

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

Nimitz Education and Research Center  
Fredericksburg, Texas

An Interview with

David T. Hughes  
Maroa, Illinois  
February 17, 2012  
1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, A Company  
2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment,  
Tarawa

Mr. Misenhimer:

My name is Richard Misenhimer and today is February the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. I am interviewing Mr. David T. Hughes by telephone. His phone number is 217-433-3363. His address is 116 W. Main, Maroa, Illinois 61756. This interview is in support of the National Museum of the Pacific War, the Nimitz Education and Research Center, for the preservation of historical information related to World War II.

David, I want to thank you for taking time to do this interview today, and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Hughes:

I appreciate you getting ahold of me, I thank you for calling me back.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You're quite welcome. The first thing I need to do is read to you this agreement with the museum. If this were in person, you could read it and sign it. This is by phone, let me read this to you.

“Agreement Read”

Is that okay with you?

Mr. Hughes:

That's swell. Perfect.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The next thing I'd like to do is get an alternative contact. We find out that sometimes several years down the road, we try to get back in contact with a veteran, he's moved or something. Do you have a son or a daughter or someone we could contact to find you if we needed to?

Mr. Hughes:

My grandson. He just turned 16. He would be more likely to know where I was at than anybody.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What's his name?

Mr. Hughes:

Dustin Hassler.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you have a phone number for him?

Mr. Hughes:

217-794-5180. His dad lives out in the country about three miles away from us and we take him to school.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What is your birth date?

Mr. Hughes:

December the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1924.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where were you born?

Mr. Hughes:

I was born in Moweaqua, Illinois.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have brothers and sisters?

Mr. Hughes:

I had two brothers.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were they involved in World War II?

Mr. Hughes:

Both of them were, yeah. One of them was a career Army man, and the other one was in the Air Force.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Are they still living?

Mr. Hughes:

They're both dead.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You grew up during the Depression. How did the Depression affect you and your family?

Mr. Hughes:

I don't know. It didn't seem to bother us because, like I said, we were on the farm and we had about everything we wanted. We didn't have electricity or running water, but we had all kinds of meat and milk and stuff. The only time we needed anything was when my mother would go to town on Saturdays and take some milk for the creamery. She'd ask us what we wanted and we'd say bring us some bologna home. We had pork and beef and chickens and eggs and everything. It didn't affect us too much. We didn't have anything to miss. If it's not out there for you to have, you're not going to miss it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did your father own the farm or were you renting it?

Mr. Hughes:

He rented it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And he was able to keep farming during the whole time.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. It was 360 acres. He had us three boys working for a while, you know, until we went into the service. We all went to the service at the same time. We milked 26 heads of cows and about the time we went to the service, that was back in '42, we got electricity and when us three boys went into the service, he bought a milking machine. He didn't have us boys to milk anymore.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where did you go to high school?

Mr. Hughes:

I went to high school here in Maroa.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What year did you finish?

Mr. Hughes:

I didn't finish. I quit when I was a junior. That would have been 1939 I quit and I got married and went to work.

Mr. Misenhimer:

In 1939 you'd have been 16 years old and you got married then, huh?

Mr. Hughes:

It was either '39 or '40. I went to the service in '42.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you remember your wedding date?

Mr. Hughes:

No, I don't. I'm married this time 31 years. (laughing) I've got dates I can't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

39 years and then 31 years, congratulations.

Mr. Hughes:

I remember when I got married on this one (laughing).

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you finished high school, where did you go to work?

Mr. Hughes:

I went to work at a hardware store – did heating, plumbing. Back in them days, about the only thing we had to do in the heating was put in coal furnaces, you know. Sell coal stoves and stuff, wood stoves.

Put in windows. Very little plumbing. Very few people had plumbing to speak of. Sharpened old lawnmowers, you know, the old reel-type lawnmowers, we sharpened them. We did everything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you still work on the farm with your father?

Mr. Hughes:

No, I went to work for my father-in-law in town.

Mr. Misenhimer:

He had the hardware store.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When did you go in to the service?

Mr. Hughes:

I went in to the service in September the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1942.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you drafted or did you volunteer?

Mr. Hughes:

I enlisted.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You volunteered?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did your brothers go in at the same time did you say?

Mr. Hughes:

No, my older brother, the one that was four years older than me, went in a year ahead of that. The next in line, he went in about two years after that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you went into the Marines, right?

Mr. Hughes:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any choice of the branch?

Mr. Hughes:

That's where I wanted to go. I wanted to go to the Marine Corps. I was gung-ho, I was going to win the war right quick.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you choose the Marines, then?

Mr. Hughes:

I'd always been kind of fascinated with them, you know, what knowledge I had – which wasn't much back in them days. You didn't get much advertisement, but I guess maybe I liked the uniform and all that good stuff. The blues, which I never had on (laughing), never did have one. That kinda fascinated me, I signed up then when I got to boot camp out in San Diego they started the draft, bringing draftees in there, they asked them which one do you want to go to, you know, you had a choice: Navy, Marines, Army, or whatever, but the old DIs – Drill Instructors – they used to throw it up to us guys that enlisted. He'd tell us, he said, "You have to get in here. You wasn't drafted." They were a little harder on us than they were on the draftees.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you travel out to San Diego?

Mr. Hughes:

We went from here to Chicago and then traveled by train.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that train trip?

Mr. Hughes:

It was dirty, hot, dusty, hungry.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How long did it take?

Mr. Hughes:

I can't remember. I'd say three or four days. It seemed like we would go a ways and then they'd have us a layover for a while, put us on a siding, you know. I can't remember. I thought we're never going to get there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Had you been that far from home before?

Mr. Hughes:

No, Lord, no. I'd never been – I don't think I'd been 100 miles either way from home.

Mr. Misenhimer:

People didn't travel much back in those days.

