In this month I was contacted by a granddaughter of the subject gentleman. Susan Presley inquired about the possibility of her grandfather being stationed at the Harlingen Army Air Field, since the family had photos of his buddies and the Harlingen location of that era.

Here is what I was able to unearth. Knowing for starters that Major Watts was an officer, it was likely that he may have resided in town rather than on the base which had limited or even no facilities for married officers.

He was not in the 1941 Harlingen telephone directory. This wouldn't have been unusual for the Field and its Gunnery School didn't really get rolling until August 1941 and the 1941 directory would have been compiled in late 1940. In the 1942-43 directory, likely compiled in late 1940, however an E. W. Watts is listed along with his wife Dorothy A. He is noted as "Capt Gunnery School." Their residence is at 1221 E. Taylor Avenue. East Taylor was known as "Silk Stocking Row" when in the 1920s and 1930s it became Harlingen's first suburb, though it was only 6-12 blocks from downtown Harlingen. The street became built up with many fashionable, large homes of varying styles. The twelfth and thirteenth blocks at the very end of the street had much more modest structures. The one at 1221 still stands and strikingly contrasts with its neighbors. Rather than being a brick veneer one-story cottage type, it is a white, flat-roofed small box-like building totally of wood. It is small and may contain but a single bedroom. It almost appears to have been thrown together to beat any building restrictions on materials, etc. that the World War II might bring about. Presently it is ill-maintained and its occupants somewhat slummy.

Probably in the interests of wartime paper conservation there was no publication of a 1943 directory. In the 1944 directory Capt. Williams has risen to the rank of major. He and Dorothy are now residing at 404 Arroyo Drive. This area abuts the Valley's only natural waterway and its stream that also acts for flood control when the Rio Grande is at a high stage. This neighborhood was developed in the late 1930 and early 1940s. It features spacious lots with homes set back from the street and close to the arroyo where a rare native habitat exists in a largely urban situation. The home at 404 is a 1 ½ story, gray-colored, well-maintained wooden house set back with its front facing a long grassy expanse.

The 1945 directory is missing or non-existing, and the Watts are no longer listed in the 1946 one.