

Walter “Andy” Andersen Transcript Summary

[0:00:00] growing up in Chicago, Illinois and early life before the war; working for A.M. Castle and Company; going to college at Lane Tech; entering military service; building LSTs with Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company; interest in aviation; entering Navy service; aerographer’s school in Lakehurst, NJ

[0:03:27] Seattle to Alaska on World War I destroyer USS Fox, thoughts on going to Alaska; cutting cards for duty in Pt. Barrow and Attu; heading down to Attu

[0:06:03] aerographers as part of NAS Attu; number of aerographers employed on Attu; shifts, duty on board weather planes

[0:07:33] tour of duty in the Aleutians; duty at Cape Wrangell; an aerographer’s daily duties; anemometers; weather effects on anemometers

[0:09:35] weather on Attu, exploring Attu; feeding the blue fox at Cape Wrangell; wildlife seen on Attu; fishing off Attu

[0:14:04] supply boats at Cape Wrangell; the location of Cape Wrangell on Attu; reason for station at Cape Wrangell; relaying weather to the main base at Attu; the crew that served at Cape Wrangell

[0:16:37] accommodations at Cape Wrangell; radar navigation device at Cape Wrangell

[0:17:50] camaraderie among 6 person crew at Cape Wrangell; age of the crew members; story about sledding on a piece of plywood

[0:21:12] story of one of the guys at Cape Wrangell blowing up some dynamite to scare the crew

[0:22:29] radio man pulls a prank message on the crew about an attack

[0:25:45] description of the camp set up Cape Wrangell; getting food and fuel to the outpost; getting oil drums from the ship to the camp

[0:26:38] working for the Coast Guard during the war; celebrating V-J day at NAS Attu

[0:28:28] returning to the states; working at China Lake in California at the Naval Ordnance Test Station; the point system employed for getting a discharge out of the service

[0:30:16] working for A.M. Castle following the war; meeting future wife at Great Lakes Training Station; moving around the country with A.M. Castle

[0:31:49] magazine taking photos of the service men during the war; how dogs came to Attu; officers on Attu; V-J day on Attu (referring to two photos)

[0:34:22] (referring to a photo) climbing the anemometer pole; Navy issue boots; winter gear; snow on Attu (referring to two photos on Attu); story about having to dig guys out of their Quonset hut so they could work their shift; williwaws

[0:36:02] sun bathing and summer weather (referring to photos); Cape Wrangell facilities were set up; dispersal of Cape Wrangell crew once the war was over; flying weather missions

[0:37:34] Army/Navy airstrip on Attu; eating breakfast in the Army mess hall (it was better!)

[0:38:45] Army "dog faces"; finding a neighbor among the Army guys on Attu; setting up an officer to trade whiskey for Japanese souvenirs; living in caves on Attu

[039:52] keeping in touch with three friends made during the war; Bob Wyman keeps \$100 bottle of Scotch for last man alive from the crew