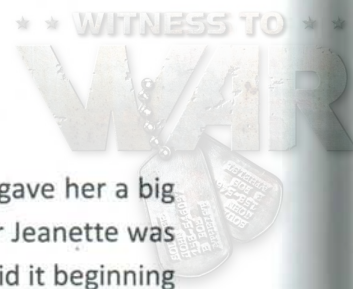


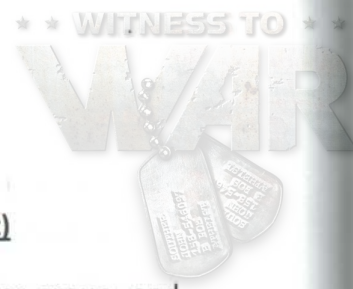


My Assignment at Fort Leonard Wood

When the First Sergeant came in I knew him at once. He said my wife asked me the other night at supper, whatever happened to Emmitt and Jeanette, and now he showed up. He then told the Captain you remember Master Sergeant Emmitt Tesch at Fort Carson, Colorado, he said I was 1st Lieutenant at the time, and met him at Camp Hale, Colorado. Then Capt Pressley wanted to know where my records were, I said I left them in Battalion. He said First Sergeant keep Tesch company till I get back. I told Smith, first name William that I rented a place in Rolla and he wouldn't let me finish and said he would see us tonight and take us out to supper. About 1 hour later Captain Pressley came in and wanted if I knew a Major Striker. I told him that I did, and he was the Executive Officer at MAAG Headquarters, in Teheran. I then told Captain Pressley about the trophies I killed for him. The runway I rebuilt for him with only 1 DT Dozer, and the big going away party for John Foster Dulles, the Secretary of State the night before I was scheduled to go home. Then Capt Pressley wanted to know if I had read what the Shah wrote, and the Secretary of State indorsed it. I said I guess I missed it. I then told Captain Pressley, the situation that I ran into, when we made out inspections, about not having a TOCE, they had out equipment, but no trained operators, no mechanics no spare parts on hand, and no way of ordering parts. All the officers stay at one place until they can't walk anymore and they don't want to make any changes. They do not believe in changing oil, and filters, they claim the oil never plays out. Captain Pressley then told me that they failed the last inspection in Motor pool, and we have 90 days to get ready for the second inspection. I told him that I knew what he was working up to, and would take the job and try to pass next inspection. The First Sergeant Smith said he would take me to the Motor Pool and showed me around. I then ran into a Staff Sergeant Burns that was with is in Korea, and we remembered each other at once. I asked him what he was doing in the Motor Pool, he said that he was taking the old Motor Sergeant's place. I told him we would get together in the morning. I to Smith that I would see them later I then told Jeanette who I ran into and they were taking us out to supper. I told Jeanette it's funny how you run into people, and you and Ruth were really good friend at Fort Carson. When they arrived in was like old times, we talked so long, we about forgot going to eat. The next I rode with Bill to work, and he dropped me off at the Motor Pool. I for together with Sgt Burns and told him exactly what I wanted. A piece of plywood which shows: list of equipment authorized. 2 types of vehicles, 3 for duty, 4 dead line, 5 for, 6 parts 7, on revision, 8 drivers while you are getting the vehicles in shape, kept clean check the stenciling of the unit. After 2 weeks, things were starting to shape up. One day after work I was riding with the First Sergeant Smith when we stopped on the right side even with us, and I told Smith that was Postlewate my old buddy, my former Company Commander, and the same guy that worked I the Sun Oil Company with me. I rolled the window down and said hey Pete is that you? He then said for us to follow him home. When we got to his house he told me to knock on



the door and surprise Grace. I did just that, and before she realized who I was, I gave her a big kiss, and told her I was the first one back from WWII and I had the right. I told her Jeanette was in Rolla and we would come over after supper. When Smith dropped me off he said it beginning to look like old times again. When I got home I told Jeanette that I had another surprise for her, she said I bet the? stopped talking to you. I then told her I seen Pete, and Grace on the way home, and they want us to come over to-night. I told her let me clean up, and change clothes and we will go to there no use on Post. When we arrived at their house I guess they were waiting outside, when we stopped Jeanette ran from the car and Grace met her halfway and both started to cry. I didn't ask Pete why he was a Staff Sergeant, I figured he floored a Colonel, and reduced from Captain to Staff Sergeant. After that day we were either at their house, or they at ours. Well the three months went by, and Captain Pressley as showing off his Jeep that Burns had repaired, and new bumper numbers. I admit it sure looked good. The inspection team came in, and the Warrant Officer looked around and then at the board on the wall. He then faced me and said I hope your equipment jives with the board on the wall. I tell you he didn't miss anything. After 2 hours we came back inside the building, and wanted to know how long I had been a Motor Sergeant? I told him that I was never a Motor Sergeant, not had a lot of experience with heavy equipment. I told him I been in Arab country for the last two years, and I was sent on a MAAG assignment as a construction engineer. He then faced Capt Pressley and said when I inspected you 3 months prior this was sorriest Motor Pool I ever seen now it's the best, and the neatest I've seen in a long time. Capt Pressley then thanked me, for putting him back in good graces, I started to ask him, did the rest of your company, fail also. But it's like the? said that's none of my business. I later received the (Green Hornet) for being the best Motor Sergeant of the year. After that we had a lot of visitors looking at our Motor Pool, especially the 4 by 8, plywood on the wall which told us everything, and it was kept up to date. After staying in the Motor Pool a year, I asked Captain Pressley when was he going to get a Motor Sergeant to take my place, he said he was working on it. About a month later he called myself and M/Sgt Breckenridge in his office, and said I want the two of you to work together and build a run way but I still want you to be in charge of heavy equipment. At this time I was getting tired of doing to jobs and I asked the ? what should I do? He said do what you always do call someone.



Assigned to the 44th Engineer Construction Battalion (Broken Heart)

We landed in Inchon Korea the 12 July 1960, and reported to the 2nd Engineer group, and assigned to the 44th ECB at Ascom, City. I was assign as the Operation Sergeant of the Battalion. I immediately recognized Colonel Samuelson, whom I had served with before. As we were talking over old times, he then briefed to me like a sand table that lighted up, and showed the operation on duty and off duty barracks, and equipment. After showing me how it worked, the Korean painter took a picture of me, and put it in the position where I was assigned on the round table. He then introduced me to Mr.Sou who ran the PSF (Project Support Facility) that supported the whole Battalion and had 21 Korean civilians for the Battalion. He said they made everything from the tacks, to large buildings, when an order from companies came in I had to ok it. And the PSF would make the item and the company that made the request would pick up the order when notified. The Colonel then showed me around the area, and I met a lot of old friends that I served with before. He then showed me the list of projects that each company was assigned, and the equipment needed for each project. He said after you get things lined up for the day see me, and I have an idea of things that need to be accomplished, to make the Battalion look better. After a few days I finally for the swing of things and time to get with me Mr.Sou at the Project Support Facility, and he gave me a list of materials that they had on hand, and introduced me to all of the men. The one person that caught my eye, was the painter. He was painting letters and numbers on a truck without using a stencil. Mr.Sou said he is really good painting religion oil paintings. Note: as I am setting here writing this book I can see the pictures he painted for me, and a lot of people have offered me a big price, but they are not for sale. I then showed the list with Mr.Sou, and find out how much it would cost to build an Officers Club an NCO Club and a new Mess Hall because the soldiers don't have much to look forward to after work. After a week of planning, I agreed with Mr.Sou that we had two vacant rock buildings vacant, and they would solve the problem for an Officer's Club, and an NCO Club. The Mess Hall was a different problem, we could make concrete block for 23 cents a blocks, and we have 150 sheets of Philippine mahogany plywood on hand, so why not use it. The Colonel was well pleased, and gave me the go headed. After two months we had the Officers Club, and the NCO Club completed, and everyone was happy. The Mess Hall was to be a Battalion Mess Hall to feed 1000 men, the size of building as indicated on the blue prints was 100 feet long, and 60 feet wide, concrete slabs, concrete block outside, frame work inside with insulation and plywood inside. The cost of this Mess Hall, not including labor, estimated cost \$4,500.00 dollars. The Mess Hall was completed in 3 months. I had the PSF painter, paint a countryside view over the plywood, so when seated, you would think you were eating outside in the country. When we had the grand opening, the 8th Army Commander, the 2nd Engineer Brigade group Commander was there for the first meal. The first thing the 8th Army Commander wanted to know the cost to build the Mess Hall, Colonel Samuelson told him the price, and he said he

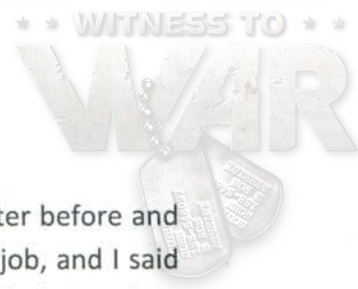


wanted to one built in Seoul just like it. The Colonel told me that he wanted Master Sergeant Collins to be in charge of the 8th Army Mess Hall, and wanted me to check the job twice a week. At this time I was in Korea for 8 months when the 8th Army Mess Hall was finished, and all of us that were involved had to attend.