Mr. Hughes:

No, Lord, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about your boot camp. What all happened there?

Mr. Hughes:

Not a whole lot. I can't really remember. It was kind of just like everyday activity, you know. Get up early, and of course I was used to getting up early, and the food wasn't too bad, and it was right downtown in San Diego, you know, right in San Diego there at the Marine Base. Pretty impressive. It



wasn't like being in a tent or something, not then, not when we went through boot camp. After we got out of training on the base there, then we went to the rifle range and that was a little different. That was in tents and lousy chow, not very good facilities, but we was fighting a war. We couldn't complain too much.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How old were you when you went in?

Mr. Hughes:

17.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did your parents have to sign to let you get in?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you were in boot camp, what did you live in there?

Mr. Hughes:

We lived in the barracks right in town. They were pretty fancy. That was right downtown in San Diego. It was right in the heart of the city of San Diego. It's nice down there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What were some things you did in boot camp?

Mr. Hughes:

Shine them boots up that they give us.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Have a lot of marching?

Mr. Hughes:

You know, really, it's been so many years ago that I can't really think about what we did, didn't do a whole lot of anything. Just a lot of parading rifles and how to clean them and so forth. Like I said, we had the old bolt action, you know. Learn how to step so you didn't step on the guy ahead of you. You did a lot of marching. A lot of manual work.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have bayonet training?

Mr. Hughes:

Not there. We had bayonet after we got out of boot camp there at San Diego. We went to a place called Camp Elliott, which is in the boondocks, and that's where we had some bayonet training and that was a rifle range.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So about how long was your boot camp, then?

Mr. Hughes:

Oh, I'd say six weeks.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then you went to Camp Elliott.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. Then there was another camp out there and I can't even find it listed anymore. A camp called Linda Vista. *(Editor's Note: Linda Vista Tent Camp – northwest portion of Camp Elliott, headquarters of Fleet Marine Training Center - The Training Center exploited the site to create a tent bivouac area with similar conditions to those recruits would find overseas. In September 1942, General Kingman moved his staff to Main Camp, where they developed additional schools including the Motor Transport and Field Medical Schools; the Field Medical Schools were assigned to the Linda Vista Tent Camp. Later, when the Main Camp barracks became overcrowded, the tent city was used as an emergency camp for trained units waiting for transport overseas.)* It was a hellhole.

They shut it down. The whole outfit, when we were out there, they got some bad food and every one of them was sick. I mean, the whole shooting shebang.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have hand grenade training?

Mr. Hughes:

Never did. Not out there, I didn't do it. I forgot – overseas we had hand grenade training.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I mean in the boot camp or this other training there.

Mr. Hughes:

No, we didn't, no.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you finished there, where did you go?

Mr. Hughes:

After that, we went to Camp Pendleton. Camp Pendleton had just been started, they had just bought that – I don't know whether they bought it or not – it used to be the old Parker Ranch, one of the Parker Ranches, and they were making it in to Camp Pendleton. When you came in the gate, they had – one of the owners had a house there, a pretty fancy old house, and for a couple of weeks, I was on a remodel detail. I had to run an air hammer. They were knocking down some walls and stuff to make that the house for the commander or whoever was going to be in charge of Camp Pendleton. It wasn't a very big place at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else happened?

Mr. Hughes:

After that, we started – went down to the docks and moved out aboard ship and went on our way to New Zealand.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any kind of amphibious training there before you left?

Mr. Hughes:

Not when we were - after we got we got overseas.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Not in California there?

Mr. Hughes:

No. I can't remember what the name of that ship was that we left on. It was just a little transport ship. I know, when we were waiting to leave the docks, they brought the paddywagons down and emptied out all the jails and prisons and stuff. They would - anybody that was - had been picked up by the SPs or MPs or whatever they were and they'd bring them out and they would be under guard and handcuffed and then they'd put them in the brig on the ship and after they got thirty miles out of the continental limits, they turned them loose. That's the way they cleaned out their jails. Not prisons, but jails.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The brigs, right.

Mr. Hughes:

The brigs, that's what I was trying to say. That's the way they emptied them out. After they got thirty miles out.

Mr. Misenhimer:

They turned them loose, huh?

Mr. Hughes:

Turned them loose.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About when did you leave to go over there?

Mr. Hughes:

I can't remember.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Would it have been the fall? Early winter, or when?

Mr. Hughes:

It had to be pretty much in the spring.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Spring. Spring of '43, then, okay.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah, because when I went in – I went in in September then I had the boot camp, so it had to be around, maybe around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year or something like that. Once we got to California, you know, the seasons were all the same. Although, I remember one time when I was in San Diego, and it had to be wintertime back here, because me and a buddy of mine made liberty one time when we were in San Diego and we caught a bus back to camp and we were talking. He was from Indiana. One of us said something about “well we'd sure like to see some snow,” you know. Then a Navy officer sitting in front of us, he turned around, and he said, “Where I came from,” he said, “We had lots of snow.” Of course, we got to talking back and forth and finally when you come right down to it, he had just been home to Maroa, where I lived. He said, “I've just seen your father-in-law the day before I left.” He was a doctor. He was in the Navy and it's kind of an odd story, but, his dad – his name was George Waller – and that's... I never seen him after that again until I come back home and there was two brothers, his brother and another one. One of them was George and one of them Jim. One of them was the surgeon and the other one was a gynecologist. Over a period of years, I am now living in their father's house. They are all dead. Jim and George. It's a small world, you know, even then. I didn't see him after that. I do know when we were in San Diego, it was snowing back here. Shortly after that, then we went overseas.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you went overseas, were you already assigned to an outfit?

Mr. Hughes:

No. No, we were going over as replacements.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you went to New Zealand, is that right?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. We made a pit stop at Australia and we didn't make liberty or anything, but we stopped there.

