

# Edward Hawker

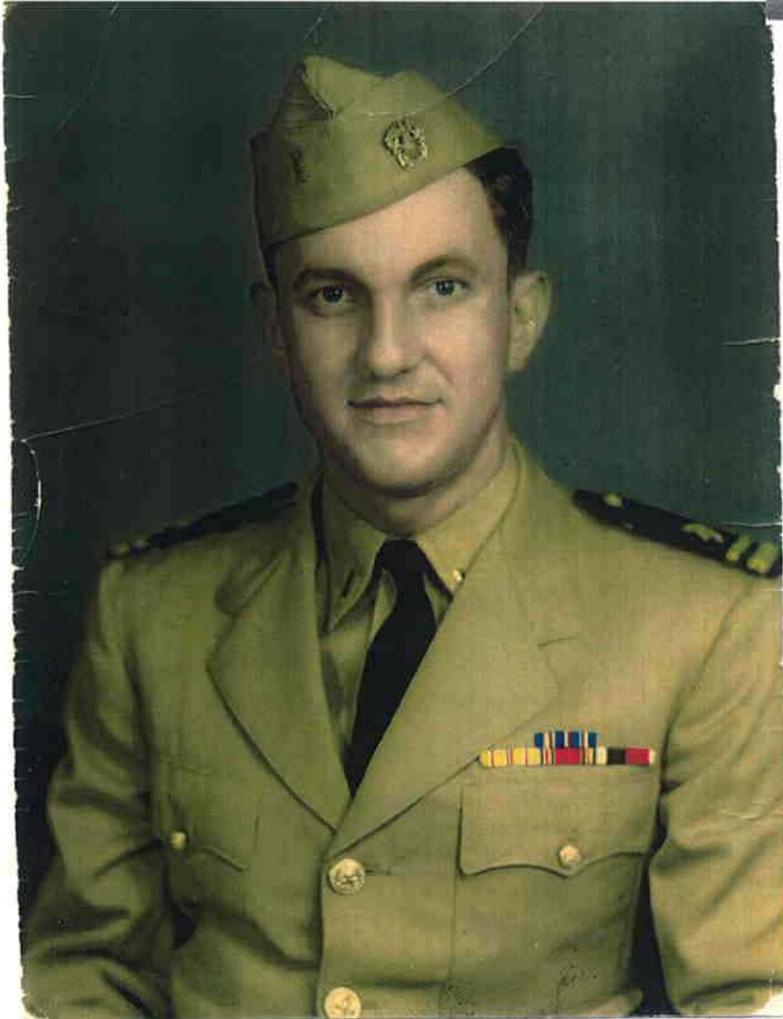
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U.S. Navy

World War II and Korean War

Veterans History Project Interview

21 April 2005



**Edward Hawker Interview**  
**April 21, 2005**  
**Interviewer: Kate Wolicki**

*If you don't hear what I say, let me know, because it's my voice, it's not you.*

Oh, I'm hard of hearing.

*Well, it's you and my voice, together.*

Oh.

*So, I start by saying, you know what, where were you born?*

Ypsilanti, Michigan.

*And what year?*

February 17th, 1924.

*Oh, that's good. Ok, so—*

I'm 81, now.

*You're ancient.*

What?

*Did you have fun on the Ark? Was that when you were a child – was the Ark?*

[Laughter]

**006: INTRODUCTION**

*Alright, I have this little piece I have to do. It says this interview is being conducted on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005, at Saint Andrew Life Center in Niles, Illinois. My name is Kate Wolicki. I am speaking with Mr. Edward Hawker. Mr. Hawker was born in 1924 in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and now lives in Niles, Illinois. He is a veteran of the Second World War and the Korean War. Mr. Hawker learned of the Veterans History Project – through-- did you have a poster?*

There was a big poster on the bulletin board.

*Through the poster from the Niles Public Library.*

Yeah.

*He has kindly consented to be interviewed for the Project. Here is his story. So, we'll start way at the beginning, but if you want to talk about other things as you go along, we don't have to stick to any sort of*

### **013: I GOT INTERESTED IN THE NAVY**

Well, should I start at the beginning of where I got interested in the Navy?

*Yeah.*

Ok. I graduated from high school in 1942. The war was going on, so we knew we'd have to be-- they'd be taking us sooner or later-- and I was planning on going to college. I took an exam for a scholarship to the University of Illinois. Among the eight young men taking it, I got first place. Well, I don't know what theirs were.

[Laughter]

And I got a scholarship to the College of Agriculture. I was living -- this was when we were living down-- my parents were living in Piatt County, and my dad had to drive all over the county to get signatures for me to take the exam. I took the exam, and then I got the scholarship, and I enrolled at the University of Illinois. I took the physical exam and passed it, and, so, I had to be in the ROTC. Well, after a week in the Army ROTC, I didn't want any of that!

[Laughter]

### **029: PREPARING AT PURDUE**

And, World War II. So when they had the Navy around getting people to sign up, I signed in December, yeah, in December of '42, I signed up to join the Navy. And, so, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943, they called me up, and I had to go to Purdue University. You had to have two years of college education to be able to go to midshipman school, so I went to Purdue. I took the year. The only thing that was hard about it was I had to take two semesters of physics. The math wasn't bad, and I majored in biological science and physical science. But I didn't like to take-- I knew I had to take chemistry just for my major-- but I didn't know I had to take physics for the Navy. What good that was!

And, then, in the second semester, I had to take engineering drawing, and the poor professor at the end of the semester said, "You have flunked this course worse than any student I ever had!"  
[Laughter]

What we had to do now-- draw not only the front of this, but the back of this, without turning it around or anything, but it didn't mean anything. You had to take the course, but it didn't mean anything, but he was disappointed.

So, I made it through the year. One reason was that was in math, the professor was grading on the curve. I got Bs and Cs in college algebra, in geometry, in trigonometry -- stuff I've never heard of before, because he graded on the curve. And so almost everybody passed, but those that were really bad in math, they didn't pass. And I thought I was going to be one of them. But I

wasn't. I made it. Then, in algebra, we had two guys from Tennessee that they couldn't understand what  $x$  times  $z$ , or whatever it was, I don't know now, so the professor told them, "Ok, I've got a field that's this long, this wide, how do I find how many acres I have in it?" They said, "Well, you just multiply..." He says, "Ok, this is  $x$  times  $y$ . That's the basis of algebra." Well, now, he taught them! But it wasn't that hard for me, I know, because I'd had high school algebra. And then, when we got out of-- finished the year there --orders to go to Notre Dame to midshipman school.

*How come they sent you to Purdue in particular?*

What?

*Was there a reason that they sent you to Purdue as opposed to someplace else?*

Because the Navy had a school there.

