

Interviewer: Okay do you want to tell us your full name and when and where you were born?

Taylor: S.B. Taylor I was born in Flatwood route I don't know whether they had a route then or not, 1924.

Interviewer: Okay do you know what branch of service you served in the primary unit you were in?

Taylor: WWII I was in the U.S. Navy task force 58 that's the all of the ships together you know task force.

Interviewer: Did you serve in did you see any special action at the time?

Taylor: Well we was in the South Pacific and there was hornets flying around everywhere the suicide planes. That's what give us trouble they would come in out on the water and the radar wouldn't pick them up and they'd just come right in hit our ship. We was all on guard the other ships and the little ships like I was on the Antony destroyer they'd come in behind us and if there was a big ship over here a carrier or battleship they would raise up and go over us then they'd be right on them. You couldn't pick them up if they were on the water.

Interviewer: We'll get to that point later. What were your parent's names and what were their occupations?

Taylor: I can't hear good what did he say?

Interviewer: What were your parents names and their occupation?

Taylor: My daddy's name was George Taylor and he was a farmer and my mother's name was Sadie Taylor and she worked some with in the product factory garment factory.

Interviewer: Did you have any brothers and sisters and how long did you remain in school?

Taylor: I've got two brothers and a sister my older brother died he was Carl Taylor and Harold Taylor he lives in Florida and my sister is Bobby Jane she lives out here in town Bobby Jane Steel.

Interviewer: Do you have any memories of the great depression?

Taylor: Yeh you mean during the war?

Interviewer: Right before the war when hard times.

Taylor: Oh no we got by we had enough to eat we all lived that way. We'd all go up to grandmother Grinder and there was a school a lot of boy and girls and we'd play and that was our we didn't have no bicycle or anything like that for pleasure we just go down to the creek hunting throw rocks in the creek, wade the creek. Cletus every once in a while she'd give us a whipping but the hurts on when we'd get back she'd say whop them Mammy whop them. Mammy would whip us.

Interviewer: Did the hard times affect your family? How did ya'll cope during that time?

Taylor: Well I guess it affected the family but everybody was the same then there was a few people that had money but not many. Most of them farmed or cut timber the men worked the saw mill. But there wasn't no factories around here to work.

Interviewer: Did ya'll have any hardships?

Taylor: No not bad.

Interviewer: Were you old enough to have a job before your time in the service? Did you have a job before that time?

Woman in the background: Sawmill

Taylor: What?

Woman in the background: You worked at the sawmill.

Taylor: I had some uncles that had a sawmill and I worked with them until I was 18 then I was drafted for the Navy. Went in and stayed three years.

Interviewer: How much did it pay?

Taylor: The Navy?

Interviewer: The sawmill.

Taylor: Not very much it seemed like I started out like 25 cents an hour. Proud to get that.

Interviewer: Was it a pretty hard job?

Taylor: Yeh it was hard carrying lumber you know stacking it crossties.

Interviewer: How long were you doing that?

Taylor: How long?

Interviewer: Yeh

Taylor: Not very long. I'd work for people on a farm help them plow and make a crop, hauled hay.

Interviewer: Did you have a, how many days a week did you work was it everyday or was it

Taylor: Every day I could if it rained or anything you couldn't work. And back then on Sunday they wouldn't let us work my mother wouldn't even let us go fishing on Sunday.

Interviewer: Ya'll just had a, is that just usually when ya'll went to church things like that?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: Did ya'll do anything, how old were you at this time when you were working at the sawmill?

Taylor: How old was I?

Interviewer: Yeh

Taylor: I guess I was 16, 17

Interviewer: Before Pearl Harbor how seriously did you take the threat to America from the Nazis and the Japanese?

Taylor: How seriously?

Interviewer: Yeh did you think they were a big threat to the U.S. before Pearl Harbor happened?

Taylor: Really in this part of the country we didn't know much what was going on then they bombed Pearl Harbor then that scared everybody.

Interviewer: Did you read newspapers to keep up with what was going on?

