

Robert Buchanan: I remember one time we almost ran into a Japanese plane in the fog.

Janis Kozlowski: What happened there?

Robert Buchanan: Pardon?

Janis Kozlowski: What happened there?

Robert Buchanan: Well, we were going over toward there and all of a sudden here's a plane that was right ... almost perpendicular to us and went right across the front of us. It was a Japanese plane. Neither one of us could see because it was solid fog. Normally, what we seen up there, most of the time going there, we'd just be on radar because the fog was so thick.

Janis Kozlowski: Was that pretty scary? Or did you actually get to see what happened?

Robert Buchanan: In what way do you mean what happened?

Janis Kozlowski: Um, could you see from where you were sitting how close you got to that Japanese airplane or was it something that the pilot told you about later – your near miss?

Robert Buchanan: I don't remember who in the crew seen it or how we seen it and whether I seen it or not. That is one thing I do not remember. I know that that plane did cross right across the front of us but I don't remember who all seen it. It could have very easily been the two pilots in the cockpit that would have seen it.

Janis Kozlowski: Well, that brings up the question I have is, tell me where in the airplane you were stationed?

Robert Buchanan: Well, in that plane we had what we called the tower. We had a lot of instruments up there. We adjusted our fuel consumption out of there, we did things when we started the planes up we had to do things there. The floats were up and down from there, there was just certain things in that cockpit or in that tower, that whoever was riding it – either myself or the other mech. That's ... you didn't normally stay up there, I mean, you'd switch off with other crew members. In fact, I would be on radar, I could be on radar too.

Whenever I got a chance, especially when we was coming back, the pilots would get out of his ... they knew I loved to fly it when we was up in the air so they'd ... I got to fly quite a bit. Never was allowed to land or take off but just as far as flying, get something to follow and that'd be it. I could do things like that.