*Oh.*

They picked Purdue to take the people that entered the Marines and the Navy that had one year-- a minimum of one year of college. Then, they took those in there from the Midwest. They took a whole bunch of the football team, of all things, from Illinois, and that year Illinois lost and Purdue won. [Laughter] We couldn't see why they didn't do this in Illinois. [Laughter]

#### **078: MIDSHIPMAN SCHOOL AT NOTRE DAME**

And we got through and went up to-- I took the electric train from home. It was a quarter of a mile from us, so I could easily take it to Danville. The first thing I did when I got off the train was --they said, "You cannot walk the streets if you're going in the Army or Navy" because Danville was out of -- you just -- the streets weren't open to military personnel because of some-- they'd been in trouble or something. I don't know. They said, "Get to the hotel and stay there... overnight."

I said, "Ok." I didn't know Danville anyway.

So, the next morning, I caught the train to Chicago. This was, yeah, Chicago, and stayed overnight with my brother --my oldest brother that was living in Chicago. And then I took the train to South Bend. And, boy, we got the button then! Fall in! RRRRRR! and took us to Notre Dame and the section that they had for midshipman school.

And that took July, August, September, October. The last week in October, we graduated, and it was tough. It was tough. And all my relatives were saying, "Oh, he'll make it, oh he's [smart gesture]" et cetera, except for one cousin who was married to a guy that was in the Navy. And she said to my mother, "Aunt Bridge, don't listen to them. He is going to have -- he may make it -- but he's going to have a hard time because their schools are not easy." And I did have. And I thought I was going to get kicked out because after I'd -- you sit in class, and you look straight ahead, and I knew my roommate was going to flunk out. He was very poor. But you sat alphabetically, so he was sitting right next to me, and when I got a page done, I just slid it over

and straight ahead. If he got any of it, more power to him! But I don't know whether he did, because I couldn't look. If you were caught looking this way—Boom, out!-- if you were caught looking that way, up at the teacher, and down at your paper -- that was only during an exam.

And I don't know how he made it. But he flunked out.

But, then, they called me in the next day. "Who was the teacher there?" I didn't know why they were doing it, and I didn't know his name. And so they said, "Ok, here's a lineup. Pick him out." Maybe he had seen me pushing the papers around. I don't know. But I couldn't pick him out. "Alright, go back to your room." And I was expecting to get called up, and say, I was on my way to Great Lakes!

*Yeah.*

[Laughter]

But the next day, they found the teacher that was in my classroom. I went into the office, and the teacher said, "Yes, that's the one," and he recognized me. And so I went through. Why they did it, I have no idea.

[Laughter]

*How strange!*

Yeah. Whether they did it with other people, just for testing them; whether they had a whole bunch of people they wanted to test, and see how they would react, I don't know.

*Hmmm.*

And when we got enrolled in the beginning of the classes, the officer that was teaching navigation, he said, "One thing I'm going to remind you of at the very beginning, when you get through midshipman school, if you make it, you will have one gold stripe on your uniform." He said, "You will be a dumb greenhorn. And you'll get aboard ship, and you won't know a damn thing about what you're doing. Depend on your crew. Make sure you get along with your crew and especially the men that are second class, third class, and chief petty officer." And I made a point of that because I didn't know the first thing about a ship.

### **136: UP ON THE CROW'S NEST, ON OUR WAY TO THE PACIFIC**

And we had a very good first class radioman. We'd been out to sea for awhile. We'd been through the Panama Canal. We were on our way to the Pacific, and he came in one day at my stateroom, and knocked, and came in, and said, "Mr. Hawker, I have to go up on the crow's nest. The radio antenna isn't working, and I have to go up and fix it." I said, "Well, go up." He said, "But I'm afraid to." I said, "Ok, go up, and get all your tools ready, and I'll be up there in a few minutes." And I sat there and --what the hell--[Laughter]—Well, I guess I'll have to be a strong person. I went up there, and I said, "Ok, you've got your bag of tools. You start up and I will be right behind you. Do not look down. Do not look up. Look straight out at the horizon." And he

went up, and I went up after him, and he got in the crow's nest and started working. I had to-- there was only room for one person-- so I had to hang on to the railing of the ladder and hang there for a while. And pretty soon, he was done, and he said, "I'm done." And he didn't act scared at all. And I said, "Ok, I will go down first. Don't look down. Don't look up. Look straight out." And we got down, and I was as calm as could be, and he was, oh, chipper and everything. And I thought, boy, did he pull a leg on me and -- But he didn't. I found out he was scared until I came up and went up with him. And then everything just left --the fear left-- but as I was going down the ladder to my stateroom, I was lalalala -- I was shaking like that.

*So when, did you, you went through midshipman school and then when did you end up on a ship?*

### **161: NORFOLK, CAMP BRADFORD**

Well, we got through midshipman school. We went to Norfolk and Camp Bradford. And, there, we took training in the field that we were going to be in. I was in communication so I had to take-- we were there --we got there in around the first. We had two weeks of leave. So it was in November. And we had until after Christmas, and then we studied whatever field you were in. I was in communications.

### **167: BOSTON, WHERE OUR SHIP WAS BEING BUILT**

Then, we went up to Boston where our ship was being built, shortly after Christmas, in January. And they can keep Boston in the wintertime! I had to go out and buy a pair of overshoes that came up almost to my knees. So much snow! More than any than in the Midwest.

And I was put in charge of the troops that stayed in Boston. And the rest of them went out --the ones that were needed on the ship --before it was commissioned-- went out there. And I was responsible for them, so when I checked their bunks and all, and saw that they were all present, I had nothing to do for the rest of the day, unless they'd call me and say put an order in for this and this. And I had to take care of ordering things and see when they came in. So, I made it to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's home and all. I had about a half day that there was...the men were in class. I had done the paperwork that I was supposed to do and taken care of any orders. So, I was free to go explore the city and then in, let's see, that was January, February, March, April, about. We were commissioned. Everybody went out to the ship, and we had the ceremony, and we were commissioned. And we took off for Chesapeake Bay where we were going to do our shakedown.

*What does that mean?*

Well, you take and you put the ship through all its maneuvers that you can think of to see if everything is ok. And it was.

### **191: TO NORFOLK, TO NEW YORK, TO CUBA, TO HAWAII, TO SEA WITH BEER**

That was about a week, five days or so. Then, we went into Norfolk and tied up to the pier and supplied our ship, our food, and this and all that that we had. Then, we went up to New York. We were going to load up. But we didn't... I didn't know, and most of the officers did not know, what we were going to be loaded up with. I was on an LST, a landing ship tank, and the whole body of the ship was just a big tank. We loaded up with beer! [Laughter] Taking it to Hawaii, to

Honolulu, to the Navy base. And when we got out to, then when we loaded up, we went down to Cuba. Guantanamo. Gitmo. And we could not go off of the base. Couldn't see any of Cuba. Then we were there for a day or two days, yeah. And everybody got sick on the ship going down there because, somehow, some formaldehyde got broken

## **206: EVERYBODY GOT SICK ON THE SHIP**

*ooh*

in sick bay and got spread all though the ventilating system. And everybody that had never been to sea got seasick. And some of them and I was, oh gods, I was sick. I could eat crackers and pickles. That was the only thing I could eat. I'd heave everything up over the side.

