

Janis Kozlowski: When did you get involved in World War II?

Jim Schroeder: When I enlisted? I enlisted in the Army Air Corps on my birthday on the 27th of 1920 ... 1943. And at that time I was only about 5'6". [Chuckle] So they kept me out of service for another six months. And then in June....

Jim Schroeder: OK. In June I was shipped to Biloxi Mississippi for basic training. And after basic training, 40 of us were sent to Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina for cadet training. And at that time, one of the cadets, Pat Skea, turned out to be one of the, the bombardier on Watkins crew, which later on, I met up [with] in the Aleutians.

So after college training, we were shipped to Nashville, Tennessee for testing to see what we'd be qualified for - as bombardier, or navigator, because, at that time there wasn't a need for more pilots. So, at that time I didn't qualify for either bombardier, or navigator. So, I had a choice of gunnery, or radio school, and [of] which I chose ... radio school.

And then we were sent down to Scott Field, in St. Louis, for radio training. And after four months of radio training, I ended up at the top 10 percent of my class, and was given a choice of radar school, or gunnery school, and [of] which, I chose radar.

And which, after that, I got a leave - a furlough for about a week to go back to Chicago. And then I was gonna be shipped out. And after that I was shipped out to Salt Lake City, where we were put together with some other radar men - which [there] was six of us. And then we were sent from there up to Seattle, and [from] which, we boarded a ship and were sent to Anchorage, Alaska.

And after Anchorage, then we were sent on a small boat which ended up in Adak, and from Adak up to Shemya. Which, we never knew what we were going to at the time.