

Eliazer Isaac Horneman, called Leo in everyday life, grew up in the family of Abraham Philip Horneman and Saartje Kaufman Utrecht. They were joined in marriage in 1900. Leo was their fifth child, after earlier three children were deceased. Their first child, a boy, died in 1913, 12 years old.

Leo has become a brilliant musician, or as he himself probably would want to be called, a brilliant bandsman.

Leo has studied at the Utrecht Conservatory, in basic and advanced theory and practice of classical music. But already during this study he highly preferred the jazz music. In his spare time he studied at the then-known songs, and performed solo or in small or big bands. He could do so only in secret because the academy was not amused it ever happened within her students. His instrument was the piano. Later, the accordion came in. Arranging for bands, in addition to playing became a main task for him.

The first known arrangements date from 1932, for the songs Alexander's Ragtime Band and Dinah, in a four-man line-up. After that Leo's arranging continued year after year, for small and large ensembles.

He had his first engagement in 1933, at Musica, the association of Utrecht musicians.

A year later he already had founded his own six-piece band, under the name Bob Bee's Boys

The last band he played in was "The Hotmixers", founded and conducted by Nic. van Oostrom, in Utrecht.

His last documented appearance was in the "Radio Show and Swing Band" Jacq. Gerlagh on April 12 1941 in Deventer.

He has spread his knowledge and expertise as well as a music teacher. This he could do until in 1942. Some arrangements have dates of 1941 and 1942.

One more year he was able to evade the German occupiers, but then he was also put in prison, first in Vught concentration camp - where he performed one more time - but then, after a day in Westerbork camp, he was transported, with 1006 others, to the Auschwitz extermination camp.

He has not returned as millions of others haven't; murdered in the gas chambers, died during transport or during the death marches. Perhaps, possibly, he has taken his life by the suicide pill he possessed before his imprisonment.

The date of his death is known only as between the deportation and the liberation of Auschwitz.

That we are able to know now more of the life and work of Leo is primarily thanks to his friend and colleague Bertus van der Vliet and his wife Rie Van der Vliet Dekker. At high age they were able to tell what they knew about Leo and to make available the many things they had kept from him, for many years.

Second - or first - it has been Leo himself, who has kept a lot about his life and work in pictures, newspaper clippings, and his many arrangements. Leo had deposited this material with Rie and Bertus van der Vliet.

This site is set up by Joop Cornelissen, control-research@hetnet.nl. The first goal is to publish and make available the big collection of Leo Horneman's jazz-arrangements

Find more about purpose and reasons in the forewords of the parts of the memoirs (at the time only in Dutch - in time a translation will be put next to them)