*Except for the crackers and the pickles.*

What?

*Except for the crackers and the pickles?*

Yeah.

*Sounds like you were a pregnant lady.*

I know.

[Laughter]

But there was a lot of people that couldn't eat anything. They were sick!

*Was there something, did you eat in a, like a, mess hall or did you eat together?*

No, we were in the officer's mess.

*Oh, that's right. I'm sorry.*

Oh, gosh, no. Oh my.

*So did you get, what was there to eat?*

And almost everybody was sick except the skipper and the exec. They'd had duty before we did, and they were not sick. But every one of the green ensigns was sick. Some worse than others. I was really bad. And two or three days, and then we hit the Gulf Stream. And it was as calm as could be. So, we were cured.

And then we spent a day or two at Gitmo. Then we went through the Panama Canal. And when we got through it, we, for some reason, we stayed in the town or whatever it was, the base on the west side for a while. For two days, I guess, or three days, and I wasn't able to go ashore. Well,

the ones that went ashore were officers that were a little older than I was and had had military police duty. They were patrolling the houses of prostitution. [Laughter] So they weren't having a good time either. And some of the guys got, I don't know what they ate, they were sick. They came back and they were drunk. And it was a mess. But the skipper and the exec expected this, so it didn't bother them too much.

### **238: CATHOLIC MASS ON BOARD (AND STORING THE BEER)**

And the next day we hauled out for Pearl Harbor and we were, well, it took awhile for us to cross. And there was a quite a few Catholics. The exec was Catholic, and I was Catholic, and there was, quite a few of the enlisted men were Catholic. And, so, we hadn't been to Mass for a month or two. And, so, he went ashore and arranged for a chaplain to come up. And then he told me, "You get a crew and set up an altar on the tank deck when they get the beer taken off."

[Laughter]

Well, they told us when they saw all the beer, they said, "You weren't supposed to get out here with all this. Take about a hundred cases and make it disappear."

[Laughter]

### **251: SLANG FOR YOUR OWN NATIONALITY, ETHNICITY ON BOARD**

So the captain put them in a storage room. And I was helping. I got this Italian guy aboard ship. He and I were buddies. And I got him to help me. And he said, "Hey, Mr. Hawker, where are the rest of the damn dagos?" And I said, "Wait a minute. You're not supposed to use that term." He said, "You can't. I'm a dago. I can use it. Where are those damn, lazy, dumb dagos?" I said, "Well, they didn't come down." "Well, you'd better go and get them!" And so I went up and got a couple of them.

But that's the first time I learned that you could not use the slang except for your own nationality. Now I could call somebody a limey because I was half English and a shanty Irish because my mother was Irish. But I could not call a Polack, a nigger, or a dago, any of that. I never knew that. I thought it was-- we were raised that none of those terms you could use. None.

*Were there a lot of people from different ethnic backgrounds on the ship with you?  
Did you meet people from other places in the country?*

Well, the exec was Irish. The captain was English. I was English-Irish. There was some Italians. There were blacks. There were Filipinos. And then there were just white people, that I don't know what they were. I could tell an Italian. There weren't any Polish. There weren't any Lithuanians. Most of them were from the east coast, so whatever that was.

*Was it different for you? Did you meet people that you hadn't known before, did you meet--?*

### **278: OFFICERS FROM AROUND THE U.S. AND PRANKS**

Oh, I was a country boy, and almost all of them were city slickers, but we got along fine.

I got along better with the enlisted men than the officers because they were, I thought, a little bit of this [gesture].

There was one that he stood in front of the mirror and primped his hair and all. He was from Los Angeles and hoity-toity. And there was another one from Texas. And he had beautiful blond hair and he would primp it and all. And he had a Texas flag and he hung it in his room. And somebody, who did it, nobody ever knew, I did not know, they took it from his stateroom, and hung it over a toilet in the bath.

[Laughter]

He was, oh, he was highly insulted. Well, he was such a – oh, he thought Texas was absolutely wonderful and was a perfect place, and he put too much emphasis on that. And somebody, just one of the officers--, but it wasn't me, because he was my roommate, and I didn't dare.

[Laughter] But I didn't even think of it, but who did it, I don't know.

### **299: LIFE ON BOARD AN LST**

*Did you just have one roommate? Or did you, how many*

No, we just had two. Each stateroom could handle four, but there wasn't any need of it, because they had enough staterooms for two. There was one from northern New York State. There was one from San Francisco. There was, let's see, one, two, there was myself, the guy from Texas, the guy from California, five, and then the skipper, and the exec, and there was two more. There was about seven officers aboard, six or seven, and

*And how many enlisted men with six or seven officers? How many enlisted men, do you know?*

We had somewhere around three hundred.

*Wow.*

Well, it was an LST, and they had a good sized crew. Two to three hundred, somewhere in there. You had to have so many, well, ok, I had communications, I had the radarmen, and the signalmen, and the radiomen, so there would be-- there was about four radarmen and one, two, three, four, about five, radiomen, and four signalmen. So, that was right there, that was a bunch. And then you had the same quartermasters. You had yeomen. You had, what do they call them, they were, they handle the money and cash and that. I don't know what the term was. I don't recall. And, then, you had to have a big flock of just plain seamen. And you had bosun's mates and all that, and engineers and all. So, it didn't take long to get up to between two and three hundred enlisted men.

And everytime we went out to sea, I was seasick. And I'd be sitting-- I'd eat dinner by myself out on the fantail and upchuck everything.

[Laughter]

And once we got out to sea about three days, I was fine. You could be out there for six months, and I'd never get seasick, but if I went into port, and we were tied up and didn't go out for a week or two, I'd be as sick as could be. But I went out, and, then, I'd get over it. And we went to-- we were out on the Gilbert Islands, all those islands through there, on the way to Guam--the Gilberts and the Marshall Islands --and then we got to Guam and Saipan and we were

*You weren't holding beer any more, you didn't have, you weren't filled with beer any more.*

Oh, I don't drink.

*No, No.*

But we had the boxes--the cases of it.

*Still there.*

And at three o'clock every day, until it was gone, it was knock off work, beer down. Everybody got two bottles of beer.

*So when you left Pearl Harbor, and you were traveling, what were you transporting, or what were you*

The beer.

*Still the beer.*

Oh, Pearl Harbor, no.

*After you left there?*

Oh, no. Then, we went back.

*Obviously, the beer was the most important part, we all understand that, yeah.*

Of course.

