

Assigned to Company "B" 17th Engineers

It wasn't until Pete told her to look in the back seat, she looked back and recognized me immediately. She told Pete to wait a minute, she got out, and told me to get out, and she have me a big hug, and wanted to know if this was prearranged me being assigned to Pete's Company. He then told her it was not, and luck was with is. We then had dinner, and supper, and I had to tell her the whole story, including my marriage. I told Grace, that I was to find a place to stay and then pick her up at my parents place at Weimar, Texas. I was assigned to the First Platoon as Platoon Sergeant. The next morning after police call, the First Sergeant announced that the Company Commander had an announcement to make. He had me report to him, and told the whole company of our history and then said he was looking for him and his wife for a place to stay. He then said this soldier has been around, but that doesn't make him any better than all of you. The next day at the noon meal, one Sergeant said he lived in a duplex, and the other occupant had just moved out, and it was for rent, I followed him home after work, met his family, and liked the apartments they contacted the owner, and arrangements was made rent to apartment. I thought that I would wait until the next week end to pick up Elfie, as Grace had already told Pete that I was to spend the week end with them. I then told them that I had rented half of a duplex, and they said I was lucky because most people fix up their garages and rent them out to military personnel. We had a nice time talking over old times, and Grace still thinks getting us together was prearranged, I told Pete that I was going down the next weekend to pick up Elfie, and he said take off Friday, and that would give you a little more tome. I telephoned my dad's house and told them that I would be in Thursday evening about 6:30 or 7pm. At least that supper was still warm. After supper my dad wanted to know what I had planned for the future. I showed him my bad arm and told them I wouldn't be any use on the farm, and I understood that the farm was going up for sale, and then I told them that they had convinced me to stay in the service. And then, after I said that, Elfie I said that Elfie jumped up and why didn't you enlist for Germany, I said that I already spent 3 years there, and they said I had to be assigned to the states. I had to tell that little white lie, than telling them the real reason. I then told my folks about Postlewate, how I met him again in Germany and now down in Fort Hood, my Company Commander. We started back to Fort Hood about 9am and arrived there about noon, all the way she kept questioning me, why didn't I let her know that I would stay in the Army. I told her that me and Dad had talked it over and it was decided that I would stay in the Army with only one good arm. After a month passed, she had called my Company Commander 3 times accusing him that his was preplanned that I would be assigning at the same place. I came home from work and she told me she had called her folks, and that her mother wasn't expected to live, and she wanted to go back to Germany. I told her that we didn't have the money, she then told me to sell the car, and mayor it would bring enough money for her a round trip to Germany. I finally gave in and sold the old 39 dodge car

\$300.00, and then she told me to borrow from the bank about \$300.00 more, which that didn't work. I then told her to call her mother again, and she found out that her mother was doing a lot better. It was about 2 weeks later she told me that I wasn't making enough money to suit her, it was either get out of the Army, or give her a divorce. I told my Co, what she had said, and wanted to know what I was going to do. I told him that I would take her to Dallas to my sisterin-law, and try to her a nursing job because she had connection with Baylor Hospital. I called my brother Allen, to meet us at the bus station, and he arrived the same time we did. I told them the complete story, and they said she could stay there until she found a job. When I got back to Fort Hood, I told Pete and Grace what I had in mind, that I could not take this crap any longer and I will give her what she wanted. A divorce. I went to Belton, the next week, and looked up the only lawyer in town. I told him the whole story and he said that he would get me a divorce for \$300.00, the most money I had to my name was \$50.00. I then showed him the Rolex watch that I bought in Switzerland. I said this is yours if you will get me a divorce in 10 days. After a couple of minutes looking at the watch, he said, it's a deal. About a week later, I appeared in front of the Judge in Belton, the lawyer had already told him the reason for the divorce. He then looked me in the face and said, can't you find someone in the states, I said Judge I learned my lesson. He said I will grant you a divorce with no strings attached, but as she did not appear with a lawyer at this trail when notified the divorce is final at this day, and date. I advised you publish 3 days in a row in the Dallas Morning News, that all debts made against you are not liable, that's exactly what I did, because 3 weeks later, she told me by a letter that she would

give me a divorce for \$30,000.00 dollars. I got my? Thinking, you done the right thing was the

answer.



