

Janis Kozlowski: Did, did you always fly with the same pilot?

Paul Polink: No. They would be assigned to my, to the crew. And the radio operator wouldn't always be the same, I ... although I left with the crew from the United States, we would ... pilots would be rotated. And so would the radio operators. I never knew until the day before who I was ... who was going to fly the plane.

Janis Kozlowski: So, you felt pretty confident in any one of them that you flew with?

Paul Polink: Well, I, I never questioned any of them. I figured they had the same training I had. And they didn't question me, [Chuckle] so I didn't question them. Although, like, when you flew with Colonel Grossmith, or one of the other pilots, the pilots would have a, sort of, what they call, "A Green Card" - some of them were allowed to fly in any weather, and some of them were not. But, I didn't know all the details then. But, there, there was a, a few pilots that were better than others. But, everybody ... I can't complain about it, 'cause they all got me to back on the ground.

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-Hum] So, some you might have had a little more confidence in, but, you, you got on board with them regardless ...

Paul Polink: Oh, yes. [Chuckle] There wasn't anything else to do.

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah. [Chuckle] Except get yourself in a whole bunch of trouble, right?

Paul Polink: That's exactly right.

Janis Kozlowski: Now, when you were working on, when you got out of training, you said, you know, you hadn't really ... worked on airplanes before. So what, when you were training, what airplanes did they have you practicing on, or ...?

Paul Polink: Well, at first, first of all, I was on the B-24 - the bomber.

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-Hum]

Paul Polink: And then, when I moved to the troop carrier, I was on the C-47. And that's the last, the only two planes that I was familiar with - B-24 bomber and the C-47.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did your experience on the B-24 transfer pretty easily to the C-47?

Paul Polink: Well, they had the same type of engines on them, but that was about it. You couldn't ... you know, you couldn't transfer much more ability, 'cause they were two different planes, and designed for two different jobs. But, I ... I didn't particularly like the B-24 bomber.