

## Paul Polink Transcript Summary

[0:00:00] Year of arrival in Alaska, joining Air Force reserves, desire to become a pilot, aptitude and selection as an aircraft mechanic

[0:03:30] Five men from family serving in WWII

[0:05:31] Ford Bomber School, Michigan, military training in various schools

[0:07:03] Troop carrier school, assignment to the 54<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, landing at Elmendorf Field in 1944

[0:09:49] Flying missions out of Elmendorf Field, flying C-47s

[0:11:15] Flying missions to the Aleutians, remembering when the Japanese surrendered

[0:13:45] Colonel Grossmith, flying well known people to the Aleutians

[0:16:30] The C-47 as a medical ship, handling wounded, the effect of Aleutian duty on men's psyche

[0:19:15] Impressions of the Aleutians, frightening landing on Attu, weather

[0:20:51] Flying materials and men into weather stations, what it meant to serve as a C-47 mechanic in Alaska, working part time for commercial carriers, mechanics pay

[0:28:38] Profession as school principle after the war

[0:33:15] Life on Elmendorf Air Force Base, winter darkness in Alaska, interest of a 19 year old in seeing Alaska

[0:36:45] Recreation during time off from military duty, playing baseball, love of baseball, playing baseball for the 54<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier team and later for the St Vincent College, Ft Richardson field, midnight sun baseball in Fairbanks, playing sports as a kid, coaching for a high school team, military baseball league

[0:40:46] Making friends in the service, popularity of the 54<sup>th</sup> among the men, giving men a ride to "see the sun"

[0:41:44] Keeping in touch with family, news from other theatres of war, worries about brothers safety, where four brothers were stationed during the war, desire to write a book about all 5 brothers war experiences

[0:46:59] Photos from an emergency evacuation of a ship aground, Aleutian volcanoes

[0:50:16] Recognizing veterans for their service, pride in service under the 54<sup>th</sup>, plaque for 54<sup>th</sup> at Air Force Academy

[0:53:26] Colonel Grossmith, Grossmith and the Berlin Airlift

[0:56:35] Popularity of the 54<sup>th</sup> among the service men, dreams vs reality in military service, importance of aircraft mechanics to air crew

[0:59:14] Confidence in pilots in the C-47, mechanic training, brothers experience as a B-24 pilot in the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force

[1:00:00] Availability of aircraft parts, learning from more experienced mechanics