Building the Missile Site

The following Monday morning the Colonel called me into his office and let me look at the blue prints, of the missile site that was to be built in southwest Korea. The site was next to the ocean on a mountain top 4 miles from a gravel road. I ask Colonel Samuelson who he wants to give the job to. He then looked at me and said, who do you have in mind, I said how about our 53 Officer Captain Borize he is always complaining that we never give him any jobs of importance. The Colonel looked at me and said, are you in the habit of reading people minds? I said I got together with the ?, and he read your mind. He shook his head, and said, we will fly down in the morning by chopper and I will get in touch with Captain Suheck and he will pick us up here. We had an hour flight along mountain range next to the ocean, and the Colonel finally found the place on the map. He asked Captain Suheck if he could land on the peak, he said not a chance so we had land at the bottom and walk 4 miles to the top. At the top of the mountain peak, we got a better view, of how the road was to be built. I asked the Colonel, may I have permission to speak, he laughed and said is the ?, ringing again. I said whoever drew these plans have never been down here, they made the plans from a map, because you cannot build a road through space. This is the? speaking. Everyone looked at me like I was crazy, and finally Colonel Samuelson look at Captain Wilson and asked him how would he build the road to the top? The Captain looked at each of us and said why give me this job? The Colonel said, you always complained by never giving you a job of importance, not here is your job. Tell me if you have any ideas. He then turned his back to the Colonel and said that he could not do the job. The Colonel caught him, to tell me again what he had said, he wouldn't say anything. He then told me the take a bunch of pictures from the bottom to top, and then we will go back, to the Battalion, and discuss further plans of operation I the morning. The next morning the Colonel called me in his office, and asked me to help him out how to do the job, and how to start. The first thing we have to take Captain Shang to the site and clue the Koreans what we are going to do to their dirt channel that furnish water for their rice fields. We need to find out what's on hand, galvanize pipes or concrete pipe if its galvanize pipe we have to have a concrete base to lay 1 or 2 pipes on, otherwise the Korean farmers will steal the pipe. I also noticed 3 springs coming down from the mountains that need culverts, if galvanize, then concrete side walls. As for the building of the road to the top, we have to build a road on the sides of two rock hills. Which at some points, we have to use dynamite, and wagon drills to make holes for a stick of dynamite. And sand bags, I would like to have 6 qualified men from the project support facility to help me go the job. The equipment I need at first is: 2 cooks, 2 stoves, 1 kerosene frig, 2 tents, 1 bull dozer, 1 back hoe tractor, and I crane, w/ bucket to start the job/ and we need to get Captain Shang to find the owner of the grave on the mountain peak. I then ask Colonel Samuelson if I could take M/Sgt Conrad to help me. he said the job will start in 10 days and I will get with Captain Suheck and fly the personnel you have picked to let them look at the project, and thank the ?, for me. I called Mr.Sou and showed him the pictures that I took to build the



site, and asked him to fly down with us. He said that he never been in a helicopter before and said he guess he could make it. They all wanted to know why they gave me the job, and I said for now, I volunteered. I briefed them on the job as I saw it, and the Colonel asked me who I wanted to help me and I requested you two. They then told me they were glad to get the challenging job for a change. After we got out camp set up, Mr.Sou wanted to know if he could spend a week and I called the Colonel and he said as long as he had someone that spoke English at the shop keep him as long as you want to. Everything went like clockwork until we got the road to the top, the dozer operator was scared and so I had to clear about 100sq feet cleared. I still remember I for on the D8 Dozer took a big push of dirt, and a woman came over the blade, holding up her hands. She went through the motions, that her father was buried there. I backed up the dozer, and helped her find all the bones of her father. She, bowed, and away she went. The old saying Korea, the richer you are, the higher you get buried. I then told the dozer operator to change the blade, to the one prong rooter. I got on the radio, and let the Colonel know our problem. He said that the 76th Engineers have all the wagon drills and he didn't know what to do and wanted to know what my ? suggested. I told him out only solution was to use shape chargers. I told him what I had planned with Sgt Collins, and if we could get some, we got it made. That night he radioed back and said Capt Sucheck would fly 80 shape chargers down tomorrow, also with extra dynamite and ropes. It took us one week to lace the shape chargers with a sand bag full of dirt tied, tied to the shape chargers. I taught the earth would never stop shaking. After the smoke cleared we examined the explosion. We could see cracks on the sides and top. So our next job which lasted 11 days was to use dynamite and again sand bags closing the holes on the outside. When we set off this charge, the rocks started to roll, big and small. After we surveyed the top we had enough space to put up the barracks and the slonal tower, and leave the rest to the ? I notified Colonel Samuelson, that we would be finished in a week, and we would like for him to come down and check the job out before we started packing. The Colonel called me, and said that the 2nd Engineer Group Commander and the 8th Army Commander will be with me when we arrive in 3 days get things cleaned up. Me and M/Sgt Collins were looking at the mountain spring flowing about 50 feet away from the building. He said it would not be hard to tap a water line into the waiter flow about 10 feet higher than the building, and that would solve the water problem. The inspection crew arrive at 1015am on 15 May 1961, I immediately reported to the 8th Army Commander and introduced M/Sgt Collins, and M/Sgt Conrad that were assisting me. He then asked me who was the Officer in charge, the Colonel then said that I was working strictly under his jurisdiction. The General then said, I think I remember you. Wasn't you the one that built my Mess Hall in Seoul, I said yes. He then said let's see what you have done. After walking from bottom to the top and explaining all the way. He then wanted to know how long it took to build the site, I said 91 days. He asked the 2nd Engr Group Commander, I don't get in the 76th Engineers on a same site, been at it 4 year and not finished yet. He then asked the Colonel how did you do it, he said the ? had a few good ideas.



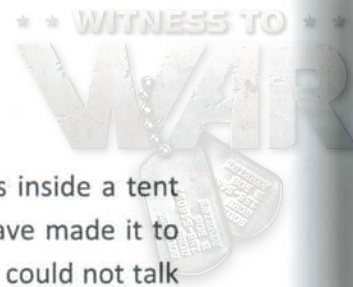
Leaving Korea – Assigned to Fort Gordon, GA

When we arrived back at the 44 Engr HQ, we enjoyed a good hot bath the first one in 3 months. I reported for work the next morning and the colonel called me into his office and wanted to know where the “?” was. I then told him all about the “?”, when I get a problem that I cannot solve, my left ear starts to ring and helps me to do the right thing. Otherwise, don't jump into things, think the situation out first. He then shook my hand and said a job well done. We have to report to the 2nd Engr GP at 1300, all 4 of us, where the 8th army commander awarded us with the green hornet, a ribbon or citation of a job well done in record time. At this time, I had 15 days left in Korea on my one year tour. I walked around the compound talking to different people who congratulated me on the good job on the missile site. I went to PSF where Mr. Sou worked and he showed me the letter of commendation that Colonel Samuelson gave the PSF. He also said he had my paintings ready to be sent as hold baggage and the party they were giving me and the colonel the evening before I left. Mr. Sou made a short speech before we ate the toughest chicken I ever ate. We hate to see this man leave, because he and the “?” gets the job done.



