

Harry Bailey: And I hadn't, you know, in Seward I had a nice room of my own in the barracks. And on the ship, you know, you had a nice bunk and I wasn't used to living in these kind of conditions. [laughing] And, there was a ... because of the discharge of people the fellow that could handle all the paperwork was only a Corporal who had been, when I was there at the signal school earlier, he was still there. I got into that barracks with all these guys and the three bunks and I said, "God, this is terrible."

So when I saw this friend who was still stationed at Fort Richardson, I said, "God, it's terrible over there." He says, "You don't like it?" I says, "No." He said, "Would you like to go back to Seward and wait for your friend?" – who came, again, from the same town. He said, "He's coming back up from Adak, on a ship, tugboat. And I said, "Yes."

I went up on a Saturday to Fort Richardson and on Monday I was back on the train and I went down to Seward and I just sat around for a whole month waiting for them to come up with that tugboat. That's how I got back.

We got towed back. The tug I was on didn't have any power. Another tug towed us back to Seattle.

Janis Kozlowski: Really? Wow, that must have been a long trip.

Harry Bailey: Yeah. I would ... I don't know how long – 6 or 7 days maybe?

Janis Kozlowski: But more exciting because you knew you were going to ... you were heading closer to home.

Harry Bailey: Oh, yeah. It was good. [laughing] I tell people that's how I came back home – on a tug boat that didn't have any power.

Janis Kozlowski: [laughing] Well, who was your buddy that you keep talking about? It's the same guy, right? The one from Maine.

Harry Bailey: Uh, no, he's from the same town as I did. We went to school together, same class I was in. His name was Labreck.

Janis Kozlowski: Labreck?

Harry Bailey: Yeah. L A B R E C K. Like I say, we went into the Army on the same day too. I used to ask him, "What's your Army serial number?" He says, "I don't know that." And I'd tell him the serial number because he was two behind me in line when those were passed out. So, to this day, I mean, those serial numbers, I still have them in my head.

Janis Kozlowski: You know his and yours.

Harry Bailey: Yes. I was 24 and he was a 26. [laughing] But he ... I think most guys forget about it for some crazy reason I still ... it's one of those things that hangs in.

Janis Kozlowski: So what happened after you got to Seattle then?

Harry Bailey: We called up at Fort Lawton. A truck came down and they didn't know who we belonged to. See, that's how screwed up things were in this outfit.

So, as I say, we stayed in the barracks and this one fellow, the so-called Skipper, and my friend Labreck there, we said "Let's go down to Seattle for a few days." So we went down to Seattle and we stayed in a hotel for three days and then we went back up and by that time they found out who we belonged to. [We] Got a, you know, ticket to the train to come back to Massachusetts.