

Janis Kozlowski: Well tell me what your daily life was like there. Um, you had to run the radar station, but what was that like for a young guy to be kind of stuck on this island? And how did you feel about that? And what did you do to pass the time?

Robert Dougal: Well, I was the Second Lieutenant, and I had about 35 men that were under me: I had another Second Lieutenant and a Warrant Officer, and I had sergeants and then the airmen. We had the radar station, and we divided the crew up so that we had four working crews on the radar. They worked eight hours ... I told you, didn't I?

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah, but, I'm curious; you said you worked eight hours, but then what did you do after that?

Robert Dougal: Well, [Chuckle] you got up in the morning, [Katie and Robert Chuckle] maybe you had your meal in the hut, because you couldn't get to the kitchen; the doors were snowed under. You just ... sometimes you'd have eight foot [sic] of snow on top of the hut and you'd have to wait for it to be dug out by some of the other folks. And you'd go the mess hall, and ... we made out OK.

Katie Dougal: You had movies from time to time.

Robert Dougal: Oh, the movies we had were ... yeah, we did have a movie once in a while. I had no USO shows.

Janis Kozlowski: You didn't have any USO shows?

Robert Dougal: No, no. One time we had one person come out from the USO; it was too rough. They didn't want to come out where we were. [Laugh]

Katie Dougal: In his diary, I was reading, "And the first Pacific Huts arrived the 27th of October." And then they got a couple every couple days ... they'd get a couple more. So it wasn't until November that they were able to get into, to stay in the Pacific Huts.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh. So, they suffered some pretty cold temperatures in those tents?

Katie Dougal: Yeah. [Um-hum]