

Janis Kozlowski: How long did you end up staying there after V-J day?

Walter Andersen: Oh, that was in September. [formal surrender ceremony was September 2, 1945] I went home at Christmas time.

Janis Kozlowski: So it took them a little while before they got you guys home?

Walter Andersen: Yes, oh yes.

Janis Kozlowski: And how did you get back to the States?

Walter Andersen: I flew back. And then ... I flew back and then I had 30 day leave and I had to go back to Seattle. Then I was with Fleet Air Wing Four and they transferred me to San Diego and I was at San Diego there for awhile and then I was transferred to China Lake out in the Mojave Desert. There was a Naval Ordnance Test Station there where they were firing rockets from planes to the ground and we had to take upper air soundings for them.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, so you were still an aerographer your duties just changed.

Walter Andersen: Yes, but I worked out on the rocket range. It was interesting work there too. And then they, I forget, I think we had to get so many number, so many numbers, like 30 or 40 numbers to get out of the Navy. Then when I got enough to get out they wanted me to stay in [maybe I should have] because then I'd be civil service there.

Janis Kozlowski: Yes, so how many years total did you put in with the Navy between the Aleutians and China Lake?

Walter Andersen: Oh, I went in in early '43 and I got out in early '46.

Janis Kozlowski: So if you had enough points you didn't have to stay four years?

Walter Andersen: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok. And you decided to leave?

Walter Andersen: Yes, right.