Then we went on over to New Zealand. We went in at – that's when the company come back from the Canal. We joined them there.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On that trip down, were you in a convoy with other ships?

Mr. Hughes:

Yes.

Mr. Misenhimer:

About how long did it take to get down there?

Mr. Hughes:

Too damn long. (laughing) It seemed like a long time because we didn't have anything to do. Then on the way over there, they gave us our M1s. They broke out the M1s.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On the ship?

Mr. Hughes:

We had to clean them up. They said, "Well, you can fire them off the back of the ship," so we did some shooting off the back to learn how to operate them. We just mostly took care of our gear and so forth. I can't tell you how long it took us to get there, but we got in to New Zealand and they put us on a train because we got in to Wellington, New Zealand, is where we got in, and then we were south of

Wellington – a place about 100 miles, our camp was called Paekakariki, MacKay's Crossing. We were in tents there. No electricity, no nothing, anything like that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Let me ask you some questions about the trip down. Was there much seasickness on the way down?

Mr. Hughes:

Well, not a whole lot. After about the first day, everybody seemed to be acclimatized to it. I was starting to get sick the first day, so I just went into my bunk and stayed there. I got over it pretty quick. Then I found out that from then on every time I was going to go aboard ship, I'd head for my sack, stay there for about twelve hours, and then after that I'd be all right. There was a few of them sick.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was the accommodations like on the ship going down?

Mr. Hughes:

The ship we went over on, it was just, you might say just a run of the mill food.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How many bunks high?

Mr. Hughes:

I can't really remember. I think it was about three high. Depended on where they were at. What they did, they took some of these ships that we went over on, they had evidentially had been luxury liners. They would take a two-inch pipe clamp or fitting and screw it to the floor and swing a one-inch pipe up to the ceiling and swing your bunks from there. The one particular ship that we was on, I can't remember how we got on it, but it had all the bars and the mirrors and everything else. We were on the dance floor. They had come on and just screwed these flanges with 2-inch pipe in them, screwed them right to the floor and put our bunks on that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On the way down were you attacked by any Japanese submarines or airplanes?

Mr. Hughes:

No, no. The only thing we did, we run into what I thought was a typhoon. A lot of guys got sick, but I didn't. It was kind of scary. They wouldn't let you topside anyway. You could see enough to know, it felt like the whole ship was underwater and then had come back up. They said it was a typhoon, of course, a lot of the fellows on there were about the same age I was, more or less all greenhorns. We didn't have too many guys older. If we had a guy that twenty-five years old, and he was old. It didn't register quite as much, now. We didn't know where we were going, what we were going to do or anything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you crossed the equator, did they have any kind of a ceremony?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah, they had a – I forgot about that – they had you up on deck and it was hotter than all get out and then they'd blindfold you and one of them, I don't know remember, they made you eat worms or something but it was macaroni. It was kind of interesting. You look back on it now, and you think it was kind of childish, you know, but then we all had fun. We laughed about it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did they make you crawl through the garbage or something like that?

Mr. Hughes:

No, I never had to do that. We didn't have to do that. I think, in one of them they had a blowtorch or something and they got up real close to you and then they'd stick a piece of ice on you, you know, make you think you were burnt. I can't remember some of the other... I've still got my card. I remember that shellback card. I've got that somewhere. I haven't seen that for a while, but its in my archives I've got.

Mr. Misenhimer:



About how many people were on that ship?

Mr. Hughes:

Oh Lordy, I'd hate to guess. It seems like there was a lot of them. Plus the crew, too, you know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then when you got down to New Zealand, what happened down there, then?

Mr. Hughes:

They put us on the train and took us out to this camp called Paekakariki. We were housed in tents. Like I said, no electricity, no running water, eight men to a tent, and we ate a lot of mutton, but we had a lot of beef, too. That's where I learned to eat steak and eggs for breakfast. I sure couldn't stand mutton even though they did raise a lot of it.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I've had a lot of people complain about the mutton.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. Then we took a lot of hikes. Overnight hikes out through the country and the farmers, they were good to us. It's beautiful country down there. I would appreciate it now more than I did then, I know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were you assigned to a unit yet?

Mr. Hughes:

Yes, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. I went with 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, A Company. I was with them from then on. That was the same one I went in the action with.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, the 6<sup>th</sup> Marines, A Company. What was your job there?

Mr. Hughes:

I was Private then. I was just a rifleman.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What's some other things that happened there in New Zealand?

Mr. Hughes:

Oh, well, you know, I never made a whole lot of liberty. There were some other fellows about the same boat I was and I wasn't getting much money and I didn't have much to go on. By the time they got everything – all my dependents and everything – out of it, I didn't get much a month. I pretty much stayed in camp and we'd do things. They would bring people in to entertain us on the weekends and shows and stuff. We'd go see acts and I didn't want to go to town anyway because I didn't drink or anything. Didn't smoke. Not that I was too good, I just never did. We just enjoyed ourselves. Had ballgames. Rodeos, sports, and stuff like that. Can't really remember how long I was in New Zealand. Several months.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were the New Zealand people friendly?

Mr. Hughes:

Well, were in camp and everything, but in town they weren't really too friendly. Well, they were, too. I shouldn't say that. When we were there, their troops were all fighting somewhere – some other country, you know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

They were in Africa, I think, yeah.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah, over there in Africa fighting, and all their men was gone and a lot of these guys went in and kind of took over for (laughing) a lot of their boyfriends and so on and so forth. There was a lot of ill-feelings on some parts. But then there was a lot of them that were real nice. They were glad to see us. We put a lot of money in their country, but then we were still there when the troops come back from Africa and they had a few skirmishes in town. I never was in any of those. Then a few of them ended up going back later on and getting married to girls they contacted, fell in love with, I guess. We had

one right here in town that went back. Guy by the name of Vern. He went back and married a lady over there. Now, it's a beautiful country.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Is that Vern still living?