### **361: TRANSPORTING THINGS BACK AND FORTH, SEATTLE & THE PACIFIC**

We went back to Seattle, and we loaded up with LCMs. They were a small type of, some sort of a boat or something, and we carried quite a few of them out and tanks out to Pearl Harbor again. We went up to Seattle, and we were in there about a week, and we loaded up with all this stuff and then we took off, and it went back out to Pearl Harbor, and unloaded them, and then, from then on, no, we took them out to, I think we did, anyway, to Guam and Saipan. We went out there and there we loaded up with dynamite. We were going into it real good, and we were up, going on up, to Okinawa. There was still fighting there, and we got about, oh, I don't know how far out, and one of the engines conked out. So, we had to come back. We accused the engineering officer of putting sand in them.

[Laughter]

**381: WELL, THEY WERE BOMBING JAPAN**

**397: WHEN THE WAR ENDED**

And it delayed us. And by that time, we were back at Guam. We could see all these planes flying in and out of Tinian, and we wondered what they were. Well, they were bombing Japan. And Enola Gay, Gray, who was the plane that took the nukie, it was flying over, but we didn't know it. We didn't know it. Oh, that was the tightest secret, because I had a friend later on that had worked at the airbase in Tinian. And he said, "They didn't tell us a damn thing. We were just doing things, and we didn't know why or what, until the Enola Gay came back from their first bombing with a nuclear bomb. Then, everybody knew it." That island --but we didn't know it. We were just about ten miles away on Guam. We didn't know until after the war ended. But we had a big time when the war ended. When we got word that it ended, the skipper went ashore. Well, the exec got out all the beer, all the wine, all the booze that we'd had, and it was under lock and key, and everybody had a bit, and every ship in the harbor had a big time. And I understand they had some pretty good parties ashore.

*Yeah?*

**411: VISITING JAPAN**

Then we went about a week. After that, we went up to Okinawa. The engines had gotten fixed, and we unloaded the dynamite, and we were there for awhile-- quite awhile. And this buddy of mine who was an enlisted signalman-- He and I went ashore and went into some of the caves, one of the dumbest things you could do, because there might be still live Japanese there. But we didn't find any.

[Laughter]

And we went up into the mountains. We took the jeep, and went up into the mountains, and all. We saw it. And when the-- I looked up a buddy of mine that I'd gone to high school with. He was in the Army, and he was on Okinawa. And all you could get to drink there was coffee.

[Laughter]

Well, the Japanese didn't have any--You didn't want Japanese stuff. Whooh, boy, that was potent when you did get it! And we were there for awhile, and then the war was ended, so everything was settling down. And all of a sudden, we got-- middle of the night-- we got a dispatch to prepare to leave immediately -- typhoon coming through.

*Oooh*

**430: TYPHOON COMING THROUGH AND A CLOSE CALL**

Well, I'd heard of typhoons, but I'd never been through one. And we were getting underway, and we thought we were following this ship. But it was stationary and it was loaded with ammunition. And if we'd ever hit it, everything would have been blown up. But we discovered it

was tied up, so we just skirted around it, and got out on the harbor, and out of the harbor, and started-- you had to go straight south from Okinawa as fast as you could go. And you'd get out of the typhoon area. But, man, when we came back, and then, when the typhoon had passed, we came back, and, man, that harbor was a mess! Every ship that couldn't get underway was up on the beach on its side, on its back, and then there was a ship coming from Japan down that got caught in it. And it was a destroyer. It was split in half. Well, the half that had the engine and all that in it, they made that down to Okinawa. I don't know what happened to the other half, whether it sunk and all. But that ship made it down there to Okinawa, and they towed it back to the U.S. and put another half on it. [Interviewer expressed shock.] Oh, we were experts in the Navy and ashore.

And more than once, we were in Guam, and we had to haul out at the drop of a hat to go--there was a earthquake in Alaska-- out to sea, how far, and Guam is miles from Alaska. Those waves were coming down so fast, and so spontaneous, and high, that any ship that could get underway - get out and head southwest until you are ordered to come back! Boy, that was going! One of these, like it would be something like a tsunami that was in the East. There was, just last winter, something along that line. These waves would come, and some of the ships that were tied up and couldn't get out were damaged. But it wasn't a real tsunami. But it was bad enough.

*Oh.*

And we got out of it.

**483: MAIL**

*So, when you were on ship, did you keep in touch with your family?*

Oh, yeah. You did. Every time you went into port. I and the mailman would have to go ashore with me with the side arms on, but no bullets.

*You just had to look threatening, huh?*

[Laughter]

We laughed about that. What the hell good is a gun if you don't have any bullets? But that was the rule. They knew the Japanese people wouldn't jump on us. They were peaceful. But you had to have it.

**495: TO NEW GUINEA TO PICK UP TROOPS**

**505: BACK TO JAPAN, FIRST SHIP TO GO INTO HARBOR**

**519: JAPANESE TOILETS**

But we hadn't been up to Japan by then. But they were-- they sent us down to New Guinea to pick up troops. We were supposed to go down to the Philippines for training, to the invasion of Japan. But that was all over with. We went up to Japan, and we were there for a few days, and then we took off for New Guinea.

When we got down there, we had to load up with Air Force that were there, and it took awhile. And, then, we came back up to Japan. And when we got into Japan, we were the first ship to go into the harbor and tie up to the pier. Before that, they stayed out in the harbor and anchored. But there was wonderful piers there, so we could go in. We were the first one to go in and tie up to the pier. Well, we found out why. They were going to work on our engines, and our system, and bring everything up to date. And that shut off the water supply, and everything, and toilets. There were no toilets aboard ship. And we had to go down to one of the buildings on the pier, and go in, and use the Japanese toilet. And it was nothing like an American. [Laughter] It was a hole in the floor, and you just squat down, and do your duty. [Laughter].

*Yeech.*

Yeah. And once a day, the doctor and his crew would have to come down and turn the hoses on to clean it and keep it sanitary.

*Once a day?*

Once a day. Well, there was a line of them, so

*Yep.*

[Laughter]

And we had to go ashore to get water. We had to. There was no power, and we got power from the shore. And that was about, for about a week, and then we got our old supplies back. But their piers that the ship was in, getting repaired, was wonderful. They were up to date, and the toilet was, except that it was just the wrong style. It was Japanese style, not American style.

[Laughter]

#### **548: CHANGING SHIPS TO LST 775**

And, then, we went up to, well, we'd been up to Japan. Yeah, we were in Japan then, and we made—that's where I decided I wanted-- this ship that I was on-- the LST 1062-- was going, I don't know, it was going on some long trip. And I didn't want it, so I put in a request to change ships, and I got it. I got a flagship LST 775.

#### **564: CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

And we were in either Guam or Saipan around Christmas time. And the captain that was head of the staff, he asked his doctor to go to the Protestant Christmas service to represent him. And he said, "Oh, I can't. I have to—I've been invited to go to the Catholic Mass." Laughter. And then he came and asked me, "Would it be ok if I went?" and he told me why. I said, "Sure, come on." [Laughter] And he said, "Why the hell should I go to the Protestant service when he doesn't go!"

*Yeah.*

[Laughter]

“No way!”

