: Okay, now that is you on the left and who sent me on the right.

JG: This is my sergeant and he is great guy. He went into a National Guards and we met in Hopton. One day he come back from maneuvers, this 39 years old guy were just charged, in their own yelled a short time.

Q: Did you ever see him after the war at all?

JG: Yes, after the war, he wanted to get married and so according to the pushed, he had a proof that it wasn't marry, he come and got me and we went to see the priest, so he could get marry. That was the only time I better because here within the city of Troy veterans and now no choice veterans.

Q: Okay, thank you very much for your interview.