To Dallas, Texas on 30 Day Leave

The colonel drove me to Seoul and we saluted each other and we both said, been nice working with someone that can solve the problem as a team. I boarded Pan Am flight, destined Japan, Honolulu, San Francisco and Dallas. I notified my wife the time we were to land at Love Field in Dallas. When I came out of the closed ramp some on said over here Boots, it was my brother's wife Ruby. Then Jeanette said, I didn't recognize you in a uniform and she let me kiss on her lips for a change. When we arrived at the café, Allen, my brother, looked at me and said Boots, you look different in a uniform and I said that the "?" thinks that to. He looked at me kind of funny and didn't ask me any more questions. We all got together that evening and had supper at the café. After supper Jeanette wanted to know where we are going next, I said to Augusta, Georgia and I will be assigned to the civil affairs at Fort Gordon. I said that I knew the Lunsford's that lived in Augusta and they may be able to find us a place to stay because they have no family quarters on base. After 10 days in Dallas we loaded up the car and headed for Augusta, GA. I had no problem locating the Lunsford's when I called Dot answered the phone, I told her where I was and where I met them before she said quit talking and get your fanny over here. I told her where we were, and she said she could pick us up. About 15 minutes later I heard the horn blowing, to let us no, she was getting close. I didn't have to introduce Jeanette to Dot Lunsford, she told Jeanette to get in the car, and Boots can follow me. When we arrived at her house, she said Bill will get the surprise of his life because he talks about Boots and his hunting for the Shah of Iran. She told Jeanette about the going away party in Iran, and how the Iranians have to pinch your butt, to let you know that they like you. It was about 515pm when Bill Lunsford came in, and saw me and Jeanette, he hugged both of us at the same time, and wanted to know if we were visiting a while; or stationed here. I then laughed and told him my ? was ringing all day and I think you had something to do with getting me assigned here. He then said as long as my fishing partner is here that all that matters. She then said Bill, help Boots get what they need out of the car for the next day Dot said they had government apartments, here in Augusta, and sure enough we were in luck. Jeanette looked at me and said you got the old ? working again. I waited until Monday morning to sign in at the Civil Affairs at Fort Gordon. The first person I met was Major Whitman, and old WWII Officer, who was in the Big Red 1 in Africa, he shook hands and said we will get more acquainted late, follow me and the Colonel is waiting to meet you. The Major knocked on the Colonel's officer door, and he opened it and shook my hand and said, my name is John McNight, and I read your assignment orders, and welcome aboard. You will be assigned to the Engineers section, with your boss standing behind you, and 1 SFC Charles Thulro, who is already here. He said out mission takes place after the war's end, to see, and tend to displaced person have a place to stay temporary until checked out. He then said I will let Major Whitman take over and welcome aboard. I told Major Whitman that ECC Thulro was with me at Fort Carson, Colorado, and I left him there when I went to Iran. The



Major then said, what are we waiting for let's go. When we found him he was inside a tent sitting behind a desk reading a book, when I called attention. He then like to have made it to attention when Major Whitman said, as you were. When Thurlo looked at me he could not talk for a second, and finally said the ?, is here then Major Whitman ask me what did it say. I said give him a minute.



Assignment to the Civil Affairs

Major Whitman then asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him about Bill Lunsford, a DAC, who works at communication center got me a place. Then Thurlo got his wind back and said, Lucille and Pat is here too. Major Whitman then said why don't you take the day off and I will introduce you to the rest of the family tomorrow. I told Thurlo to follow me to my house and I will pick up my wife and we will go out and celebrate. I told Thurlo to knock on my door first and see if Jeanette will know you. When she opened the door she stared at him for a minute and then said Thurlo and laughed we want to take you over to meet Lucille and Pat. She then asked him did the "?" bring you over here? I then got out of the car and said look who I have to work with. When we got to Thurlo's house I told Jeanette to knock on the door, Lucille answered from inside of the house. Thurlo what are you doing home so early? The Jeanette said in a loud voice Damn it Lucille open the door, it took her a while to open the door and she said, shit. Pardon me I knew it was you I mean Jeanette all the time. Then she started laughing and crying at the same time. When Pat, Thurlo's daughter came in from work, she recognized Jeanette instantly and then the hugging started and Jeanette asked Pat why she wasn't married? Pat then answered because he didn't have a roll of hundred dollar bills rolled up in his hand, then she looked at her mother and Lucille spoke up and said I thought he was rich, walking around the carnival flashing the 100 dollar bill wrapped in a bunch of 1 dollar bills. After that Lucille did all the talking and finally said isn't it funny how old friend get together. The Jeanette said leave it to the "?" and then started looking around the room and then at me and didn't say anything. The next morning Major Whitman introduced me to first sergeant Robinson and a bunch of lieutenants and captains. When we were through they asked me why did they call me the O3 man. I had to tell them that Major Whitman was in "A" company and I was in "D" of the 16th regiment of the Big Red One and only one designated as the O3 man and then I had to tell them the rest of the story and I am also known as the "?". We spent most of our time watching movies each day going to the field 3 days each month, pitching tents and playing cards. I was called into the Colonel's office and he introduced me to Colonel Bohanan [marine] from Norfolk Virginia in charge of Operation Quick Kick.



Operation Quick Kick

Colonel Bohanan said the Commander in Chief would like to have the Civil Affairs to represent in Operation Quick Kick, a Naval and Marine exercise. I would like to have a representative from each stage of the Civil Affairs to participate in the exercise. Then Colonel Bohanan looked at me and said, being as you are the only one here with a top secret crypto clearance, you will receive message in center, and notify the one concerned. I will send a plane to Augusta, GA to pick up the personnel that are assigned. I told Jeanette about the 2 week operation, and Dot Lunsford will take care of you. We were notified 3 days later to the airport at 1:30pm, and a C47 would pick us up. Well the old Gooney Bird was right on time with a Marine Sergeant flying the plane. When we got seated, he announced that he was out Rep, and would tell s where to eat, sleep, and get you on the USS Pokong, where we will stay until the exercise is over. He showed us where the Mess Hall was, and he would join us after he got the Officers settled. While I was eating, a Marine Private said, may I join you? I said have a seat. Then all at once, some Marine woman said, go sit with your own rank and then winked at me. While we were eating I don't remember how many questions I answered. The Sergeant that flew the plane finally came in and sat down and ate. The Marine woman wanted to know if that was out pilot, I said yes, she then said you are lucky you got here, and then he winked at me. The next morning he said he would get the Officers on board first and then get me. When we boarded the ship he told me to go first. I seen the guard, and I forgot to give my rank, name, and permission to come aboard. He finally told me what to say and this time I got it right. After I got settled in my bunk He said Colonel Bohanan would have a meeting in the briefing room at 9:30am, and we will depart at 1100 hours on our mission. In the briefing room, Colonel Bohanan stated that we will visit 4 points during this exercise from her to Sanwon Pourte-Africa. And you will receive messages from me, or higher ups, until this exercise is over, and send messages accordingly to whom they represent. We were on our 2nd mission when the Sergeant in message center told me to take over he had the run off's and had to go to the bathroom. During this time the teletype starting clicking; so after it stopped, I had to signed the message, as received I read it, which said send so many marines, to a Captain point immediately, from: CTC to Colonel Bohanan, I phoned the Colonel, and told him I had a 00 message for him to come to message center.

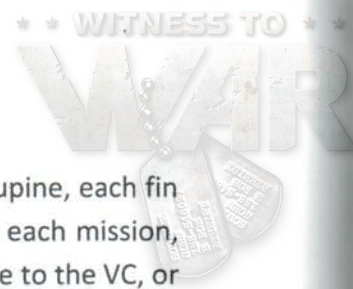


Operation Quick Kick: A MAAG Assignment Vietnam

When Colonel Bohanan, arrived at message center, he read the 00 message that I decoded, he then told me I did the right thing about calling him immediately. He then called his Executive Officer, and told him what to do. He then asked me where Sergeant Pritehert went. I told him again, he has to go to the bathroom, and had not returned yet. He then told me to hold the fort, until he sends a new replacement. Where the Marines went I am not allowed to repeat, out next stop was Saint-wan Puerto Rico, and there we had a chance to go through the Sea Wolf, a new clear sub. At that time me ?, started to sound off and said I rather be in a jail then being assigned to this thing. I got acquainted with a Marine Sergeant Major, and found out that we went to high school together. He wanted to know if there was a military post close by, I said there is an Army Post call Fort Bucanon about 8 miles from Saint-wan, he then checked if there was a bus that went to the post. When the bus arrived at the MP Gate the guard made us show our ID cards. We told the bus driver we wanted to go to the NCO Club when we walked in, they asked us where we came from and what we wanted here. I said let's get out of this place, we are not welcome here. When we finally arrived back to Fort Gordon, GA, I was told to report to Personnel. The Personnel Officer wanted to know who was Colonel Matzker? I told him we served together in Japan, and he is in charge of the Personnel Assignment Branch in the Pentagon. He then told me, that there was an assignment open in Siagon, Vietnam, and to let him know ASAP. If I accepted it, it was then that the old ?, started to ring. It finally told me that it couldn't help me make up my mind, to do what you want, and don't blame me later. The Personnel Officer, said why can't you make up your mind? I told him I was consulting the ? and he said what has your wife got to do with it. I then laughed and told him to send me some orders. About 2 weeks went by until the orders. About 2 weeks went by until the orders came in. I was to report to make Headquarters Siagon, Vietnam (NLD) not later date, then 6 Feb 1963. I told my wife of the assignment, and she said, I wish that ? would crawl up your behind and get stuck there. I signed out, and everyone in the Civil Affairs, and Augusta, wished us the best. After we had Christmas dinner at Jeanette's sister's house, her sister Alene wanted to keep Jeanette at her house until I came back a year later. This time I had orders to fly on Pan American all the way to Tan-Sa-Nute, Vietnam. When I arrived there I checked with the military air Booking Sergeant, who called MAAG Headquarters. And they had a Jeep pick me up. I turned in my records to Colonel Watkins, the XO under General Timmes. And he told me that I was to be assigned to the 1st Infantry Battalion at the Ben Cat Providence, and would leave tomorrow. So that afternoon, I had to get my jungle clothes and mickey mouse boots, a 12 gauge shotgun by choice, with 1 box of buckshot, and a 45 Colt pistol. The next morning I boarded the C-47 and the pilot told me he would drop me off at the Iran Triangle, at Ben Cat, and Major Chancy, from Australia, would be there to meet me. On the way, about an hour flight the pilot told the only passenger me, that I was lucky, that he could land the Goony Bird on the ground surface



