

Janis Kozlowski: Well, let me ask you about, about these missions you flew - did you actually go to the Aleutians on a daily basis if the weather allowed?

Paul Polink: Well, someone in our squadron did. We, if I went out on a mission, I would ... when my plane came in, if it was fit and there weren't any major inspections due, I would go, like, on the bottom of the list. And then, as the planes were sent out, I would work my way up to the top, and then I would go out. Usually ... I went out at least every other week.

Janis Kozlowski: So, most of the time you worked on the aircraft at Elmendorf, and then occasionally you went on the airplanes down to the Aleutians?

Paul Polink: Yes. But, we were pretty regular in the Aleutians - there were always planes going down for one reason or another.

Janis Kozlowski: And so, where did you personally get to go down there – where did you land?

Paul Polink: Well ... eventually, I guess I landed on pretty many ... much of the ... all of the islands. I went to Attu several times. Adak was a, an important stop for us. And Shemya – [I] had been in Shemya. And, in fact, on V-J Day, I was at Kodiak Island with the Governor of Alaska, who then was Governor Gruening. And there were six United States Senators that were there ... I guess there were discussions about a hydroelectric plant, or some dam that was a big project that was going to be done at Kodiak.

Janis Kozlowski: So you got to mingle with some important people on that trip?

Paul Polink: Yes I did. And incidentally, we were going down the runway at Kodiak, and the copilot threw his arms up in the air and ... then he quickly told us that the tower called and said that the Japanese had surrendered.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh!

Paul Polink: That was in August of '45.

Janis Kozlowski: So, what was your reaction to that?

Paul Polink: Well I was very happy. And, naturally, I thought, “Well, this means maybe going home in a few months.” And then, that’s what happened.

Janis Kozlowski: Were you happy about that idea.

Paul Polink: Oh, yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah.