

**Herb Gedney:** [referring to pictures and documents] And then we'd go on to landing on Amchitka ... pictures of Anchorage Chapter of the Air Force Association in there. [starting to read from prepared text or a document he is looking at] Telling about the Aleutian Campaign occurred during the early years of the war. What was accomplished there had been obscured by time and overshadowed by the more dramatic events of other war theatres. It was the only campaign fought on North American soil during the war. It was primarily an air war where young men battled not only each other, but also the terrible unforgiving elements of the storm-lashed primeval place.

The war in the Aleutians had been referred to as the forgotten war. And the terror of the air battles that were fought on the lonely skies, have not summed up to the power and the glory of other theatres of conflict as so recently expressed in the movie *The Memphis Belle*.

However, those who fought there remember the weather was a significant factor. It could rain and snow at the same time; there would be mud and then it would freeze ... frozen. The runways were always either frozen or mud puddles – no happy medium.