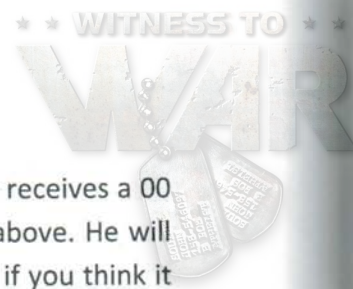
ok. He then told that he had to drop by parachute, food for 121 out posts along the Cambodian border once a week. And also the replacements, and when there 1 year is up, it's up to them to get to Siagon, the best way they can. Each out Post, has two Special Forces Soldiers in a foxhole for 1 year with a radio to report anything that comes in, or out, to Vietnam. When we landed, Major Chancy was there to meet me. We had to walk about 2 miles before we found the 1st Vietnamese Battalion. I there was introduced to the Vietnamese Colonel, and the Sergeant Major in charge, which could talk a little English like Australian Major. They then briefed me on their mission for one year in the Ben Cat Providence. The Vietnamese Sergeant Major said we have 30 villages in this Providence that have Viet Cong living with the village people, and controlling them, until they have no choice, but to join them in their way of thinking. Our mission for one year is to try and weed out the Viet Cong in each village the best we can. The first thing we do is surround the village, out to a certain place, and interrogate them we give them a certain time to get there. If they are not there in that time, we will take across bow and shoot fired arrows in to the straw roofs. Most of the time the hide in the tunnels that the Viet Cong have them to dig, before we hit the village we take that into consideration to find the outlet, and have it guarded. We use to use tear gas to flush them out, but the word got around that we were using poison gas, and it was outlawed, now we have to use rats, that are not fed for 3 days and they do the trick. The way we eat and sleep is most important. Each soldier carry's 4 chickens (live) on his left side, and a bag of rice, on the right side. This is pooled for one year. We eat one meal a day at 2:30pm, chicken, and rice. Then build a hammock from vines to sleep in. that sounded to me like I was back in Civil Affairs. That evening I watched the Mess Sergeant fixing supper, Major Chancy was at my side watching me, instead of watching the so called cooks. They would burn the feathers off the chickens, drag them over a log; and chop them to pieces and throw the pieces into a large pot, throw a little rice and soy sauce in it and boil them for an hour. That was the meal for the day, chicken guts and rice. That evening I made 2 mistakes, I decided to take a shave with my battery type Norelco Razor, and put a small amount of shaving lotion on my face. The six police dogs not far from me starting barking and the whole Battalion gathered around me and wondered what they were barking at. After a few minutes Major Chancy smelled the old spice shaving lotion my face and told me to wash it off, this was causing the dogs to raise hell, and he said everyone has to smell the same. The second mistake I made, was to find a bunch of vines which already been gathered, and I decided to wrap my shotgun, and pistol in my rain coat, and sleep with the poncho liner wrapped around me and sleep on the ground, and wake up with a bunch of leeches on me. The Vietnamese Sgt/Major, now that you have learned lesson No.1 I will take you over to the Mess Sergeant and he will get them off, and you are excused from the mission for today. The Mess Sergeant will get the leeches off. The Mess Sergeant gave me the sign 1 strip, and when he lit something that looked like a grapevine, puffed on it a couple of times, and burned each leech off, then burned the place again, so it wouldn't get infected. I asked Major Chancy why did he do that, he said



when a leech lets loose he leaves some of his fins in your skins sort of like a porcupine, each fin has a section that has to be killed. After about 5 missions, the same things with each mission, Viet Cong get the word ahead of time and are gone. The older folks that are no use to the VC, or left behind. When the rats are turned loose in the tunnels you can hear screaming, and all the kill is the older generation. We were wakened one night about midnight after a big flood and heard a lot of splashing in the water, dogs barking machining guns firing. The ? started to sound off. I am wondering what is going on this time. The next morning, nine baboons were killed eating he garbage the Mess Hall had dumped out. One afternoon after supper, the Vietnamese Sgt Major seem me dipping Copenhagen, he grabbed the box out of my hand, and starting to fill his mouth, and started to swallow the juice, it wasn't long walking like a dog puking his gut out, and all the soldiers started gathering around him, thinking he was poisoned. The next day he was sick, and couldn't make the mission, and that evening after supper he wanted to know why that stuff what I was eating didn't make me sick? I told him you keep it under your lip like his. And don't swallow it. A few minutes he was going around camp patting himself on the chest showing all the soldiers that he was just as good a man as the American Sergeant. One evening after supper Major Chancy, started to call me for some help, I looked at his hammock, and it looked kind of funny from a distance, while he was eating his second banana. A python swung down from the top of the tree his hammock was tied to and I guess he wanted a piece of his banana. He hit the snake in the head with his pistol, and the snake didn't let loose for about 10 minutes. We then had desert, they cut the snake up like donuts, and it tasted pretty good for a change. One afternoon Major Chancy hand me sealed letter, and told me not to open it until he left Vietnam, he said he was going out, and get us some bananas. During that time a small water buffalo calf came to my hammock and starting licking my hand, and all at once here came the cow straight at me. I jumped out of my hammock and shot the cow twice before she hit my hammock and died. They then killed buffalo calf and we ate steaks for a while, then Major came running in with his bananas, and wanted he spotted the dead cow he knew what happened. He then starting starching his arms, and raised his sleeve on one arm, and noticed the blisters, he said he forgot about the green spiders that jumped on him, and he has to drop his bananas, and broke off banana limb and knocked them off. I asked him did you not see the shinny web, he said he has his mind on other things and forgot about the spider tree. I told the Vietnamese Sgt Major what happened, and he radioed MAAG Headquarters, and in 1 1/2 hours the chopper picked him up. After a month's time I started to miss Major Chancy even though he would get on my nerves with his singing waltzing Matilda mostly. At this time I have little over six months in this jungle and these mickey mouse boots are stinking so bad and so was my feet. I asked the Vietnamese Sgt Major if he had some powder, he gave me a pair of Vietnamese shoes that was a little bit oversized. One afternoon when we were coming from a search and destroy mission, a helicopter was parked at out staging point. As we approached the area I spotted a 2 Star General, a Captain, and a M/Sgt. at this time the old ? started to sound off again, I wonder what