He didn't-- I gather that the staff did not like their commanding officer. It was the, well, they had duty of five ships or something. And the trouble was they, whoever was the skipper on there, we had a new skipper, and I was new and all, had not kept the files, had not kept the communication things. They kept them.

*Hmmm.*

### **585: TAKING CARE OF CODES**

And when they left, I went into the files and found, my God, we had, shortly after Christmas, they left, went back to the States. They had this type of code and that kind of code not locked up, or anything, and that was one of the worst rules you could have. So, I called the office ashore and said, “What am I going to do with them?” “Well, take care of them.” I said, “No, I'm not going to touch them. They're not locked. They're open and all.” He said, “What!” And I said, “Yes.” He said, “Bag them up. Bring them in to me.”

So, I bagged all the communication stuff up, took it in to him, and they went through it. I got the jeep, and I drove into the base. Then they said, “Now, we are going to take these codes and all and issue --they're all expired-- we're going to issue them to you. Then, you will legally be able to destroy them. Take them. Go through them and burn every one of them.” And I was glad when that was over, because you weren't supposed to—your codes and all were top, were, at least, secret. [TAPE SIDE CHANGES] Two days of burning stuff! That was how old the stuff was.

*What had they been keeping it for?*

Oh, top secret, secret, confidential, when you were through with it, you burned it. It was strip codes, and you just tear them, and put them in the fire, and tear them, put them in the fire, and burn them. And make sure that they were burned very easily.

And then I got transferred to another ship. I had to go from Guam up to Saipan to catch it.

*How did you get there?*

### **630: SETTING UP A GOVERNMENT ON THE ISLANDS**

In an L --a small boat and that was going to-- I don't know why the 1062 was being-- where it was going, but I didn't want to go with it. And we went-- got on the 775, yeah, and when we went-- left Saipan, we were going-- we had government Navy personnel that were legal beagles. They were setting up a government on the islands. So, we went down to the Caroline Islands, and got down there, and we were there for a good while, because we had these government people. And they had to go around to the different people and all.

And, so, we had the skipper-- that skipper didn't want to allow drinking aboard ship of any kind. So, we put the small boat out on the water, and two or three times I went with the crew aboard,

and those that were eligible for liberty got on. And we put the beer in and went to one of the islands and sat there -- did nothing but drink the beer, and goof off, and look around, and then come back to the ship. Because it was against the rules to have booze -- drinking booze aboard ship. But when we were out at sea, we did it, because nobody would know about it. [Laughter] And this captain said, "Keep your mouths shut when you go ashore." [Laughter] So, we'd have two beers a day, and I'd give my two, because I didn't drink beer, to somebody else. And we had, we were there about, oh, three weeks, yeah, on this-- I don't know what the name of it was -- but it was the Caroline group.

#### **650: A JESUIT PRIEST WHO HAD BEEN PRISONER**

And, then, they gave us a bunch of natives to take back to their islands that the Japanese had had there at the Carolines. And we put them on the tank deck, and then we had to put a guard there to see that they stayed there, and to see that nobody went down and molested them.

And we had two Jesuit priests aboard. One was Spanish, and one was American. We had picked him up at Guam or Saipan where he had come up. He had been on some islands where the Japanese captured, and they put him in prison. Oh, Guam, it was Guam. And he said he wasn't sick all the time they were in prison. He felt fine. And when the war ended, he said, "Send me back. I'm fine. I'm in good health." And he said, two days later, he was walking down the dusty street of whatever island it was, and, boom, he fell flat on his face. Knocked out. And he had to be shipped back to Honolulu for medical care. And he said he was helping when he was in prison-- he was helping other sick people, and he never got sick, and, all of a sudden, it hit him like that.

And he was on the ship. He was the American Jesuit that was on the ship. And he was taking over from the Spanish Jesuits. And they were in the stateroom right-- like there was a wall here and I was in this one, and they were there. So, when they'd wake up in the morning and go to say Mass, I'd be awake. I'd go in to attend Mass with them. And, oh, he'd told all about how, oh, he had been in the Philippines, not Guam. He'd been in the Philippines, and he said when they'd captured, that they'd put them in jail --prison-- and he said he'd just passed out on the sand when he went back.

#### **673: TAKING NATIVES BACK TO THEIR ISLANDS; A WOMAN SHUNNED BY HER PEOPLE**

And, finally, it was January of '46 by that time. January, or February, we got back to Guam. We got all these people out on their islands, and there was-- they had this-- one woman had been taken by the Japanese as a what, I guess, a prostitute, I don't know, and she got pregnant. Well, her own people disowned her. They-- we had to put her--well, the government team that was with us had to put her-- the people put her on an island separate from-- there was a small little island. It had one coconut tree and some water. I don't know how they got the water, but they had water. She and her child had to stay on that. Now, how long, I don't know. We could do nothing, and the government, at that time, could do nothing. It was-- they were just there to see that they didn't break any American laws, or whatever, I don't know. But those natives-- they put her on the island. They were going to keep her there.

*How awful.*

Yeah. We thought, even the crudest men aboard our ship thought, it was awful.

But there was nothing we could do as a crew, as a ship, and I don't know whether the military officers were able to do anything over a period of time, because they were going to stay there. I don't know.

### **690: IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, THE CABLES BROKE**

And when we got back to Guam and Saipan, we could prepare to head back to the states. We had to tow another LST. And we were towing them back. We were past Honolulu. That's where we had picked up the ship. We went to Honolulu and picked up the ship that we were towing. We were towing them back to the states, and, in the middle of the night, the cables broke. Well you try to get two ships tied up—

*Yeah.*

-together in the middle of the night. We did it, but it was ungodly.

And we finally got to San Diego, got rid of the ship that we were towing, and then we had to take pontoons—they're big metal that they use for bridges-- and we carried them tied to the side of a ship-- one on each side-- and we had to take them up some place up the coast. And we got them up there.

### **700: DECOMMISSIONED**

And we came back down and then we had to go up to San Francisco and decommission. Yay! We were going home. And we got up to San Francisco, and we decommissioned the ships, and they were all set to go. And we went ashore. And we were there for about a week while they got the papers and everything.

And we got on the train and took off. [Laughter] And I went to Chicago and stayed at my-- a cousin -- overnight, and, then, I had to take the train up to Great Lakes and got discharged. Then, I took the train down to Paxton. And my mother and a neighbor-- I called or, yeah, I called, and told her send a telegram or something, that I'd be in a train at a certain time. So my mother --or this neighbor brought my mother in to pick me up. And I was back.

### **713: PROMOTED**

And then July, July 1<sup>st</sup>, I got a letter from the Navy saying that I'd been promoted to Lieutenant JG. And I was going to just forget it. My sister had been married to an army officer, and he had died of cancer. They'd lived in Spokane. She said, "You go get it. It is important for you, and it'll be good for you." I said, "How am I going to get down there?" "I'll take you down there." And she took me down to Champaign-Urbana, to the Armory, and I went in and got promoted.

