

Janis Kozlowski: Well, at that point were you sorry that you worked so hard to try to get in subs?

Vic Krygowski: No, no. Actually I think if the day after that the war had ended and they wanted me to continue to stay in I probably would have gone.

Janis Kozlowski: So what did you do after the war was over?

Vic Krygowski: Well, I worked for the company that made one of the secret torpedoes for the Navy – unbeknownst to me at the time -- the Western Electric Company in Kearny, New Jersey. They were makers of Bell Telephones. It was the manufacturing unit for the Bell system. So, I looked around and was interviewed for several jobs. I had my BS in mechanical engineering and so I had a number of offers but none of them were as good as Western Electric which was \$63 per week.

Janis Kozlowski: That was probably pretty good wages at the time?

Vic Krygowski: That was excellent at the time. And so they kind of gave me some credit for my Naval Service although some of the others said, you know, you haven't worked a day in industry. We can't credit you with any experience. So you fought the war, so, you know, you fought the war – that's different. But Western Electric was a little more sensitive to that and so they gave me a better offer than the average.

Janis Kozlowski: Plus, you were building something that you knew quite a bit about since you'd gone through all that training.

Vic Krygowski: Yeah. Well, the Western Electric Company in Kearny had one building that was set aside just to make these, what they called "Cutie" torpedoes [The acoustic homing torpedo was a Mark 27 Torpedo. Someone gave it the affectionate name of "Cutie" and it stuck. It was not the official Navy name for it. Per V. Krygowski, July 15, 2008]. They were sound sensing torpedoes. The idea was that a submarine, if it found a target, usually a smaller target than a big battleship or something like that, but a smaller target. If they found one in the neighborhood they would then go down to about 100 feet or more and send out the torpedo. Now the torpedo would go up to about the 50 foot level and circle until the sound picked up the propellers of the enemy ship. And then it homed in on that sound. And then it headed right for it and it blew the rear right off every ship that it hit.

Janis Kozlowski: Sounds like a pretty good weapon.

Vic Krygowski: Yeah, and it was super secret at the time. I remember that even when we were loading them we had Marines standing around so that nobody could get too curious about them. The building in Kearny had an armed guard of anti-aircraft people on the roof of that building should somebody decide to attack it.

So knowing that and since they gave me a good offer, I figure I'll go with them.

We had a lot of Western Electric equipment on board. All the sound powered telephones, some of the radar - that was made by Western Electric. The radio gear itself was made by Western Electric. So it was ... it had a good reputation of being a good place to work.