

Janis Kozlowski: So, it didn't turn out to be such a bad thing for you after all?

Paul Polink: No, it wasn't. I ... I had a brother who was a bomber pilot. And he was shot down over Ploesti [Romania]. And, 'course, this is getting off-track, but, anyway, I sort of liked his experiences too.

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-hum] Did you say that was your brother?

Paul Polink: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh? So ... two of you in your family served in World War II?

Paul Polink: Five of us served in World War II.

Janis Kozlowski: Five of you! Really!

Paul Polink: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: And where did your other ... where did your brothers serve?

Paul Polink: Well, my brother served in the 15th Air Force – the one I told you about that was shot down over Ploesti. And he was a prisoner of war. I had a brother on Okinawa with the Marine Corps. And then I had two brothers in the states. And at that time, they had a rule that only - and I was in Alaska, which was not a state at that time - that only three people from one family could leave the states. The other two were confined to the states.

Janis Kozlowski: So, your parents must have had some, a lot of sleepless nights worrying about all of you.

Paul Polink: I think they did too, but we all returned.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh. Thankfully. [Chuckle]

Paul Polink: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: So, you heard ... your brothers had left earlier in the war, and were part of the fighting in other theaters. So you knew what was going on, and ... that probably influenced you quite a bit, didn't it?

Paul Polink: Yes. I was quite impressed with ... you know, what was going on in the service. And ... everything was going our way after about a year or two after Pearl Harbor.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did you have an idea where you wanted to be stationed?

Paul Polink: No. I had no idea. And I realized that we were gonna go where they would send us.