

Janis Kozlowski: It sounded like you flew quite a bit even in bad weather.

Robert Buchanan: Oh we, the PBYs flew when nothing else would fly. We would ... we flew more than the rest of the squadrons or any of the rest of the type of planes.

Janis Kozlowski: Why was that? How come the PVs didn't go up and the others?

Robert Buchanan: Well, they weren't just probably the safest plane to be flying in stuff like that, where the PBY could. A PBY would take an awful beating. I know, I remember not up there -- it was always bad flying up there, but we flew through a cyclone off the coast of Australia later on and that PBY took an awful beating going into the eye of that cyclone. And they could stand an awful beating like that.

Janis Kozlowski: Who decided whether the weather was ok for you to go out?

Robert Buchanan: That, you know, is something that I don't ... it wasn't the squadron. I think it was, like, the Commodore Gehres that was the head of everything on that island was probably ... it was his group that was probably the ones that decided on who was going out and what they were doing.

Janis Kozlowski: So you just got the word that even though it could be fog to the ground, your crew was taking off and you were headed for the Kurile Islands?

Robert Buchanan: That is right. [chuckling] We usually left the ... I'm trying to think ... I don't know if we got up or left ... 3:30 rings a bell in the morning. I think the Master at Arms would come around and wake the crews up that were to fly that morning. I think they used to wake us up about 3:30 and you'd get dressed and head for the plane.

Janis Kozlowski: Was it kind of frightening sometimes, some of the weather that you had to fly in? Did you feel nervous about it?

Robert Buchanan: Oh, I think we got used to that. It probably frightened some but I don't know maybe I wasn't too bright, I don't remember it really bothering me that much.

Janis Kozlowski: Maybe it was just youth, huh?

Robert Buchanan: Pardon?

Janis Kozlowski: Maybe it was just your youth? Young people don't tend to get so

Robert Buchanan: That probably was it too.