Taylor: Wasn't no wasn't any newspapers.

Interviewer: Ya'll had a radio you said.

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: Get the news on it.

Taylor: Run on a battery you know like a car battery there was three or four of them that run that radio.

Interviewer: What kind of radio did you have?

Taylor: What kind was it?

Interviewer: Yeh

Taylor: Seemed like it was a Zenith.

Interviewer: Zenith

Taylor: Best I remember.

Interviewer: Did you did ya'll read newspapers too?

Taylor: No we didn't have no newspaper.

Interviewer: Do you remember where you were when you heard the news of the attack of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941?

Taylor: No I don't remember I remember Foy Smith lived up there by ole Cletus he said there goes par ole pry points they was buying all this ole metal they could find he said the Japanese dropped the bomb they made bombs out of pry points and steel.

Interviewer: This is your friend?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: What was his name?

Taylor: Foy Smith

Interviewer: And he's the one that told you about when it happened?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: What was your reaction when you heard that?

Taylor: Well we wasn't that excited then we didn't know what was going on to tell you the truth.

Woman in the background: S.B. you went to where the bomb was dropped that happened.

Taylor: There's one man that was in Pearl Harbor James King he just died couple of years ago. He was in there when they dropped the bomb.

Interviewer: And this is someone you knew?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: How did you know him?

Taylor: How did I know him?

Interviewer: Yeh

Taylor: Well he lived over here on Brush Creek everybody knew everybody around at the time Flatwood Linden.

Interviewer: So he was already in the Navy at the time?

Taylor: Uh huh he left there stayed in there until he retired and he just died about two years ago.

Interviewer: Did he ever tell you what he experienced?

Taylor: No

Interviewer: What happened there did he talk about it much?

Taylor: No

Interviewer: Do you remember listening to the FDR speech The Day Which Shall Live in Infamy the following day? Did you guess that the war would reach America's shores and touch your life?

Taylor: No I didn't realize what was going on. I thought the United States nobody could get to us were so far off.

Interviewer: Yeh did you even know where Pearl Harbor was then?

Taylor: No

Interviewer: Had you ever heard of it?

Taylor: No that's right I didn't know.

Interviewer: Did you approve of the way FDR handled his office at the beginning of the war?

Taylor: I guess I do it seemed like it worked out. But I didn't realize he was a sick man then you know he didn't live through it. And to tell you how interested I was they said the vice-president would be the next president well I didn't even though who the vice-president was. I was asking them over there I was on the ship at that time I was asking them they said he was Harry Truman. And he did a good job

Interviewer: Yeh he was the one who helped end it. When did you realize that you would be drafted?

Taylor: When did I realize it?

Interviewer: Yeh

Taylor: Well I was expecting it any week they was just taking a load just about every week and they'd go up to Fort Overthorpe Georgia and they would check you up there and send you back home or wherever you was going if you passed. I went and stayed two or three days and they took be in the Navy and sent me to Nashville. I stayed home seven days and then I deported to Illinois' Chicago Great Lakes Illinois. Stayed up there three or four months I believe then I come home and stayed a little while and went to California put me on a ship there.

Interviewer: Did you have a preference to the branch of service or what kind of military task you performed?

Taylor: Yeh I told them they said what do you want to be and I said I want to go in the Army he said pass on sailor. They didn't give me a chance but I'm proud I went in the Navy we had a place to sleep every night plenty to eat if they didn't sink it and we made it through.

Interviewer: So when were you drafted?

Taylor: I believe I went in in 43 I don't know in November I think sometime in November.

Interviewer: Did you go to an induction center were you tested for skill and IQ levels?

Taylor: Yeh I'll tell you what I done up here at Great Lakes Illinois we took six weeks training up here with guns didn't have not live guns it was just dummy guns. And according to this leader we got to shoot 20 rounds of live ammunition that's what I got all in my boot camp.

Interviewer: What kind of guns did you use?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: What kind of guns did ya'll use to fight?

