

Janis Kozlowski: So would you tell me, when did you get into the Army?

Harry Bailey: In mid-March in 1943.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok. And after your training, did you go right up to the Aleutians?

Harry Bailey: No. We probably didn't go to the Aleutians ... it was a couple of days before Christmas in 1943 that we left. [We] Spent the ... probably, two months at Fort Lawton before we did get assigned to a ship and go off to the Aleutians. They said there were, a lot of them, I mean a lot of these other ships they only did ... they also did the Bering Sea up to Nome. I have a friend who takes great pride in being the first mate and having the Captain say, "I'm going to bed, you take this thing tonight and you bring it back down to Dutch Harbor." And he says how he feels so good he passed between Little and Big Diomedes. He felt that he had accomplished something there.

Janis Kozlowski: Without hitting them?

Harry Bailey: Without hitting them. [laughing] There were some -- I can't think of any particularly right now, wild stories, that, you know, you can laugh at now, but at the time that ... They don't seem as bad now.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, there must have been some real scary experiences. You even said in your crossing from Seattle you hit the storm there and I'm sure you saw some pretty bad weather.

Harry Bailey: We did. I mean, they say Attu some of those storms would go on for four or five days. Someone said that the storm always stopped on the odd number day but I can't vouch for that or can't remember. But they were ... you know you'd hang into the harbor there on your anchor. You'd like to get a buoy, you know, you could secure to that but we always got chased away from them because the Navy claimed they were the ones that had the preference on them.