

Harry Bailey: At Attu there, the gusts would come down off the damn mountains off to the west. And, boy, I mean, everybody, there was ... like in that particular story I was just telling you about the 100 miles an hour, another fellow who I never knew but I'd write to him, he lost his power barge out there during that storm. And he said everybody was in trouble that particular storm. I mean, just trying to keep from going aground. Anchors would, you know, drag and so forth. And in that storm too, two power barges actually went up on the beach.

Janis Kozlowski: Well was it because ... did you not have good weather information and you got in these storms? Or did the Army just want you to go out in everything?

Harry Bailey: We never heard of the weather, not until the day it came, you know. There was nothing ... I don't know, it was pretty loose, as I say. In 1944, at the end, things were becoming, you know, where you had more contact, you could get a weather report. But, again, I don't know, another fellow that I was with on that ship who I've found in the last 10 years, told me how after I had left Attu that the Lieutenant Commander of the group sent one of the boats out in a big storm and said they were lost. I don't know whether they ever found them or what but he said the Lieutenant lost his job. He was demoted or whatever.

These guys were, you know, two civilians. I don't think they had any experience, you know, being on the ocean. They were just there and more or less to keep it organized and send you here, there and everywhere but they didn't seem to have any knowledge of what a storm would be like--nothing of that sort.

Janis Kozlowski: Well those were some pretty big storms up there too especially if you weren't really a seaman. That would be quite a challenge, I would imagine.

Harry Bailey: Yes. [laughing] I only know about myself but I'm sure other people had the same feelings I did. Maybe they were more afraid although I don't think anybody could be more afraid than me, the first ... in the beginning, you know?