

Interviewer: Mr. Byrn can you hear me okay can you hear me alright?

Byrn: Well fairly well.

Interviewer: Okay let me get over here a little closer. Could you start off by telling me your full name and where you were born?

Byrn: Okay I was born in Charlotte Tennessee and I was born on Sunday, December the 7th 1913.

Interviewer: Wonderful and what's your full name?

Byrn: My name is James Andrew Byrn.

Interviewer: Thank you so much. What branch of the service did you service in?

Byrn: I was I served in the air force. That was my first name.

Interviewer: What primary unit did you serve in in the air force?

Byrn: Let's see you know I can't I don't know whether I can tell you or not.

Interviewer: That's alright it will come back while we are talking. Do you remember where you were on December 7, 1941?

Byrn: Yes ma'am I sure do. I was in I was in a show in Biloxi Mississippi.

Interviewer: Really

Byrn: Watching a movie. That's where I was.

Interviewer: And then what happened?

Byrn: And they told us all see then we wore civilian clothes and they told us to get on our uniform and don't take it off.

Interviewer: Really

Byrn: And that's and the way I got back on my base was I happened to know some boys who knew who I was. And that's the way I got back on the base. Then we began going to see what had happened and that's about the extent of it. There was many things that took place during that time I don't know if I can even recall all of them or not.

Interviewer: Were you surprised at the attack at Pearl Harbor?

Byrn: It was just like in see my father and my people were _____. They invented a strawberry plant called the progressing ever baring strawberry plant. And this plant was developed for people in home gardens. And we put an ad in the Progressive Farmer. And they would order from that and everything and things

like when you had to ship these plants you'd have to I don't know whether I can get it right anyway you had to disinfect them.

Interviewer: Okay

Byrn: And you could ship them to any state except California.

Interviewer: Okay

Byrn: And California didn't allow you to ship any into there. But anyway it took me back to in my mind when I was they said when I was born on a Sunday in 1913. And of course I didn't have a doctor then I had a midwife it was a midwife instead of a doctor. And that lady always said I had the biggest mouth of any baby she ever saw. And but anyway that's the way it got started.

Interviewer: Okay what about let's move forward. How did you wind up in the air force?

Byrn: Well I tell you I guess I seemed like I started involved in the air force. My first entry was in the air force.

Interviewer: When was that?

Byrn: That was and you know it seemed like I was born in the air force. I don't know I can't tell you now.

Interviewer: That's okay.

Byrn: It's hard it just my mind is just simply.

Interviewer: That's okay what did you do in the air force?

Byrn: In the air force I was mostly maybe helping operate a machine for pilots and things like that. But that came a lot later.

Interviewer: Okay

Byrn: And that's why it's all mixed up it's hard for me to even give you a sensible answer.

Interviewer: It's fine Mr. Byrn its fine. What about you were stationed in Biloxi what did you do every day?

Byrn: Let's see while I was in Biloxi Mississippi I

Interviewer: You'd get up in the morning.

Byrn: Yes and I'd usually go to and then some people there in Biloxi would take me up to Red Rocks to see the how the surge that they had there.

Interviewer: Oh okay

Byrn: And then when I'd come back this lady she'd let me take a nap or do whatever I wanted to do. While I was over there in this place. And that's just a I wished I could be more thorough.

Interviewer: That's alright we'll get there. Did you live in the barracks?

Byrn: No I didn't live in a barracks.

Interviewer: No

Byrn: I was living at home I believe.

Interviewer: Okay

Byrn: In Charlotte.

Interviewer: When you were in Biloxi did you make a lot of friends?

Byrn: Let's see in Biloxi see I made several friends. I know I always said if when I if I ever retired I want to retire in Biloxi Mississippi.

Interviewer: Really

Byrn: I was very fond of the people in that area.

Interviewer: Right so you had a lot of buddies in World War II?

Byrn: Yes

Interviewer: Do you have anybody that you remember in particular that was a special friend to you in World War II?

Byrn: Let's see oh me oh what was that gal's name?

Interviewer: Was it a man or a woman?

Byrn: Well I had friends both ways.

Interviewer: Nice nice

Byrn: And I know sometime during that area I was asked a question where I was born and I told him in Charlotte Tennessee.

Interviewer: Uh huh

Byrn: I was born on I believe it was December the 7th 1913.

Interviewer: Really okay

Byrn: And as I said this lady she was a midwife and she always told me I had the biggest mouth of anybody she ever saw. And I used to sing all the time but I was bashful to the part that I'd get behind the door and sing.

Interviewer: You did

Byrn: And at one time our company sold progressive ever bearing strawberry plants and they had an advertisement in the Progressive Farmer. And they would get orders there in the morning on a mail out that ran in the morning and then we'd get them fixed and send them off that afternoon on the mail route that went to up to Vanlере see and back to where they were supposed to go.

Interviewer: Did you ever leave the country?

Byrn: Ma'am

Interviewer: Did you ever leave the country?

Byrn: Let's see I was in England during my there for several in fact I was in London England when Armistice was signed.

Interviewer: You did

Byrn: I was there at that time and.

Interviewer: What do you remember about the Armistice being signed?

Byrn: All I remember is remember that it was I don't know whether it was sign aboard ship or what but anyway. I never one of the instances happened in there was they asked this one boy there if he remembered and he remembered shipping strawberry plants. And they asked him before they shipped them they always had a knife that cut the ends of the roots off and my brother who was also my teacher in school he used to do that part of that business. So one day he asked Henry said the one that cut the roots said you got a knife he said yes sir but I don't have any blades in it. And that was one of the quotations of my stay in the air force.

Interviewer: I see did you win any medals or decorations?

Byrn: No I may have got the good ___ conduct medal I don't know.

Interviewer: Okay

Byrn: I didn't win any special medals.

Interviewer: Okay well you know I so much appreciate your time sharing with us what you remember. And you've helped a lot thank you so much Mr. Byrn.

Byrn: Well I tell you I didn't give you much.

Interviewer: Well I appreciate your time.