

Janis Kozlowski: Do you remember what your impressions were when you landed at some of spots - at Attu and Shemya and Adak - what were your impressions of the islands?

Paul Polink: Well, they were very primitive at the time. And most of the runways were ... like at Attu, they had steel runways - where you landed on steel mats [Marston Mats]. And a lot of them are gravel ... just packed gravel runways. And most of the time, they were not the ideal conditions.... I consider myself very lucky.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you have some frightening flights down there, or landings?

Paul Polink: Yes, when I, [the] first time we when into Attu, the water was white with white caps, as we called them - knowing that the wind was high. And ... the pilot, I thought to myself, "He's not gonna try to land here." But, anyway, we practically went into the runaway with full power. And then ... then of course, the plane, [Chuckle] we dropped, were able to drop it down. But ... the wind had a terrible effect on landing ... sometimes.

Janis Kozlowski: I would imagine. It gets pretty windy down there.

Paul Polink: Oh, it was. And it's ... we ... we were always concerned with the weather.