

State your name and your date of birth.

Mr. Hicks: Well, they call me buddy but my real name is Raymond S. Hicks, Jr. My date of birth is March 15, 1926.

About how old were you during the Great Depression?

Mr. Hicks: That was in the 20's. I was born in 1926 so I think it was prior to it.

It was in the 1930's.

Mr. Hicks: The early 30's?

Yeah.

Mr. Hicks: I was just four or five years old probably.

Do you remember much about the Great Depression?

Mr. Hicks: No, nothing other than I can remember we ate a lot of white beans, onions and cornbread.

Where did you live during the Great Depression?

Mr. Hicks: Here in Clarksville.

What did your father do for a living?

Mr. Hicks: He was a railroad engineer.

Did your mother work outside of the home or did she just work in the house?

Mr. Hicks: She just worked in the house.

How many sisters and brothers did you have?

Mr. Hicks: There were a total of eight in the family; one brother and six sisters. I had twin sisters that died when they were real young.

Was there a lot of diseases and stuff like measles and cholera?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah.

Did you ever have any kind of childhood illness?

Mr. Hicks: Not any that I can remember. I probably had measles or something like that.

Do you remember there being real severe shortages or any problems with your father getting work and stuff?

Mr. Hicks: My father didn't work?

No, your father getting work or did he work from the start as far back as you can remember.

Mr. Hicks: As far as I can remember back he was. I think he started on, I forget what they call it, Yard & \_\_\_\_\_ or whatever. They laid rails and so forth. Later on he was a fireman and then he became an engineer on the railroad.

Did you have electricity and running water?

Mr. Hicks: As far as I can remember we did but we may have had an outhouse at that time, I don't remember.

Did you have a radio?

Mr. Hicks: Yes, we had a radio the best that I can remember.

Do you remember listening to F.D.R. on the radio?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yes.

Do you remember any of those experiences?

Mr. Hicks: Nothing other than, primarily I remember about war beginning, World War II.

Where were you when you found out about Pearl Harbor being bombed?

Mr. Hicks: I was carrying a newspaper in Clarksville. I think I was about 15 then.

When you found out?

Mr. Hicks: When I found out about World War II.

What did you think about Pearl Harbor being bombed?

Mr. Hicks: Well I'm just thankful that the Japanese didn't come on in through California and attack the U.S.

How did you feel about the Japanese?

Mr. Hicks: I still resent them. I want buy, so far during my lifetime I haven't bought a Japanese made car yet.

When did you enlist or were you drafted?

Mr. Hicks: I enlisted; volunteered. I think it was in June of 1943. A friend of mine, Billy Walker, and I went in. We thought we would be great heroes. After we got in we wanted to get out. Just prior to going into the Navy my mother didn't want me to go, but when my dad found I was going he said, "Where are the papers? I will sign them right away!" I was always into some kind of mischief. I wasn't mean, just mischief.

Do you remember the guy you went to the recruitment office; do you remember anything about that?

Mr. Hicks: I just remember going to Nashville and I think we took a train from Nashville and went all the way to San Diego. We went through some place in Texas and a couple of the guys that was with me we went to a bar. Of course we shouldn't have gone we were only 17. We went to a bar and some little guy one of the guys started to jump on him; he pulled out a couple of six guns and said, "I can take care of about 6-7 hundred pounds!" and everybody scattered. I don't know if you want to hear stuff like that but that is what I ....

Oh no that is fine we want to know all about your experiences and anything you can remember. Do you remember anything about the procedures they put you through like testing and medical examinations?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah, I have been dreaded getting the shot and so forth. In boot camp when Billy Walker, the guy in Clarksville that went in with me, I remember we had to go around, they called it the grinder. You know marching; just running at a slow pace. He kept stepping on the back of my tennis shoes so the chief or whoever was in charge of us said, "Well you are going to have to run around the grinder tonight with a rifle over your head." I don't know how many times but Billy kind of got to him and they made him do it.

So you wanted to get into the Navy?

Mr. Hicks: The Navy, yes.

Do you remember where you were first sent?

Mr. Hicks: San Diego; Naval training station.

What kind of training did you receive?

Mr. Hicks: How to operate guns, rifles, and to primarily get in shape; pt physical training.

What was the first ship you served on?

Mr. Hicks: USS Hitchcock; destroyer. When we got back from overseas they assigned me to the destroyer escort USS Lovelace.

What were your main duties on the Hitchcock?