Getting Ready to Leave Fort Hood for Fort Sill

In the middle of July 49, orders came down, to send 13 enlisted men, and 3 Officers to report to Fort Sill to Eadre for the 79th Engineer Construction Battalion, because they could not pass the yearly inspection. I told Postlewate, my Co, that I was on the list, and he said I am going with you. I told him that they didn't need Captains, he then said I can remedy that. I asked him what did he mean? He said he had checked at Battalion Personnel, and that they needed one more Platoon Sergeant, so I am resigning my commission form Caption to Master Sergeant, so I can go along. The next day he said would I accompany him to Post Quartermaster to get his new uniforms. When we came out of Quartermaster we passed a Colonel. I saluted him, and after he passed a few steps, he said just a minute, he said Sergeant what do you call that thing walking by your side. I told him the full story, and then he said I think he would make a better Private, than a Captain. I looked at Pete, his face was still red and he said why you didn't let me talk to that sob. I told him then he wouldn't have to see any stripes on your uniforms at all. I felt sorry for Grace, Pete's wife, she hugged me and told me to take care of Pete. Where one of you goes, the other will follow.

Assigned to Units, Getting Ready To Go To Eniwetok

When we arrived at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, all 13enlisted men, and 3 Officers reported in to the 79th Personnel Center. We were all assigned to different companies. I was assigned to COB, and Pete also, out Company Commander was Capt. Powers, and the First Sergeant last name Cannon. I was again with Pete in the first platoon. After we got settled in, a M/Sgt Warmsley wanted to know if anyone wanted a ride to The NCO Club. Pete introduced both of us and we took him up. The NCO Club which was real crowded, and everyone telling his life's history, like me. Then someone patted me on the back and wanted to know if that bridge that he put up across the Rhine River in Germany ever sank on me, at that time, recognized his voice, but not his name. At this time I told him you did a good job on the bridge, now, what's your name? He said my name is Dan Duke, and we were friends for many years. The next morning the Company Commander called the whole company together and told us our mission at Eniwetock, which is located in the Marshall Islands. He said that the 79th Engineers was selected to build 127 alloy aluminum building, 1 church, 1 runway, 1 water purification unit, and 2 clubs, 1 officer, and 1 enlisted men. He mentioned that a group from Washington would join the 79th in 2 weeks with a Major General in charge. Of the (AEC) Atomic Energy Commission and no taking camera's allowed. It was a lot of work the next month passing the Units Command Inspection. But we did make it.



From Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to Camp Stoneman California

It was 2 September 1949 when we boarded a train at Fort Sill in route to San Francisco, California we had 1 old Sergeant named Warmesly who kissed both of his dogs and slapped his wife on the butt, and said take care of my dogs. He was a Post Game Warden at Fort Sill for many years. It took us 3 days to get to our destination, passing under the Royal Gorge Swinging Bridge in Colorado. Along the Arkansas River, on the 9th of September 1949 we boarded the Simon T.Brewster, the same ship I came home on from World War II. On the 27 September, after 13 days we landed 3 miles from the Island or Eniwetok. The only building standing was a church, and a lot of sunken ships in the lagoon. We had to take 1 platoon of men, to put up a mess hall, and renovated he old Quanson Hotel for the troops to live until new buildings were built, all the material we needed was on the ship. After 8 days the battalion moved on shore, but the ship did not leave until all equipment and materials were unloaded and stored in a dry place. Out dress on the Island was short sleeve shirts, and sort athletic pants, some wore panama hats. The Island of Eniwetok was shaped like a whale 21/2 miles long, when the tide came in your feet wet when you got out of bed.

Duties and Life on Eniwetok

- 1. Headquarters Company; did all of the surveying from plans already drawn prior
- 2. Did all excavation for buildings to be built
- 3. Worked in Battalion Personnel
- 4. Operating the rock crusher

"A" Company: in charge of plumbing

"B" Company: putting up all the buildings

"C" Company: pouring all the concrete

I was in Co B and my platoon was in charge of putting up the alloyed aluminum buildings. At first I had to check the concrete slab to see if it was square, before I shot sown the anchor plates, with a drive it gun. I found that 1 out of 4 slabs were not long enough and not wide enough. This caused a delay in construction. We worked 6 days a week and Father Murphy had to have 720 men on the lagoon on Sunday morning from 8:30am to 9:30am. If someone was absent, church wouldn't start until he was found. After church you could sleep, pay cards, or go fishing, I had the only ocean city reel and pole on the Island which everyone borrowed. We could not eat the fish on the Island, but we could eat the lobster. That was Sergeant Joe

