

Janis Kozlowski: So, were you on board the Concise when the war ended?

Charles Donovan: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: And how did you find out?

Charles Donovan: Well, as I said, we found out by radio on the way home.

Janis Kozlowski: So, were you guys pretty happy?

Charles Donovan: Oh, yes! Yeah - elated.

Janis Kozlowski: Were you anxious by that point to go home?

Charles Donovan: Yes and no. I really enjoyed being in the Navy. As a matter of fact, I wish I had stayed. But I didn't – I only served the six years.

Janis Kozlowski: Was that what you signed up for?

Charles Donovan: I signed up for six years – 1939 through 1945.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. Was that standard – six years?

Charles Donovan: Yes. When I enlisted... Oh, first, when I started to be interested in the Navy, this friend of the family had to visit the house quite often. And he was a Navy personnel – as I remember, he played in the naval band. And I became interested in the Navy talking to him. And when I first tried to join in, oh, May, or something of 1939, I was rejected, because I had... At that time, you could only have so many teeth being filled, and so many teeth out. And I had ... I think it was two teeth that I had out ... or one – I forget which. And I was rejected, because I could only have... Or, no, I had two - and then they would have had to take out another one, because it was bad. So, my dad took me to our local dentist, and he fixed this tooth and put a filling in it. And today, even today, that filing is still there. I'm feeling it right now. And then I went back in October and I was accepted. So, I was in from October 3rd 1940, or 1939, through December 5th, or 6th, 1945.

Janis Kozlowski: Wow. That's a long, long stint for a young guy.

Charles Donovan: But, Yeah, I regressed ... got away from it there – the enlistment. Just before that, [it] was for three years. But, then they extended it for some reason – I forget why. But they extended it to six years.

So, I had to enlist for the six years - which was great. The peacetime Navy was really fun. Oh, we enjoyed it. We get down to Puerto Rico and Guantanamo Bay there. And we'd pull into these harbors and these bum boats would come out and with the Native people there. And they'd have fruits and souvenirs and everything, and we'd be able to buy them. They'd come up along side the ship and we'd be able to buy these things from them. And then we'd go ashore and oh, the place was beautiful then.

Janis Kozlowski: Have you ever been back?

Charles Donovan: No, unfortunately ... unable to get back. I'd love to get back to Umnak.