

Janis Kozlowski: So, did you leave after the Japanese surrendered then ... then you left Alaska?

Robert Dougal: I stayed there about a year and a half at Kiska. And then they transferred me to Amchitka. And another officer from Amchitka came over and took my place at Kiska. I stayed at Amchitka, and then, I ... until near the end of the war. And I said I'd stay on and come back. So, they gave me a vacation, and I went to New Jersey and New England for R&R for 30 days. And by that time, the Japs surrendered and the war was over, so, I never did go back to Alaska and Kiska.

Katie Dougal: But, didn't, that's not what she asked, I don't think; you misunderstood her. See, he was not there for any active fighting. When he went, they had already taken over Kiska, and Attu.

Janis Kozlowski: Right. I was just wondering when he left. So, it sounds like he left just before VJ day, and that happened while he was on....

Katie Dougal: OK, on the way home, he was on an airplane, flying home for R&R. And they took him off the plane in Edmonton, Canada and said, "You'll have to take the train back to the states, we need the airplane." And the airplane was going to Japan to take, maybe - I don't know about President Truman - but to take people, I guess. Because they knew that the Japanese, they were going, they were going to be dropping the bomb. And they were hoping ... they were pretty sure that they would surrender.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, OK.

Katie Dougal: So, he was just arriving home when that happened. And so we went to, to Connecticut for a second honeymoon. And anyway, we visited relatives from the southland and went back. In the meantime, he got orders to ... that his next base would be in California - he wouldn't be going back. They sent him his clothes - or whatever he left up there - was shipped to him at his mother's house.

Janis Kozlowski: OK.

Katie Dougal: And he, after that month off, he was assigned in California. So, I went back to Washington. I worked for the government during the war, and I went back to work. And when he got out there and got a place to live, I took the train and went out. OK.

Janis Kozlowski: So, it sounds like you were a war bride.

Katie Dougal: I was a war bride. [Chuckle] And I did a lot of; I was working. But I did a lot of volunteer work during the war.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, OK.

Katie Dougal: The AWVS, American Woman's Volunteer Services ...

Janis Kozlowski: Oh.

Katie Dougal: Red Cross.

Janis Kozlowski: So, what kind of volunteer work did you do?

Katie Dougal: One thing I did; I went to Walter Reed [Army Medical Center] twice a week and I looked after two boys that were double, well...

Robert Dougal: Amputees.

Katie Dougal: ... they had lost two legs and one arm, one of them; the other one, just two legs - in North Africa. And I ... they ... their arms; the one boy had very strong arms - he said, "It made up for no legs."

Janis Kozlowski: Oh. [Chuckle]

Katie Dougal: He could get around fairly good with his wheelchair. The other one couldn't. But, I would push them down to the USO shows every Saturday night. I got to see Bob Hope and Ester Williams, and there were tons of movie stars. And I was always ... they always had a little book, to collect an autograph or two of the movie stars at the end of the show. Because, I could get up front and do it, and take it back to them. I'd wheel those boys from their, from their hospital, down about three, or four ramps, this way and that way, you know, to the main - to the place where they have the stadium, or the ... well, gathering.

Janis Kozlowski: Ah-huh.

Katie Dougal: Ah, [Chuckle] get them to [a] place right near the front - maybe front row if I could; right next to it, I should say. Because they had to stay in their chairs; wheel chairs. And I'd go with one, and then I'd run back and get the next one and bring him. Then when it was over, I'd take one back - haul 'em back to his room, hospital room, and go back and get the other. And I wrote letters for them. And I'd stay after work and type them and mail them to their ... one had a wife and one had a sweetheart. [Chuckle] And then to their mothers. I'd take it, take it down in shorthand, and type them and mail them for them.

The phone was out in the ... down the hall. You could go and get it and bring it and plug it in. And I'd make a call for them so they could talk to their mothers, or whatever. That, what I did for them.

And then, I worked at the children's hospital for a short time. I quit that - they had me working with the deformed babies, trying to feed them; babies with real problems. And I came home at night and I told my sister - I lived with my sister - I said, "I'll never have a baby, never have a baby; it might be like this one, or that one." And she said, "It's time you, time you stopped working there." [Chuckle]

Janis Kozlowski: Umm.

Katie Dougal: And I did, because I had nightmares and stuff. So, I quit that. But, I did some other volunteer work around. But, that was ... ah, it kept me busy.

Janis Kozlowski: Sounds like you did some good, good service for people during the war then.

Katie Dougal: And I would fix box... fix boxes and send 'em to Bob. I baked Toll-House cookies - his favorite. And package them: popcorn under, and popcorn around them, and then popcorn on top. And it would [Chuckle] take three months [Chuckle] for them to get there.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh. Did you know where he was at?

Katie Dougal: The first class mail got there faster, like, in about, what, three weeks, by ship. I'd get them to him, by ship. But, third class mail went also by ship. But, they took their time. And I know, he said.... [Now talking to Robert] you, you said there were crumbs and... a couple [Chuckle] of times, when you got 'em. [Now speaking to Janis] But, I think they, he must have eaten them with [Chuckle] his food. [Laugh]