

Allan Davis #99
July 16, 1985

Q: Mr. Davis, when did you first enter the Army?

A: October 28, 1940

Q: How did you get into the Air Corps?

A: I enlisted in the Air Force or [Army] Air Corps at the time with the hopes of becoming an aviation cadet. I had taken the examination, but then the recruiting Sgt. talked me into enlisting, which I did. So, I joined in October 28 and went to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and from there to Hickam Field, Hawaii.

Q: When did you first come to Hickam Field?

A: It was in the last part of 1940. I'm not sure of the dates. I don't remember the exact date.

Q: What kind of duties did you have between the time you came to Hickam and the time the War started?

A: From the time that I first was on Hickam, I took ground defense training, worked on the line (more or less just as a trainee). And then just before... just prior to the 7th, I was assigned to General Rudolph as his personal driver, and I was Rudolph's driver for about 2 1/2 months.

Q: What was General Rudolph like? What sort of person was he?

A: He was a very serious person as far as I was concerned, but very likeable, and he was not a demanding boss to me. He just always told me when he wanted me available and other than that why he made little demands.

Q: Just before the attack came, what would be your regular work day routine?

A: Well of course, the Saturday before the attack came we had been on an alert for several months. In addition to being General Rudolph's driver, I was also (having had the ground defense training) I was also assigned to that duty. I had both duties.

And then on Saturday was the first time that they had had 'liberty' and it was the first time I had been to town in several months. I had gone to town and come in quite early the morning of the 7th and had gone to the mess hall, and had breakfast, come back to the barracks (the squadron barracks), had taken a shower,

and gone back to the bed, and really just about ready to get back into bed when the attack started.

Of course at that time I didn't realize what it was, and just a few minutes later however, some of the bombs hit real close to the squadron area. Someone came in and said the Japanese were attacking Pearl Harbor. And at that time I remember looking out the barracks window and seeing these planes that had the Japanese insignia on them.

And so I put on my coveralls and a tin hat which I had, and reported to the headquarters building. And I had just gotten to the headquarters building and up the steps, and General Rudolph was up on the top of the steps, and I just told him I was reporting to him.

And he told me to take.... there was three P-40 pilots, and he told me to take them to their airplanes. And his car was parked right down at the base of the steps. During that time I could look right down into Ford Island and look down into the ships in Pearl Harbor and see the Japanese dive bombers coming in about, seemingly, below the mast height of the ships.

And anyway, I took these three officers. They all three got in the back seat, and we went to their aircraft, which, they were from Wheeler Field and their aircraft were dispersed. And I 'm not sure exactly where they were, but their ship(??) not too far from Pearl Harbor. Took them there and let them out and started back and I got to... I was above Pearl Harbor looking down and I saw the *Arizona* blow up. I couldn't tell, it was too far away to see the aircraft but I saw the *Arizona* blow up.

I proceeded on down; got down to sea level and in a... just short of the gate of Pearl Harbor and Hickam which were close together, a planes strafed the car that I was driving, and hit the car, and I lost control of it and went into a field, right across the street. And I don't know whether I lost consciousness or not, but anyway, when I got up, I got out of the car, and started walking back towards the highway, and there was a man and a woman (and I've never known their names), they got me by the arm just short of the highway and put me in the car and took me to the Hickam Field gate. And I'd been hit in the head..

Q: By the strafing?

A: By the strafing. And that hurt. Other than that when the car ran into the field I had just been bruised. And about that time the ambulance was going into Hickam and they put me in that ambulance, and I was taken into Hickam, and they had set up an aid station.

And of course, I was bleeding quite profusely, and they took me into a room there, where there was a doctor who was helping those who had been wounded. And the only thing I can remember, he said he did not have any anesthetic or anything and handed me a water glass about 3/4 full of whiskey and he told me to drink it. I did.

And the other thing I remember, the first thing that happened when I go in the ambulance, was somebody gave me a tetanus shot and then marked my forehead with macurachrome; just made a cross to indicate that I had had a shot. Of course when I go into the doctor, well the doctor was working. When they washed off my forehead why that went to and so I got another shot. Then he took some stitches and so forth and then they put me in an

ambulance and took me to Tripler [*General Hospital*].

And at Tripler of course, they took some further stitches and I stayed at Tripler about six days and then returned to duty. And then I was assigned to... as a special messenger, driving messages between, well I drove them all over the Island. I drove mostly at night, and had an officer to guard and a driver. And I did that until I was ... late in '42 I was sent back to the states. They finally did send me back as a cadet trainee. But that's uh...

Q: That's an interesting story. How old were you at the time?

A: Well, I'm just short of 65. I was just short of 21. One other interesting thing is that they had... my mother, that day, got a telegram from the War Department that said, that we regret to inform you that your son had been killed in the line of duty. And uh, then later the same day, which I think was probably the next day on their time, she got another telegram which said that... correcting the first telegram that said I had been wounded in the line of duty. Then she got a third telegram which said that I had been slightly wounded. So within the same day, she got three telegrams.

Q: O.K., thank you.

A: O.K.