

Charles Donovan: And I meant to tell you, that I was in the peace time Navy to begin with. And we made numerous trips too, from Brooklyn Navy Yard to San Juan Puerto Rico and Guantanamo Bay. And then in 1941, we went through the Panama Canal, and we went up the coast - the west coast. And I left the ship at San Diego – the destroyer base there and went to radio school. And....

Janis Kozlowski: Was that by choice, or is that something the Navy chose for you?

Charles Donovan: The Navy chose that for me. But, I liked it - I really wanted to do it. And then I graduated from there and re-joined the ship, and it had gone up to Seattle, Washington – the Bremerton Navy Yard up there. And I re-joined her and I was then a Radioman Third Class. Before, I was, of course, had been an apprentice Seaman.

I was a Radioman Third Class, and our assignments were making trips up to Sitka and Dutch Harbor and Kodiak, and up through the Aleutian Island area and taking supplies back and forth from Bremerton to there - to the naval bases.



U.S.S. Spica at Sitka, Alaska. Photo courtesy Charles Donovan.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you ever haul troops as well, or just cargo?

Charles Donovan: Just cargo – at that time. Later on, they did haul some troops after I had left the ship. But, while I was assigned to her, it was just cargo that we hauled. And....

Janis Kozlowski: Let me ask you, how old were you, actually, when you enlisted in 1939?

Charles Donovan: Seventeen.

Janis Kozlowski: Seventeen. OK. And the ship that you got out of mothballs - was it a World War I era ship?

Charles Donovan: No, I don't think it was World War I. Actually, I can send you a ... I have a document that I picked up out of the naval archives, or something. And it tells about the commissioning of the ship – the origination of the ship and re-commissioning, and so on and so forth – the whole thing about the ship. I'll send those along to you.

Janis Kozlowski: OK.