Mr. Hicks: Seaman; Seaman First Class.

What kind of work did you do?

Mr. Hicks: Mopping decks, helping man the 5 inch gun and the 20 mm gun.

On a typical day just tell me what you would have done from the time you got up until the time you went back to bed.

Mr. Hicks: Well we had to line up for roll call. We had to clean the ships, clean up the decks and everything and man your guns; train manning the guns until we got into battle. It was mostly training until we got into battle. Of course we ate at night. I do recall one time that the water was so rough on the ship that you would be eating a meal and all of a sudden your tray would take off and here comes somebody else's tray in front of you. All of a sudden you got somebody else's food in front of you. I remember one time when we ran low on food we had a dog on ship named skipper. Everybody would sit down to eat and

we would run just about completely out of food and somebody would say, "That don't taste just right." Another person would say, "I think it tastes pretty good." It happened to be that they killed skipper and we were eating skipper. I never will forget that. The cook came, a black guy came in and we had a couple of stewardesses and told us he said, "Well you better enjoy it that was skipper."

Did you have problems with getting supplies?

Mr. Hicks: Sometimes we did, it depended on how much action you were in at the time.

What kind of recreational activities did you have when you weren't doing anything else?

Mr. Hicks: They showed movies on the ship and that's about it.

Did you get shore leave and stuff when you got to different places....?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah, I can remember the Ulithi Islands; we got shore leave there. You could get just about anything from those native women there. I remember that you could swap soap or something like that and they would give you shoes that they had made and all kinds of things like that from the natives and all. It was kind of funny the way things worked out when you would go ashore. I used to run the Captains gig. Sometimes I would run the \_\_\_boat taking the Captain, the skipper of the ship, over to the land when he would go to a meeting and then I would go back to the ship and he would signal when he wanted me to come and get him and then I would go get him.

Did they let you do any kind of recreational activities out in the island when you had shore leave? Did you play cards or go to bars?

Mr. Hicks: No, I don't recall ever having anything other than you could drink beer. They had beer on the shore there. It was called Acme beer; the best that I can remember was the name of it. Of course they probably never have anything like that now. That is what they had then, Acme.

Did you write anybody? Did you get care packages?

Mr. Hicks: Oh I got those from home, yes, from my mother.

What kind of stuff did they send you?

Mr. Hicks: It was usually candy or something like that that mother would send me.

Did you write anybody else besides your parents?

Mr. Hicks: I don't recall writing anyone else. Although there was one girl that lived in Clarksville. At that time before I went in the Navy I thought I was in love with her, Juanita Borders. She just died recently. I may have written her once or twice but she never did answer me. She didn't even know who I was hardly.

When was the first time you actually had a battle experience?

Mr. Hicks: I can't remember the very first one. I remember some of them that we had. I know that we had, I think it was nine major battles that the ship had. I was there for seven of them; they were major battles with the Japanese; like Ulithi, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima. Fighting off the Japs when they were attacking the aircraft carrier Franklin that got hit. We took a bunch of guys off it and we had to fight the,

they called them kamikaze kids. They would dive on you and were usually loaded with TNT and commit suicide. They tried to go through the midships of your ship. I don't remember all of them; they were Marinara Islands, Ulithi, L \_\_\_\_\_, Guam, different places there.

Describe one that was the worst; one that you can remember that you can really remember what happened that stuck in your mind.

Mr. Hicks: Of course fighting the Japs off of the aircraft carrier Franklin was one of them. I guess Okinawa was one of the worst ones. Iwo Jima I don't think was as bad as Okinawa and Formosa.

What happened?

Mr. Hicks: Well there were so many planes diving on you, you know. Of course at night you couldn't sleep for the Japanese submarines trying to knock you off. I can't remember exactly which one is worse, they are all pretty bad.

Were you ever injured?

Mr. Hicks: No.

Did your ship ever take heavy damage?

Mr. Hicks: No, but it is a wonder that it didn't. We had one guy on there that worked in the handling room. He would send the ammunition up to the 5 inch gun. His name was Jappe. In civilian life he had worked in the studios there in Hollywood. He went kind of gay, crazy and was throwing ammunition around downstairs down below us. They sent me and two or three other guys down to restrain him. We had to restrain him and then transfer him from our ship by boats to cruiser. It's a wonder he didn't blow us all to hell.

Were there any other instances of people not being able to take stress very well?

Mr. Hicks: No, that was the primary one. Of course all of was scared to death the whole time we was out there. I know I was. You just never know whether you were going to wake up the next morning or not.