And it came in handy later, but my tour was over, so that ends World...

*Was it two years long? Was your tour-- How long was your tour, do you know?*

I was in the Navy from '43 to July 1<sup>st</sup>, '46.

*Whew. That's a long time.*

Well, my brother was in the Army from January of '42 to sometime in '46.

*Wow.*

And my other brother, the oldest brother, the one that had the broken neck, he got taken in after I did. And I don't know how-- he was home when I got home, so I don't know how long he was. He was up here in Chicago, then. So, I don't know how long he was in. But he was in for two years, I guess. But he worked at prison camps. So, that ends World War II.

### **730: BETWEEN WWII & KOREA**

*So, did you stay in the military in between World War II and Korea, or were you-- did you do something else in between?*

Oh. No, I didn't stay in the Navy. I went Reservist. And I went back to college, and finished college, and started teaching school. [Laughter] Oh, I had my heart set on school. Oh.

The first school I taught at, twenty or twenty-five young girls had to quit because they were pregnant. The next school I taught at, some boys had gonorrhea, and the town about eight miles away, they had more damn gonorrhea than Carter has pills. They almost had to close the school and get medical care in.

It was horrible and I quit teaching.

And I was married then. And my wife and I moved up back up to Chicago. She was from Chicago.

And now do I have to start on the Korean?

*You can, if you want to.*

Ok. Well, I want to tell both.

*Good.*

So, I was working at Armour's. I enjoyed the work. And you'd have to, on Mondays, you'd have to work long hours, because you had to get all the orders in, and all the reports in, and count this and count this number of hams, and count this number of pigs coming through to be butchered, and all. And, then, on Saturday, you had to work a half a day, so you timed yourself. So, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, I could get off anywhere from noon to two, three, four o'clock. But on Monday, you had to work till about eight or nine. And Saturday, you had to work a half a day. So, you had your other days short.

### **758: ORDERS ARRIVE FOR KOREA**

And I'd come home from work, and my wife would say, "Hey," when the Korean War had started, my wife would say, "Oh, you'd got orders." And I'd say, "Throw it in the furnace!" Laughter. She said, "Ok." Laughter. I came home this one day, November of '51, and she pulled that on me, and I said, "Oh, burn it!" She said, "Oh, no, I'm not! This is the real thing." And I said, "What?" Yeah.

December 1<sup>st</sup>, I had to report for duty in Astoria, Oregon. So, I went to work, and I found out that if I was- if I went in the service, my job would be held safe. That was the way it was then. I don't know how it is now. I guess it still is. Yeah.

### **774: TO BASE IN ASTORIA, OR**

And, so, two weeks before I had to go, I had to quit, because I had to go up to Great Lakes and downtown to the Navy office there for different things. I had to go up to Great Lakes to get— first, I had to go to the office downtown. And it was November, and it was cold, and the streets were icy in Chicago. They didn't have them cleared then. Laughter. And this on-- I was going up a hill, and I couldn't make it. I finally made it. And I had to go in, and sign this, and sign that. And, then, I had to go up to Great Lakes and get-- they had changed uniforms. We had gray uniforms in World War II. We had gone back to the khaki and the navy blue uniforms. So, I had to get all new uniforms. And, then, December, I left on the 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> of December, to get out to Astoria—Astoria on the first—and my son was just one year old. And my wife was living-- we were living with my in-laws-- and got on the train, and went out there. And we were living on the base then. I don't know why they had us out there. Oh, we were, we had to appear on the ship every day, and do work. That was it. And, boy, was there drinking there! What they-- I don't know whether I should have this in or not.

[Laughter]

*It's for your country, I think you should.*

What?

*It's for your country, I think you should.*

I know.

[Laughter]

### **791: AT THE OFFICERS' CLUB**

I was at the officers' club, and I got a little high, and there was some guy there. He was a lieutenant commander. And I was just a JG. And I went-- we were sort of buddies-- and I went, and slapped my hands on his back, and said, "How is this lieutenant commander" with this-- I made some remark. And he got a little bugged, and they pulled me off, and said, "You'd better go back to your room."

[Laughter]

And, then, we had another guy. Oh, he was horrible. He was a lieutenant from Mississippi, and he had been called back in. And he would get so drunk that, sometimes, he'd have to crawl on his hands and knees. And he was an alcoholic, I found out later. And he'd be drunk, and they could not send him out for what they had thought he would have duty on. They sent him out to some island, small island in the Pacific, where there was a post office. And no booze, no nothing, for his line of duty, for however long it was.

And, then, there was another guy that he would open a bottle of beer up on his desk and leave it sit there overnight, and, then, he'd go into town. And in Astoria, in Oregon, they did not have taverns --you had to go to a state office, and buy your bottles, and take them unopened to the tavern, and they would take the bottles and label them.

*Hmmm.*

And every time you came in, you got the same bottle, but the only trouble was, sometimes, they would --the owner would empty them out or take out some of it. I would never have that. But this guy would get drunk, and he'd come back and drink that stale beer that was maybe a week stale. And it would sober him up, I guess, or somehow. Ugh.

*Ugh.*

#### **818: ON AN LSSL DOWN THE COLUMBIA RIVER**

I was glad to get aboard ship. And we left on a LSSL, Landing Ship Support Large. It was a small piddly ship, but it was a large landing ship. And Astoria, Oregon, is about 20 miles inland on the Columbia River. And we had to go down it, and when you get to where the Columbia runs into the Pacific Ocean, it's like you're way down here, and the water's way up here. And we had to have a pilot take us out because you couldn't-- and he got here. You'd be down and, all of a sudden, you'd go into the water, and up, up, up, and, then, the other side, you'd be down. There was water from the river going out, and the water from the tide coming in.

When I went home, it was Christmas time. I went home at New Year's. And coming back, we got, I flew back, and we got to, well, we were going into Chicago. And I thought, oh God, I'm going to have to--they'd had a horrible snowstorm, and I thought we would be stranded at Milwaukee. But we came in to Midway. That was the only airport. And the taxi cab took me a block and a half from the house. He could not get into the street. It was snowed in. So, I had to plow through a block and a half. And Kevin, my youngest son, was sick while I was home. And the doctor came out to the house, but he had to park down on 55<sup>th</sup> Street and walk into where we lived on 53rd. You couldn't-- the streets were just not open. And that was when doctors still made home visits. And I understand they're beginning to do that now.