Taylor: It was something like a 30 30 then. I know I was small laid down on the ground and they was shooting across the field I'd ever once in a while crawl back up you know everyone use it.

Interviewer: You were 17 at the time? How old were you then?

Taylor: I was about 18 or 19.

Woman in the background: No you went in service is that what you meant?

Interviewer: Yeh when you were doing the training.

Taylor: It took us 7 days and 6 nights to go from California I mean Chicago to California in a troop train they called it. A cattle train it would stop at every crossing.

Interviewer: How was the ride going was it really uncomfortable?

Taylor: No I was enjoying it. The sight seeing you know going slow and every little stop the Red Cross would be out giving you cookies and we just wasn't in no rush I don't think.

Interviewer: So what did ya'll do on the train that six days going on the train just when you were on the train just

Taylor: Just sit there and talk.

Interviewer: Just sit there and talk.

Taylor: We didn't have no games or anything.

Interviewer: Did your civilian job have anything to do with what you did in the military did you pick up anything what you did in the sawmill that helped you?

Taylor: I barbered in a barber shop for a while well all the people would come up there on Sunday and I'd cut their hair free of charge. Well we got on a ship took us to New Caledonia that's an island in the Pacific out going unit. And all we done in there was just eat you'd get in line for breakfast and by the time you got through you'd go back and get in line for dinner that's how big the line was. And I worked in a barber shop there so I could eat and wouldn't have to wait in line. Then that little ole ship come out the Anthony wanting a barber the USS Anthony they called over there and said they had one. I went over there and got on that ship and I stayed on that ship until the war was over. That's all I done on

there was barber and we didn't have a battle station everyone had a station I was on gun 5, with 5 inch projector on it. There was four of us there was five on the ship but it took four men to run it. Everybody had a station when they had you in the water.

Interviewer: Was it pretty hard during that time?

Taylor: No it wasn't bad. Those storms all the give you trouble you didn't have tornados it was a typhoon just a straight wind. The big ships in the harbor if it come a storm they would send them out to sea and we'd have to go with them to patrol them. Well they could go through that water you know they'd go down and they'd come up those little ships we were just going up and down. And we slept on there we had like a guard a safety belt we'd put that belt around us in our bed then it didn't roll us out.

Interviewer: So it was pretty choppy?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: Did you get sea sick or anything?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: Did you get sea sick?

Taylor: I never did a lot of them did I felt sorry for them. We'd take the ships out one night and they'd go in the wind you know we was wide open and lost seven miles that night blowed us back seven miles when we was trying to go forward. I was on a destroyer and every time a big ship would go out a destroyer would have to go with it. Those little destroyers just had ammunition on them we had ammunition shells, torpedoes, depth chargers we had all that stuff.

Interviewer: What was the name of the destroyer you were on?

Taylor: Anthony

Interviewer: Anthony before you went into the service you said you went to basic training in the Great Lakes up there. Is that where you did your basic training or was it California?

Taylor: I got all the training I had was Chicago Great Lakes on the lake up there.

Interviewer: Were you selected for any specialized training more specialized training?

Taylor: No we just a lot of exercise and we'd go out with these ole dummy guns shooting. And before we left they let us shoot 20 rounds of ammunition that's all the training I had before I got on the ship. And I got on the ship I couldn't do nothing I rode they put it on automatic and you couldn't do nothing. They'd put it on automatic and you'd just ride it was a five inch shell when you'd shoot one you'd have to load it then throw the other one out that's all we would do up there. If it wasn't automatic everybody would have to stay and I was on the little thing where you'd have to crank and turn the gun around you know. But it we were on automatic there wasn't much that we could do.

Interviewer: You must have shot automatic weapons?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: Was that the first time you ever shot an automatic weapon?

Taylor: Yeh they had five inch guns forty millimeters they was twins then there was 20 millimeters they was just a single shot and they had some little 50 caliber small guns. And you couldn't see what was going on during the general quarters you could just hear them talking. But when it would get down where you could hear those little 50 millimeters you was in close then. That was the only time you'd shoot them was when they was in close they was coming in trying to hit the ship and he did hit us twice but no casualties. We was off it hit some of the ships you know we'd go help pick them up get them off of that ole ship try to get them to a hospital. Get my picture of that ship in there (talking to a woman in the back ground).

