

Janis Kozlowski: Now, what was the morale like for people there?

Robert Dougal: Well, we only had about, I only had about 30 men; and I kept 'em busy. I wasn't a slave driver. Our job was to keep the radar running, and had ... we divided it up; got together and talked about it, and they wanted to divide the crews up into four groups. And we'd use three of them every week, I've told you that. And then, of course, we had a medic and we had a, oh, two cooks.

Katie Dougal: They had games.

Robert Dougal: And the only thing we had was, maybe, to throw darts at a board, or something like that. But, most of the time, we were busy and didn't have any recreation.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did the guys get in a lot of fights because they were bored, or...? Or, did they get along pretty well?

Robert Dougal: They got along. We got along pretty good. We didn't have any fights, or anything like that. We knew we had a job to do, and our worst enemy was the weather.

Janis Kozlowski: So, what do you remember about the weather? Do you remember nice periods of weather there, or do you just remember the awful stuff?

Robert Dougal: Well, I kept a diary, and sometimes it would be cloudy in the morning and then it would snow. And then maybe in the ... later it would rain, and....

Katie Dougal: [Speaking to Robert] And nicer weather?

Robert Dougal: And the ... it was pretty, pretty unpredictable about what the weather'd be. If you saw sunshine, you stood outside to absorb some of the sun, but most of the time it was, it was cloudy and rainy and snowy and windy. So the best thing to do was stay inside if you could.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah. [Chuckle]

Katie Dougal: The Chaplin came, I think about every second or third week....

Robert Dougal: He did not!

Katie Dougal: Well, that's what your notes said, one time. OK.

Robert Dougal: I had one Chaplin. Oh, the Chaplin came out maybe one time. [The] rest of the time we did our own Chaplining.

Katie Dougal: Oh.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh. So, did you get supplies, or mail and stuff like that very frequently on Kiska?

Robert Dougal: Well, I guess, whenever a boat came in from Seattle ... it probably came in through to Anchorage and then out the chain, and occasionally, we'd get mail but, it wasn't like having the mailman come by everyday with mail.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah, I bet not. And did you have ways of communicating with people on other islands in the Aleutians, so that you knew what was going on? Or, for that matter, did you know what was going on in other parts of the war, like over in Europe, or in the south Pacific? Did you get news?

Robert Dougal: At one time I went to Anchorage; they sent me to Anchorage. And I bought a radio from a guy for \$100.00 of my own money; and it was only worth about \$15, but I paid \$100.00 for it. And we set that up when I got back. And the only communication we had was, Tokyo Rose.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, boy. [Chuckle]

Robert Dougal: She used to say, "You boys are losing the war, you better go home."

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle]

Robert Dougal: And [Chuckle] we gave her the old boo-boo. And, but that's, that's all. But, we had no, we didn't have, ever have any radio, other than Tokyo Rose. We couldn't get any station at all from the States; heard no music, heard nothing.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh! So, did some people ... did you guys believe what Tokyo Rose was saying?

Robert Dougal: Oh, of course we knew we were losing the war. [Chuckle]

Katie Dougal: [Chuckle]

Robert Dougal: Baloney!

Katie Dougal: No.

Robert Dougal: [Chuckle] She, she was just propaganda. We used to ... we used to joke about it.

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle] Well, how did people feel about serving in the Aleutians? Did they feel like they were contributing to the war effort, or did some of you really want be somewhere else?

Robert Dougal: Well I think you would find out they were all patriotic fellows. They knew they had to go to war, and this is where we finally ended up; we could have gone into Europe and been shot at. But, none of us were shot at. And we had a job to do, and that was to catch the ...

watch the aircraft that took off at Attu and Shemya and flew over Kiska, on to Amchitka, and on down the chain to Anchorage. And that was our main job. And the guys knew that; that's what we were there for. They knew the Japs weren't going to come back; we knew that. And, they'd be crazy if they tried. So, we never worried. Our greatest worry was combating the weather.