Did you have religious services? Did you have chaplains on board?

Mr. Hicks: Chaplains?

Yes, religious services.

Mr. Hicks: Yes, although it doesn't seem that it was very often that we would have it. Once in awhile we would have it. I remember where we would get out movies from, from other ships; we would swap movies back and forth. I think his name was Gig Young, one of the movie stars, was stationed on the ship next to us. A lot of the guys would say, "Hey isn't that great, we got a movie star out here."

Can you tell me anything else from anything that you have experienced that you would like to talk about?

Mr. Hicks: Well at Okinawa we were in a typhoon. I think it was in December of 1944. There were quite a few ships around us especially destroyers that were going down and losing all hands. We would start leaning, the ship would you know, and then it would start coming back. We had aft steering that we had to; rather than steering up front with the wheel they had to steer from the back and everybody had to get

in line. You could only stand it just a few minutes, that cranking that you had to do to move the ship. That was pretty rough. We were out there when Jimmy Doolittle and his plane went over us to make a strike on Tokyo. I remember that. I think that was in 1945; probably about March 1945. The Japanese, when we would shoot down one of their planes, sometimes there would be a survivor, like the pilot, in the water. The skipper had ordered us to throw a rope to him and if he took the rope to pull him in. If they don't take the rope as soon as you can get a good shot at them, shoot them. I was on the 20 mm at that time on the side of the ship. The five inch was up kind of in the middle of the ship but 20 mm was on the side. I saw one right after the plane went down sticking his head out of the water and so I threw him a rope. He wouldn't take it. He went under water and I knew he had to come back up. When he came back up I popped him right between the eyes. I will never forget that because it was the first time I had ever killed anybody outright. Of course you do it when you are in the Navy when you are shooting at ships and all that and planes. I had to do what I was told to do.

It's a lot harder when it is a face to face kind of thing.

Mr. Hicks: Yeah it is. It's quite a difference.

Do you remember when they dropped the atomic bomb on Japan?

Mr. Hicks: Yeah I think I had come home. I was on leave. That was in 1945, August I believe; somewhere along in there. I was home on leave from the ship at the time here in Clarksville. I sure blew money fast when I came back from there. I sent my mother quite a few bonds and money to put aside for me. I came home and went to Nashville and blew every bit of it in a couple of night.

Freedom at last!

Mr. Hicks: Freedom at last, yeah.

Were conditions on the ship really bad?

Mr. Hicks: No, you just more or less adjusted to live with it. You had kind of cramped quarters. I think the best I remember was three bunks lined up above each other. I never will forget that one time that guy, Gonzalez, I will tell you this little story. We went on liberty and he would say, "Let's go on this beer place and get a drink." He would loan me his card and I would flash it and go on in. As dark as he was I don't see how they let me in but they did. We would get in some of those joints and he would start a fight. We would have to fight our way out of there with beer bottles and then have to go out of the men's room before the shore patrol would come in and arrest everybody. That was pretty weird. That one night one guy came in and he was kind of sissy like. He was lying up on his bunk and one of the guys went over and lit his sheet. The sheet was burning and he was about to burn up. Finally we got the fire out and the kid was looking around for the guy. I don't think he ever found out who it was. I think the guys name was Evans from Knoxville, Tennessee. His last name was Evans. One guy hit another guy with a coffee cup on the head with one of those hard big white cups that they had. They would go on liberty and you would never know what to expect when you came in; whether somebody was going to burn you up or what. Everybody was under a lot of stress. In boot camp this guy from Nashville, I can't remember what we called him; he slept below me and I slept up above him and I noticed that when I got up somebody was urinating in my shoes. I caught him one time and boy I jumped all over him. I had one dollar in my wallet and he stole that dollar too. I caught him urinating one night in my shoe and I jumped all over him. Many, many years later I ran into him in a restaurant over here in Clarksville. He was a truck driver then. I said, "You son of a gun!" He got to laughing. We really had a time sitting and drinking a cup of coffee together. I think they threw him out of the Navy though. That is just part of the history; that's not very nice to tell.

No, I want to know about all that kind of stuff because it is part of the experience; it's part of the whole big picture of everything that happened. It's not just the facts, it's what the people did; it's the experiences, it's all of it. That is what we are interested in because its stuff you can't read in the books; it's something you can't read in history books.

