

Video Recording Log
Veteran James Fisher

Name of Interviewer: Bill Williamson

Name of Veteran/Civilian: James Fisher

Birth Date: 10/20/1924

Recording format

VIDEO type: Mini DVD

Estimated length of recording (in minutes): 50 minutes **Date of recording:** 03/20/2008

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

Recording log:

00:00 Introduction

00:32 Before, working in Chicago in machine gun shop with brother-in-law

00:56 Decided to join Navy with wife's cousin, June 1, 1942

01:15 Basic Training, Great Lakes, IL boot camp

01:26 Sent to Iowa State electrical school, 4 months

02:10 Gyrocompass school in San Francisco, CA

02:25 Training, needed men to man LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank)

02:56 Vancouver, WA, about LST 45, plank owner, March 17, 1943 – September 1945

03:50 Training as crew, Columbia River, storm in Pacific, more guns installed in San Francisco

04:36 Guns installed on ship, 720's, 3-inch gun, 50 calibers, anti-aircraft, armament, well armed

05:17 Kamikazes

05:26 Leaving from San Francisco, CA to Pearl Harbor, no escort

06:04 Pearl Harbor, one week, loaded cargo

06:38 Voyage to Samoa, New Hebrides

06:50 Landings, had not practiced landing or beaching before first mission

07:03 Military needed them to get there as quickly as possible

07:14 Stern anchor, complications when dropped too quickly

07:24 Losing and retrieving Stern Anchor

09:13 From New Hebrides to Brisbane, Australia, cargo of cola and beer, to New Guinea, 1943

09:50 LCT main deck

10:00 12 degree list on ship to starboard, slid LCT off into water

10:20 Landings

10:32 First invasion at New Guinea

10:45 On beach during mission at New Guinea: tanks, trucks, army equipment, 6 other ships, LCIs unloading on beach

12:05 Attacked by Japanese planes in afternoon before landing, other boats, Japanese protecting islands

13:30 Destroyers

13:34 Not a big invasion

14:00 Invasion, trips to beach; Milne Bay up to Lee, New Guinea, 300-400 mile run

14:41 473 got hit, taken to Australia for repairs

14:57 More invasions in New Guinea, New Breton islands, got stuck on beach under fire, tug boat rescue attempt, had to wait for tide

16:32 Mines in water

17:00 Got report that Japanese had broken through lines, 45s issued to crew, never boarded ship

17:47 Captain wrote story, The Night that would Never End

18:08 Recovering after invasions, invasions in New Guinea, at least 8 landings

18:30 New Guinea early on, Japanese about to go to Australia from Port Moresby

19:14 Supposed to land at Hollandia, New Guinea, 70% casualties expected, went in and all of the Japanese soldiers were not there anymore

20:38 Leave in Australia in February, 1944

21:15 New Breton, stuck on beach

21:40 Up the coast of New Guinea

22:03 Travel to Philippines, October 20, 1944, 20th birthday

22:30 Other invasions: there was a Central Pacific unit making landings

22:58 His theatre, MacArthur was “kingpin”

23:08 Casualties at Tarawa, over 1,000 marines killed, failed to get to shore, had to wade

24:00 Philippines, Tokyo Rose said Leyte gulf was graveyard for LSTs

24:29 Hit a sandbar half a mile away from beach, plane flew down between ships and ships accidentally shot each other, lots of ammunition wasted

26:05 Sites on beach, pillbox had sustained direct hit

26:52 Resupply, Japanese started using Kamikaze planes, two hospital ships got hit

27:12 Shooting kamikaze planes, LSTs, LSTs targets for kamikaze planes, kamikaze pilots

28:34 Lingayen Gulf invasion, convoy over 30 miles long

29:13 Japanese swimming under boxes to attach explosives to undersides of ships

29:44 Forces put out a lot of information to keep servicemen on the ball

29:55 Destroyer Cole in Yemen damaged by enemy explosives

30:31 Shoot first to be safe

30:46 Lingayen Gulf invasion, 30 mile convoy, troops later went South to Manila; under fire, duties on ship, travel from Leyte to Lingayen Gulf, LSTs, cargo ships, LCVPs

34:17 Risk of submarine attacks, watching guard, rumors

35:50 Illinois LST Association

36:10 Back-to-back missions

36:25 Leave in Australia 10 days

38:07 Animosity towards American soldiers

38:53 Back from Leave, Milne Bay, 1944, landings in New Guinea

39:35 Lingayen Gulf

39:50 Manila, 1st LST in Manila Bay, over 300 sunken ships

40:39 Manila: pictures, bombed, mostly by Americans

41:15 Poor treatment of Philippines by Japanese

41:30 Ship duties in Manila

42:08 April, 1945, war winding down

42:48 Plans for invasion of Japanese mainland

43:07 Back to New Guinea, loading for Navy

43:12 Bomb dropped on Hiroshima

43:20 Leyte Gulf, anchored in bay

43:45 Out early, signed up for Minority Cruise at 17, got back just before turned 21

44:20 Back to States on Danish transport ship, 20 days going 20 knots, landed in Seattle

45:08 Sent to Saint Louis, MO

45:19 No travel pay, joined in Saint Louis, discharged in Saint Louis

45:33 Home in Michigan, brother-in-law in Chicago

45:53 Back to work for old superintendent, quit

46:15 Experiences returning, Chicago, liberties of civilian life

47:40 Civilian life, going out

47:50 Formative part of life

48:09 Benefits from being in Navy, electrical trade

48:20 Wrap-up

48:50 Travel: Australia, Philippines

49:14 Footage of hat with military awards and medals