Mr. Hughes:

No, he's dead. The PGA golf tournament just had a swing through New Zealand there here a while back. Had a big tournament. It's a beautiful country.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you were in New Zealand did you have children yet?

Mr. Hughes:

Yes, I had a daughter.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you had a wife and a daughter at home, then.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah, so my paycheck was pretty small at the end of the month. I didn't need much. I wasn't go anywhere to speak of, and I didn't smoke or didn't drink and wasn't out catting around. I had a few buddies, we'd have fun. We had ballgames in camp.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You did a lot of training there, too, right?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. That's where we did our extensive training.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You had a lot of weapons training there?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you do amphibious training there?

Mr. Hughes:

No, we didn't do anything there. My company, my regiment was more or less – the 6<sup>th</sup> Marines, they were more or less a rifle regiment where the ones that had the heavy mortars and everything, they did a lot of firing, you know. We wasn't involved in that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

But you did not get on any landing ships and make practice landings on beaches or anything like that?

Mr. Hughes:

Well, we did once or twice. In fact, we packed up all gear and everything and left. We thought we was going then, but made a few other landings. I think one place we stopped and made a landing was New Caledonia. Made some there, but we didn't make a whole lot of amphibious.

Mr. Misenhimer:

When did you leave New Zealand then?

Mr. Hughes:

About a week or two before we went in on Tarawa.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tarawa was November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1943 wasn't it?

Mr. Hughes:

We went in there – the first day was the 20<sup>th</sup>. The morning of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What kind of ship did you go in there on?

Mr. Hughes:

The ship we were on was a troop transport ship. It had Higgins boats and all of that good stuff.

Mr. Misenhimer:

It was an APA?

Mr. Hughes:

It was one of many.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How long were you on that ship getting to Tarawa?

Mr. Hughes:

Oh, I'd say at least a good week or better.

Mr. Misenhimer:

And you made a stop on New Caledonia, you think, on the way up.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. Either New Caledonia or New Guinea. One of those.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Probably New Caledonia. Then what happened there at Tarawa?

Mr. Hughes:

The other regiment, they made a landing on the 21<sup>st</sup>, early in the morning, and our regiment – the 6<sup>th</sup> Marines – we were held in reserve. We didn't go in until the afternoon of the second day. We didn't meet any resistance like the others did. We went in, we went in in rubber rafts. We were supposed to have motors on them, the motors wasn't worth a darn because they wouldn't work in saltwater. We paddled them in. We didn't meet any resistance until we got in there a while. Then we had it all night long. If there was one thing you didn't do at night, you didn't light a cigarette. You didn't move. You stayed right there, you didn't fire at anything because you didn't want the flash of the gun to give you away. Those Japs, they would come over and crawl in your pillbox with you and they had several of them killed that way. Then the next morning, the break of day we were up, the group, and we were getting ready for another push and we had a bunch of them attack us and we fought them off and then

it was one or two o'clock in the afternoon. I happened to be walking by one of those big pillboxes they blew into and I just happened to look in it and I could see eyes and I just more or less started playing around and he fired first. Knocked me down and then they patched me up and I went back to G.P. They had tank traps all around this island and a lot of Headquarters were set up in those tank traps. I made it back to one of those and they stitched me up and three or four hours later they put me on a Higgins boat and sent me back to the ship. Put me up in one of those slings and hoisted me aboard and we had so many casualties that our hospital ship was full so they took me back to the same ship I left. They took me into the kitchen and worked on my arm and my combat days was over.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Where were you hit?

Mr. Hughes:

Through the left arm, up above, shot a nerve in two. Shot the ulnar nerve in two. Paralyzed my hand.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did it break the bone?

Mr. Hughes:

Nope. Just missed it. Shot the nerve in two and I couldn't work my fingers or anything. It was just numb. Put you aboard ship, they sent you back, put you in a boat, they tell you stay there, don't get up and move because if you did, the shock of it could kill you, you know, hours later. Some of the guys didn't believe it. They found two of them the next morning, had got up and went to the head and they were dead. Like a deer running, you know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So, it was a rifle he shot you with, right?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Let me go back, you say you paddled in rubber boats. How far did you have to paddle?

Mr. Hughes:

From the ship.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I mean, a mile or two or longer?

Mr. Hughes:

I'd say about three-quarters of a mile out. As close as they could get in there. It's a good thing – we couldn't have went in on there with the first wave the first day because they can sink those rubber rafts with one bullet, you know. We were the second reserve outfit that went in. The rest of them, the first of them went in, they were just practically wiped out. When we got there, we were shoving bodies out of the way on the beach to get our raft onto the shore. It wasn't only our bodies, it was their bodies, too, you know. Within 8 hours after you were shot over there and killed, with that heat and everything, you swelled up like a big balloon.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you help bury any of them or anything like that?

Mr. Hughes:

No. They didn't start burying any of them until about the third day and I was gone then, that afternoon. My outfit did help bury them, the 6<sup>th</sup> Marines they did help bury them, but I didn't get to see them, but they said they just took bulldozers and dug a big, long trench and laid them in there and took the dogtags off and covered them up. To this day, they keep talking about they're going over there and bringing them bodies back, but if they're doing some of them, they ain't never going to get them all. Too many of them got – a lot of them floated out to sea.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date were you wounded?

Mr. Hughes:

The 22<sup>nd</sup>. The reason I can remember that it because I had a father-in-law and he died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and President Kennedy got shot on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So the 22<sup>nd</sup> is a significant day. What else happened there on Tarawa?