Mr. Hicks: I remember one time when I was on ship we went on liberty in San Diego. I guess that was about when we came back from overseas. I wasn't of age so I was going with these guys. I went into this café and it was Philippine people that were running it. I got a beer and I just sat down and started to take a swallow when one of the cops from there in San Diego came up and arrested me and the woman, the Philippine I guess she was, that served the beer to me. There was a bunch of Army and Marines setting there at a table and one of them came up to me and said, "If you want us to we will start a commotion with the cops to where you can get out of here." I said, "No, I don't want any more trouble." So I had to spend the night in jail there in San Diego. It really shook me up because I had never been in jail. When I got out and got back to the ship and I had to go before Captain's \_\_\_\_\_. The skipper didn't give me any kind of punishment, he just said, "Just be careful when you go on shore from now on."

Old enough to go to war and fight but too young to drink; now somebody explain that one to me.

Mr. Hicks: I was I guess 18 or 19 because I went in the Navy when I was 17.

I grew up with the moonshine so who cares about getting illegal.

Mr. Hicks: Let me see if I can think of something else that might have happened that may be of significance. Not off hand I can't. I wished I had that money that I blew in Nashville.

How did you avoid the kamikaze planes?

Mr. Hicks: That is something we used to do, you are right. We used to zigzag and they had smoke coming out of the ship. Mostly zigzagging is the way we did it.

You did a zigzag pattern so they couldn't get you?

Mr. Hicks: Yes, to get away from them or if they did drop they would miss us.

What did you think about that; about the kamikaze planes, because it was a different kind of tactic?

Mr. Hicks: We thought it was really weird that somebody would just commit suicide whether it was for an emperor or who it was for. War is hell but there is no point in committing suicide. If you are going to do that you might as well not be in the service in the first place. That is the way I looked at it. It's odd but you try to think back on things that happened and it's hard to recall what everything; there are so many things that happened. Some stand out and some don't. After I got out and later on worked out there at Fort Campbell Hospital in administration for about 35 years, so I had a total before I retired counting Navy time and all about 40 years.

How did you get leave to come home?

Mr. Hicks: There was another thing that I always resented the Red Cross for. My mother was sick at one time and I tried to get leave to come home. You had to go through the Red Cross and they wouldn't grant it to me. After the war was over was when I finally got leave to where I could come home and that was in 1945.

Did you get that through the Red Cross?

Mr. Hicks: No, they shipped us automatically. You got out of the military at that time by points; how many points you had. You got so many for stateside service and so many for overseas service.

Did they give you points for being in combat and stuff like that?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah. That might have been locked in the overseas increment rather than being separate; overseas, stateside, combat. I think it was just locked in with it.

When you came home did the military pay for your transportation or did you have to find your own transportation?

Mr. Hicks: I think I had to pay my own way. You were given must to not pay at that time, 300 was the maximum that you could get. You got 200 if you were stateside and 300 if you served overseas.

Did you take a train or a bus?

Mr. Hicks: Train the best that I can remember. I might have rode a bus. I'm not real sure. At that time we were taking trains.

When you came back from the war do you feel like you had a good welcome; how was the parents, how was the community?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah, everybody welcomed pretty good. Of course your immediate family, mother, dad, brothers, and sisters, they were all glad to see you, to see that you got back.

Did you have a hard time finding a job or finding employment when you came back?

Mr. Hicks: Yeah, I did have a hard time. I know I drew what they call 5220 unemployment \$20.00 a week for quite a while and then finally I started school at Austin Peay under the GI Bill. From that, what you got for going to school, you got so much a month. The best I can recall for going to school under the GI Bill that and once in a while if you found a temporary side job like pumping gas or doing something like that then you could pretty well make it; and of course living with your mother and dad for quite a while.

What did you think about the atomic bomb when they dropped it on Japan?

Mr. Hicks: I think they should have dropped it sooner to save more lives. If it was available at that time they should have dropped it earlier.

Did you hear about it before it happened? Did you have any clue at all that they would?

Mr. Hicks: No, none what-so-ever.

What did you think when F.D.R died?

Mr. Hicks: It was quite a shock. I think I was in Hawaii at the time. Quite a few guys were real upset about it. I know I was because we thought he was one of the greatest men, greatest leaders we have ever had.



What did you think about Harry Truman?

Mr. Hicks: Well he filled in real good. I think he did a real good job. I was glad to see him to fire Douglas MacArthur, General MacArthur, because he got too big for his britches.

Was there a lot of \_\_\_\_ going on between the Navy and the Army?