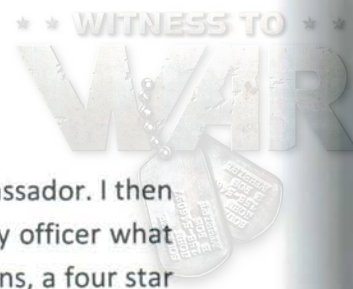
all the Big Brass Arc doing here. At that time, the Vietnamese Sgt Major called me to come over. I saluted the Officers, and shook my hand with the M/Sgt. Then the Major General started to laugh, and said , 03, you are a site for sore eyes. I finally looked up your records, and you are not to be an Infantry Unit, with 3 Purple Hearts. Anyway, get on the chopper, and this is your replacement M/Sgt Hogan. When we took off, he said, dam you stink, worse than the Vietnamese. I told him that my feet was about to rot off, and these Vietnamese shoes are too big. He said you don't recognize me I am the EXO, Executive Officer of the 16th Infantry Unit, Colonel Holden, 1st Battalion. I said that's been over 20 years ago and we all change, look at me. He said he would dump me off at the hospital and tell them to give you a good check up, and tell Burke my cook to get you some new clothes to wear. Then you will be on your way to the states, then he said see you later. While sitting in the waiting room in the hospital, the other people did not say anything, but got as far away from me as they could, giving me that cross eyed look. When the doctor came in, he mentioned me to follow him, and then I got a good hot bath, and when I washed my feet, they started to bleed, I then put on the robe, and the house shoes, and the doctor was waiting for me, and followed him to the exam room. He then started going through my medical records, and mentioned that I had lost 60 pounds, otherwise, except the feet. I want you to soak them every day with the solution I will give you for a week and then come see me. I then told the doctor, that General Timmes said he was sending me home. The doctor didn't even say anything, and turned around, walked away as started laughing. About 30 minutes later Burke, came in with civilian clothes, he said put them on and I will take you to the house. When I put on the civilian clothes, I felt funny. I then told Burke that my nickname was Boots, and I told him I knew General as a Major in North Africa. As we entered the house, he started calling Sandra, (General Timmes's wife) where are you? She said I'm on the seat, be out in a minute. When she came out, Burke said this is Boots, the guy General Timmes got out of the jungle. She gave me a little hug and whispered in my ear. Glad to meet you 03. Burke looked at me, and didn't say anything. Burke then said excuse me, I have to get supper ready, and Sandra laughed and said, don't overdo it. She then winked at me and said, the VC lady does all the cooking and Burke does the watching. She said the Charles will be in shortly, and sit down and we will talk about old times 03. I told her about the Catholic priest I shot at Cherbourg, France, and she wanted to know why, I said he didn't like the way we were doing things at that time General Timmes walked and asked his wife who the stranger was, she said this stranger was about to finish a good story, until you interpreted. He then told me that he had my little pack at his office. He then said the doctor told me about your feet, and glad nothing else is wrong. When the radio call came in, saying that a Master Sergeant Tesch, had requested a helicopter ASAP that Major Chancy had been bitten, or stung, by two banana spiders, the ? started ringing, was this the same guy in North Africa I knew as the 03. If I had interviewed you when you came through, you wouldn't be out in that jungle. I know that you have a top secret cripto clearance, and my aid, his going home in a week, so I want you to take



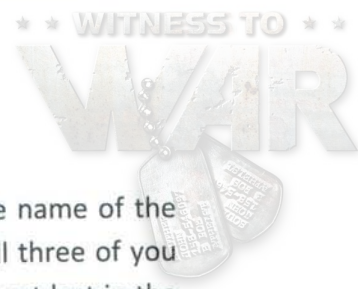
his place. Your job will be connected with message center. When message center receives a 00 crypto message they will notify the Staff Duty Officer, which will be a Major, or above. He will then call you under the code 03, you will then sign and pick up the message, and if you think it is of no importance give it to the MAAG Duty Officer and he can log it in. You will be located in a hotel on Tra-Hung-Dow. You will be on call 24 hours a day. If you leave the hotel, be sure you have a walkie-talkie with you. I asked him about my bag, I told him that my billfold was in it. He got the bag out of the closet, when I got my billfold out I noticed the letter that Major Chancy had handed to me, and not to open it until he rotated. It was the General Timmes told me that he was flown to Manila, and it was too late to find an antidote to counteract the poison for the type of spider. I then told him to open the letter that he had given me. I told General Timmes I had forgotten the letter. After he read the letter he told me that the Major Soro liked me because he has willed his entire banana plantation in Australia to you. He looked at me, and said this letter is authentic do you want to retire and go to Australia? I said burn the letter I have about 4 more years to go. The first thing I did, I went to the mail room at Headquarters, and told S/Sgt Hanson where I was billeted, he said he was at the same hotel and would push my mail under my door, if I wasn't in the room. I started to leave, when he told me of the woman working in the G2 section sending mail once a week to a Vietnamese address. I told him to give me the letter I would give it to General Timmes. I knocked on his door, and said its 03. He said come in, this time I had my summer uniform on with house shoes. He said you are suppose to be retired, and why don't you where civilian clothes. I then told him about this letter, that Sgt Hanson gave me. The woman working in the G2 section sends on a week to the same address. He said everyone thinks highly of this woman. He said I will call the 3rd Corp Commander (Vietnamese) and have the letter checked out. It turned out that she was a Viet Cong, and sending letters to the highest Viet Cong leader in Vietnam. I was 2 days later when everyone could watch her assassination, she was tide naked over a 50 gallon barrel, being questioned and finally the Vietnamese Officer hit her in the head with a ball peen hammer and left her abandoned in the street. The body of the VC woman lay in the street for 2 days, and the American Ambassador persuaded the General Minh to get the body off the street. A week later General Timmes wanted to visit the Navy Team, in the Mekong Delta, which is a place you have to go there by boat or a helicopter with skies. When we landed at the Rubber Plantation we were met by the whole Navy Team. He presented the ranking Officer with a bottle of King Ranoom Scotch, and said to split this with your men. The Chief Petty Officer looked, and acted like he already had a few, when he asked me to take a ride in the air boat with the big propeller on top. As soon as I stepped on the boat, the ?, started to ring, it said you made the wrong decision this time, we sailed over a million crocodiles, and he asked me was I scared. I then told him this was my first and last ride with him. When we got back to the landing, General Timmes gave me that I told you so look. A week later General Timmes asked me if I wanted to go to Singapore with them, he said Burke wants to go, and we might as well make it a family. We



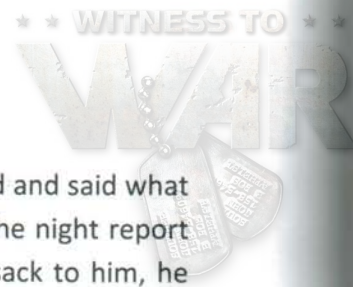
stopped over night at Qual-Lan-Pour Malaysia. That's where the tallest building in the world is. It rises above the clouds and it's a bank. When we got our luggage out of the plane, and into the room, Sandra, said I hope those damn lizards don't tickle me to sleep again. The next morning about 10 am we took off to Singapore. When we got our rooms, Sandra, said again, that lizard's are already here to greet us. Then Charles said I'll take the lizards any time than mosquitoes. That night Burke said let's wait until we hear them snoring then we will slip out and check the town out, I said ok. As we started out the door Sandra told us to get our behinds back in the room. Well, I didn't think it was a good idea in the first place, because at that time it was noted as a black market town in the world. The next morning Burke thought he had more pull, with the General, so he asked General Timmes if we could go shopping, he said sure, Sandra then said you said we, I am going along. All she was interested in buying was the beggar beads. It's a necklace full of different colored beads that you can wrap around your neck 1-2-3 times, she bought 11 of them. We then told her, you are going to do a little black marketing, I was interested in diamonds and that I belonged to the Jacquen Gold Steen Diamond Company in Belgium and had a large catalog that you could order diamonds only when you are overseas. I told her that I had ordered a new one and it should be in the mail when we get back. The next morning we flew back to Saigon, and check at the MAAG HQ, there was a note in the duty log book that a VIP named Raymond Burr had not called in for 2 days, and this needed to be checked out. I told General Timmes about this subject he said give him one more day and if he doesn't call in send the Red Cross to find him. That night he reported in, and said the batteries went dead in the walkie-talkie. That same evening I got a call from the MP gate to the compound, a Master Sergeant Freeman is at the gate and wants to see General Timmes. I told the guard that I would be right down. I consulted with General Timmes he told me the situation on this Sergeant that he had been a Provence Chief for 11 years, and the people won't let him leave. I said I would go to the gate, and escort him in. when I for the gate I introduced myself, and he said pardon his looks, and he comes in once a year to get new clothes. After a while they both came out and General Timmes said take him to G4, that's the food and clothing department and tell them that I said, to take care of this Sergeant. The next incident happened in the later part of November 1963, when 230 in the morning I received a call from the Staff Duty Officer. He wanted to know if I had a radio that has a short wave channel. I said what does this have to do for calling me at 2:30 in the morning. He then said id you will tune in the Australia, you will find out. When I turned the radio on, to the short wave channel all I could hear that President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas – I called the staff duty officer back and told him that I would take care of it. Well then me and the “?” started talking, I was not briefed on this type of situation before. We both thought over the situation and decided to call the Ambassador. I called the Marine guard on the Embassy gate and asked him if he had a radio to tune into Australia, that President Kennedy got killed in Dallas. He then told me before he turned on the radio that I had drank too many of those bommy bomb beers that had