Mr. Hughes:

Not much for me. I had one buddy that went out, I'm sure it was him, you know, of course you could never tell. The Japs, at night, they would sneak over and try to get in your pillbox and everything and so forth and then they'd crawl out there and they'd holler "Help! Help Me!" Well, one of my buddies by the name of Glen White, from Emporia, Kansas, when the sun come up the next morning he was laying out there dead, he'd been stabbed, but several of us heard somebody hollering, "Help me! Help me!" We didn't know if it was him or not, but he was kind of like a little old Kansas guy. He rolled his own cigarettes. Just like a little old hillbilly, laid back. If wouldn't surprise me if he hadn't rolled a cigarette and tried to light it, you know. That way they could pinpoint in on you. You didn't light any cigarettes. If you had a wristwatch that had a camouflage lens on it or something, you always kept that covered with leather on top of it. You didn't show any lights at night at all on the island.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You said the Japs would come in to your pillboxes. Were you in a pillbox or were you in a foxhole?

Mr. Hughes:

Well, a pillbox. They wasn't very deep. You wiggled a hole. You didn't dig a hole, you just kind of wiggled a hole, you know, in the sand and everything.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Were these pillboxes that the Japanese had built or what?



Mr. Hughes:

No. When I said pillbox, I meant foxhole.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Okay, that's what I wanted clarify. Actually it was in foxholes.

What else happened there on Tarawa?

Mr. Hughes:

There wasn't a whole lot for me after that. I mean, I'm gone. I wasn't a bedfast patient. I could get up and walk. At the aid station they bandaged up my arm and then when I took off, they took my hand grenade from me because, they said, "We're going to need this," (laughing). So then, I was in one of these tank traps, it was kind of like a headquarters. When they got me fixed up, they said, "Look out that entrance there and see that Higgins boat over there," he said, "when you leave here, you be on the run and go over the side of it." Well, then I took off running and, of course, when I was climbing over the side, they had snipers but nobody ever knew where they were at. They ricocheted a couple rifle bullets off the side of that Higgins boat. I didn't hesitate going over. One jump and I was over there. I wasn't slow about it. I mean, I was an ambulatory patient. I wasn't one of them with the arm blown off or a leg blown off or gut shot or anything. I just lost a lot of blood, but I was in good shape at that time.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Then where did you go from there?

Mr. Hughes:

I went back aboard the same ship I left the day before and then they went in there and laid me down on that cold steel table in that kitchen. They made that ship into a hospital ship, it was all over with and took all the wounded back to Pearl Harbor and the ones to the Navy 128. It took several days to get there, but in the meantime going over, I watched the burial of a couple of guys that died. They'd slide them under the plank. A couple of flags were used to cover them and I watched some of those ceremonies. Then when we got in to Pearl Harbor, then one day I'm pretty it was Admiral Nimitz who

came through and gave us the Purple Heart. That was long ago. I guess a guy could pull up some of that history. He was known for that, I guess. The casualties that came back, other than the Canal.

Mr. Misenhimer:

So you were there at the hospital in Pearl Harbor then?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. Called it Navy 128. They didn't do anything. I recuperated and so on and so forth. Then, they said, "Well, we're going to send you back with your outfit." The outfit had come back then and they were situated over on the island Hilo, Hawaii, island. They were back there at another Parker Ranch, he owned a lot of land, you know. I went back there and they evaluated me and they said, "I think we're going to send you back to Pearl Harbor. You've got on your records here where the doctor says that they can operate on you and put that nerve back together. So, we're going to send you back there. You can't handle a rifle with just one arm." So, they sent me back to Pearl Harbor but I didn't go to that hospital. There was a hospital up on the hill called Aiea Heights Naval Hospital. So I went over there, and there was a doctor Lieutenant Commander Norcross operated on me. He said, he told me one day, he said, "I stitched that nerve back together," and he said, "it'll grow about the thickness of a cigarette paper a year." Well, it didn't grow back. I've still got just what I got. He said, he told me, "We're going to keep a record on you. We're going to follow up on you in later years. Come to New Jersey." He never did follow up. He died somewhere along the line or forgot it, I don't know. It's funny I can remember his name. Lieutenant Commander Norcross. Then after that, I just kind of fell through the cracks. I wondered what they were going to do with me, so finally one day I lay there in the tent, get up and I made liberty and downtown Hawaii there and was buddies with some other guys, we just found our way downtown and walked around seeing the sights. We did that for about a month. Finally, one day they come to me and said, "Well, we're going to send you back to the States." I said, "Okay." Come back, boarded another ship, took forever to get there. We come in, we come in to San Francisco and they always talked about that it's just a smooth as glass, you know, but there was a lot of

guys hanging over the rail, they got sick. I didn't get sick. Stayed there in San Francisco in the hospital for about two days then, "We're going to send you up to Seattle." So, I went up to Seattle, there for a couple of days, I talked to somebody, I said, "If I'm not going to do anything, I'd like to go home." So, went in the office there, the Captain there – see, the Navy took care of our hospitals – the Marine Corps is really under the Navy – I went in and his name was Captain Boone. He said, "What's your problem?" I said, "Well, I'd kind of like to go home. It's been about two years since I've been home." He said, "Well, I'll tell you what," he said, "I'll give you thirty days to get to Memphis, Tennessee. There's another Naval attachment there, Marine attachment in the Naval Memphis," he said, "I'll give you thirty days to get down there." He said, "You will report to my brother, Captain Boone." He had a brother down there in the Navy. So, I spent – on my way home, I didn't have any money so I went out and I got with the Army Airport and I just jumped from one airplane to another and I came back like that. It - the airport had something going and I'd get on and ride, troops ships, you might call it. I got back to Kansas City then I had enough money to get in to Decatur. Then I caught a bus in to Decatur and then I come on home. I spent time here and had reunions and so forth. So I went down to Memphis, I laid around for about or month or two and the Red Cross came in one day. They wanted to sign me up for compensation, disability. I said, "What's going on?" She said, "They're going to release you." She said, "They don't have any place for you," she said, "the disability jobs are all filled up. We're going to have to let you go." I said, "When can I get out?" "Tomorrow morning." So, at that time they gave you a hundred dollars, I think, twice and I had an \$88 check coming and \$100 mustering out pay. So, I got on the train from Memphis and come to Champaign, Illinois. When I got up there, then I caught a bus and come on home. Went back to work. I always told everybody, I said I got out while both wars were still going on. They said, "What do you mean both wars?" I always considered the South Pacific as one war and the European war was another war, you know. I went back to work.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What date were you discharged?