Interviewer: Is this when ya'll were training or actual combat when this happened?

Taylor: Yeh we didn't have boot camp training but just a very short time.

Interviewer: So what was your impression of your fellow recruits?

Taylor: I lived on that little thing two years.

Woman in the back ground: It looks pretty big.

Taylor: No it was a small ship.

Interviewer: This is the ship you were on? (Holding up a frames picture of a ship)

Taylor: The USS Anthony 515 destroyer. It shows how many planes we got how many we shot down.

Interviewer: So ya'll shot down two planes you said?

Taylor: No I believe it was eleven.

Interviewer: Eleven

Taylor: Two of them hit us. One of them hit the A ship exploded and throwed the little ole Japanese all over the ship and they went out there picking up some of them gathered eyeballs and pick them up put them in alcohol. I got a little glove brought it home but I misplaced it somewhere.

Interviewer: Did you shoot down any planes?

Taylor: Did I?

Interviewer: Yeh

Taylor: Well I don't know I was just doing whatever the computer was doing we might have hit em.



Interviewer: What was your impression when you first experienced that?

Taylor: What was what?

Interviewer: What was your impression now with your first experience with combat?

Taylor: Well I really didn't know what we was doing. General orders would sound and everybody would go to their station and we'd just go up there and sit until the hooked us up on the radar that's all we done the soldiers just load the five inch shell put it in the gun where it would fire. It would go about five miles and we'd go up on the islands where Japanese Saipan, Guam, Okinawa we'd get on close to the islands and bombard them with five inch shells. Them ole battle wagons would get out past us with a 20 inch shell when that fired all you'd hear going over was, made a swirling sound, they'd hit the beach where they'd explode. At night the Marines they'd go and drop a parachute over there we had guns you know open up in the air a little parachute give them a good light and they'd just go down slow. That's when they'd move up we'd give them a light you know every little bit would parachute.

Interviewer: Did you shoot them too or did ya'll let the parachute come down?

Taylor: No it was just automatic it set where all we had to do was just fire and get them over there.

Interviewer: What was your impression of your fellow recruits?

Taylor: What

Interviewer: What was your impression of your fellow recruits?

Taylor: Well I didn't know anyone they took me off up here at Georgia I was by myself. I went up there with a truck load a bus load of men and boys form here I got up there they put me in the Navy and I felt I didn't know anyone. But I had some good friends in a little while.

Interviewer: Do you remember who your friends were?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: Do you remember who your friends were that you met?

Taylor: Well it was one from Dickson and most of them was up in East Tennessee I mean Maine, New Hampshire, New England up in there. But the one that was from Dickson he come over and seen me one time I don't know where he got to.

Interviewer: What was his name? Do you remember his name?

Taylor: Kale it seems like his last name was Kale. But the boys from the east up in New England up in there were fine good friends to you. They always wanted me to show them how to square dance I said I don't know how to square dance. That was something big to them up there you know.

Interviewer: Did they teach you how to eventually?

Taylor: No

Interviewer: They ever learn how to?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: Did they ever learn how to square dance?

Taylor: No they wanted me to show them how to do it and I didn't know how to. Every night they had a place down there where they'd get together all that wasn't on duty you know. One ole man had a violin a fiddle I called it he'd play that and they were just thrilled to death over that. They didn't know what a fiddle was.

Interviewer: So they played a lot of music down

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: Is that what ya'll did during down time?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: Is that what ya'll did during your down time?

Taylor: Yeh now there was someone on watch 24 hours a day.

Interviewer: Yeh

Taylor: And when they was off at night if they wasn't on watch they'd all get together and talk. They had pay day they'd be playing poker.

Interviewer: Did you play poker?

Taylor: No I never did and I don't know how. But they would lose every dollar they had up there sometime. One ole boy from Texas he said he bought him a ranch while he was on the ship.