formaldehyde in them. He turned on the radio and then said I will notify the Ambassador. I then decided to call MAAG-V Headquarters located on Saigon also. I told the staff duty officer what had happened. He then said hold the phone, and not 5 minutes later Paul D Harkins, a four star General got on the phone. He said O3, is this you? I said, yes. Well you got the nerve to start such rumor. I told him that I heard it over the radio from Australia and had already notified the Ambassador. He then had his duty officer check it out he then said you are dismissed. I then dreaded to make the next call. I called General Timmes house and Sandra answered the phone and I told her who I was and needed to talk to the General immediately. She said you sound like its important, hold on. When the General got on the phone he said O3, this better be important. I told him what had happened and what actions I had taken. He then said catch a taxi and meet me at MAAG headquarters and I will join you. When I got there, he and his driver drove up about the same time as me and the taxi. As we were walking in he asked me how did I arrive to take action on a decision as this. I told him that I wasn't briefed on this kind of problem, so me and the "?" got together and I followed the decision that we decided on. Now that I thought it over, I will let you know first next time if there will be a next time. He then told me that I made the right decision. I then told him about Perry Mason, he reported in prior and warned him. I told him that I would change from civilian clothes into a uniform. He said stay as you are and something is wrong. Why do we have to hear this over the radio and nothing on the teletype? We then asked the duty officer how come he turned on the radio on at that time of the morning, he said he had a bad dream and couldn't go back to sleep and turned the radio on. The next morning we got a call from our message center that we a 00 message. I said I would pick it up. The message read from MAAG-V to MAAG, Vietnam; that Kennedy got assassinated in Dallas, Texas. The message was signed, action taken and filed under lock. After another day making calls on telephone and radios to all the teams and outposts I told General that we need to go on another vacation he said I agree with you but we still have a lot of work to do. I just called Burke and he is bringing us something to eat. The next morning I glanced out and seen that our flag was half masked but the Vietnamese flag was not. So I had to make a call to MAAG-V and let them solve the problem. I wasn't long the Vietnamese soldier on guard was lowering the flag out half mask. We then decided another 00 message that Lyndon Bane Johnson was sworn in a President. A couple of days later, Burke the Cook called me and said we were having steaks for supper. When I got there Sandra said you never did finish the story about the Catholic priest you shot, the two soldiers I sent over said he had a German uniform under the robe. General Timmes seen the extra plate and said to his wife, I see the "?" got the word. After we ate supper I commented Burke on the good supper. I then told Sandra that I finally received the catalogue from the diamond store in Belgium. She asked me which one I had picked out. I showed her the 1 ½ carrot blue white AAA plus with a serial no in it which costs \$400.00. I told her to let me know and we will send our order together and I would like to take a 3 day pass to Thailand, Bancock before I go back to the states. When we got through



looking at the diamond book, General Timmes asked me if I ever found out the name of the colonel that put me on the glider at Omaha Beach and reported the status of all three of you back to the First Division Headquarters. I said all I remember was that he said he got lost in the deep water and didn't know how he made it ashore. I can say one thing, I don't know his name, but he stuck with us me and my bloody nose. He then asked me if they offered me a rear esherlon job. I said I wanted to go back to my old unit. I waited 10 days in the hospital for my nose to heal a little so they could take out the stitches and a Lt Colonel came in a wanted to join Eisenhower's division the 79th who will make a landing soon on Utah beach to take Cherbourg, France. He said that he often wondered where or what happened to the 03 man. Then Sandra said let's take another trip somewhere. Another week went by and General Timmes said everything is back to normal and why don't you and Burke go to Bangkok for 4 days and maybe I can get Sandra to watch the cook instead of Burke. I asked Sandra if she had made up her mind about then diamonds. She said she like five carrot yellow diamond for \$150.00. Went to the mailroom and told Sgt Hanson to get two international money orders and sent them to this address in Belgium. When I got back to the office, Burke called me all excited and wanted to know when we were leaving. I said if nothing comes up tonight we will leave tomorrow. I will check out the schedule. I check the schedule and Pan Am would leave at 0930 for Bangkok. We were told prior the hotel to go to and visit the House of Jade to find bargains. When we arrived at Bangkok, I notice a large variety of mixed people and you would be surprised how many of them speak English. After a nights rest, we caught a taxi and he took us to the House of Safire and Jade. I purchased a black Safire necklace, laced with chipped diamonds and ear bobs. I then saw Burke still looking around and he finally decided to get a large Safire stone about the size of a .50cent piece for a hundred dollars. He then said we got what we came here, so let's go home. When we got back to Saigon, Burke said he had an extra cot in his room and I could stay there all night. But first we had to show Sandra what we bought and she wanted to give us a little percentage more than what we paid for the items we bought and we said no deal. Then you don't want to know what she called us. When I got to the hotel where I was billeted, the Vietnamese policeman at the entrance told me that the new soldiers were bunching up in front of the door that is what the Viet-cong are looking for. They looked at me like I was a crazy civilian didn't know what I was doing here in the first place. At this time the policeman told me that he saw the woman on the bicycle make the block 2 times and I think she will make the last round and try something. He then told me that he would be behind the tree across the street. A few minutes later here she came again stopped be bicycle and reached for a bag on the side. She had a Chinese short barrel sub machine gun that was deadly for about 25 yards. When I walked past the crowd in the entrance room they asked me a dozen questions who I was. I said today you learned lesson no 1, they may not be lesson # 2, so don't bunch up. I then called the new staff duty officer what had happened and log it on your daily report, that 03 has the gun locked up. The next morning, still in civilian clothes I walked through the guard on duty, he said

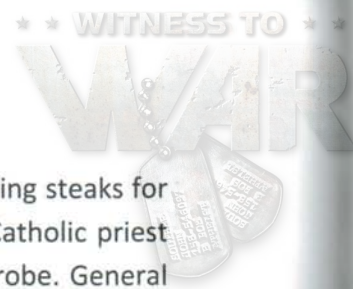


good morning 03, what you got in that bag. I said a sub machine gun, he laughed and said what else is new. When I got to the staff duty office, General Timmes was reading the night report and saw me come in and wanted to know where the gun was. I handed the sack to him, he pulled out the gun and said a lastly little think that can do a lot of damage. I told him they didn't pay any attention to the don't bunch up sign and now I had put another sign above the other sign, Lesson No 1 is over. I told him I would have the MAAG interpreter to send or I would give the policeman a letter of commendation. He then told me that is was a week before Christmas and he had some business in Tokyo and wanted to know if I wanted to go along. I told him about Cramer that I knew in North Africa, he said he knew Cramer and I told him the whole story and he said that he wanted to go with me to see him. I then told him of the 6 story building which is called the International House of Chiefs and Entertainments; you can get different food on each floor and a band plays on each floor and you can watch on the large TV. This is where we had our going away party in 1955. When we got the rooms at the International House of Chiefs, I showed Sandra how the TV and bands worked, you push one button for the TV only and they dress and look like the state side bands and sing like the real people in bands. If you push the other button the TV goes off and you can see the real band that revolves at each occupied room. Push another button and this is for menu. The food you ordered will be brought to your room. Then I told Sandra that we had our going away party when I went home in 1955. I will call Cramer in the morning at work and see if we can get together tomorrow night here. The next morning I called the engineer section at the Post of Engineers. A woman answered the phone and when she said, This is Yoko, can I help you? I asked her if she ever knew a person called boots.

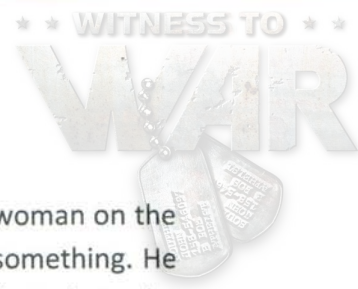


MAAG Assignment Vietnam

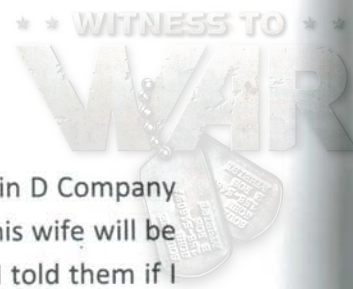
When I turned the radio on, to the short wave channel all I could hear that President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas – I called the staff duty officer back and told him that I would take care of it. Well then me and the “?” started talking, I was not briefed on this type of situation before. We both thought over the situation and decided to call the Ambassador. I called the Marine guard on the Embassy gate and asked him if he had a radio to tune into Australia, that President Kennedy got killed in Dallas. He then told me before he turned on the radio that I had drank too many of those bommy bomb beers that had formaldehyde in them. He turned on the radio and then said I will notify the Ambassador. I then decided to call MAAG-V Headquarters located on Saigon also. I told the staff duty officer what had happened. He then said hold the phone, and not 5 minutes later Paul D Harkins, a four star General got on the phone. He said O3, is this you? I said, yes. Well you got the nerve to start such rumor. I told him that I heard it over the radio from Australia and had already notified the Ambassador. He then had his duty officer check it out he then said you are dismissed. I then dreaded to make the next call. I called General Timmes house and Sandra answered the phone and I told her who I was and needed to talk to the General immediately. She said you sound like its important, hold on. When the General got on the phone he said O3, this better be important. I told him what had happened and what actions I had taken. He then said catch a taxi and meet me at MAAG headquarters and I will join you. When I got there, him and his driver drove up about the same time as me and the taxi. As we were walking in he asked me how did I arrive to take action on a decision as this. I told him that I wasn't briefed on this kind of problem, so me and the “?” got together and I followed the decision that we decided on. Now that I thought it over, I will let you know first next time if there will be a next time. He then told me that I made the right decision. I then told him about Perry Mason, he reported in p[rior and warned him. I told him that I would change from civilian clothes into a uniform. He said stay as you are and something is wrong. Why do we have to hear this over the radio and nothing on the teletype? We then asked the duty officer how come he turned on the radio on at that time of the morning, he said he had a bad dream and couldn't go back to sleep and turned the radio on. The next morning we got a call from our message center that we a 00 message. I said I would pick it up. The message read from MAAG-V to MAAG, Vietnam; that Kennedy got assassinated in Dallas, Texas. The message was signed, action taken and filed under lock. After another day making calls on telephone and radios to all the teams and outposts, I told General that we need to go on another vacation; he said I agree with you but we still have a lot of work to do. I just called Burke and he is bringing us something to eat. The next morning I glanced out and seen that our flag was half masked but the Vietnamese flag was not. Si I had to make a call to MAAG-V and let them solve the problem. I wasn't long the Vietnamese soldier on guard was lowering the flag out half mask. We then decided another 00 message that Lyndon Bane Johnson was sworn in a



