

Janis Kozlowski: Can I jump back for a minute back to the Aleutians. I wanted to talk to you about the PBYs that you flew in. What was that ... the area where you ... the mech was stationed was ... can you tell me about that? What your station was like on the airplane?

Robert Buchanan: Well, you know, if you went into a PBY now today it wouldn't even be up there. It's what they call the tower. One mech would ride that tower – there was two mechs in the crew – one of us would ride up in the tower. And then we also had a gun ... we were gunners and we'd been to aerial gunnery school. So you had, like I say, I was radar operator, so we had multiple jobs to do.

The nest in the tower of this plane in Palm Springs, California [Palm Springs Air Museum] is where they found my name scratched into the plane there ... written into the plane.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you remember the day you did that?

Robert Buchanan: No, not at all. But, soon as they showed me a copy of it ... my printing was just exactly the same. Matter of fact, I printed my name out like that and it looked just like it was in there. I didn't have ... matter of fact they found that under two coats of paint. I don't know how they got them coats of paint ... they haven't even look for stuff like that when they take that ... my name had two coats of paint over top of it.

Janis Kozlowski: It's amazing it was preserved and didn't come off.

Robert Buchanan: That ... just by being there, they've been able to track me down and find a lot of stuff about [the airplane and crew]. Matt Voight tells me that's the only airplane at Palm Springs that they have any history on of what it did during the Second World War.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah, and he's doing an incredible job of putting the history together on it.

Robert Buchanan: Yeah, he's got ... a lot of names that were given to him by myself and Ken, oh boy....

Janis Kozlowski: Claypool?

Robert Buchanan: ... Claypool, and I think it was one of the pilots. Oh dog gone, I can't think of it.... That's my problem today is I know that name as well as I know my own but do you think I can think of it now? ... different people he's contacted and they've ... also, then, I had got ... he got in touch with me, a man from Georgia, whose brother was killed - that was in our squadron – one of the ones that got killed. And Matt talked to him a lot. Matter of fact that guy wrote a book about his brother.

But them books are not exactly right because, for instance, in this book, this man from Georgia wrote, he's got me in there that I was an enlisted man stationed at Dutch Harbor and I never was stationed at Dutch Harbor. I was stationed at ... I went to Dutch Harbor that one time, we stopped there, but that was just over night. That was the only time I was ever on Dutch Harbor. So some of the things in the book are not exactly right.