

## Transcript of Len Perry Video Clip

After we'd done all that training, they decided that too many in-takers were going in to combined operations and general service navy were short of men [laughs]. So I was then re-trained more or less for steam proportion so – and then posted to a Destroyer. This I picked up in Scotland and we went off on the Russian convoys which were absolute hell. We only went in winter time and there was two hours twilight every twenty-four hours. You never knew whether it was twelve o'clock midday or twelve o'clock midnight. It was cold and the Destroyers were never, never equipped. They were – cos they were fairly warm because of the ships activities and bitterly cold outside, the whole place used to drip with condensation. The whole time we were wet and damp and, of course, we were on – we were then attacked. When we went out north of – we used to leave from Iceland and when we – when we rounded the North Cape then the wolf packs would be behind us and they – the torpedo bombers those would come out from Norway and attack. I don't know why but they were extremely brave pilots really. Our firepower in the convoy was quite significant and not only the escorts were well armed but the ships themselves had – had anti-aircraft guns. When they'd attack the amount of anti-aircraft flack was tremendous. But they would fly on and sometimes they would be shot down. But never pick – we would never pick them up but these attacks were in twilight so we never really saw them. You know – you knew they were being hit but they would disappear and whether they did get down or not, I don't know. But whether they were shot down? Our gunners used to claim one occasionally. We all thought that, you know, to hell with it, they were brave blokes. But it's strange that you should feel that, you know, when you see one of your own blokes go down you're not very happy with them. So, yes, we did – we did see many – many of went down and pick it up. But when we got to – we used to go to the Kola Inlet which was Murmansk and we weren't received very well there at all. I don't know why but we had restrictions and we very rarely went ashore. But we were lucky enough, we would tie up against a much bigger boat, a cruiser, and there we could go ashore on the cruiser and have a nice shower and quite a nice meal. But to go ashore – the Russians, really felt sorry for them, that part of Russia they were terribly poor and they suffered no end. So we didn't go ashore much. Nothing to do there. But we were only there, sometimes, five or six days before there was an empty convoy to come back. They would still attack the empty convoys on the way back. But not so hard as though full convoys going up, the whole time – the whole time we were – we were shadowed by a Focke-Wulf condor, that's a four engine condor. Sometimes you could just about see him but other times you could only just hear him and he was relaying back the position the convoy most of the time.