President. A couple of days later, Burke the Cook called me and said we were having steaks for supper. When I got there Sandra said you never did finish the story about the Catholic priest you shot, the two soldiers I sent over said he had a German uniform under the robe. General Timmes seen the extra plate and said to his wife, I see the “?” got the word. After we ate supper I commented Burke on the good supper. I then told Sandra that I finally received the catalogue from the diamond store in Belgium. She asked me which one I had picked out. I showed her the 1 ½ carrot blue white AAA plus with a serial no in it which costs \$400.00. I told her to let me know and we will send our order together and I would like to take a 3 day pass to Thailand [Bancock] before I go back to the states. When we got through looking at the diamond book, General Timmes asked me if I ever found out the name of the colonel that put me on the glider at Omaha Beach and reported the status of all three of you back to the First Division Headquarters. I said all I remember was that he said he got lost in the deep water and didn’t know how he made it ashore. I can say one thing, I don’t know his name, but he stuck with us me and my bloody nose. He then asked me if they offered me a rear esherlon job? I said I wanted to go back to my old unit, I waited 10 days in the hospital for my nose to heal a little so they could take out the stitches and a Lt Colonel came in a wanted to join Eisenhower’s division the 79th who will make a landing soon on Utah beach to take Cherbourg, France. He said that he often wondered where or what happened to the 03 man. Then Sandra said let’s take another trip somewhere. Another week went by and General Timmes said everything is back to normal and why don’t you and Burke go to Bangkok for 4 days and maybe I can get Sandra to watch the cook instead of Burke. I asked Sandra if she had made up her mind about then diamonds. She said she like five carrot yellow diamond for \$150.00. Went to the mailroom and told Sgt Hanson to get two international money orders and sent them to this address in Belgium. When I got back to the office, Burke called me all excited and wanted to know when we were leaving. I said if nothing comes up tonight we will leave tomorrow. I will check out the schedule. I check the schedule and Pan Am would leave at 0930 for Bangkok. We were told prior the hotel to go to and visit the House of Jade to find bargains. When we arrived at Bangkok, I notice a large variety of mixed people and you would be surprised how many of them speak English. After a nights rest, we caught a taxi and he took us to the House of Safire and Jade. I purchased a black Safire necklace, laced with chipped diamonds and ear bobs. I then saw Burke still looking around and he finally decided to get a large Safire stone about the size of a .50cent piece for a hundred dollars. He then said we got what we came here, so let’s go home. When we got back to Saigon, Burke said he had an extra cot in his room and I could stay there all night. But first we had to show Sandra what we bought and she wanted to give us a little percentage more than what we paid for the items we bought and we said no deal. Then you don’t want to know what she called us. When I got to the hotel where I was billeted, the Vietnamese policeman at the entrance told me that the new soldiers were bunching up in front of the door that is what the Viet-cong are looking for. They looked at me like I was a crazy civilian didn’t know what I was



doing here in the first place. At this time the policeman told me that he saw the woman on the bicycle make the block 2 times and I think she will make the last round and try something. He then told me that he would be behind the tree across the street. A few minutes later here she came again stopped be bicycle and reached for a bag on the side. She had a Chinese short barrel sub machine gun that was deadly for about 25 yards. When I walked past the crowd in the entrance room they asked me a dozen questions who I was. I said today you learned lesson no 1, they may not be lesson # 2, so don't bunch up. I then called the new staff duty officer what had happened and log it on your daily report, that 03 has the gun locked up. The next morning, still in civilian clothes I walked through the guard on duty, he said good morning 03, what you got in that bag. I said a sub machine gun; he laughed and said what else is new. When I got to the staff duty office, General Timmes was reading the night report and saw me come in and wanted to know where the gun was. I handed the sack to him, he pulled out the gun and said a lastly little think that can do a lot of damage. I told him they didn't pay any attention to the don't bunch up sign, now I had put another sign above the other sign, Lesson No 1 is over. I told him I would have the MAAG interpreter to send or I would give the policeman a letter of commendation. He then told me that is was a week before Christmas and he had some business in Tokyo and wanted to know if I wanted to go along. I told him about Cramer that I knew in North Africa, he said he knew Cramer and I told him the whole story and he said that he wanted to go with me to see him. I then told him of the 6 story building which is called the International House of Chiefs and Entertainments; you can get different food on each floor and a band plays on each floor and on the large TV. This is where we had our going away party in 1955. When we got the rooms at the International House of Chiefs, I showed Sandra how the TV and bands worked, you push one button for the TV only and they dress and look like the state side bands and sing like the real people in bands. If you push the other button the TV goes off and you can see the real band that revolves at each occupied room. Push another button and this is for menu. The food you ordered will be brought to your room. Then I told Sandra that we had our going away party when I went home in 1955. I will call Cramer in the morning at work and see if we can get together tomorrow night here. The next morning I called the engineer section at the Post of Engineers. A woman answered the phone and when she said, this is Yoko, can I help you? I asked her if she ever knew a person called Boots. She said, Sure the best friend me and Papa ever had. I said, Yoko, This is Boots. She said, I don't believe it, but here is Papa. I told Cramer that me and General Timmes from Vietnam are here for a meeting at the 01-Echi building at 10:00 and we like to have a get together at the same place we had when me and Jeanette left in 1955. He said how about the Ambassador and his wife, I said them too. He said he would call me at 1230 today and let me know and of course Cramer is going to get it done somehow. He called at noon. See you at 7pm. After the meeting, I told General Timmes and his wife the whole story of how I met Cramer again and how I met his wife when I fell in the honey well and her mother cleaned me up, myself, Cramer and Colonel



Timmes was in the same battalion with the 16 INF Regiment, 1st Battalion. I was in D Company and Cramer was in C Co, a first lieutenant. I told them that the Ambassador and his wife will be here also. The dinner will start at 7pm and will get us when everything is ready. I told them if I got this figured right, Yoko will come to the door and say Boots we are ready. I barely got the words out of my mouth, when there was two knocks on the door and Yoko flew through the door, hugged my neck and said Lets Go and motioned all of us to come on. I shook Cramer's hand and then General Timmes said, it's been quite a while Lieutenant, then Cramer recognized Timmes and said, meetings come up when you least expect them, who would forget the old soldiers that's from North Africa. Then all the rest of them were introduced and when we all got seated Yoko again started off the gathering with a little speech. This is a get together at a last minute notice, but we are glad that the real friends can meet together again and especially Boots, who I will never forget. Then Yoko's sister should get me either. I wish Jurnt could be here, everyone clapped. Then Cramer got up and told his story and the bear hunt on Kodiak Island and how we worked together and truly glad to meet old friends. Then General Timmes got up and said, The reason I am here in Tokyo is for a special meeting and the mystery man Boots, and we call him 03, he and his "?" still has me mystified, he sometimes makes judgments on critical matters only telling me at the last moment and they turn out better than I could have solved them. The Ambassador then got up and introduced his wife and told everyone how I took care of the Embassy in time of need, when engineer problems are involved. Then Sandra Timmes held up her hand and said Burke, Stand Up. This is our cook and handyman, when he and 03 Boots get together the always try to dodge me, Boots 03 and the "?" always help me to pick out the right things as far as jewelry and the rest of the family, good luck. Meeting adjourned. Let's eat. While we were eating, we still talked about the past and how good it was to get together at an uninspected last moment. The next day General Timmes asked his wife, Do you want to stay another day or go home? She said she had enough excitement for a while. 03 Boots, how about you and Burke? I said we are ready to go. I ate Christmas with the Timmes and made a call to Jeanette and told of the get together at the same place that we had when we left Tokyo and Yoko wished you could have been here. If I remember correctly, it was February 1964 when I received a call from message center that there was a covert crypto 00 top secret message to be picked up at message center. I signed for the message and called General Timmes to come to MAAG headquarters at once. When he arrived I showed his the message which meant nothing to me or him until It got it decoded. Before I started decoding I asked him does MAAG have a decoder? He said they should have received the message first and then us. I told him I would start decoding while he was talking to MACV the higher command. The covert crypto message read, From: G2, Pentagon No 1 Commander In Chief, No 3 Secretary of State, No 4 Central Intelligence Agency, No 5 COA Covert Operation Arrangements, No 6 Paul D Harkins, MACV Commander, No 7 Charles M Timmes MAAG Assignment Officer Vietnam, No 8 General Boa-Minh Vietnam CSC 3rd corp and 4th division



