

Walter Andersen: Then another time in a snow storm ... the radio man on duty in the middle of the night, he makes a ... encodes a message and he calls and he says, "Hey, I've got an urgent message coming in we better decode it." So the guy in charge, he says, Ok. It says, "Enemy attack or abandon your base immediately, enemy attack imminent." [both laughing] And it's snowing like you can't believe. We got all our gear in our backpacks and we started out the door and we hadn't gone more than 25 yards and this guy started to laugh. He thought it was pretty funny.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah, I bet he did seeing you guys scrambling to get going.

Walter Andersen: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Now if that had been true, how would you have gotten out of there anyway?

Walter Andersen: Oh, the only thing we could have done was to go back up over the top of the mountain.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, just hike over?

Walter Andersen: Yes, to the other side.

Janis Kozlowski: Is that how you got over there in the first place?

Walter Andersen: No, no. Cape Wrangell was about, maybe, 100 yards of beach. The beach went back, maybe, 50 yards and then there was a cliff going up. And the Quonset huts were right at the bottom of the cliff. Then we had a big, great big generator that we had to keep going all the time. As I say, it was an adventure.

Janis Kozlowski: So, how did you get your fuel oil and food and supplies and stuff in. Did they bring a boat around?

Walter Andersen: Yes, they brought a patrol boat. We have to go out and meet the boat with ... we had a like a 16 foot dory with an engine on it – a motor on it. We'd go out and load the boat with groceries and bring it back, make a couple trips.

Janis Kozlowski: And how often did they come and bring you supplies and stuff?

Walter Andersen: About once a month. We ate a lot of canned goods! [both laughing]

Janis Kozlowski: It sounds like it.

Walter Andersen: And then when they brought the oil in, if I remember right, they'd just dump the oil into the water off this LCI and floated the oil drums in. But that was a job too because when we got it up to the beach we had to roll them through the sand. That was really a lot of work. And we probably got, I don't know, 40 drums, I'm guessing now. We had a big quantity of them.

Janis Kozlowski: 40 drums a month?

Walter Andersen: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Wow, that's a lot.

Walter Andersen: Maybe they come out every two months.

Janis Kozlowski: Either way that's a lot of drums to move.

Walter Andersen: Oh, yes.

Janis Kozlowski: So that's ... if they came in once a month or whatever that's how often you got mail coming in and out?

Walter Andersen: Yes.