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Bourgeios job, he was from Louisiana and he would go on the ocean side. Which was about 300 feet deep, and catch the lobsters on the reef, and his helper had the grass sack open to put them in. in about 2 hours he had around 18 to 20 of the largest lobsters you ever seen. At this time we had the boiling water ready to put the lobsters in making sure that they were live before doing so. Joe could make the best sauce you ever tasted to dip you lobster in, it was about 2 weeks from the time we landed, that the bridge from the "AEC" Atomic Energy Commission arrived on the Island, about 50 personnel, and Major General named Shingler. They ate in the same mess hall that we ate. One evening after the supper I noticed one person sitting by himself and the old? Started ringing again. Well, I said to myself, where have I seen that man before? So I for me a cup of coffee and I approached him from the rear, I saw it was John Woods the hangman that I met in North Africa and was with the War Crimes. I sat down across from his making out like I didn't know him, and I finally asked what his job was, he then aid who are you trying to fool, why do you keep following me. I told him I think it's the other way around. He said his job was, to run the rock crusher, I will see you around. I started to leave the mess hall, when he said in a loud voice, and wanted to know why I didn't accompany him to the states after War Crimes. I told him that I got hurt and was in the hospital for 3 months. I told him that I recognized you from where I was eating. And it looked like to me, that you had your mind on the past, you better keep your mind on your job. I was shooting down plates for another building, when someone called me and said that General Shingler wanted to see me. I pulled off my sweaty goggles, and saluted, and told him who I was. He asked me what I was doing, and I explained to him that I was shooting steel bolts to anchor of plates to the concrete. He then said, you think I could try it, I told him sure. I opened the breach the gun. Put a bolt with a flat head on the end and dropped in down in the barrel, then I showed him the 38 caliber blank shell and put it in the barrel like a real shell, closed the breach. I then told the General to hold the barrel tight against the plate, push down, and the gun will go off, after he shot the gun, he had to look at the bolt holding the plate, and said it'll stay there. He then asked me I had any experience on demolitions, I said that I had. I then told him to check with M/Sgt Wood and Sgt Stilles at the rock crusher, that they use dynamite every day. He said why do you think that I am talking to you. I rode with him to the isolated shack to the end of the Island, before we got there, about 50 feet. It smelled something like rotten eggs dipped in garlic. I told the Generals drive to stop, I looked at the side of the Jeep, and thank God he didn't run the Jeep over the flow of nitro glycerin flowing out of the shack. I asked him if he was told before what was in the shack, and what he had in mind to do. He said he was told that there were 120 boxes of dynamite in the shack and he wanted it loaded on a large and dumped out in the ocean. I told the General that no one will move the dynamite when it starts to leak from the heat, it's a wonder that is had already exploded, and then I was glad that the Jeep hadn't run over the nitro flowing from the building, or, we wouldn't be here now. I told the General that I would blow it in place he didn't say a word, and dropped me back at my job. It was three days later he came to our job and told me that I got the job. I told him that I would set it off but wanted all the Personnel on the south end of the Island at a certain time, and give me a day to lay the wires to the shack. I had styles from the rock crusher. The time was about 0830 after breakfast the next day. After laying the wires the day before they were checked for breaks with a galvanometer, they ready, we touched the wires to a car battery, and the explosion went off like an atomic bomb. A good fishing belt later.

