

Robert Buchanan: Then the war came to an end and the crew that I was in, we were sent to the South Pacific and put in a squadron there on the island of Samar in the Philippines. And then our, myself and my pilot, and the first radioman in our crew, three of us in that crew, and then another pilot from another crew and two more, - three more enlisted men, were put into a crew and we were sent to Sangley Point which is Caviti in the Philippines. We flew for Admiral Allan McCain. [meant McCann]

Janis Kozlowski: So what kind of...?

Robert Buchanan: Or Allan McCann [Allan Rockwell McCann commanded a submarine squadron during World War II], not McCain [laughing], the guy running for President ... for Allan McCann.

Janis Kozlowski: McCann, ok.

Robert Buchanan: We were his crew.

Janis Kozlowski: And what were you doing in the South Pacific there? Why did they send you down there?

Robert Buchanan: Well, first we still was patrolling but then we got ... then we ended up, they lent our crew to the Army and a General Butler was more or less in charge of that, and we flew him and some people from Washington DC. Matter of fact, they were higher ranked than this General was. Because, even though they were civilians we were told how many flags to fly on the side of the plane and one that I remember was by the last name of Howard [Robert Buchanan had him listed as just "Mr. Howard" in his log book and said he was a civilian.]. He rated three stars. We flew them all over the South Pacific and they sold the stuff that was left over on these bases, like in New Guinea, places like that, mostly to the Dutch. We'd take....

The reason they wanted the PBY because we could land on the water and take out a life raft, you know, if there was no landing strip there, and take them in on a life raft, you know, on the beach. And they'd go in and look over all this stuff that was left over there, they sold what was.... I remember places I seen where tools for - airplane tools and stuff like that - just loaded with them - different bases. And I don't know what else they was selling. It wasn't the land, it was a property on there.

Janis Kozlowski: So how long were you involved in that?

Robert Buchanan: Pardon?

Janis Kozlowski: How long were you involved in that?

Robert Buchanan: Well, I had enough points to get out of the Navy, I don't know just when it was, must have been, like in October, something like that, of 1945. But I was more or less was, decided I was maybe going to stay in the Navy and so I turned this down and I stayed with this crew doing this.... My pilot was regular Navy and so myself and the radioman, we stayed in the

crew, both of us did. We both were thinking about staying in the Navy which neither one of us did then, but that's how we stayed in. We did that then until, I don't know, something like March of 1946. I probably can tell [pause, looking at paperwork]. Yeah, matter of fact I see right on here, March 11 of 1946, that's when I ended up down there, came back home.

Janis Kozlowski: And you didn't re-enlist and stay in?

Robert Buchanan: Pardon?

Janis Kozlowski: You didn't stay in after that?

Robert Buchanan: No, I ... you know, I was Petty Officer First Class which was pretty good and my pilot who, like I say, was regular Navy, wanted me to stay in. He said that he could arrange it for me to ... he'd get me a ... normally you'd have to take a test to advance in rate in the Navy. He said they would give me Chief Petty Officer if I wanted to stay in, I could come back to the States with the Admiral and be his Plane Captain back, but I wouldn't have the same pilot anymore. And, then he wanted me to, I decided not to do that, he wanted me to – he said he'd get me into flight school. Then I didn't, I decided to go home.

So then I came home. I no more than got home, I was only home a few weeks, I met who is now my wife. [laughing] So, if I'd have stayed in everything would have been a lot different than it is today.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah. What did you end up doing after the war, was it anything that you were trained for in the Navy?

Robert Buchanan: No, nothing. Not as far as flying. I went back to Goodrich, finished up my apprenticeship and then they had quite an extensive apprentice program. It took you four years of training at running machines and all them four years you went.... Now, myself, I had to go to school at Akron University, which I would go three evenings a week for maybe about three hours a night. And I did that for four years. Then I went to a school right after at Akron University in different schools with Goodrich. I was put on salary and was a foreman in a machine shop. Then I ended up the last, about 12 years I was there, I ran the machine shop and we made prototype machinery for tire building equipment which, that was my last job at Goodrich before I retired.

Janis Kozlowski: So you pretty much made a career of Goodrich?

Robert Buchanan: Yes, right, that's about it.