

John Pletcher: I had an opportunity to... You see, they had a policy at that time that if anybody came from a full term overseas, Alaska included, they were entitled to stay in the lower 48 as a state-side assignment for a year before they were to be sent overseas again involuntarily. You could volunteer to go if you wanted to but you were supposed to get a year at home so to speak, of course, you were moved around a lot.

A lot of our people coming out of Alaska transferred in to the B-25 crews. Because in the early part, I would say at the end of 1942, they started sending up B-25s, up here, to Alaska, with crews, ready to go, already trained. They flew their own airplanes up here to replace the B-26 airplanes and crews. So, some of our people, who didn't get out as early as I did, were able to get out later, got a chance, or maybe were assigned, to the squadron that had the B-25s. And when they got back to the States, some of them volunteered to go back overseas again in B-25s. So, they might end up going to the South Pacific, which at that time had changed from B-26s to B-25s.