

Janis Kozlowski: Well, what was your food like? Did you guys have good, good chow on, on Kiska?

Robert Dougal: I had two good cooks. They were both mechanics [Chuckle] - automobile mechanics [Katie and Robert Chuckle] made into cooks.

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle]

Robert Dougal: They [Chuckle] were assigned as my cooks. And when they started, [Chuckle] when they started in, they [Chuckle] weren't very good. But, they got a lot better. But, [Chuckle] we did eat, and the food was ... was good. And it got better as these fellows learned how to operate the stoves and cook and mix food together. But, it wasn't like going down to the restaurant and [Chuckle] putting your order in for fried eggs and pancakes.

Well you know what a 55 gallon oil drum looks like?

Janis Kozlowski: I sure do.

Robert Dougal: OK. And we had those scattered all over the island, and when they were empty, they would blow around. And we used to get those drums and we'd put garbage in it [sic] from the kitchen. And the cooks would dump their garbage in there at night and in the morning, why, there'd be a red fox down in the, froze down there. His tail got ... he went after the food, and his tail got in the ... into some of the water that was in that garbage can, and it froze and it held him. And then when the cooks came, in the morning, they found him. And they'd wrap him in a burlap bag and take him into the kitchen and put him near the stove to thaw out. You'd have to chop him out of the ice in the can, and then take 'em inside. And after a while, he became a pet.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh!

Robert Dougal: And he would come over every night [Chuckle] to get something to eat.

Janis Kozlowski: Really? So he just hung around the camp, then?

Robert Dougal: Oh, yeah. He was ... he didn't come in the day time; he did it at night.

Katie Dougal: I have a picture of 'em sending....

Robert Dougal: But, we, we kept him as a pet; it was almost like a dog.

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh]

Robert Dougal: You could hold 'em. I've got pictures of some of the fellows holding this fox that became a pet.

Janis Kozlowski: So, he didn't sleep inside the huts with you guys, but he just stuck around?

Robert Dougal: No, he stayed out in the hill someplace. But he came in at night. And we always had something for him to eat. We used to look forward to; every morning, or every night, we'd have 'em around. I guess he had a family some place in the hills [he] was taking care of.

Katie Dougal: Or, maybe he was alone.

Janis Kozlowski: [Chuckle] Anything else come to mind; anything other remembrances from your time then?

Robert Dougal: No. Kiska Volcano was inactive at the time I was there.

Janis Kozlowski: Thankfully.

Robert Dougal: Well, we did have a Kiska Volcano. I don't know how high it is; it isn't too high. But, airplanes coming from Attu would fly over the island. And a couple of them crashed in the Kiska Volcano. Nobody knew it, you couldn't hear the noise, you couldn't see any flame, and you, you didn't know about it for six months, when the snow would melt and you see parts of the fuselage shining in the sun, whenever it came out. We knew that it ... they ran into the Kiska Volcano [and] that was the end of 'em.