

**Janis Kozlowski:** Now you told me one story that I was hoping that you'd repeat today, the night that they wanted unmarried men to go on a nuisance raid to Paramushiro.

**Robert Buchanan:** Yeah. I remember that.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Can you tell me what happened?

**Robert Buchanan:** We didn't go though.

**Janis Kozlowski:** Can you tell me what happened that night?

**Robert Buchanan:** Well, I ... the beginning of it ... I remember they come around and they asked for volunteers. See and I don't remember whether it was just one crew, two crews, or just how many crews there was, I ... that I don't remember. And it was something to do ... we were to go over to be a nuisance raid on Paramushiro because the Army bombers had been over Paramushiro that day and did a lot of damage and all they wanted us to do was to go over it at night and just be a nuisance to them getting stuff back together.

One thing I do remember is – I'm Catholic – and the Catholic Chaplain there, I don't remember if I was the only Catholic or not [laughing], but I remember he ... which used to be in Catholicism, they'd give you the last rites if they thought you didn't have a chance to live. Now they don't do it, they call it "the anointing of the stick." But then he gave me the last rites. Well, I wasn't too enthused about that.

Anyway, I remember going down, we'd get in the plane and there was a bunch of guys from the Army Air Corp, they were down there and they were kidding us that we were gonna fly – and it was snowing and raining and both. They was kidding us about, well, just kind of agitating us about flying those things over to ... on a night like that. Well, we got, our crew, we got out, we cut the engines - and I topped the engines off with gas which we always did, we filled them right up to the top after. Then we start in with ... we no more got our engines started when a jeep come around and told us that they had stopped that flight, that it wasn't gonna be done. They sent us back to ... take the plane back to the revetment and we went back to our Quonset huts. So it wasn't even listed as a flight because you didn't list your flight unless you got in the air.

**Janis Kozlowski:** You must have been relieved though?

**Robert Buchanan:** Yeah, I could [laughing] say ... to be honest with you, yeah.

**Janis Kozlowski:** After getting your last rites, heading out on a mission, that's gotta make ... put the fear in you. [both laughing]

**Robert Buchanan:** It didn't come about. I never knew just ... never did know just what the whole story was to that. There was a lot of rumors went around. Rumors was that the Chaplain had contacted an Admiral Kinkaid [in charge of North Pacific Force] who wasn't stationed up there, but I don't know just where he was at, but contacted him and he's the one that stopped the flight.