

**Video Recording Log
Veteran Paul Hackett**

1. Name and address of collector of interviewer.

Name of Donor/Interviewer: Kathleen Ricker
Address: Campbell Hall for Public Telecommunication, 300 N. Goodwin
City: Urbana
State: Illinois
Zip: 61801
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Partner organization affiliation (if any): WILL AM-FM-TV

2. Name and birth date of the veteran or civilian being interviewed at is appears on the Biographical Data Form:

Name of Veteran/Civilian: Paul Hackett
Birth Date: 03/30/1923

3. Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

4. Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 47 minutes **Date of recording:** 09/12/2007

5. Location of recording: WILL AM-FM-TV, 300 N. Goodwin Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

6. Please log the topics discussed in the interview in sequence.

00:00 Introduction
00:45 Background, childhood in New Jersey, father was WWI veteran with disability; Brooklyn, NY, Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School class of 1941
01:15 Office boy at Turl Iron and Car Co., New York, NY
01:28 Father told him about Pearl Harbor, 19 years old at the time
01:45 Fall, 1942, Congress changed draft age from 21 to 18; decided to enlist in the Navy because of father's stories of the Army; enlisted December, 1942
02:38 Called up January 8, 1943; train from New York, NY to Great Lakes, IL boot camp
03:12 Physicals in Great Lakes, IL
03:45 Left March, 1943
04:05 Naval training at Storekeeper's School in Toledo, OH, April-August 1943
04:25 Paco's Tavern, N.A.S.H. television show
05:00 Placed in top quarter of class, Storekeeper 3rd Class; in Navy for 8 months, salary went from \$50/mo to \$76/mo
05:30 Called to report to Philadelphia, PA Naval Yard
05:45 Storekeepers sent to Norfolk, VA Naval Yard to prepare basic stores for U.S.S. Mindanao ARG 3

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- 06:03 November 6, 1943, traveled to Baltimore, MD where ship became commissioned ship of U.S. Navy
- 06:20 Shake-down cruise on Chesapeake Bay
- 06:30 December 22, 1943 went to Guantanamo Bay, joined small convoy, went to Panama Canal, and then to Nou Mere, New Caledonia, January, 1944
- 07:10 Stayed at Espiritu Santo in New Hebrides until September, 1944
- 07:22 Prepared to go to Tulagi after Army secured island
- 07:35 November 10, 1944, at anchor, explosion in the morning on nearby U.S.S. Mount Hood—concussion of explosion in his shop, fire and smoke on ship—took 3-4 weeks to repair U.S.S. Mindanao
- 09:13 U.S.S. Mount Hood—14,000 ton cargo ship taken in by Navy carrying 4,000 tons of explosives—ship completely disintegrated, approximately 300 men died instantly—27 men on U.S.S. Mindanao died, 180 injured
- 10:09 January, 1945, went to Russell Island in Solomon Islands, there for 2 months, then to Mantis Island, then to Ulithi Island in Caroline Islands
- 10:32 Left ship in January, 1945, back to United States on August 5th, day of first Atomic Bomb, 10-day leave
- 10:55 Sent to Farragut, Idaho; had applied previously for V-12 training—got notice would be sent to unspecified university in July
- 11:15 In Farragut, Idaho until early September, assigned to University of Missouri V-12 program until June, 1946
- 11:30 Sent to New York to be discharged, June, 1946
- 12:00 No combat—repaired ships in back waters
- 12:15 Ammunition ship explosion—about 400 men died—working party had gone ashore, were only survivors
- 12:45 Supply officer of U.S.S. Mount Hood and Supply Officer of U.S.S. Mindanao both killed
- 13:15 Storekeeper school experiences: physical education program, parades, guard, good time
- 14:35 Career—good duty; anchored at Espiritu Santo, tender for minesweepers and patrol craft
- 15:00 CB's, Marines, Australians on shore—came on ship for dinner one night, twice the number of usual men
- 15:30 Ships in actual combat—Franklin lost approximately 700 men
- 15:50 Destroyer Oakwood hit by kamikaze; Norfolk and Arwood-- approximately 5,000 sailors were lost [names indiscernible]
- 16:30 U.S.S. Franklin—looking at through binoculars from Ulithi Island, homeward bound pennant, taken to Brooklyn for repairs
- 17:45 Storekeeper duties, supply division—payroll, pipe fitting, outside storekeeper, supply depots, store ships, office requests
- 18:55 School of Commerce at the University of Illinois, class of 1949
- 19:10 Worked at Chanute Air Field for 4 years in Army Air Force Exchange Service
- 19:20 Worked for construction company called C.A. Peach and Sons, 29 years—retired 1988
- 19:40 Experiences on islands—Espiritu Santo was where James Michener wrote “Tales of the South Pacific” while he was a Naval Officer there—Duffy’s Tavern, radio program—women on island—French Coconut Plantation—Catholic Church—Supply Depots

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- 22:48 Explosion of U.S.S. Mount Hood—deck of U.S.S. Mindanao littered with body parts and ammunition—confusion, fatalities, lost friends
- 25:15 People he knew on his ship, mostly from New York area, working parties, storekeeping—reunions—no animosity
- 27:10 Liberty at Ulithi—photograph
- 27:43 Correspondence—left home December, 1943, visited for the first time December, 1945—brother and sister married while he was in the service—siblings, 2nd of 9 children
- 29:00 New York—sister married a sailor, moved out West—parents retired in CA
- 29:23 After college he moved to CA, worked at Bank of America—engaged to girl in Urbana, IL, moved back and got married in 1949
- 29:50 In Portland, OR when Japan surrendered
- 30:22 San Francisco, CA to Los Angeles, CA—stayed with friends
- 30:50 From Los Angeles, CA to Farragut, Idaho—layover in Portland, OR, went to fashion show at U.S.O., surrender announced, whole town shut down
- 31:50 Farragut, Idaho to Missouri—experiences in Columbia, MO, socializing until June, 1946
- 32:40 Ways that students at University of Illinois have changed, social mores changed, moral standards have gone down
- 34:05 How have views of war changed?—Explosion of U.S.S. Mount Hood—enlisted in Navy so that he would have a choice—does not know if he would volunteer for service now; men who were 5-6 years older than him joined the service for security during The Great Depression
- 35:40 Older men had ideas of how Navy should be run—called new men “feather merchants”—young officers out of college with less experience would get promoted faster—PT 109 television show—Naval Academy—ROTC
- 38:52 Wartime, making due, giving up businesses to join service
- 39:15 GI Bill, university
- 40:05 View of war in general: war creates chaos, does not answer questions—displaced peoples—wasted men, material, money
- 41:30 Ships made from 1943-1945, barely used, stored, scrapped
- 42:20 Hat for U.S.S. Mindanao—discussing research on ship’s damage—research on internet
- 44:00 Ship built as Liberty Ship S.S. Elbert Hubbard, named after poet who died on Lusitania, renamed U.S.S. Mindanao
- 44:45 Shops on ship—electrical shop
- 45:43 Honorable Discharge certificate
- 46:30 Wrap-up