

Janis Kozlowski: OK. So, then what happened after you got out of your troop carrier school?

Paul Polink: Well, we waited around, and finally I was assigned as a replacement crew for the 54th Troop Carrier Squadron, in Alaska.

Janis Kozlowski: And so how did you end up ... how did you get up to Alaska?

Paul Polink: Well ... we went from George Field, Illinois to ... to Great Falls, Montana - where our staging area was. And we were there for ... longer than usual time. And we thought, well, we thought we were headed for Alaska. But then ... the Army has a lot of delays and they never tell you anything about them. But ... I, we went to the... with our pilot and co-pilot and radio operator - we were one crew. And several crews were sent to Alaska to be replacement crews for people who apparently were leaving.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did you take an airplane up with you?

Paul Polink: We were passengers, we did not take an airplane on our own, but we were passengers with several other crews.

Janis Kozlowski: And was it like a commercial flight then?

Paul Polink: No, it was an Air Force flight.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. So where did you land in Alaska?

Paul Polink: We landed in Alaska in February of 1944 ... is that what you asked?

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah. And where did you actually land – was it in Anchorage, or ...?

Paul Polink: We landed at Elmendorf Field.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. And is that where you were stationed?

Paul Polink: Yes.

Janis Kozlowski: OK. So, what was it like there at Elmendorf when you arrived?

Paul Polink: Well ... it, it was puzzling at first. And then ... we, we, were broken in quite quickly, and the first thing [Chuckle] you know, we were flying. Apparently I took someone else's plane – and they were apparently being discharged.