



**Karl
Rutz**

Army Air Corps

Karl Rutz

Apr 5, 1918 - May 16, 2003

BIRTHPLACE: Elmo, Kansas

SOLDIER DETAILS

DIVISION: Army Air Corps, 20th US Army Air Force

THEATER OF OPERATION: Pacific

SERVED: Sep 26, 1942 - Jan 7, 1946

HONORED BY: Daughter, Donna Rutz Roberts

BIOGRAPHY

Karl W. Rutz, enlisted in the United States Army Air Force at the age of 24 at Salina, Kansas. After Basic Training his first assignment was in Eagle Pass, Texas. Overseas duty with the 534th Air Engineer Squadron of the 77th Air Service Group took him to Hawaii, Guam, Saipan and Tinian working as a mechanic on B-29s, P-51s and repairing auxiliary power plants. While he was stationed on Tinian the Enola Gay arrived on July 6, 1945, known for dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. In May, the components of the bomb had been sent by cruiser to Tinian and in mid-July the fissionable material was flown into Tinian. He was proud to have served on Tinian during this part of history. Sergeant Rutz earned the Good Conduct Medal, American Service Medal, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal and World War II Victory Medal. After honorable discharge on January 7, 1946 from Fort Logan, Colorado, he returned back home to Dayton, Kansas, to farm. Many in Abilene, Kansas, will remember him as their letter carrier. He retired from the United States Post Office after 26 years of service.