Accompanying MSG John Chester Woods to the States

It was in July 1950, about 5am in the morning, when we heard a loud explosion, and we realized that it had to be John Woods, setting off dynamite charges to loosen rocks for the rock crusher. There was a policy that there would be no dynamite during night hours. We then heard another explosion, and M/Sgt Postlewate said he would check the rock crusher and find out what was going on foot up at 6:30am and found Postlewate drinking coffee in the mess hall. He motioned me over and told me what had happened. He said that Woods had 3 charges set, and only 2 charged went off he then turned off the electric, for his flash light and checking the charge that didn't go off. When a morning crew came on early, and they said let's get some light on, not paying any attention to Woods and his flash light, the charge went off knocking Woods in a hole of water, and he drowned while he was unconsous. If they had pulled him out of the water sooner, they might have saved his life. It was that afternoon when Capt Powers, called me to come to his office, "B" company Co, and wanted to know how long I had known Woods. I then told him the whole story. He then told me that he had a letter in his 201 file, that if anything happened to him I was to take him home to Round Rock, Texas. I was then sent to talk to the Battalion Commander and had to explain how I knew Woods in the past. He then wanted to know if I liked Woods or hated Woods. Before answering that question, I thought, and question? Started ringing, and we decided. That I would take him home, at least I could have a change of scenery for two weeks. I then told the Colonel the whole story, and said some time I hated him, that anyone enjoyed hanging people, had a crooked mind. The Colonel then said, take 15 days, and then told me the route of travel I would take to get him to his final destination. The plane landed at Eniwetok once a week on its way to Hawaii about 900 miles, we then had to change planes to San Francisco, then change again to Dallas, and last to San Antonio, where I met Lt. Connelly, and ambulance driver which took us to Fort Hood. Where the memorial service was to be held. I was there that I met Hazel, his wife, for the first time, and she told me that John had told her that I would take care of him if anything happened to him. She then told me if she could change burial plans, to a small town close to Fort Riley, where he met her and they were married. I then introduced her to Lt. Connelly who was then in charge, I heard later that her request was granted.



Back to Eniwetok

After the memorial service was over at Fort Hood, Hazel hugged me and thanked me for taking care of John. Then Lt. Connley told me I was to face of my responsibility as ordered, and could take off and visit my family. As I started out of the church, I saluted a 2 star General, and he asked me why you were picked to bring Woods back to his final destination. I then had to tell him the whole story. He then saluted me, and said a good job well done, and I was glad it was over the air field at Eniwetok was later named Woods field. I spent 2 days in Dallas, visiting my dad and mom, before departing my long trip back to Eniwetok. When I arrived back at the Island, I was met by Capt. Powers, and Postlewate, and they wanted to know how everything went. I said as planed but one little change as where Hazel his wife wanted him to be buried. They then told me that war was declared, and we might be assigned to go to Korea, it hadn't been confirmed. We later found that the Battalion Commander had volunteered the 79th E.C.B. it was in September 1950 that we would leave Eniwetok for Japan on the same ship that we came over with. The Simon T. Brewster when we landed in Yokohama, Japan, the people taught we were Cuban's because we were so sun tanned.



Getting Equipment and Clothing at Fugibone, Japan to go to Korea

On 2 October 1950 we sailed on the same ship Simon T. Brewster, from Yokohama, Japan to Inchon, Korea. The change of climate from 120degrees to 40degrees left us all in a shivering capacity, and it for worse when it started to freeze. We had 3 soldiers die of spinal meningitis, from hot to cold due to climate change. The First Platoon of Co. "B" 79th Engineers under M/Sgt Postlewate and myself was to change railroad from narrow track to a standard track to fit our engines. I took us 97 days to finish the job. When we were about finished, Pete said let's try out our job and go to Pusan, Korea on a Saturday night. We all climbed on the switch engine and made it there ok, but after we all had a few drinks, the? Hit me again, and said, that you had better drive the switch engine back. In the month of January the temperature dropped to 14degrees below zero, you took a big chance when you urinated on the ground, you had to do it fast. Our next job was rebuilding the Hann River bridge at Yhuno-dong-Po, close to Seoul, Korea, this job lasted little over 3 months. We then went to Yhungnam where we put up a tent city for evacuees to wait to be loaded on LST's to move south.



