

Hale Burge: But anyway, when I get back this Corporal, he says, “Sergeant Burge,” he said, “how would you like to go up to the hospital and meet a couple nurses?” I thought, “Boy this is big trouble.” But anyway, we went out there and met these two nurses and we went to town that night in that little, old jeep and went to a bar up there, a bar that I’d been in before. And there was a young couple that ran it, I don’t know if they owned it or not but they were from Illinois. And they took a liking to me and rarely could I ever buy a beer.

So we were sitting in there one night and way back in the back end of it a fellow Lieutenant come in. And he saw these two nurses with these two enlisted men and he started complaining to them that they’re not supposed to do that. Well, they let him know right away that it was there business and told him to leave them alone. So we never did hear anymore about that.

Before I left Shemya to go to the mainland on rest and recreation leave, one of the guys asked me, he said, “Bring us back some milk, real milk.” Well, all we had was recon milk at the time and so when ... the day before I left I picked up some milk in paper cartons, Carnation it was. The Red Cross give me a little ditty bag and it just hold six quarts of milk. So I took that and took care of it on the ship on the way down. I kept it in a life boat to keep it cold and when we got down to Attu we unloaded there and they took me up to the transit area about two miles up the mountain and I took the milk out in this little bag and nobody knew I had it.

So the next day, I saw the First Sergeant and I said, “There’s a B-24 landed down there, that black one with radar resistant paint.” I said, “You suppose there’s a mail driver to take me down in the jeep and see if I can get out of here. I’m tired of sitting around.”

So he let me ... he took me down there and I met the pilot and he said, “Yeah, we’ll be going back in about 10 minutes.” So I got on that B-24 and off we went. Well, by the time we got ... we could see the island before we ever left Attu. By the time we got over the fog and everything had set in and that’s the way it was up there. One hour it would be beautiful and the next hour you couldn’t see anything.