

**John Dwyer
Narrator**

**Philip Leonard
Hoosick Falls Historical Society
Hoosick Falls, New York
Interviewer**

John Dwyer: JD

Interviewer: Int

Int: Will you please state your name and where you live?

JD: John Dwyer, I live at 7 [unclear] Ave. Hoosick Falls, New York.

Int: How long have you lived in Hoosick Falls?

JD: All my life, I was born here. I'm 73 years old now, born in 1926.

Int: Before you went into the service, tell us a little about your life in Hoosick Falls.

JD: Well, like everybody else in the late 30's early 40's--1941 when the war started—I was pretty patriotic about everything. That was the main thrust of life back then, at least in my time. I graduated from Saint Mary's Academy in 1943 at sixteen or seventeen years old, and when I became eighteen years old I enlisted in the Navy.

Int: In the Navy?

JD: Yes.

Int: Did anyone else enlist with you when you went, or did you go alone?

JD: No, I went all alone, it just so happened that way.

Int: So you entered the Navy in 19...?

JD: 1944.

Int: 1944, alright. Will you give us a little timeline of what you did in the service? Where did you go, where did you get your training, and what did you do?

JD: I went to Sampson Naval base out in the middle part of New York State for boot camp, boot training. Then I attended gunnery school in Rhode Island and one in Florida. Then I was assigned to a new aircraft carrier in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Int: What was the name of that boat?

JD: The U.S.S Bon Homme Richard. It was one of the largest carriers at that time.

Int: What was your job on the carrier?

JD: Just a seaman at that time, a gunnery man. We went through the Panama Canal and I had the opportunity to switch to a destroyer, which I thought I would like better than duty on a carrier, so I switched to a destroyer at that time down in Panama.

Int: And what was the name of the destroyer?

JD: The U.S.S. Baldwin.

Int: Where did you go on the destroyer?

JD: We went over in what they call the Asiatic Pacific Theater, but it was mainly off the China

coast... Formosa, which is Taiwan now. That was right around the time of the kamikazes. It was not near the end of the war, but probably the last third of the war.

Int: Did you see any battles or anything?

JD: No, no battles. I got over there in the very tail-end of it. We saw many, many ships being towed away leveled from the kamikazes, that's about it.

Int: Then you came home?

JD: Yes.

Int: Where did you get discharged from?

JD: Oh, let's see, discharged from... a base in Long Island.

Int: A base in Long Island. When was that, Jack?

JD: 1946.

Int: 1946, alright. Then what did you do when you got discharged?

JD: Well, I came home. Then we had the G.I. Bill and I was going to go to college and do many, many things, but I had gotten married just before I went in the service. Then we started having a family and that kind of [unclear] college. I just worked locally for the Wood Flong Corporation.

Int: How many children did you have?

JD: Five, five sons.

Int: Who did you marry in Hoosick Falls?

JD: Eileen Bogardus, she was a native of Hoosick Falls also.

Int: Now, I know you were active in the Village government recently.

JD: Yeah, I served as a Village Trustee for almost ten years, and just recently resigned.

Int: Is there anything else you would like to say? We are going to keep these tapes at the museum for many years. Would you like to talk Hoosick Falls or...?

JD: Hoosick Falls, I feel bad--like a lot of people—that small towns can't remain like they used to be with the advent of the malls and so forth. It just hurts small places and it's an awful battle to keep things on an even keel, especially in small places. But, that's the way it is all over the country.

Int: Well, Jack, I thank you. Now we have the permanent record, we know you were in the Navy on an aircraft carrier, on a destroyer. And you came back and have lived in Hoosick Falls all your life.

JD: Right. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Int: We thank you for coming.