Interviewer: Did you do anything special on your down time during that did you play games or anything like that?

Taylor: No some of them would play cards you know during the day if it was hot you would find a place if you wasn't working you could find a place up on deck take a nap you know. There was all kind of if you went to sleep they'd do something to you. They'd put a match in your shoe right there where it would hold in there and light it then they'd leave and when it got down there burning made you wake up.

Interviewer: Did they do that a lot?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: I did it happen to you?

Taylor: No they was ready to fight you know when they woke up.

Interviewer: Did you ever do that to anyone else?

Taylor: Oh yeh anybody.

Interviewer: So did any of their shoes get burned up?

Taylor: No it would wake them up just when it got down to it and burn you know.

Interviewer: Was it hot on deck a lot?

Taylor: Oh yeh you had to get in the shade. I guess you could cook an egg. See we went across the International Date Line twice, that's where it was hot.

Interviewer: Did you get sun burned or anything?

Taylor: No

Interviewer: Was this the first time you had been that far away from home?

Taylor: Yeh I don't guess I'd been out of Tennessee.

Interviewer: Did you ever get homesick when you were out there?

Taylor: Yeh get homesick for some good ole cooked meals you know.

Interviewer: Did you ever participate in maneuvers state side?

Taylor: No I guess I was lucky I was young and I wasn't married a lot of them on there were married and had a family and at times they cried like a little baby. But I didn't have no body but regular folks I didn't have no kids or wife.

Interviewer: How good did you think your training was for the task ahead of you? Did you feel like you were trained pretty well for your

Taylor: No I wasn't trained for nothing I just spent so many weeks up there get up before daylight and exercise and to show you how they treated you they had coal furnaces in the barracks automatic as long as there was coals in there you didn't have to worry about it. But they'd put two every night in one little place just sit there and see that the coal was going in and you would get so sleepy sitting there warm. If you went to sleep though they'd do something to you punish you some way.

Interviewer: How did they punish you?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: How would they punish you?

Taylor: Well they called it a brig they'd put you in a little room and I'll tell you what they called it was piss and punk that's what you eat. Just loaf bread toasted and they'd slide it under the door and that's what you eat. Now some of the buddies would slip food in there when they got a chance.

Interviewer: Did you ever have to go in there?

Taylor: No

Interviewer: So what did you do to keep from falling asleep?

Taylor: I just had to get up and walk around I just couldn't stay awake in there. As long as you were operating you didn't have nothing to do but they would come around checking you every little bit and see if you was awake. Stuff like that just to punish you I think.

Interviewer: So did you feel that you were well prepared to fight?

Taylor: Was I well prepared?

Interviewer: Well prepared

Taylor: Well I guess I was.

Interviewer: So how good were the living conditions in the camps on the ship?

Taylor: On the ship they was good. It was clean kept it cleaned up it would be people on that would be their job to keep house. We had cooks on there they cooked the meal in the daytime in the night they'd go and bake bread.

Interviewer: Was the food that good or was it?

Taylor: Yeh it was good. But it was every week the same thing you know. Friday was fish day that wasn't worth eating just couldn't stand it. At night though we had a friend up there in the bakery we'd go up there and he'd give us loaf of bread hot bread. We'd go down in our compartment and eat bread and when we was unloading supplies somebody would get a big can of spam they called it and that was good make a sandwich.

Interviewer: Yeh they had a lot of that around.

Taylor: Yeh also if it they was cooking they couldn't cook you know they turned their cooking pots over onetime we had c-rations they called it in little cans and you'd go around and get you a couple of cans eat that. It wasn't good but it was all you had to eat.

Interviewer: What was that?

Taylor: What was it?

Interviewer: What was it like?

Taylor: C-rations dehydrated eggs it was dried you know dehydrated and milk the same way. That's what they had if you didn't have no meal.

Interviewer: So what kind of unit did you serve in immediately after your advanced training?

Taylor: What kind of what?