From Korea to Tokyo, Japan

It was the first week of July 1951, that any one that had 9 months in Korea had we could go back to Japan and serve one year, or, stay the other 3 months in Korea and go back to the states. I talked it over with Postlewate and the? And they said for me to decide, well again, I asked the? and we decided that I would put a year in Japan. I told Postlewate what I decided, before I wasn't married. And didn't like state side duties. He then informed me that he received his commission back as a Captain, and would be transferred to another engineer battalion. There were about 30 of us that boarded a C 47 aircraft to Camp Drake, about 16 miles north of Tokyo. I had 2 buddies that went with me, they were Dan Duke, that help build the bridge across the Rhine River in World War II, and Deverne Pierce, who was a card dealer at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, he could read ant card, just by looking at the front of it. Myself and Dan Duke were assigned to the post engineers in Tokyo, and Pierce was assigned to the post engineers at Yokohama. We reported to the Colonel in charge of the post engineers who then checked out records, before he could say anything, I asked him if I could say something, he said go ahead. I asked him if he ever knew a Herman Cramer, which was my old friend from World War Two. He then said I'll be right back, he was gone about 10 minutes. And who do you think he showed up with it was Herman Cramer. He hugged me neck and said, by God I knew you would show up. I then told him how I met Dan Duke, he shook hands with Dan, and told us that he could use both of us overseeing Japanese Contractors ding jobs for the US Government. He then told us to sign in at the Headquarters Company, and tell the First Sergeant who you are working for, give him my phone number, find out what their policy is then report back to me. He then told us to take a 3 day pass and report to him at his office at 0800. Well me and old Dan was happy as a coon, he said you sure know people at the right places. I told him the > helps me out. He then said what's this old stuff about the? I said I'll tell you some day. We then met the Company Commander of Headquarters Company who looked over out records and seen that we were promoted to Sergeant First Class and a lot of war experience, and a note on out records indicated who we were working for. We were the assigned to private rooms in the same barracks. The next morning after breakfast, Duke wanted to know what we were going to do to kill the day. I said I guess we will sight see.

Getting Acquainted in Tokyo

While eating breakfast, we got acquainted with a lot of Sergeants, and WAC's that worked in the past of Engineers Headquarters. They told us that's a street car went by the building everything 20 minutes. That went down town it passed by the DAIET HI building. Which is General McArthur's Headquarters. The Urako Hotel was across the street where the unmarried officers and DAC's (Department Army Civilian) stay. Then on to the officers club, and the NCO Club, and finally to the main train station where you can catch a train anywhere you want to go, was where the street car turned around and made the same trip back again. That afternoon we took train ride to Fuginobe, the same place that we processed before to go to Korea, which was about 16 miles from Tokyo. As we started to walk to military base, Duke said lets go to the place where they take public baths, maybe some young girls will wash our backs. Well the? Hit me again, that you had better pay someone to watch our clothes. So I paid papa son 100 yen to watch out clothes. Then Duke said that he would start washing my back to draw attention. It wasn't about a minute when two mama-san's about 70 years old with a big brush started scraping on our backs, I then told Duke, you sure do get good ideas. I still think you are putting a bridge across the Rhine River in Germany. We then caught a ride to the military base at Fuginobe, about a ½ mile from town. This is the place that we received out clothing to go to Korea. We got to the NCO Club a little early, so we played the slot machines. I asked the bartender if he could change American money for yen Japanese money. I had a \$2.00 bill that got mixed up somehow with my other money, and handed it to him, he then gave me \$20.00 in yen. Which I didn't count when he handed it to me. After buying a few beers, and playing slots, someone patted me on the back, and said let me play the machine a while. I got up looked at the girl in the evening dress, and she said long time no see. I then got the old? After 9 months in Korea, you see many Orientals, and they all look same to me. I kept looking at her, she didn't have any slanted eyes, and then the? Told me the answer, it was the white Russian girl I had danced with at this NCO Club nine months ago. While we were dancing I told her about the money exchange, and after we got through dancing she asked the bartender if he knew what happened about the money exchange, he said that he gave me the right change. So I later straightened it out. The time was getting short for us to catch a train back to Tokyo, and I told her that we had to leave and hope to see her again. She said that she had a pass card to the Club, and her car was parked outside the gate, and she would take us to our camp. When she let us out at the Post Engineer Camp, where we were billeted, she kissed my check, and said, that she had told me before that her name was Mickey, my mother is Japanese, and my father is Russian, I for married when I was six years old to a doctor, at their orders, and then she said, most of the time, he brings home nurses and don't pay any attention to me. Which is like I like, when she started the Buick car she owed up, she said, me and my girl friend will pick you up Friday evening at 5:30pm, and we will go to the Mineral Hotel at Attami, where the hot mineral water flows directly through the middle of the hotel. All this time, old Dan Duke was silent, then I asked him if he was still thinking of the bridge he put across the Rhine River, and the girl he left behind. He didn't answer me for a while, and while we were walking to our rooms, he said, I wonder what kind of slant eyes she will bring along for me. The next morning I went up to Cramer's office and talked over old times, and about the bear hunt in Alaska. After Cramer and I, talked over old times, about World War II, he wanted to know what I did in Korea, I told him it was cold as hell. He then told me about the job starting at the Tokyo Army Hospital, installing new elevators by Japanese contractors. And also, you will be in charge of the Australian Embassy, and the Russian Embassy, you will check with them once a week, if they had any problems, or needed anything. I will have a Jeep and driver for you. He then said I will see you Monday morning at 0800. This was Thursday, and we went shopping on the Ginza street, that's the main st in Tokyo. When they see Americans in uniform, they generally try to hide, because they know that the Americans always try to get something for nothing. I still have the same binoculars that I bought that day. In the afternoon, Duke said lets go to the NCO Club and see if they have some slots to play. I said we have to kill the day some way, why not. We did not catch the street car, we walked the next 10 blocks, because we really needed the exercise. As we walked through the door of the NCO Club, we were met by 4 loud taking WAAC. She grabbed both of us around the neck and said, where have both of you been so long. I whispered in her ear, that my friend Duke was looking for a girlfriend. I watched them at the table drinking beer and laughing while I was playing the slot machine. I played a while longer then joined them at their table. They seemed to be hitting it off pretty good. I glanced around the room looking at different people thinking that I may see someone that I knew. There was a M/Sgt coming through the door, that sure looked familiar as he came a little closer, I couldn't help myself, but to ask him, where have I seen you before. He said he was with the 79 Infantry Division, in World War II, and at that time I told him is your name John Potts, from Pottsville, Ohio? At that time I told him that I knew him as Captain Potts my Company Commander. I then told him my name, and was known at the 03 man. He then stated that they had called him back into the service, as a M/Sgt, but if I get through the conflict, they won't get me again. We kept talking over old times, and what we have been though in the past. We then told each other to keep in touch, and hope to run across each again. I looked for Duke, and the WAAC, they had disappeared. When I came through the guard gate to the compound, I asked the guard on duty if he knew Dan Duke, he said yes he came in about 30 minutes ago. When I got in our hooch, I knocked on his door, and he said that he just got through cleaning up. I asked him what happened. He said you ever tried to make love in a rick shaw? He didn't have to tell me I got the point. The next morning at breakfast, we decided to go to Yokohama to see Pierce our friend that came from Korea. We first called him, and he said that he could me us at the train station at 10am. We had a real good time starting our conversation from Ft. Sill, Camp Stoneman, Eniwetok, Korea and now here in Japan. We asked him where he went on the weekends, he said that they had a

