

Janis Kozlowski: ...how you got involved in World War II. Were you in the armed services when the war broke out?

Robert Dougal: When I was a kid in high school, I went to Fort Dix, in New Jersey. And then when I got in the service, I was at Fort Benning, Georgia - with General Patton [General George S. Patton, Jr.]

Janis Kozlowski: Oh!

Robert Dougal: After about a year, they sent me to officer candidate school at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey; and I became a Second Lieutenant. And then I was sent down and went to Norfolk, Virginia, where I had ... was working at a radar station. The war hadn't started yet. And then I went down to Florida, and ... with another chap, and we made up a squadron. And he eventually went one way and went to the Philippines and I ended up going up to Alaska.

Janis Kozlowski: Wow. What ...and how old were you at the time?

Robert Dougal: I was about 26, 27.

Katie Dougal: 27.

Janis Kozlowski: Umm.

Robert Dougal: I wasn't a youngster. In fact, when I ... when the war started over in Europe, I volunteered to go and join the British forces, but I was too old; I was 27. And there was a cutoff date, and they wouldn't let me go because [Chuckle] I was too old.

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle] Isn't that funny, that at that age you could be too old. [Chuckle]

Robert Dougal: Yeah, I wanted to be a pilot, but they said, "No, you're too old."

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle] So, were you in the army?

Robert Dougal: I ended up ... when I joined, I was in the Army, yes. I went down to Fort Dix in New Jersey - that was a cut-off point - in New Jersey; was Fort Dix. They sent me then to Fort Benning, Georgia. And down there, I joined a new division, headed by General Patton; he was a full Colonel, then, called the Second Armored Division. They had one armored division at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and the Second Armored Division was at Fort Benning, Georgia, commanded by General Patton. And I was in his headquarters unit during the war, ah, I mean, before the war; when we were on maneuvers in Louisiana and learning how to drive tanks and other things.

And then, I was later sent to officer candidate school up in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. And I had been to a radio school at Fort Knox, Kentucky prior to that, when I was in the Armored Division.

But, when I got to Fort Monmouth and finished there and became a Second Lieutenant in the Signal Corps, they sent me to Norfolk, Virginia - I think I told you - and then on down into Florida and we started an outfit. I eventually ended up in an outfit that got on the train in, oh, I guess it was about March, or April - when they were going to invade Kiska. And we came up to Seattle and most of the troops went over to Kiska, because we had now invaded and owned Kiska.