

**John J. Higgins  
Veteran**

**Herkimer Fulton County Historical Society  
Interviewer**

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JH: My name is John Higgins I was born in Brooklyn 1917, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. I was born in the 1st World War. I went to school, when I was 7 years old. My mother died when I was 5 and my father died after she did and I lived with my aunt for a while. I went to a Catholic home when I was about 9 or 12 then I got out of the catholic home in Exville. I went down to (unclear). I went there for a long time I was there since I was 21 years old. Then I stayed there and worked at a job I found. Then the war broke out in 1941. On December 7<sup>th</sup> I joined that, I enlisted myself. I never drafted, and I was very happy serving my country. One guy asked me, do you like being in the coast guard, I said yes I do. He said he would have to transfer me to the Marines when we get out, I said okay thank you. Then from there I went to Brooklyn army base which put me onto Colorado. Then Sydney Australia for a year I came back home and then I was transferred to auto transport the hospital ship. From there I went to England then I come home again, I was on another ship that they put me on. I saw it in the paper of the (unclear). Then I come back home again and they put me on Army tugboats, went to California, with a big crane behind us. We put the crane there (unclear) tug. Then they put me on another tug to go to San Diego. So I went there, came back, then I was discharged after that in 1945. I was very happy I served the country. I was sorry I got out so quickly I wanted to stay in but, I had to do something so I found a job.

WL: What type of work did you do when you were in the Army Transport?

JH: I was a janitor in Colorado.(unclear) navy boys, and when I got back to the ship I was a janitor. I was a cook on the tug boats, I was cooking a lot. So I went back to Brooklyn again. I said now ill be discharged I guess and they said yes you will be so, I said okay thank you and that was in 1945

WL: What was the trip to Australia like?

JH: We left the ship there (unclear) and I say it was army transport Colorado. We left it there for a year then we'd come back home. They put me on another ship, then from there they put me on another ship, another hospital ship. Then when the war was over with they put me on army tug boats. So I said okay ill go on that. I cooked there for a while I cooked on all of them, all of the tug boats. So I enjoyed my self, I was very happy being in the service and everything and serving my country.

WL: What was it like to be on a tug boat? What did you do when you were on the tugboat?

JH: I was cooking.

WL: And what did the tug boats do? Bring in the big ships?

JH: No, I went to California with the big crane, that was behind us. Then they brought the ship with the tug boat back again. Then I transferred to another tug boat.

WL: So you towed the Crane with the tug boats?

JH: Yup.

WL: What type of Crane was it?

JH: Oh, a big crane

WL: And what was the big crane for?

JH: To load ships on

WL: Okay, so you enjoyed your time in the Military?

JH: Yes, I enjoyed it very much and the Coast Guard and the Maritime. I am very happy I served my country.

WL: Very good, thank you very much for coming in.

T JH: hank you Joe.