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night club in Yokohama, dancing girls upstairs, and Turkish baths downstairs. He said all you have to do is have a lot of yen showing on your table, and pretty soon you can pick the girl that you want. A little bit of news about Pierce, he can read every card you got in your hand, so don't get end any games with him. He started dealing cards at the Golden Nugget, Las Vegas when he was 17 years old. I was getting close to 1500 hours, when we caught the train back to Tokyo. Duke kept saying why get in a hurry, the girls are not going to show. It was 5:35pm, or 1735, and Duke said I told you so, and about the same time a horn blew across the street, and Mickey the half Russian girl started waving for us to hurry. She then said to Duke your girlfriend is in the back seat. You can get to know by yourselves. I asked Mickey how far it was to Atami, she said about 90 km (kilometers) we should have caught a train we could have made better time. I asked her where she got the Buick, she said her husband bought it off some Colonel that was going back to the states. I took us 2 hours to get to Atami, and when I saw the hotel and the hot mineral water running right thought the middle. It was designed where you would follow a ramp to your room number, and open your back door, and a little ramp with sides to get into the mineral water. When we drove up and parked the car, I noticed that Duke and his girlfriend were walking hand in hand, and Mickey had already made reservations in advance. You remember that old saying, what monkey see, monkey do, so we got naked, and it took us 30 minutes to get a little more than one foot in the water. Well here it is Monday morning, on our way to breakfast. We had our first company formation at 7:30, and the Company Commander introduced us to the rest of the company, and wishes us a happy assignment. We then went to meet our boss Herman Cramer, my old friend. He then introduced us to two more DAC's that also had engineer degrees. He said this morning you will ride in my car, and I will show both of you where your jobs will be. I expect both of you to turn in a weekly percentage, of job completion each Friday, after work, on my desk. He first took us to the Tokyo Ordnance Depot, where 2 warehouses were to be built, Duke this is your job. Then to the French and English Embassy's, he said Duke checked with them 1 time a week to see if they needed anything and showed me where 2 elevators are to go. Then to the Australian and Russian Embassy's and introduced me to them. After we got back to Headquarters, he told us when the blue prints were, and we could look them over, and he would introduce me to the Japanese contractors, this afternoon. By the way your job will start in 3 days.



