

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle] Is it ... was it unusual that you got a chance at the wheelhouse, which, which is a big job on a ship?

John Fahey: No, that was part of my job ... is, being a helmsman - to steer the ship... I don't know, I just had a knack for it. It wasn't that difficult.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you have any idea how large some of the biggest waves were that you saw?

John Fahey: I don't know, but they all seemed awful big when there was ... and they [were] coming over the side and hitting you. I remember one time when we were leaving Dutch Harbor and our ship had these big booms that had to be rigged, and ... they were used for loading cargo and stuff from the holds. And I was still working on it - this was early on in my service, and I was on the deck force. And we were rigging these booms, and we were leaving port because they had to leave in a hurry for some reason. And ... we had to get these booms tied to the main boom so they wouldn't break loose. And we hit the open sea before we had all those booms secured. And boy was that a fight to get those secured, because they could have caused a lot of damage if we hadn't. But, we managed to get those secured.

But, I remember being up on this ... mast, where we ... secured the booms; and ... up pretty high. And I remember the ship was rocking from side to side, and I could look down, straight down, and see the water on one side. And then it'd rock, and [I'd] see, look straight down, and see water on the other side.

Janis Kozlowski: How many, how many guys did you work with on this ship? How big was the crew?

John Fahey: Umm, well, it must have had a crew of a couple hundred, because at times we had a ship load of soldiers. We had to, you know, feed and take care of those guys and maintain the ship, and man the engine room, and all the other things that a ship has. And, you know, we had the galley, and cooks and bakers, and we had quite a crew. [To] take and maintain a ship, it, takes quite a bit of men. And I forget exactly how many we had there - close to 300, I would say.

Janis Kozlowski: And then, how many ... do you have idea how many people they could transport?

John Fahey: Oh, I don't know. Those holds, hell, they had those bunks stacked four to six high, and very close together. I would imagine we could put 5-600, maybe a 1000 guys on there.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did the crew get better quarters than the, than the people you were transporting, or did everybody kind of have the same kind of cramped quarters?

John Fahey: No, we had our own quarters; different from - we didn't bunk with them, and ours were better than theirs. Wasn't saying a lot, but they were a lot better. And we could keep 'em; we had lockers for our clothes and stuff like that. And we each had a separate bunk assigned. And it was, it was a lot better than what, [Chuckle] "Dog Faces" had to put up with.

Janis Kozlowski: Who were the Dog Faces?

John Fahey: That's what we called the Army guys.