

Harry Bailey: Another time we were – this is an aside from that – you know, in the harbor at Attu, they call it Murder Point, one side of the harbor, there was a coastal artillery battery there to guard the entrance to the harbor if the Japanese came. A fellow that I knew from down around where I lived then was there and I stopped to see him a couple of times.

But then one morning we were selected to go out while the Coastal Artillery took target practice and they had a float out in the entrance to Massacre Bay, you know, for their target. We had an observer from their outfit and we got out there and somebody had anchored that thing down and I guess he called for them to shoot and there came this thump from the shore when they fired and the shell landed, I would say, within 5-10 feet of that target. And I said to myself, “These guys are good!” They fired again, I don’t know, for another hour and then they never even came close. The first one was the only one that came close [both laughing].

Janis Kozlowski: That was just a freak accident, huh? [both laughing]

Harry Bailey: That’s, like I say, some of the things that you keep thinking about, reminiscing there. That’s the ones you remember most of the time, the fun things.

Janis Kozlowski: You didn’t take your 85 foot power barge from Seattle to the Aleutians, did you?

Harry Bailey: Yup.

Janis Kozlowski: Wow, that’s a pretty ... you probably felt pretty small in that big water didn’t it?

Harry Bailey: You do, you do, you know. That’s how they all got there, you know, the power barges. There were a number of tug boats too of different sizes. Some used to haul a big barge behind them, you know, a tow barge. They ... loaded with freight or whatever. They come all the way from Seattle with that thing.

Once in awhile you’d hear how they lost their tow. I guess they would search for that, you know, I don’t know how. I guess sometimes they found it and sometimes they didn’t.

I think that tugboat that I told you with the six people drowned, that was when we got to Attu. They said they had winds that time, you know, up into 100 miles per hour and gusts. Geez, get out on the open ocean.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah.

Harry Bailey: Something like that. It’s not nice to even think about it – having been there before, you know.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah, that would be pretty scary.

Harry Bailey: 60 mile an hour is scary too. [laughing]