

Robert Davis: My name is Robert W. Davis.

I enlisted in the United States Army Air Force Enlisted Reserve Corp while still in high school at age 17. I passed the initial examinations for the aviation cadet program which required that I wait until I was 18 and a half years of age before being called to active duty. I entered active duty in March of 1945 reporting for basic training at Shepard Field, Texas. Upon completion of basic training I was given a final physical examination prior to entry into the air cadet program. I failed to pass the eye exam for color blindness and was dropped from the program. Several days later, however, the Air Cadet program was terminated as the war in Europe was ending and air crews from there would be available for transfer to the Pacific Theatre of operations.

Having completed basic training I requested assignment to aerial gunnery school. Instead, I was assigned to aircraft and engine maintenance training at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi. The training there was on B-24 bombers. While still in training at Keesler Field, the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki ending the war with Japan.

I completed my training at Keesler Field in late October 1945 and was given a 10 day delay en route before reporting to Langley Field, Virginia for overseas assignment presumably to Europe. I went home to Great Falls, Montana and became engaged to my girlfriend.