

NR_key_name: 3C0364C8AB5FE6BF8525644F004055E3
SendTo: CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CopyTo: CN=David Marwell/O=ARRB @ ARRB
DisplayBlindCopyTo:
BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
From: CN=Jeremy Gunn/O=ARRB
DisplayFromDomain:
DisplayDate: 03/03/1997
DisplayDate_Time: 6:48:07 AM
ComposedDate: 03/03/1997
ComposedDate_Time: 6:42:43 AM
Subject: Re: ARRB Interviewed Joe O'Donnell
GOOD REPORT. SEE SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS IN BOLD IN TEXT.
From: **Douglas Horne/ARRB** Date: **02/28/97 05:41:52 PM** Subject: **ARRB Interviewed Joe O'Donnell** CALL
REPORT: PUBLIC Document's Author: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date Created: 02/28/97 The Players
Who initiated the call? Review Board's representative in the call: Jeremy Gunn; Douglas Horne; Dave
Montague; David Marwell Witnesses/Consultants's representative in the call: Joe O'Donnell Description of the
Call Date: 02/28/97 Subject: ARRB Interviewed Joe
O'Donnell Summary of the Call: ARRB staff called Joe O'Donnell for the second time today to conduct a more in-
depth interview on audiotape; our initial interview of Mr. O'Donnell was on January 29, 1997. The interview,
conducted by Jeremy Gunn, lasted approximately 44 minutes. We began by asking Mr. O'Donnell to describe
to the best of his recollection his professional training in photography, and his photographic experience. He
indicated he attended college at MIT in Boston, and at another institution in Oregon, but did not specify
whether the training was in photography, and was unclear about whether or not he had received degrees
from these institutions. He joined the Marine Corps in 1941 after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and ended up
being assigned duties as a combat photographer for the Marine Corps during World War II. Although he
received some training in aerial photography in PBV aircraft, he said that most of the photography he shot was
on the ground. He said he photographed men in combat, and in the course of his duties he did have occasion
to photograph wounded men, and to observe gunshot wounds. He said that he photographed both Hiroshima
and Nagasaki on the ground following their destruction by atomic bombs, and that as a result (of radiation-
induced physiological damage) he had a damaged spine, had to walk with two canes, and could no longer
stand up straight. He mentioned with some bitterness that the government could locate neither his combat
photographs from World War II, nor his Hiroshima and Nagasaki photographs, and said he felt this was a cover-
up of some kind. Following World War II, Mr. O'Donnell said he worked at a variety of commercial
photographic endeavors, including, for a short time, a business started by his brother-in-law and him called
Pictures, Inc. His memory of the timeframes for these various photographic endeavors was admittedly
uncertain. At some point (circa 1948, as he recalled), he went to work for the U.S. Information Agency (USIA),
and said he was often detailed to perform White House photography. He relayed to us various anecdotal
recollections of photographic jobs he performed for the Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson administrations;
he seemed unsure of exactly when he retired but seemed to remember doing so during the Johnson
administration. He remembered that at one point during his employment, Edward R. Murrow was the
Record
Body:
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