

Harry Bailey: We went to Attu going from Seattle; it was in December and January and I cannot swim though it makes no difference up there. I was scared to death all the time. We ran into one big storm probably crossing the Gulf of Alaska and then we got lost, sort of, off of Adak and we sat offshore. We could see some lights and we thought it was Adak but we were not sure and I think we spent a day and a half out there. And finally a Navy boat came out to rescue us and take us in. That was the easy part because we got hung up in the submarine net going in and all kind of little problems but nothing big in that aspect.

At Attu, of course, we carried freight to Shemya. I've said if it wasn't for these little power barges I don't think Shemya would have existed at that time because there was no harbor. We would go into a small dock and instead of you throwing your line to the dock they had two bulldozers that would throw a small line and you'd pull in their cable and then the bulldozers would wheel you into the dock side and you'd bounce off the bottom in the sand. They'd unload you in as fast a speed, I mean, you'd be gone again. Off you'd go to Attu and another day of getting loaded and in turn going back to Shemya again.

And there were a couple of big storms we got in at Shemya. We were, I think there were probably six to eight of those power barges and all they would tell us was to go out into deep water. At that time in the snow and so forth we couldn't find our way back to Attu and when the storm was over, I mean, for the most part, everybody got in. But on this one particular night one fellow had on his barge, he didn't have any fuel. He had no choice but to get back to Attu as soon as possible to get adequate fuel. He made it all the way in the harbor but then when he got there he ran aground.

So, just to get in that night was quite difficult but he did that part and then lost his ship.