Interviewer: Unit was it

Taylor: I don't know what

Interviewer: Did you have a specialized part of the Navy you had to perform?

Taylor: No you got on the ship well you just helped run the ship. And after the war was over we stayed on that ship until we come back home.

Interviewer: So which port did you depart from?

Taylor: San Diego is was a secret out going unit there you could hear the ocean we went in there on a train our night and they cut all of the lights out and nobody knew what was going on . Shoemaker California you could hear the ocean out there when they got ready for us to go they'd load us up like a bunch of cattle. And we went to New Caledonia it was an outgoing unit in the Pacific that's where they scattered them out you know. If a ship needed so many men well they'd come there and pick them up. That's when I left and I stayed on that ship all the way through there.

Interviewer: Now long was the voyage?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: How long was the voyage for you had to go out to?

Taylor: I don't know how long it was. I will tell you that squadron 24 is what there was 12 destroyers in there. And the task force just had aircraft carriers, battleships, cruisers they called one day for a ship our ship to join a taskforce and they was going to head us up to a Japanese fleet. Well we joined them we drove all night well we didn't drive we rode all night when daylight come I went up and looked around and I've never seen as many ships in my life. That's when we turned the Japanese fleet around they was going to take over but we surprised them we all got together one night they was ready for them.

Interviewer: So you actually saw the Japanese fleet?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: Was that the Japanese fleet you were seeing?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: So you actually was their retreat?

Taylor: Yeh the ocean was covered with them.

Interviewer: Did you think you would have to go against them originally or?

Taylor: Yeh that's where we was going that was the mission.

Interviewer: So how many soldiers were on board?

Taylor: How many what?

Interviewer: How many sailors were on board?

Taylor: On board 300 and it was over 300 fully named you know. And the ship was only 360 feet long but it had decks and thing where you could sleep you had a compartment on there and we made it fine.

Interviewer: Did ya'll dock anywhere after that?

Taylor: The only time we'd dock would be to supply up and if the war was over you know to just get material and fuel. Sometime we'd fuel at sea you know a tanker would come up beside of us and fill us up with diesel. The same way about eating supplies you wouldn't even have to stop you know to get that stuff. There'd be another ship come by and you'd go by them.

Interviewer: Who was the Captain of the ship?

Taylor: Vanhuse was is name and he lived in Mississippi. I don't know what happened to him I guess he's dead. I'd go up there in his office and cut his hair.

Interviewer: So you got meet him?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: What was your impression of him?

Taylor: What was?

Interviewer: What was your impression of him?

Taylor: I thought he was a fine man. He didn't bother us we didn't bother him. I'd go up there at night if we was on watch you know I'd the old boy would set it on what degree to hold it on and I'd turn that big wheel you know and I'd hold it on that degree he had. He would rest a minute but he was there with me.

Interviewer: So you got to steer the ship?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: What did you think about that how?

Taylor: I was carried away with that as long as I held it on that degree there wasn't supposed to be anybody in there that way.

Interviewer: Did he let you do that often or was that just

Taylor: No just occasionally you'd go plum up to the top of the ship.

Interviewer: So you were housed in the permanent quarters of the ship did ya'll stay in the same quarters the whole time?

Taylor: Yeh I was on the bottom deck then there was a deck of beds on the top of me and then one on top of that. Everybody had a locker down there to keep their stuff in but I never did have much. But when I went to bed I put my billfold in my pillow there was some on there that would just steel you blind.

Interviewer: Did anyone steel your billfold?

Taylor: No but I do remember I would put it in my pillow slip before I went to bed. There's always some people that will mess you up you know you couldn't trust.

Interviewer: Do you remember who your roommates were?

Taylor: No I don't you know it's been so long and three hundred men it would be hard. I know we had a cook his name was Bean was his last name. Bean it just sounded him a cook and Bean.

Interviewer: Did you know his real well?

Taylor: Huh

Interviewer: Did you know Bean real well? Did you have any civilian contacts?

