

Tape Table of Contents

- Convoy Project -- Herbert E. Wilson -- Tape #1 -- Side A
- 001 -- MH intro -- 16/II-1990 -- Herb Wilson -- his home, Banning CA.
- 004 -- HW -- Pendleton was tanker. Took on oil in Abidan, Persian Gulf, 130-135 deg. F. Had to wet down gunny sacks & throw over "ready boxes" so ammo wouldn't explode.
- 009 -- MH had wrongly noted that incident on the Hicks.
- 010 -- HW's wife's maiden name Hicks. Met when he was aboard Frederick C. Hicks. Back East.
- 012 -- Round-the-world. Embarked San Pedro; 1st Freemantle, Australia; Ceylon; Visaga(?), Bataan(?); up Hoogli R. to Calcutta (2 days in "Black Hole") discusses exp. there; Red Sea; Suez to Port Said, 1st shore patrol, "wickedest city in world," carried arms; Cairo had pix taken at pyramids, but never got, conned; Med to Alexandria; thru Med, past Crete, Gib, to NY.
- 044 -- Small convoy past Ger.-held Crete, doz. ships at most, bombers w/ mines. DEs detonated before convoy reached.
- 050 -- On to NY, Phila. In Phila. met wife.
- 054 -- MH -- Sandstorm at sea in Red Sea? HW -- Yes. Discuss. Sand 1/8" thick on deck.
- 063 -- Suez Canal 90 mi. long. Not Canal itself, but complete passage from Med. through isthmus. 85-90 mi. Had to wait turn to go through; saw ships ahead apparently moving across desert. No water visible.
- 072 -- Resort on Great Bitter Lakes. HW 1st saw women in bikinis from ship.
- 080 -- Only bad luck omen HW knew of was cats aboard. Never saw any cats (or rats) aboard.
- 090 -- Best foods. Fresh milk, fruits, steaks, eggs.
- 094 -- Armed Guard = "orphans of the Navy." Better deal than most USN. 30 men largest complement. Got on well w/ MM.
- 102 -- Equator Xing. On Pendleton. Had pool built on deck. Desc. of building pool. "Walk plank." Covered w/ mustard & ketchup. All in fun. HW made "Jolly Roger" they flew. Kept it for time, then gave it away.
- 135 -- On Pendleton made Ulithe (oil depot). Near Truk, Saipan. Jap. midget subs. Heard that another tanker blown up.
- 151 -- Marianas Trench deepest water in Pac.
- 156 -- MH -- Rec.? HW -- Punching bag on poop deck. Played records, cards (poker, blackjack). Sang into communications mike. Were singing in Aleutians when hit island. (See typescript of story.) HW talks about it some. Heavy fog, etc.
- 192 -- MH -- HW's age at time? HW -- 21/22.
- 197 -- Mrs. HW talks a bit about when they met. Met in theatre off Hicks St. Other coincidences dealing w/ Hickses.
- 215 -- MH thanks HW.
- 216 -- HW -- A.G. weren't allowed to work cargo, but they did help load fish in Cargova(?) for \$1-\$2/hr. over USN pay.
- 226 -- MH tells Bob Hiller's story of A.G. "mutiny".
- 250 -- HW -- "We came close to mutiny one time" Tells story.
- 275 -- End recording.