

Janis Kozlowski: Did you have an idea when you got out of mechanic school where you were going - did they give you any idea?

Paul Polink: Well, I went to ... the Ford Bomber School in Ypsilanti, Michigan, where they made B-24s ...

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-hum]

Paul Polink: ... for a short course. And then I was sent to a gunnery school - I was supposed to be a gunner on a B-24. I didn't like the idea, but, we had no choice. But, after being there only a short time in Texas ... I was sent to the troop carrier in Barnesville, Illinois – George Field. And of course, we trained there for towing gliders and dumping paratroopers and a lot of things. We were ticketed for the China-Burma-India Theater ...

Janis Kozlowski: OK. And so, the....

Paul Polink: ... but that never happened.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. So, the thinking was that ... they were training you as a mechanic and a gunner. And so that you would - would you work on the ground on the aircraft, and then accompanying the crew on missions as well?

Paul Polink: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: That, that seems like double duty.

Paul Polink: Yes, it was. But ... like I say, because of the time in the war and the way the war was going, we stopped training as a gunner and were sent to the troop carrier.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. And the troop ... you said the troop carrier school was at George, George Field?

Paul Polink: George Field, in Lawrenceville, Illinois.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. And your gunnery school for B-24s was in Texas?

Paul Polink: Yes - Harlington, Texas.