Mr. Hughes:

October the 25<sup>th</sup>, 1944. Just about two years.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Your left arm, what kind of condition was it in at this point?

Mr. Hughes:

I could move it and I could pick up stuff, but I couldn't get a real, real good grip on it. It didn't have any meat on it. You could take your fingers and put them together, you know, and I still can't do it today, take your fingers and move them back and forth in and out. I still can't do it today. I've developed a little more damage to it. I have trouble buttoning my shirt and so on and so forth, or opening up little packages and stuff, you know. I don't have any grip. I just attribute that to my old age, anyway. My right arm is about as bad.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You can bend your elbow though, right?

Mr. Hughes:

Oh yeah, yeah. It didn't hit the bone or nothing.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Basically, it's the nerve then.

Mr. Hughes:

Just shot the nerve in two.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What percent disability did you get?

Mr. Hughes:

I got thirty percent. It wasn't very much at that time, but over a period of years it's turned in to pretty good.

Mr. Misenhimer:

It's been going up, right. So, when you came back where did you go to work?

Mr. Hughes:

I went back to work for my father-in-law. Of course, at that time the war going on. There wasn't any steel or anything; wasn't any coal furnaces or anything to put in other than tear one down and clean it, you know. So, I went down to work for Caterpillar. Caterpillar was in town here, a big engine plant. So I went to work down there and I was a farm boy. I wasn't factory material, so I worked about two months and I said, "I got to get out of here." Besides, they had me working – I was in the engine parts and they had me right between two of the biggest, blackest women you ever seen. I tell you, they could have turned me up and spit my ass. I quit and the guy called me up and said, "Are you coming back to work?" and I said, "No," I said, "I'm not factory material." He said, "Don't you know there's a war going on?" I said, "Yeah, look at my resume." He never did call me back after that. Been there and done that. It wasn't too long after that, a month or two, the war was over. Back in them days, you went to the service, come back, no hullabaloo. Back to work, try to get a job you know. Not like they do now. It's a different ballgame, completely different. Different war they are fighting. We knew the enemy we was fighting. We looked at him face-to-face. Now, when you was in there that was another way of fighting. Take a hill and then give it back; take it again.

Rubber boats. I didn't know it until I was reading some stuff the other day in some of my magazines and so forth, they had written an article about – they called us condom marines (laughing) because we went in on the rubber boats. Hell, we already had the name "Pogey Bait", you know. Years ago, the Marines were up in Greenland or somewhere up in there and they put in an order and I don't know how many candy bars they put in their order for, say 300,000 candy bars and only put in 2 cases of

clothes detergent. So they got the name “Pogey Bait” and they had that way back before World War II.

We did wear that fourage on our arm, for the 6<sup>th</sup> Marines. We had been in action.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What else do you recall from your time in the Marines?

Mr. Hughes:

Oh, not a whole lot. I know a day or two after I was back aboard the hospital ship or what they called a hospital ship, when you come in them places they cut your clothes off of you, you know. I went around in those pajamas on board ship, “I want to go down below to see if I can come up with something.” I was going down to the second level, I think, where they had just taken the clothes and thrown them down the gangway. I’m rummaging through and some of them look pretty good. You know, lo and behold, I come up with my jacket. Had my name on it, bullet hole in it, just one in a million that I ever found that.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Do you still have it?

Mr. Hughes:

It was the oddity. No, I’ll tell you what, it’s just another long story. I was married 39 years the first time and I went through this divorce. I didn’t get out with a lot of stuff. I didn’t even get out with my Purple Heart. I didn’t get out with the jacket and I didn’t get out with my greens or anything. I’ll tell you, if you want to find out what a woman’s like, just divorce her. We’d been married 39 years and a lot of that stuff I didn’t get out. I think they just threw everything in the dumpsters. I sure would have loved to have that Purple Heart that Nimitz had signed to pass on to my grandkids, but that’s life for you. I did get them with my skin, that’s all you can ask for. There wasn’t a whole lot of highlights. I never did see another guy that was in my outfit that I ever seen again. Never heard from any of them. One thing I regret is, when I was younger, I didn’t make more of them reunions, you know. Now, I’m not really at the place where I appreciate traveling. It’s a hassle anyway if you want to fly.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you go to several reunions?

Mr. Hughes:

No, I never did. That's one regret. I thought I was too busy, and kind of "well, I'll do that later on."

Well, that's – I got a notice the other day where the survivors of Tarawa is going to meet down at Camp Lejeune sometime in this year, I don't know when it's coming up. It said last time they had 11 people there. The time before, they had 3 survivors from Tarawa. This one coming up, they're going to have the whole World War II veterans at Camp Lejeune, not just survivors from Tarawa because there's nobody left. I was fortunate enough here about three years ago, I signed up and I went on that Honor Flight to see the monument. I signed up on that and we left Springfield, Illinois and flew to Chicago. There was only twelve of us on there. We were one of the first groups to leave out of our capital, Springfield, Illinois, but since that time, there's been lots of them go. Those are getting smaller every day.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was that trip out there?

Mr. Hughes:

Wonderful. Wonderful. It was really wonderful.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I understand they really take good care of you.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah, you've got a guardian right with you. Everything's paid for. He buys his own ticket – the guardian buys his own ticket, but he's just right there and there are people in wheelchairs and on oxygen and everything. They really take care of you. I can't say enough for it. The only thing that I regret is that they didn't get it going years and years ago. There would be a lot more of them showing up.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What did you think of the memorial?