Mr. Hicks: There was some, not too much. I don't know, it wasn't too bad though. We got along pretty good.

When they dropped the atomic bomb, do you think it saved lives?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah. That is why I said they should have done it sooner.

Did you know that some of the bomb was built in Oak Ridge?

Mr. Hicks: Yes, that is what I heard, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Did you hear about anything that was going on in Oak Ridge before the bomb was dropped?

Mr. Hicks: No.

Did you find out about anything that was going on after the bomb was dropped?

Mr. Hicks: No.

Not until much later?

Mr. Hicks: Much later.

When you came back after the war you went through the GI Bill for training at Austin Peay State University?

Mr. Hicks: Right.

But you didn't complete your degree?

Mr. Hicks: No, I lacked 12 hours. I got mad and I had two children by my first wife, and the job I had at that time wasn't paying enough to where I could really take the time to go to school plus work.

How did you meet your wife?

Mr. Hicks: I have had three. The first wife I met her from this friend of mine I mentioned earlier, Billie Walker, in Iowa. He worked at the Western Union as a manager. She and another girl came by selling magazines. I met her there at the Western Union office.

What year was that that you met your first wife?

Mr. Hicks: May 1949.

When did you meet her?

Mr. Hicks: That was probably about February of 1949.

You just knew what you wanted right?

Mr. Hicks: Yeah, I think so.

When did you start working at Blanchfield Army Hospital; the Army hospital on Fort Campbell?

Mr. Hicks: April 1951.

How did you get that job?

Mr. Hicks: I had learned to type on the GI Bill while going to school at Austin Peay. I went out and took the test and passed the typing test, and eventually they called me to come to work.

Did you like that job?

Mr. Hicks: Pretty good. I liked the pay. It paid more than where I had been working.

How do you feel about your military experience that you had overseas? Do you feel like it was a good experience; that it prepared you and helped you or do you feel like it was a horrible experience?

Mr. Hicks: Well it was a horrible experience but I think that it is good for any young man to receive some military experience. It makes them learn responsibility primarily. Before I was so haphazard I just didn't really care that much about anything until I went in the military.

Do you think 17 was too young to get in?

Mr. Hicks: Pretty young, it probably was too young. I think maybe 19 would be a better age in the military service to start off.

Yeah and you would have almost missed the war.

Mr. Hicks: Yeah, I would have wouldn't I? I went in, in June 1943 and got out in 1946.

What did you think about what was going on over in Germany? Did you not hear anything about what was going on?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah we were hearing that all the time about Hitler. I do remember, I can't think of her name, there was one Japanese woman that used to come on the radio and tell us that certain ships had been sunk and we were losing the war.

You are talking about Tokyo Rose.

Mr. Hicks: Tokyo Rose, that is her name. That is what we called her, Tokyo Rose. She had even mentioned that our ship had been sunk and there we were; we knew better than that. We knew everything she was telling us was a big lie. She would have Frank Sinatra sing songs and play recordings of him and different things to try to make you feel lonely and homesick. Tokyo Rose. I think they had Access Alice over in Germany.

I don't remember. I'm more \_\_\_\_ than I ever was. Did you hear anything about the concentration camps or did you find out about that later?

Mr. Hicks: I heard about that primarily later. I remember that some of our sailors and military were pretty rough on those Japanese. I can recall stories of guys coming on the ship, once in a while we would have a couple of Marines on the ship and they would tell us stories about the Japs they killed. They would cut their ears off and put them in a jar. Sometimes they would have real strong water pressure and they would just turn the hose on them until it was so strong that it would tear their insides out of these guys. That was terrible. I'm sure we were pretty cruel to some of them too just like this recent thing that has been on TV about Iraq. I expect some of our boys are pretty rough on them too. I probably shouldn't have mentioned that but I did anyway.

That is fine. We \_\_\_\_ that kind of stuff; all the way through Vietnam and all of them. It's a fact of war. After 1951 did you still have what they call post traumatic stress syndrome? Did you have that after the war? How long did it last? How did you deal with it?

Mr. Hicks: No, I don't think I did. Shortly after I got out of the service I got back home and was living with my mother and dad for awhile. Like I had earlier mentioned to you, for a while I would have these nightmares and my knee or foot would kick out part of the wall. I remember because my dad was kind of upset about it.

Were you touchy about loud noises and stuff; did that startle you?

Mr. Hicks: No, it was just nightmares of recalling what happened during the war I guess.

