

Janis Kozlowski: How long were those flights over to Paramushiro from Attu or Amchitka?

Robert Buchanan: Well, see, the sectors up north towards Russia were a few hours shorter. The ones ... if you made a flight down toward Paramushiro on that, that was probably a 12 to 13 hour flight.

Janis Kozlowski: Round trip?

Robert Buchanan: Round trip, yes.

Janis Kozlowski: And was that about at the limits of your fuel?

Robert Buchanan: That was it, yeah. That was just about it.

Janis Kozlowski: That's a pretty long day to be flying.

Robert Buchanan: Oh, yeah.

Matter of fact, we probably did a lot of dippy things. We used to carry a Coleman burner in the plane. They had a little heating stove on them planes but it wasn't worth nothing. And we would put regular gasoline in that Coleman burner and make our coffee and stuff inside the plane with that Coleman burner. Some of the guys in the crews weren't too happy about that. That's the way we did it.

Janis Kozlowski: They probably like the coffee though?

Robert Buchanan: They drank the coffee, yeah! [laughing] That's right!

Janis Kozlowski: Well it must have been ... was it pretty cold in the airplane?

Robert Buchanan: Oh yeah, them planes were cold, they had a heater in them but they were ... they didn't work too well. We wore real heavy gear when it was cold. Of course, most of the time up there we had to wear fairly heavy gear all the time. When it got down real cold we wore the extra heavy flight jackets and the flight pants and big flight boots and that was it.

Janis Kozlowski: So did the Navy equip you pretty well for that?

Robert Buchanan: Oh, yeah, we were equipped alright.

Matter of fact, when we came back we could of brought all that stuff home with us and took it home here. I didn't bring nothing! There was gun installations there the Army had them on different ... they manned anti-aircraft guns that were stationed in different places, they would come down, them guys would come down to our Quonsets. I remember, now my stuff I give to them Army guys because I think we were equipped better than they were. When we got back, I remember they said that, there was a guy he said, "Well, you guys probably lost everything at sea." And everybody said, "That's right!" And they said that anything you had you could bring

home and I could of sent all that stuff home but I didn't. I just got myself home and that was about it.

Janis Kozlowski: At the time it probably didn't seem very important to you.

Robert Buchanan: Yeah, I guess it maybe would.