commander, No 9 Crypto top secret decoder Emmitt O Tesch. The message reads as follows:
Title: This is a covert top secret message to overthrow the President of Vietnam. The above numbered people will have a meeting at their time and date this operation will take place, and how it will be administered. Signed No 3 MacNamara. This operation with the above numbered names will not discuss this covert operation for the next 10 years. After General Timmes read the message, he said let me call General Harkins again and see if he received the message. He said that at this time he hadn't received it. General Timmes then told him to come back and his NO was on the receiving end. I told General Harkins once the message is read the message will be signed by the numbered reader. They then both signed the message after their number. I asked them where they wanted to hold the meeting because I needed Minh's signature. General Harkins called in Big Minh and had me read the message to him because he did speak a little English and once he heard the message he had to sign it. After he signed the message do not mention it to no one for 10 years. They all got together and decided to get a meeting with President Zimm and Nhu the police chief, and told them that a coop was expected by all the rumors that have been going around and General Minh made a suggestion to bring his infantry division and have them stationed 2 miles out of town so we can use them if needed. They thought that was a good idea and then they shook hands and thanks us. The operation was set for Monday morning at 0900. That morning, General Timmes told me to take his wife and Burke to the Red Cross and keep them there until the operations was over. We arrived at the Red Cross at 8am and it was nothing going on. Then Sandra said Boots, I want to go home. I told her I have orders from your husband to keep you here. She said I don't take orders from him. I yes I know, but I do. She then said why can't you tell me what's going on, I looked at my watch and said it's about time and heard the first shell go off. Sandra then said I've heard that rumor for a long that they were going to over throw the government. When General Minh entered the President's Palace he could not find either person. He notified us at MAAG to that effect and said his soldiers had found a tunnel and they would follow the tunnel to see where it led. About 2 hours later they called us and said they were found in the Catholic Church in Cholon, Chinese sector in north Saigon. General Minh then wanted to know what action he would take. General then called me from MAAG. He said he was on his way to pick me up and tell Sandra it won't be long before you can go home. When we arrived at the Catholic Church, they had the hands tied in the back. General Timmes told Minh to tell them they were to be flown out of the country to an unknown place and to never return to Vietnam again. After Big Minh told them that Nhu spit in Big Minh's face and he asked General Timmes not what General Timmes told Minh, use your own judgment. He then told a soldier to get him 2 plates and had them bow down head first and shot both of them in the back of the head. We followed the tunnel the next day and it led through the zoo, where we found a lot of human bones where they a fed people to the animals. That would agree with them.



ASSIGNMENT TO FORT SILL OKLAHOMA

After the word got out that the government was overthrown, the people started dancing in the street, but where was Madam Nhu? No one will ever know she left her 2 kids in the President's Palace and the Ambassador's wife had control of them. I checked at the Post Office and our packages came in from Belgium. I went to his office, knocked on the door 3 times and he said come in and I told him I had our packages from Belgium could I hitch hike a ride home with him? I said just a minute the "?" is bugging me again, I said Oh yes, I about forgot, General Timmes we have to send a message to McNamara No 3 to let him know that covert missions has been completed. He said I am glad you thought of it, writ it out and I will sign it. I took the message to message center and signed tit and they sent it to the starting point. When we got to General Timmes house Sandra wouldn't speak until she spotted the packages. I told her to open hers first, and it was a 15 carat yellow diamond and looked like a sunny side up fried egg. When I opened mine, it was a two carat instead of 1 1/2. General Timmes said you have 10 days left before you leave and why don't you go to Chinatown and get those mounted. General Timmes told us of an optical place in Cholon and there was a jewelry store next door. We took a taxi and going through the motions with fingers up to our eyes, we found the place. When we entered the store, there stood an old Chinese man with his beard touching his knees. We went through the motions again and he got the word. He motioned for us to sit and gave us a cup of tea while he went to work. He first measured her finger and wanted to know, silver or gold, Sandra pointed to the gold. When he had her ring mounted he tried it on her and it fitted perfect. She said this ring shines better that a cat's _____ in the moonlight. He then look at my two carat diamond held it up to the light and said No 1 took my measurement and wanted to know again silver or gold. I pointed to the gold. When we ready he pointed to my old ring and held up 1 finger which meant No 1. I then asked him if he had a larger stone. He brought out a 20 carat Alexandra stone mounted in 24 karat gold with an opening on the top for a chain. Sandra said, How in the hell we are going to pay for all of this? I told Sandra that I had a hundred dollar bill and they like American green better than any money. I showed him the bill and he bowed with a big grin on his face. Sandra then said, No wonder my husband likes you 03. You get things done.



FROM VIETNAM ON LEAVE

The day before I left Vietnam, I picked up my orders, leave request and packed my bag, a B4 bag, the folding kind and went to the Red Cross and made a call to Jeanette in Dallas. When she answered the phone I said I bet you don't know who this is? She said, Mr.? I would recognize your voice anywhere. I told her we would land at 3:30pm at Love Field 16 March. I then caught a taxi and went to the Big Party that was scheduled there tonight at General Timmes house. I knocked on the door and Burke answered the door. He said, Go on in the living room. I think Sandra is taking a bath. I was sitting on the couch admiring my diamond ring when two hands caught me around my neck and she gave me a big hug and a kiss. She then walked off and said I had better get dressed for tonight. I told her that I wished I had gained a little more since I left the jungle, now my pants are way too big, so I guess the "?" let me down for the first time. She then came up to me and said for me to open my shirt a little and she said I was right, you are wearing that Alexandrite stone. How come it's a different color?



PAN AM FROM SAIGON TO DALLAS

I told her the stone has a mind of its own. It picks out the loudest color in the room and changes to that color. When General Timmes came in I noticed he had something under his arm in a square box. He then wanted to see the ring's mountings, he said, I be that 24 carat gold ring set you back. The Sandra started laughing and told him about the \$100.00 counterfeit money he had and the jeweler was glad to get it. He then said I guess we don't owe you anything, she said look at that necklace around his neck, it has a mind of its own. The General wanted to know why I was wearing the necklace around my neck and what kind it was. He said that I got a deal of a lifetime. I told him the reason, when you wear it you more and likely get through customs better. Sandra then asked me what size pants I wore, I said 36x31. She told her husband that his dress Army pants are too big because he lost 60 pounds, don't you have an old suit you don't wear anymore and want to get rid of? He said when I get you dressed up, you will look like Dick Tracy, shoes, hat and suit. After I tried the suit it fit perfect and then Sandra spoke up, now we are even. We had a nice steak dinner and General Timmes said a nice prayer before we ate, and it gave him great joy meeting a friend from the past like O3. He presented me with a gallon of King Ransom Scotch for a going away present. General Timmes, his wife and Burke his cook accompanied me to Tans-Sa-Note airport and General Timmes told the pilot about the gallon of Scotch. There was no problem unless it's more than a gallon. I saluted General Timmes, kissed Sandra on the cheek, shook hands with Burke and as I climbed aboard on the steps Sandra shouted, they only come one in a million. We made the same old stops, Manila, Honolulu, San Francisco and Dallas. We landed at Love Field and when I walked out of the closed ramp I spotted Jeanette and Ruby, still waiting to see when I was coming out. I walked right past them and hollered I'm over here. Jeanette and Ruby turned around and wondered how they missed me. I told them that I lost so much weight that I had to borrow a suit to wear. Then Jeanette spoke up and said I'm going with you the next time. I told her of the party we had in Tokyo. That Yoko and Ono said they wishes Jurnt was here. We made the same old stops. Manila, Honolulu, San Fransico and Dallas. At that time Ruby asked me what I had in the square box. I said I don't know that the General gave it to me when I left Saigon. I told them to wait till we got to the café.