How did you manage to deal with it?

Mr. Hicks: It eventually went away. I just finally came to terms with it I guess.

After 1951 when you started working at the Army hospital did you stay working at the Army hospital until you retired?

Mr. Hicks: Yes. I finally got a position out there in the Patient Administration Division as Chief of the Patient Affairs branch. I had four or five women that were working with me. One handled Champus, one handled births and deaths, and one assisted in counseling the disabled. That was my primary job, physical evaluation officer. I was the Liaison Officer. I had to counsel the retired people that were medically being separated from the military. Like if they came down with cancer or a heart attack or no longer fit for military service, I would process them through the disability system.

After the war how do you think the economy was? Was it better than when you went in?

Mr. Hicks: Jobs were scarce when I first got out but eventually it seemed to get better. I don't know what brought it on but it did get better.

Were there a lot of shortages when you first got out; food shortages and gas shortages?

Mr. Hicks: No, I don't think there was. The best I recall there seemed to be plentiful. During the war I can recall cigarettes were .05 cents a pack out at sea. You could get just about anything; except the people back in the states that had remarked that sugar and different things, cigarettes and everything was

rationed. After World War II it seemed to be everything eventually straightened out. It was a shortage for a while, jobs and everything else.

What did you think about the Korean War?

Mr. Hicks: I was working at Fort Campbell then and that was in 1950-1953. I'm just glad we got out of it. Of course we didn't win the war; I'm glad we got out of it because we weren't winning. It was just like war with the Vietnamese. We should not have had that because \_\_\_\_\_.

When you came back did you have any awards ceremony or did you join any kind of organizations or anything?

Mr. Hicks: I joined the VFW for awhile and the American Legion for awhile but I finally discontinued membership in them. Now about the only thing I belong to is AARP.

After your first wife, you got married again?

Mr. Hicks: Yes I got married again in March again; March 8<sup>th</sup> I think it was; March 8, 1966. I stayed married to her for about six years. I married my third wife March 15, 1977. The first marriage was in June; June 3, 1949; the second March 8, 1966; the third March 15, 1977. I think I got that straight; I hope so.

How many kids did you have, just the two?

Mr. Hicks: Well I had two by my first wife, Anna Marie and Kenneth Barry. My second wife I had one, Raymond S. Hicks, III. He is the manager at Dillard's here in Clarksville. During that marriage I adopted my second wife's two children, Sara Linda and Joseph McGregor. That is all the children I have had. I've got a lot of grandchildren. I've got four grandchildren and about eight or ten great-grandchildren; and more of those will come along probably.

Is there anything else that you would like to add about your war experience or about after the war, before the war or anything that you can think of that just stands out?

Mr. Hicks: I know it was a happy that when I got out of the Navy. That was in March at Memphis Naval Air Station. I can't recall anything else.

What year was that?

Mr. Hicks: That was in 1946; March 10<sup>th</sup> I believe it was.

Did you throw a party?

Mr. Hicks: No, I should have though. I should have thrown two or three parties. I can't think of anything else right off. I'm glad to still be here. Sometimes I wonder how I made it through all of that but I did, especially after I got out. Smoking doesn't help anyone and it gave me cancer that I wished I had never gotten. But you got to live with it and work with it the best that you can.

It seems like you have had a good life.

Mr. Hicks: So far it has been a pretty good life.

One of the things I had forgotten to ask you earlier; when you were overseas and there was different cultures and stuff what did you think about them? When you were on shore eating and stuff did they treat you good?

Mr. Hicks: Oh yeah. In the Navy where I lived in the Philippine islands and all treated you just fine; like you was a king or something. They were so glad to see somebody that was getting them free from Japanese rules; Okinawa's rules. There were an awful lot of people that died there; and that was Navy besides our own people.

Did you ever have any experience with any allied troops, like the British?

Mr. Hicks: No, I don't recall. In fact I don't even recall any British ships in the Pacific Ocean or where we were anyway. It seemed like we took on the whole world in Japan. You would think there would have been British there you know.

Maybe Australians.

Mr. Hicks: Australians, we would hear about Australian soldiers but I never did run up on any of them or see any of them.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Mr. Hicks: I can't think of anything else except it is a long life. I hope it keeps being extended for awhile.

Well it was very nice talking to you and thank you for the interview.

Mr. Hicks: It was nice talking to you. This was when I came back from overseas.

How old were you?

Mr. Hicks: I must have been about 19 or 20 then.