

Joseph D. Hutchison: At Topeka, we were trained as replacement crews; so, an entire crew would be replaced, not individuals. They put us through the lines, we made out our wills and powers of attorney, and any allotments, and ... all the fine paperwork that needed to be done. And then they took us over and they briefed us on three routes: One to England, one to North Africa, and another one to the South Pacific; all three you were told, you know, how to do each - the trips for all three of them. You didn't know which one you were going to get until they called you.

After they finished up they said, "Now we got one special briefing for one crew." He says, "Everybody can leave except..." And everybody looked at us [both laugh]. They said, "Lt. Ware's crew stay." So, they briefed us on how to get to Elmendorf. And we said, "And when do we leave?" And he said, "Right now." So, [Chuckle] we loaded our stuff on the plane; it looked pretty bad. It was heaviest load that they had piled into a B-24. Before we even got to it, it looked strange; it had a bunch of antennas and stuff that we had never seen on a plane before.

And incidentally, while it was up in the Aleutians, somebody painted a picture of it, which is very true. We appeared in the *Life* magazine, I think of April, in 1943; two page[s]. I had a copy of it for a long time, but we had a fire at the house here and I got [lost] half of it. But it shows all the markings on it. They painted the guns out underneath it. You know, it had two machine guns under the bombardier firing forward - the pilot shot them.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you remember who painted the picture?

Joseph D. Hutchison: I think they were painted out in the picture. It's shown in a revetment up on Adak. It's actually very; it's almost a snap shot if it. It's very true.