Going Dove Hunting

I ate dinner, then went back up to Cramer's office and was looking at blue prints, when Cramer came in. He said that Yamagucni the contractor should be here at 1pm. He then said that he had a big job at the ASA (Army Security Agency) building a new headquarters, all concrete buildings, which will take at least 8 months to finish. He then said I will take you there after we meet the contractor. About 1:15pm Mr. Yamaguchi came in, and he surprised me when he said, we will get along good together. After that, Cramer said lets go and see my job. We left his job about 2 hours later, back to his office. He then said, how about getting up early in the morning and go dove hunting? I told him that I didn't have a gun, he said he could remedy that. We drove north of Tokyo and north of Camp Drake, where there were a lot of levees and rice fields. He said these doves are larger, about the same size as a tame pigeon. He said the limit was 12 a piece. I soon found out that he shot sun was plugged, and only 3 rounds. I already killed 9 doves, and reloaded the 4th time, and I was straddled a honey bucket well. When a bunch of doves was coming my way. I killed 2 doves and the 3rd one was right over my head. When I shot, I tried to catch the dove, when it came down and fell in the honey bucket pit. Then Cramer came up holding his nose, and said, see that house over there. It's an out house.

Getting a Clean up Job

We will get mama san to clean you up. When we went to the house, Cramer knocked on the door, mama san opened the door and bowed to Cramer. she looked at me, and said something in Japanese. They then brought in, what looked like a 50 gallon barrel cut in half. The two girls about 16 to 18 years of age started to fill the barrel with slightly warm water, and mama san told me to strip and everyone to get out but me and her. About an hour later, she told me to climb out of the barrel by motioning with her hands. After I got out she dumped all of my clothing in the barrel then gave me a kimona to put on. When I stepped outside the 2 girls, and Cramer whistled and started laughing. I wanted to pay mama son, but she said that the girls had cleaned the doves for us, again going through the motions. Giving them everything but the breasts, and the next time I came there my clothes would be ready. On the way back to Tokyo, I mentioned that the 2 girls, if dressed up, would really be good looking. Cramer said sure would. When Cramer left me out at the main building, the guard said, Japanese are not allowed in without a pass. He then call Sgt Hill Sergeant of the Guard, I had to tell him the whole story before he would let me in.



Getting Introduced to the Colonel in Charge of the Tokyo Army Hospital

The reason I am introducing this is a part of the index, I will explain. After the dove hunt, and clean up, Cramer told me that being as your job will start in the morning, I will take you over to the Tokyo Army Hospital and introduce you to the Colonel in charge. The next morning after everyone went to work he said we will go to the hospital in my car. When we arrived at the main entrance we asked the nurse in charge if the Colonel was in. she wanted to know why we wanted to see the Colonel, and we told her that we has a Japanese contractor to install 2 elevators and the actual work will start tomorrow. She got on the phone and told us that he would see us, so we knocked on door, and he said come in. I noticed the look that he gave me, when Cramer introduced himself and I. After a minute of looking at me, he said, roll up your sleeve on your left arm. I knew right away it was Col. Zuelzer, the one doctor that saved my arm in Germany. After looking at my arm, he said my first stainless steel combs, or plates are doing their job. While Cramer was standing dumbfounded, he said I don't have to introduce myself and he told the Colonel that I was the man in charge of the job.

Building 2 Elevators in the Hospital

The next morning Cramer had me a Jeep with a Japanese driver. He said that the Japanese was a driver and his interpreter. We arrived at the hospital at 8:30am and the Japanese contractors and his foreman were ready to enter the hospital and go to work. We were looking at the blue prints for the second time when Colonel Zuelzer came up, and he wanted to have a look and for us to explain the project to him. After we explained everything to him, he said they finally approved my request for the elevators. Then he asked me if I had a little time, because he wanted to x-ray my arm. After the pictures were done, he looked at them, and grinned, and said, good work. He told me where he lived, and wanted me to have supper with him and his family. Then he said I will pick you up at 6pm in front of your compound. At that time while he was talking, my ears started to ring, and the old? Said to tell him that I would accept his invitation. After supper that night we talked over old times, and I finally told him how rough he was while I was in traction with my arm, he would lift the weight in front of the bed and drop it. He said I knew that you would take it.