

Janis Kozlowski: Did you fly with the same crew the whole time you were up in Alaska?

Robert Buchanan: Yes. The only time that I would've ... I was in the same crew all the while I was there. Anytime that I flew, it was just a ... could have been, I think I filled in a couple of times for somebody that was sick or something like that on another crew and flew with them. I flew in a volunteer – I was supposed to fly in a volunteer crew once, that didn't materialize. But mostly all of our time there I flew in the same crew.

Janis Kozlowski: Do you know ... do you remember who the guys were in your crew?

Robert Buchanan: Oh, yeah.

Janis Kozlowski: Can you tell me ... go ahead.

Robert Buchanan: You want the names of them?

Janis Kozlowski: Yes, please.

Robert Buchanan: Ok, the pilot was J. W. Trout, Lieutenant J.W. Trout, he was from Kansas. The other two pilots was Ensign Erv Selberg, he was from Seattle, Washington. And the other one was Ensign George Keiter, he was from Lima. Now, George Keiter and I are the only two out of that crew that are still living and he lives in Xenia, Ohio. The rest of the crew was: John Yearwood, he was from Little Rock, Arkansas; of course, then myself from Barberton, Ohio; and a John Arnst who was radioman from Cheboygan, Wisconsin; and a Thomas Minyard who was a radioman from Bessimer, Alabama; and the ordnance man was James Ryckman and he was from Fresno, California.

Janis Kozlowski: So people were from all over on that crew.

Robert Buchanan: Yeah, they were, just two of us from Ohio. That was the only two that was from the same state.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you guys get along well?

Robert Buchanan: Oh, yeah. We got along real good, there was no problem there, no.

Janis Kozlowski: Were you all about the same age?

Robert Buchanan: The enlisted men, yeah, were roughly about the same age. The pilots ... the main pilot, - the PPC, who they called the pilot "Plane Captain" – he was probably a few years older than the rest of us. The other two pilots were maybe a little bit older but not much older than us. The one that's still living, I think he's about 6 or 7 months older than me.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok. So was ... Trout then was your pilot. Was he a guy that you had respect for?

Robert Buchanan: John Trout?

Janis Kozlowski: Yeah.

Robert Buchanan: Oh yeah. I liked him real well. Now the other ... Selberg, he died in Anchorage. Now I don't know what he did there but after the war he was living in Anchorage and died in Anchorage. Of course, John Keiter [meant George] is still living in Ohio as I told you and the rest of them are all dead, the rest of the enlisted men. I'm the only enlisted man in the crew living.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you keep in touch with these guys over the years?

Robert Buchanan: No, not really so much anybody in this crew other than I did talk to a couple of them, you know, afterwards on the phone. But the next crew that I went into.... When we come back from up north I went into another crew, the one ... the radioman in that crew and myself – he was from Indianapolis, Indiana, and we stayed in touch with each other up until about 2 ½ years ago when he passed away. Matter of fact we'd go fishing together, our families would, up in Canada. We attended all our kid's weddings. But I stayed close to him, the rest not really other than just talking to them. Now George Keiter, yes, I talk to him every so often on the phone. Matter of fact I talked to him here just not too long ago – just a few weeks ago.