

Robert Buchanan: Now, I know when we came back a psychiatrist interviewed us -- when we came back.

Janis Kozlowski: Back to Whidbey you mean?

Robert Buchanan: Back to the States. We went back into Seattle. And I only know of -- that I can remember -- of one, maybe two -- I don't remember who that second one was -- but I know of one that was ... we thought he was old, he was 28, 29 years old [both laughing]. To us he was, you know, when you was 20 years old that was an old man! But I remember he was grounded. I don't know how they detected who to ground, but no, I wasn't.

Janis Kozlowski: For psychological reasons?

Robert Buchanan: I think that had to be it. They just asked you questions, that's all I remember them just asking me questions and that was it.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you remember what kind of things they were asking you about?

Robert Buchanan: No, you know, I don't remember to be honest with you I don't remember one question.

Janis Kozlowski: And was it just that one time when you went back to Whidbey ... was that after Alaska or was that after ... when you were getting out?

Robert Buchanan: I didn't quite understand that.

Janis Kozlowski: Was that just ... after Alaska you went back to Whidbey and that's when they were questioning you?

Robert Buchanan: Yeah, we went back ... you know, I'm trying to think, I can't even remember. I don't think we went to Whidbey we went back to Seattle Naval Air Station. Of course, it was not very far from Whidbey Island.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, I see.

Robert Buchanan: There was Naval Air Station which hasn't been there now for a long time but it was at Seattle [Sand Point Naval Air Station on a peninsula in Lake Washington]. Of course, Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, the seaplane base part of it did not ... let's see it would have opened up, I think, in 1943. I think it was the year before, no, it must have been '42 because I got there in '43. And the land plane base [Ault field] opened up, I think, in ... oh, I might be mixed up a little bit. I remember the seaplane base opened up in '42 and the land plane base opened up in '43, I forget. But that was not until then out of Whidbey. That was both ... they both belonged to what you'd call Whidbey Island Naval Air Station.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, I see.

Robert Buchanan: The land plane base is there now, but there is no seaplanes there at all. At the seaplane base now all they have there is a, oh, they have a big laundry there and they have a school for kids that are, you know, their parents are stationed there at the island, on Whidbey Island, they have a school. That used to be our chow hall. The only reason I know that is we held our reunions there and we got all that information when we'd go out there to our reunion.

Janis Kozlowski: I see. So you ... when you went back there to the Seattle Air Station after Alaska and they were asking you questions were they trying to figure out whether you psychologically they could send you back into a combat area?

Robert Buchanan: Probably was, yeah.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok.

Robert Buchanan: See our squadrons, we came ... we formed, not the same crews, but 61 reformed then in February of – either January or February of 1945. Because we got back to the states in December, was sent home on a rehabilitation leave, then back there and put into a squadron that was 61 again. And we were going back overseas in a squadron but for some reason they didn't even move us out of there. We stayed right there and I don't know why that was we stayed there so long.