

Janis Kozlowski: Was it just your ship there at Attu at the time, or were there others?

Vic Krygowski: Well in our immediate vicinity the Beaver was the only one there. There might have been ... we might have had a submarine or two tied up along side but I don't really recall that.

Janis Kozlowski: Um-hmm.

Vic Krygowski: Yeah, we tended a squadron of S type submarines.

Janis Kozlowski: What were the S type submarines?

Vic Krygowski: They were pre-World War II submarines. The earlier ones had other initials like the "O" type submarines were really the very first functional ones and they were really primitive. Like, for example, they had one head that was right in the middle of the control room. So anybody doing his duty was right there. They had nothing like in the line of showers or that kind of thing.

When I got on the Devilfish, of course, we were a modern fleet type submarine and so we had crew showers and we had officer showers and private bathrooms and that kind of thing.

Janis Kozlowski: What was the Devilfish?

Vic Krygowski: That was the submarine that I was on later on in the war.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok, so you ended up, at some point you did get on a sub?

Vic Krygowski: Oh, yes.

Janis Kozlowski: But after you saw these S type subs you were probably glad you didn't get on one of those?

Vic Krygowski: Yeah, but I got a scare on that one because one night our skipper was coming back from the officer's club and he was somewhat shaky and reeling and he said, "Krygowski, you're going out on the S so and so tomorrow morning." And then he left. So I didn't know, you know, quite what to do.

So I then ... I knew that he was under the weather so I couldn't talk to him anymore and he had gone to his quarters but I got nerve enough to wake up the Executive Officer who wasn't quite asleep and I said, "Hey, am I going out on the submarine tomorrow?" He said, "Where'd you get that idea?" I said, "Well, Skipper just told me I'm going out on the so and so." I forget the number, it was in the 40s. And, so he said, "no, no" he says, "You're not going out on any submarine." And so I rested easy that night but the thought was in the back of my mind [laughing]. Here, Skippers telling me I've got a job to do and I didn't want to be AWOL from the submarine when it goes out on patrol if I'm supposed to be on board.

Vic Krygowski: So ... well, we got past that one alright.

Janis Kozlowski: So you never did have to go?

Vic Krygowski: No. And I'm glad that I didn't have to go on the S type submarines.