#### **847: I GOT ALONG BETTER WITH THE ENLISTED MEN PORTLAND TO ASTORIA**

And, so, I got back to Astoria. I got back to Portland, and I said, "How am I going to get there?" There was another sailor on the plane with me. And I asked-- I said, "How are we going to get back to Astoria?" He said, "I know just the place. When we get off at Portland, we'll go out to

this restaurant and sit there and wait. And around midnight, there'll be a guy going back to Astoria. And we'll all ride with him." He was another Navy man. I said, "Ok." So, I was the only officer, and, technically, it was out of place, but to hell with it. [Laughter] I got along better with the enlisted men than I did with the officers, most of them. In World War II, that was true. By time I got to Korea in the Korean War, it was a little better. I had learned something. But, still, I got along better with the enlisted men than the officers. And we got in the car, and it was jammed. I was in the front seat. And he said, "Now, when we get up in the mountains,"-- it was raining in Portland-- "you're going to have to roll down the window and scrape the snow off." [Laughter] And I did. I had to, because it was coming down so bad he couldn't see. The windshield wiper wouldn't take it all off. And then when we got -- it was really bad, and when we got going down, the closer we got down to Astoria, the less snow. And when we got to Astoria, water was running through the streets. It was raining!

*Hmmm.*

And I thought what the hell kind of country are we in! [Laughter] We never had anything like that in Illinois! [Laughter] It would be either rain or snow, not both.

And we got there and made it. And, then, we were there December, January, February, and till the middle of March. It was Saint Patrick's Day about, I think, when we went out to sea going down to San Diego. And, oh, I sent-- I brought boxes of salmon and sent it home. Oh, my mother-in-law, and father-in-law, and wife loved it, and all. And I kept them happy.

And we started out in-- up up up up up and, boom, down! And we had more people that were seasick. Well, the boat, ship, was small, and every bounce of water just took it.

And this one guy, I found him laying half asleep. He had vomited half way up. He was going out to heave up. And I had to get another guy to help me bring him up. But they were sick-- quite a few. I was-- I got over it right away. The first day I was, but after that I was ok.

#### **894: TO THE JAPANESE BASE**

And we were, I don't know how long we were down at San Diego-- about a week, and we were taking these ships. There was about five of them going to Japan to the Japanese. And we got out to Pearl Harbor, yeah, and then we were there a few days, and then we headed out to go to Japan. There was a fleet of five of us, and we got there, and then we broke up, and I went to the, you couldn't call it an officers', yeah, an officers' place. You had your bunk, and all, but it wasn't fancy like it was on the Navy base. This was an old Japanese base that the Navy had taken over, so it didn't have all the fancy things there.

[Laughter]

#### **907: LSD FORT MARION 22**

And I waited about three weeks, almost a month, to get on an LSD--landing ship dock-- Fort Marion 22. And they are a repair ship. Instead of --they didn't carry equipment, they repaired the equipment. Instead of, like an LST, the bow opened up. You went up on the beach --the bow opened up, and the ramp came down --and you unloaded your troops, and tanks, and everything.

With an LSD, it was a bigger ship, and it had the same type of open tank, open bottom and all, but the gates opened from the back.

You, if you were where a ship was broken down, and it had to be no bigger than a destroyer escort, that was the biggest you could take. It had to be, you would fill the tanks up with water, and the ship would sink, and then you'd open the gates, and water would flow in, and when you got it up to a certain level, you could take the ship in, and shut the gates, and pump it dry, and work on it, and repair it.

Well, luckily, we never had to repair anything damaged by -- we were out -- we were in Korea -- and we were out in the ocean -- about the destroyers, and all were going along-- they were inland-- in near the coast. And they were shooting inland, and the Koreans were shooting at the ships to try to sink them.

### **928: THE KOREANS WERE SHOOTING AT THE SHIPS**

And I had two buddies on this one. And I thought, Oh God, I knew they were there. And I says, oh, boy, the bullets-- they were shooting like-- this was the ship and you were going this way. There was-- the shore was over here. They would be firing. They'd start firing a little ways apart. And they'd start coming in closer, and closer, and closer, and closer until they supposedly hit the ship. And, then, they would bombard it. But this guy, later I saw him when we were back in Japan, he said, "Boy, we were saying our prayers!" And he said they came within almost hitting distance, and he said they stopped.

*Hmmm.*

So, we were useless. We were about five miles away from them. And, if they'd been hit, we'd have gone in but-- and I was there in Japan and Korea about a year and a half.

And, then, I came back. But I was gone about two years, I guess, somewhere between a year and a half and two.

### **946: DISCHARGED**

And when we got back to Japan in, let's see, now, '41, '42, and we headed back in '43, no, '53, '53, and we got back to San Francisco in the spring. And we got discharged, and I left San Francisco in May, yeah, and we got back to Chicago.

And my wife, and baby, and my in-laws met me down at the station. And, boy, I was glad to be home! But I joined. I found-- I said -- they're not going to call me in again without me getting money out of it!

*Mmmm Hmm*

### **963: ACTIVE IN THE NAVY RESERVES**

Because I had not been active in the Reserves, so, I went down, and became active. And I'd go one night a week to play Navy, I said to my wife. Laughter. Every Wednesday. And, then, every so often, we'd have a weekend --every--maybe, once every four months, we'd have a

weekend of where you'd have Saturday and Sunday, and you'd be home Saturday night, and you'd get up—I'd get up and go to six o'clock Mass, and then go down, get down there, about eight in the morning. And you got paid for those drills, so it was good money! And you had to go on two weeks training duty every year. And I went to--one time I went out to San Francisco. And then I went to Norfolk, Virginia. One time, a couple, once or twice, I went down to Key West. Now, that was interesting. We had to go on a submarine. And they were, oh gods, you'd be in a space more crowded than this room [10x14 or so]. One night, one day, on that, was enough!

[Laughter]

*So did you use all the things you learned when you came back home? Did you use any of those things you learned? Any of those communications things? Anything you'd done?*

#### **900: USING WHAT I LEARNED IN THE NAVY**

No, because I was not at a radio station, or anything like that. I did learn the idea of helping somebody. I came to work one morning. I had been promoted to a supervisor by then. That was in '56, '57, somewhere in there, and pulled into the lot. I got out of the car and one of my caseworkers was standing about two cars away. When he saw me, he said, "Mr. Hawker, this guy has a gun on me!" And I thought, oh, my God! I yelled out. I snarled, "Drop that gun!" And it was a kid. It was a teenager. He dropped it and ran!

[Laughter]

If it had been an adult, I don't know whether he would have shot me, too. And this kid, or not, I don't know, but this guy ran!

*Huh.*

And when we walked into the building, he was so scared, he couldn't open the door. I went to open the door, and my hands were shaking. Well, I went in the john and stayed there for about a half hour until I got over it.

But, now, that was the only two similar types --one in peacetime, one during war, and it was what I learned, what I did aboard ship, that I could do for this guy. The same type that I learned.

Let's see, what else? Well, yes, I learned-- I got promoted rather fast. I was working at a public aid office, and I knew how to handle papers. I knew how to handle people, because I was communications officer on the 1062.