Mr. Hughes:

It's beautiful. The thing is, you can't see enough of it in the short length of time. You see enough of it, it's a day, I mean. You see enough of it in a day. Then we went to the Iwo Jima Monument and the Korean and the Vietnam, all of those. We had a beautiful day. We had a beautiful day. Just too bad that there's so many of them that won't get to see it. We're dying off 1500 a day, they say.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's what I hear, yeah.

Mr. Hughes:

Our numbers are getting pretty... but there's still a lot of them around. A lot of – any of them that went in older than I am, they're getting pretty old. I went in when I was 17 and I'm only 87, so you know there's going to be a lot of them pushing 90 and I consider myself in good shape, real good shape for my age and everything. I just retired, last year, from working.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That brings up a question, what would you consider your most frightening time?

Mr. Hughes:

I can't really say that I really had any. Like I said, I don't think – I was young enough and smart enough, I didn't know enough to be scared, really. There was bullets whistling around us and we were shooting, but you were – I don't know, we were so close and we were firing that I don't know how you could tell who you hit when you hit for anything. We were actually, in some spots, darn near hand-to-hand combat. They made one charge on us, I never will forget, like I said, we didn't have time to be scared. It was one of their last Banzai, they call it, but it didn't last that long. After that, I never really can say that I was really scared, I got shot and then I thought, "Well, I've got to get off this island, I'm going to get killed now." I'm sure there were guys that was in on that first wave that got hung up on



that coral and some of the heavy – the first ones that went in had a lot of the heavy artillery: Howitzers and mortars and stuff. They couldn't go any further and they lowered that ramp and kaboom. They'd step out and they never come back up. I don't know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Tell me about that Banzai charge. What happened there?

Mr. Hughes:

Well, that was that morning after we got up and we never – we were fighting and stuff and we never even thought about eating. We thought about drinking, but some of the guys that were there the first day, they never ate until they got back aboard ship and it was all over with and they brought in some hot stuff. You never even thought about – you worried more about water. But that Banzai, they had several of those, but they would kind of line up and they'd be three or four deep and they'd be coming at you. We just had to, we just overpowered them. We had more power than they did and some of them would get past you, but I don't think we lost over two or three men and none in that one charge that were killed. They were wounded, but it might have been some of our own fire, we were so close. It made you kind of think that maybe you ought to put a bayonet on or something and go hand-to-hand, but we never did.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have machine guns with you or just your rifles or what?

Mr. Hughes:

We just had rifles. We didn't have machine guns. We had machine guns alongside of us, you know.

Mr. Misenhimer:

That's what I mean, alongside you.

Mr. Hughes:

Then we had BARs. There was one guy, a big Polish kid from Chicago, Illinois. The bullet that hit me went through my arm, hit the breeching on his BAR, and took off part of his thumb. He got wounded.

I was walking by this pillbox and these pillboxes that they had were concrete and then they'd be lined with coconut logs and then they'd be lined with more concrete and those 16-inch gun shells, they'd hit and they'd just bounce off. They might bust open the end of the pillbox, you know, but they were set up so they could fire from four different corners. When that bullet hit me and it knocked me down, of course it knocked me down out of his view, A.D. Grevack was a BARman right behind me. That bullet, they say, went through me, hit the base of his BAR, flattened out, and pulled off part of his thumb. They were talking about it later on. I'm like, "Well, how do you know with all the firing going on." They said, "Well, at that particular instant, the charge was over with, it was done." We were just moving forward. That just happened to be the only one. I was looking in my book the other day, and he was in one of the ones that he got wounded. I had tried to locate him in Chicago later on, but I never could locate whatever happened to him. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division went on to Saipan, Tinian and Guam, you know. They took a lot of replacements when they went back to the Parker Ranch.

I missed out on a lot there at the old Parker Ranch. I could have enjoyed that. But, the Parkers had a ranch there and then I think they got one in Texas. Don't they have one in Texas?

Mr. Misenhimer:

I'm not sure, they might have. I'm not sure.

Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose on the radio?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah, mm-hmm. Yeah. I never did hear Washing Machine Charlie come over, either. You know, he was the one that flew over every morning.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Yeah, during the night.

Mr. Hughes:

One time, they said – I was reading about the island there he flew over, I think I was gone, but they said he flew over and one guy was going to shoot him down. Had a machine gun, his Captain wouldn't

let him. He said, "The reason he's flying over is because he wants you shoot at him and then he'll see where your flash is coming from. So they'll know where the troops is at." I didn't know it until I was reading it in the book the other day where they had smokeless powder and we didn't have.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How was the morale in your outfit?

Mr. Hughes:

Good. Good. Real good. Real good. You didn't – you mean before we went in or after?

Mr. Hughes:

Both times.

Mr. Hughes:

It was real good before we went in. Of course, a lot of us young kids didn't know what the hell we was getting in to. The old timers, you know, "It ain't over 'til it's over." They were about right. Then when I joined them back out on the Parker Ranch over on Hilo, it was real good. Of course, there was a lot of greenhorns there, you know, because they brought outfits in to replace those other guys. Just like we did when we joined the outfit when they come back from Guadalcanal. It was the old timers and then the young recruits like I was. They had other recruits coming in at Parker, you know. A lot of the old guys would take you under their wing, you know. Kind of look out for you. Hell, you find out he's four or five years older than you were. You looked up to them and respected them. It wasn't like a family, it was a different type of comrade or whatever you want to call it. You knew you were all there for the same reason.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On December 7, '41 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, do you recall hearing about that?

