

Charles Donovan: And then we did that for, oh, let's see, that was 1941. And then in May of 1942, six of us Navy radiomen were assigned to the Aleutian Islands to set up weather reporting stations at navel air station Otter Point [Umnak Island], and at Chernofski Bay. And we didn't know the first thing about weather, but we had these cards [Chuckle] that show us cloud accumulations and so forth. And we reported the weather back to Dutch Harbor ... so that the PBY aviators and the rest of the planes had current weather as it was happening. And then, of course, at that time, the war was - had broken out. And ... we set those up and reported this weather back and forth. And I was up there for two and a half years - from May of '42 through December of '44. And I spent the two and a half years on the islands - Umnak Island and Chernofski Bay.

Janis Kozlowski: So, was your role as radioman that you relayed the weather, or did you also do some weather measurements?

Charles Donovan: No, just as I said, we had just these cards that we reported; they showed us the different cloud accumulations. And that's all we did was report the general weather conditions. We didn't relay any weather, or we didn't have any equipment, weather equipment, or anything - just the radios.



Photo courtesy Charles Donovan.

Charles Donovan: And we just telegraphed it back and forth.