Taylor: No they'd go every once in a while they'd go up on a little island you know and dock and they'd go ashore a little while I never did go somebody brought a little dog with them. And the ole Captain let him have it let him stay on there and he went with us all through the war and back to California. And he'd see somebody strange didn't belong on that ship he'd bark he could tell everybody on the ship.

Interviewer: Did he ever bark at you?

Taylor: No he wouldn't bark at us. I remember we parked in California the docks you know they put the little fellow down there and he just run and run that was the first time he was on solid land.

Woman in the background: Carl S.B.

Taylor: Huh

Woman in the background: What about Carl your brother.

Taylor: Yeh well that was California. My oldest brother was in the army out in California and we was out in that Shoemaker place out going unit and nobody didn't know it was there. But I wrote Carl a letter and he got it and he got to looking for Shoemaker he said he didn't know where it was at and nobody wouldn't tell him where it was at. It was a unlisted you know finally somebody told hi about it. He come in there one night said he Judy he said he could tell when I was snoring that was me.

Woman in the background: He picked you out.

Taylor: He woke me up he wanted to go in the little town down there. I went and talked to the Captain woke him up told him what I wanted. He said let me see your brother there's so many of them come up here married and not even married wanting to leave. I brought him up there and he said well I'll give you a 24 hour pass that's all we wanted. We went to some little ole restaurant back then you could get out on the road and just hitch hike anybody would pick you up then but they won't now. We went to that little restaurant some woman I guess she lived upstairs we was sitting there talking and eaten and talking finally she said I'm going to bed and I'm going to leave you boys down here until your through and when you leave lock the door. That's what we done but you can't trust people now you pick up a soldier now you're liable to get killed.

Interviewer: Carl was your brother?

Taylor: Yeh he was in the army he was a cook. He was in the South Pacific too but I never did get to see him no more on the while we was in the army and navy.

Interviewer: Did you see combat right after arriving in the ocean?

Taylor: No we didn't see nothing except planes and torpedoes no we couldn't see them fighting on the island you know. Saipan, Guam, Newguinnie

Interviewer: Was there a prolonged training period overseas?

Taylor: Yeh we was training the whole time we was going. We was getting ready there to get in the war we was at Okinawa that's an island the Japanese owned it at one time. We was training and we was going to go to Japan Tokyo if the war wouldn't have ended that's where we was going Tokyo, Tokyo Bay. They dropped that bomb that atomic bomb some lieutenant told us said they've got a little bomb about the size of a football said they're gonna drop that and the war will be over. Well I couldn't believe a little thing about the size of a football but it was a great big thing they dropped one and it didn't help them much then they dropped another one. That's when it stopped we were in Tokyo Bay anyway just sight seeing when the war was over there was people on the docks just bowing like we was Jesus Christ you know. They wasn't wanting a fight I guess but now we was going to be there if the war hadn't ceased.

Interviewer: Sort of back up was what was Carl what unit he was in the army you said?

Taylor: Yeh

Interviewer: What happened to him?



Taylor: He survived and he come home too. But all of them on the islands they had to stay there they wouldn't go nowhere. Like I was we was just moving from one place to another. And then one boy he's dead now he was on a little ole boat there at Okinawa and they called me up n the bridge on the radio somebody was wanting to talk to me by the time I'd get up there he would be gone. He was Jessie Kelly he was taking supplies across the dock by the time he would get me word he would be gone out of sight I never did get to meet him. But I went to school with him.

Interviewer: So did you stay in the same unit or were you ever reassigned to a new unit?

Taylor: No I stayed there all we got mail call get bags of mail I know every Christmas Red Cross would send us some cookies and cakes and you know by the time they got over there they'd just open the bag and pour them out on deck. It was just crumbled somebody sent them and they'd eat some of them too the Red Cross.

Interviewer: Did you get any?

Taylor: Yeh I smoked then cigarettes they was a nickel a pack on the ship.

Interviewer: Did they have a lot of cigarettes supplied?

Taylor: Yeh and I believe I saw in the store up here they were about 20 something dollars a carton might have been more.