

Janis Kozlowski: Did you walk around and explore the Japanese camp area, and the guns and stuff that were there?

Robert Dougal: I never saw ... I think.... I don't know, maybe I saw an anti-aircraft gun the Japs left. But, they were down at the main base - down near the bay.

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-hum]

Robert Dougal: And they lived there. They dug, apparently, dug holes and made caves, and lived in that.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you see any of those?

Robert Dougal: I didn't see any of 'em. There were none; no we never saw any Japs.

Katie Dougal: What about the caves?

Robert Dougal: The caves; I never was in one of 'em. [But] I know the men were. I stayed out at the camp all the time, taking care of the radar and stuff.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, was the radar equipment you had; it was pretty sophisticated for its time, wasn't it?

Robert Dougal: Well, I guess. [Chuckle] We thought it was ... it was the best they had about that time.

Janis Kozlowski: And that was sort of the start of the birth of the radar period, right?

Robert Dougal: Yeah, that's right. It started during World War ... yeah. It started way back when I was a Second Lieutenant. When we had the first radar, they were on the east coast and the west coast.

Janis Kozlowski: It must have proven to be pretty valuable to us during the war.

Robert Dougal: I think it was. I think it was. It only had a 200 mile range, but the ... I guess we ... we helped a lot of the aircraft when they got lost, or something ... flying over Kiska, going to Amchitka and on.

Katie Dougal: The blizzards were, was hard. They had to tie down the radar, and sometimes it would go off the air, according to your notes.

Robert Dougal: Yeah. Yeah, when it got too windy, we had to tie the radar down, or it would have blown over.

Janis Kozlowski: Is that right. [Chuckle] So it was up on an exposed ridge?

Robert Dougal: Yeah, we were on a [sic] exposed ridge; on the top of it. And we kept the radar running, going back and forth. It didn't do a complete circle; it only did about a 180 degree arc ... back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. Because there wasn't anything to pickup, except the guys coming in from Attu and Shemya and stuff, while it was in there. We couldn't see down the island towards Anchorage, because of the Kiska Volcano.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, OK. So, were you tracking the airplanes, the navy and army guys that were flying from Amchitka or Attu, towards the Kuril Islands? Could you; that, that was probably too far, wasn't it?

Robert Dougal: Yeah, that's too far away. We ... we had no contact with the aircraft; the only way we knew they were there, is picking them on the radar. We had no ground radio...

Janis Kozlowski: OK.

Robert Dougal: ... with any aircraft.

Janis Kozlowski: And, were there other, was there a radar station on Little Kiska and other places down the chain?

Robert Dougal: Later in the war, we took four radars to Kiska. And I put the first one up, and I had it up going for a year and a half. And then they decided they'd send ... to keep the guys busy, they put another radar on Little Kiska. Don, Don Poling was the Lieutenant in charge and Legs Fansler [Wilburn L. "Legs" Fansler]. And they had a radar on Little Kiska.

Katie Dougal: They were old friends of ours from Florida.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh.

Robert Dougal: And the only purpose of that radar, was to keep the men busy.

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh] So it didn't serve much of a function, then?

Robert Dougal: No, it did it - didn't! No, no.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, you said that you knew the guys, some of the guys, or at least one of the guys that worked on Little Kiska; did, did you make good friends during the war that you've kept over the years?

Robert Dougal: Yes. I knew all of these guys from Florida. And I knew ... after the war, yeah, I knew one of 'em; [he] lived up in West Virginia - him and his wife. And he turned out to be the sheriff of the town.

Katie Dougal: [Laugh]

Robert Dougal: ... and he was a big tall guy. He was at Little Kiska. But, Don Poling, went down to ... Louisiana, someplace; where they had a, the radar school and an electronic school. And he was in charge of that. He was a Second Lieutenant when I was up there ... at radar; same as me. And he went down there to, to attend a school, and run a school down there.