

Janis Kozlowski: So, what year did you actually get to Shemya? Did you tell me 1944?

Jim Schroeder: 1944, right. I think it was around December, or something like that.

Janis Kozlowski: And is Shemya the only island you served on?

Jim Schroeder: Yeah. Right. Yeah. I served just about a year on Shemya. That's the only place that we had the bombers at.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. And then when did you get shipped back to the states?

Jim Schroeder: I think it was around October ... October, it was, I think, we all went back.

Janis Kozlowski: October of what year?

Jim Schroeder: Ah, '45.

Janis Kozlowski: '45. OK. So you were in the Aleutians when the war ended – VJ Day?

Jim Schroeder: I guess. Yeah, that was what - in August, I think it was?

Janis Kozlowski: Right. Right. Do you remember where you were, or what you thought when heard the Japanese had surrendered?

Jim Schroeder: Oh, we were all [Chuckle] glad to see it over with and get back to the states. But, then, you know, you look back and it, and at the time it seemed quite bad. But, you know, you had a good time all the time with the guys up there. We did different things, you know. But, that was a good bunch of guys there. I stayed with Watkins' crew all the time. And even when I went on to Howlands crew - I just stayed with them. And you got to know the guys pretty well, you know. So, you just hung around with them all the time. But, it was nice to get back to the states, knowing you didn't have to fly anymore missions again.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah, I bet. Was that - that was probably around - was that your first time in an airplane?

Jim Schroeder: Well, small airplanes, I'd been up in before. So, you know, I didn't have any fear of flying, or anything like that. But, you know - small planes. Back when I was in maybe 15, 16, I had a few flights up. And, well, you know, friends of ours took us up. So, that wasn't that much to go into.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. And ... how old were you at the time when you were on Shemya?

Jim Schroeder: Let's see, I was ... I think was ... well, let's see – '44 ... I was 19 then. Yeah.

Janis Kozlowski: And were you - the crew on the B-24, were they all about the same age?

Jim Schroeder: Yeah, there was a ... Hubert Altman ... the navigator, which I still stay in contact - he's in Oklahoma City - he was the oldest one on the ship. I think he was about 24, or 25. All the rest, like Skay and Watkins, they were all around 21 – 22 years of age; very young.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah, I'll say. Yeah.

Jim Schroeder: Well, Sample ... I thought I was the youngest one, but he was a noise gunner. He was three months younger than I was. So, he was just 19 - just after I was. But, he's the one in Sherman, Texas with all the airplanes down there I showed you.