Mr. Hughes:

I was listening to the Green Bay Packers play football on the radio at the time. They come on the air, I can't remember who the Green Bay Packers was playing because that was my favorite. I remember listening to it, yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

How did you feel that would affect you?

Mr. Hughes:

I didn't have any idea. I'd never had any thought about it at all. I just wondered where are we going now. Of course, we didn't have the communications then that we've got now, you know. It took a while for it to get to us, they only told us what they wanted us to hear and so forth. I watch a lot of World War II on the channel now, the History Channel, and there was a lot going on we never knew about and some of it we're just finding out now. Lots of things. One thing that I thought was quite interesting and didn't know about it, the war was going on and the Union out in Pittsburgh where they made all the ships and everything and so forth, tanks, they had a transit strike. The transit company wanted to hire colored drivers. Well, they went on strike, they weren't going to allow that. The people depended on that to get to Pittsburgh to work. They wouldn't do anything about it. So, finally they sent the Army in there and the old General went in there and he told them, he said, "I'll tell you what," he said, "you'd better be back on those buses by Monday morning or you're going to be in the chow line. You're going to be drafted." They all went back to work. They were crippling the steel mills. It's hard to think that the people at the time, us being in war, that type, you know, but they were. He said, "You'll all be in the chow line come Monday morning." They let them hire some colored drivers.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you ever see any USO shows anywhere?

Mr. Hughes:

No. I guess, you mean some big names?

Mr. Misenhimer:

Any of them. Anything.

Mr. Hughes:

We never had any big names. We just had people that get up on the stage. We had a lot of outside movies. More than USO shows.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you have any experience with the Red Cross?

Mr. Hughes:

The only time I ever had anything – and it didn't happen to me, but I can't remember exactly where it was at, this one of our buddies and somebody had I can't remember now exactly how it was and how he told it, but he said he had to buy a pack of cigarettes, somehow or other it was, and come to find out, it had been donated to the Red Cross and he had to buy the darn things. That really ticked him off. Yeah, I never did get in any occasion with the Salvation Army or anything. Just never needed anything or conflict with them. I did go dancing at – what was that thing out in San Diego.

Mr. Misenhimer:

The Hollywood Canteen or something?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah, uh-huh. I did go out there, me and this kid from Fort Wayne, Indiana. We'd go out there several times. He was kind of like I was – anything that didn't cost too much money, we was in for.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What ribbons and medals did you get?

Mr. Hughes:

Well, I never did inquire about those or anything. I don't really know exactly other than the Purple Heart. I was trying to go through a list of that the other day, make a notation of it. I don't know which

ones I earned, I lost those too, you know. The Purple Heart ribbon and my Rifleman. One other one – South Pacific invasion or something, I don't know what ribbons I had.

Mr. Misenhimer:

You got the standard ones. You got the Asiatic-Pacific, the Victory Medal and that sort of stuff.

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah.

Mr. Misenhimer:

One battle star?

Mr. Hughes:

Yeah. I lost those, too, they disappeared. I've been thinking about getting those so my grandson could have them, you know. I just didn't want to get anything that I wasn't entitled to. I really waited too many years to get all the information that I need to get them so he can have it, you know. He's asked me some stuff once in a while and then I'd tell him some stuff. "Grandpa, you don't talk much, do you?" I said, "No, not a whole lot about that."

Mr. Misenhimer:

When you got out, did you have any trouble adjusting to civilian life?

Mr. Hughes:

No. No way, I didn't have a bit of trouble. Just went back to work. (laughing) Went back to work and we had an old, like I say, I was married 13 years the first time before I ever had an automobile, so automobiles so that was an adjustment, I was just an old timer off of the farm and if it hadn't been for the war, I probably never would have gotten fifty miles from home for years to come. I didn't have any adjustment at all. I know a few of them did. Some of them that, well, I've read some stories about some of them that were wounded pretty bad and they got on some dope and stuff. That wasn't very much.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Did you use your GI Bill for anything?

Mr. Hughes:

No, I didn't. I didn't have any use for it, really. At that time I studied for my plumber's license, and that didn't need no GI Bill, you know. You had to know to cut copper, at that time we didn't have copper, we had to know how to cut and thread pipe, pour a lead joint or something and I got my license and hey I've had it for I don't know how long.

Mr. Misenhimer:

What was the highest rank you got to?

Mr. Hughes:

Just PFC. I wasn't there long enough - there was a lot of guys I know, their rank, some of those conflicts they might move up two or three grades when you were fighting you know. You might have a PFC but you might end, coming off that island, you might end up Sergeant or something.

Mr. Misenhimer:

On August the 15<sup>th</sup> of '45 when Japan surrendered, did you have any kind of a celebration then?

Mr. Hughes:

Well, yeah. I was out in the country, the old house has been torn down now. We had a little party, not a whole great, big hangout or anything. I didn't - this little old town, we didn't do much of anything. Get out in the street and shoot off fireworks and guns and stuff and of course, Decatur's thirteen miles away from you. They had a pretty good celebration at that particular day. No, we didn't do a whole lot. We did have a tavern here in town, a pretty good sized meeting place, and for all the servicemen that went through World War II he had a big dinner for them, which was a really big thing. I don't know how many hundreds he fed, cooking them steaks. That's about the only celebration we had. They did have a parade in Decatur.

Mr. Misenhimer:

David, is there anything else you recall from your time in World War II?

Mr. Hughes:

No I tried to jot down a few things the other day after I talked to you so I wouldn't forget them.

Mr. Misenhimer:

David, I want to thank you again for your time today, and I want to thank you for your service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Hughes:

Thank you very much, too, Richard. I'm glad I got a chance to talk to you and meet you. I'll be talking to you – I've got your telephone number here.

Mr. Misenhimer:

I'm glad you called me.

Mr. Hughes:

I'll be talking to you again maybe in the future.

Mr. Misenhimer:

Good.

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July 7, 2012

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