

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** The 21<sup>st</sup> was up there at that time, I think. But I was sent in, you know, on a replacement crew.

**Janis Kozlowski:** OK.

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** So, I got up there in April of 1943.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, OK. I see.

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** And then we went home; I got back on my birthday in 1943. And October the third, we landed in Seattle.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So, you were there for the battles of Attu and Kiska. Did you know what was going on at the time?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** We knew, but not very much. I saw the battle ships and everything out there. And actually, we were flying over while the battle ships were bombarding it. But I didn't see or hear anything, because it was so foggy.

**Janis Kozlowski:** And probably, they didn't tell guys on the ground back at Adak or Amchitka; wherever you were - what was going on?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Well, they had it on bulletin boards. But, you know, it'd be a day or two late. Most of the time, you heard the ... talking.

**Janis Kozlowski:** So a lot of, maybe what you learned was, later on, after the war, you found out what...

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Oh, most of it.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Yeah, hmm.

How about in other theaters of the war; when you were in Alaska, did you know what was going on over in Europe and Africa and other places?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** There were little blurbs on the bulletin board that we saw. Radio, even if you had a radio out there, the reception was so poor that you couldn't tell. You mostly get [sic] it through official channels - anything that you got.

**Janis Kozlowski:** [Ah-huh] And what about the weather? What do you remember about that?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Well, most always ... cloud. The bottom, the cloud most of the time would be, oh, maybe five hundred to a thousand feet up. Occasionally, the sun would break through; that was the thing about it. One nice thing about the Aleutians, there were; I didn't have any insect problem. And when the sun did come out, all of a sudden there would be these little wild flowers all over the place; pretty, different colors and so forth. I picked a bunch of them and

put them in a book and brought them back for the wife. But, you couldn't tell really too much about them.

**Janis Kozlowski:** That's interesting you mentioned that. Other people have said the same. It must have been a spectacular flower display there.

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Yes, it was amazing, you know, how quickly they would come out after the sun would, when it did break through. [But] it wasn't very often.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Well, one thing; was it a disappointing thing when you found out you were going to Alaska, instead of some other theater of war?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** No, I didn't think too much about it. I, you know, had never been to Alaska, so I decided it would be a good thing to do.

Oh, that's another thing, too. The Vietnam War came along later, you know. And my son-in-law enlisted, and he was a First Lieutenant up at Big Delta - right [Chuckle] right where we made our emergency landing. And while he was stationed there, my granddaughter was born. So, she was born right where I almost kicked the bucket. [Laugh]

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, so you have an Alaskan in your family?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Oh yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** [Chuckle] Well, you know, it took a long time after the war before there were any kind of recognition for WWII veterans. And, you know, the recent building of the WWII memorial in Washington D.C., are those, is that kind of recognition and that kind of commemoration of the war; is that kind of thing important to you?

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** Yes it is. In fact my wife is one of the original sponsors of it.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Oh, that's great!

**Joseph D. Hutchison:** She's... [Talking to his wife in the background, "What did they call it Lola? [Unintelligible response] When you made the contributions to the World War II memorial in Washington?"] She was one of the first ones to contribute to it.