#### **017: OPERATIONS OFFICER, LIEUTENANT SENIOR GRADE: USE THOSE STRIPES!**

Then, when I got on the 775, I was operations and communications. And, then, when I got on the LSD, the Fort Marion, I was operations officer and, oh, that caused a little trouble. I had been promoted to a lieutenant senior grade, and we were getting ready to move from one place to another. And, no, we were in port --that was it. We were in port in Japan. And I was responsible for signing the officers to their watch. So I told the navigator-- and the navigator never stood

watch at sea, because he'd have to be up at night and all, and navigate. But during, in port, ahhh. And, so, I assigned—and, so, he said, “Oh, I can't do it. I'm laying out the plan that we have to follow going back to the States.” So, I went into the exec and told him. And he looked at me a moment. And he said, “How many stripes do you have on that uniform?” I said, “Two.” “How many does this guy have?” And he named him. “One and a half.” “You're senior to him. Use those stripes. Now, get out of my office!” And he laughed. And I went and told him. I said, “You will take it.” And he knew he had to.

[Laughter]

#### **048: ATTITUDE ABOUT WAR & THE MILITARY**

*Did you change your-- one of the questions that I find very interesting is this one: did your military experience influence your thinking about war or about the military in general? Did it change the way you thought about it?*

I don't think it changed it. It just emphasized it. I think war is horrible, but sometimes-- and in World War II, we needed to be. The Korean War, the way it was run--I... And, then, I read, oh, who was this doctor that was so famous during the Vietnam War? I have his book at home somewhere.

But he was from Saint Louis. And he was a doctor, and they called him in, and they sent him to Vietnam. And he was in the Army. And, oh gods, what he went through! And he finally died, but that war was... They would take a hill [slapped table]. The Marines and the Army would march up and take it and, then, after they took it, they didn't keep it. They walked down and gave it back to them. That's why, one reason -- well, I was a Republican, anyway. But I became a solid one because -- and when it turned out that Johnson had lied to Congress, that's what got me. And I just became more warlike.

Some of these wars are uncalled for, but the Iraq one and Iraq two were called for, no matter what they said about either one of the Bushes. I backed them one hundred percent, because Saddam Hussein was butchering people as bad as Hitler and Stalin. You may not agree with me. And I don't care what you say, but you're not going to say anything, are you? [Laughter] The only thing I found fault with was the old Mr. Bush-- was he didn't go and have the troops take Baghdad. Well, he had a good out. They were only supposed to stop them invading Kuwait. That was what the United Nations had said, and he did have their support. So, he did what he was supposed to do. But his son couldn't get the support of the United Nations. I, personally, it's as bad as the League of Nations was. That was a big flop, and the U.N. is a big flop. They've left in Sudan. They had been killing them since at least 1960, the Christians, and the pagans, killing them, taking the women into slavery, taking the children-- the boys twelve and thirteen-- making them be in the army and, so on, and killing the rest. For example, the Catholic bishops in Sudan, if they had a meeting, each one would disappear across the border into Uganda and have a meeting place, and have their meeting there, and then dribble back. Women would be—they'd see their husbands killed, and then they'd be drug into slavery. And finally, in either last year or first part of this year, the United Nations got some idea of what was going on. They ignored it. And the Korean War was, uh, well... but the Iraq War was necessary because -- they didn't find those weapons that Bush had been reported, he had gotten a report that there were weapons -- but

they did find graves of hundreds of people -- men, women, children. Dead. Killed and buried. So, some wars I'm not in favor of, [not] just to have fighting to have fighting, but some wars are necessary.

*So, did you join a veterans group when you came home from either war? Or have you ever belonged to any*

I did, when I was teaching downstate [Illinois], when I was first, when I got through with World War II, but, oh, hell, all they did was drink.

[Laughter]

They had meetings, but they drank and I—

*And did you stay friends with anybody that you served with at all? Do you know anybody still?*

#### **149: REUNIONS AND TALKING ABOUT THE WAR**

Yeah, we have a reunion, but I haven't been there for quite some time, since I've been up here-- here at Saint Andrews. We had a -- I was in a reunion in Virginia in 1991, and I've kept in touch, but I haven't been since then. I'm planning on going this time, but I don't know whether I will.

*Do they still just sit around and drink or do people talk? Did you talk when you came back from the Second World War and from Korea? Did you talk about what you'd done?*

At home. At home. But not out in public. I know there was people that did, but I just couldn't see it. They'd give speeches and ballyhoo. And a lot of that was ballyhoo, I think. [Laughter] But, no, I did not.

*And I had a gentleman that I'd interviewed who had gone to the World War II Memorial-- the dedication last summer or last spring. Have you ever thought about going there?*

Where is it?

*Seeing it in Washington.*

Oh, I thought that was down in New Orleans.

*Not that I know of.*

I don't know. Well, since my wife was killed in an automobile accident, I haven't traveled much at all. I have no desire to. And before she was killed and I had retired, we traveled quite a bit. We went to-- this was in-- we went to Washington D.C., but that was years ago in the early nineties or eighties, and we went to Maryland, and all. We went up to New England. We went to Canada twice. But she would never go west of the Mississippi. And I loved the West, and she loved the East. So, I went east.

[Laughter]

*Well and you'd been there. Had she been-- Had she been west because you had been-- then where you were serving you were all up and down the West Coast.*

Oh, I worked there. I worked in the summer when I was in college in '47 with the Forest Service. I'd been up and down the East Coast, and all, but she didn't care to--so we went east. Well, I hadn't seen much of the east except Boston.

[Laughter]

*And you didn't like that, anyway.*

Well, in the wintertime—but, by springtime, it was beautiful.

*Oh, that's good.*

We were there from January 'til March or April, and it was nice. I liked Boston, but in the wintertime, you can keep it!

[Laughter]

And we went down to North Carolina and saw Wright's, where they flew the plane, and all. But she liked the East Coast. I liked Washington and Oregon. Just travel through the West. It's fascinating.

## **219: WHY THE NAVY**

*Were you glad you'd chosen the Navy rather than a different branch of service?*

Oh, definitely. I would never be in the Army. And the Marines, they're a good team, but, there's funny rules in the Navy and in the Marines. One is this-- the Navy, you can never go into -- if you're aboard ship, you can never go into the dining room for officers, wearing your guns. The Marines have a rule, they never go anywhere without their guns. And we had during the Korean War

Two more stories from Mr. Hawker, told after the tape ran out.

At one point, they had some Marines on board their Navy ship. Navy rules say you can't carry your weapons into the dining room, but Marine rules say you can never be without your guns. The visiting Marines were all in uproar over the request to leave their guns. As a compromise, they all agreed that the Marines could take their guns into dinner, but they had to carry them in and hold them on their laps.

Korean War – He was in Yahousku (spelling?), part of a group of officers who were walking down the street. A four-stripe captain stopped him and said, "Young Man! In this man's Navy we wear our sleeves rolled down and buttoned!" "Yes Sir!" said Mr.

Hawker. His sleeves were "like this" (rolled up). The four-stripe captain was a chaplain!  
Two or three of the other officers walked past Mr. Hawker and laughed.