



### Assigned to the 293 Engineers at Baumholder

The Colonel then introduced me to all of the NCO's, and said that he, and I, served together with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Group in Korea in 1961, and 62. He has his wife here and tonight I have instructed S/Major Robinson to get us a place in the NCO Club, for our family get together and it's all on me. We had 20 Sergeants and their wives at the supper, and get together including Colonel Dornbush wife. When we got back to our Quarters, Jeanette wanted to know if you and the ?, had something to do with arranging the get together, I said no not this time. The next night M/Sgt Bestland brought his wife over and she still remembered me when she me and Duke at the Bakersfield, Calif. dance. One Sunday afternoon, there was a knock on the door, Jeanette opened it, and she shouted for me to come to the door quick, there was Murphy, the big bulldog wanting to come in, I had to tell the story about Murphy, after 1Sgt Wolf and his wife came in. He then told Murphy to sit, and shake hands with Jeanette got word that her sister, husband, and daughter was coming on a tour of Germany, France, and Switzerland. They wanted us to meet them at Heidelberg, at a certain times, and DATC. I explained this to the Colonel, he said take as much time as you need. I will sit in for you.



### On leave From Baumholder

We had already picked up our Mercury car from Bremenhausen, so this will be a good time to see the country for me again. When their bus rolled in, at Heidelberg, we were there to meet them at the hotel they were scheduled to stay. They said they had seen a lot of scenery but they enjoyed Switzerland the most, so far. Jeanette asked her sister Rudell how much time they had left. Rudell said they will fly back in a few days because they just got word, that a hurricane just hit Corpus Christi, Texas. So we will pay our way back, Jerry my brother-in-law, wanted to know a good place to eat, I said let's go to the Beer Café, when we arrived at it about 3 blocks away, it had a saying when you walked in, the bottle is big and tall, the walls are thick, the food is good and plenty full. The entertainment is good, and the beer is cold. The woman at the entrance took us in, seated us, and said ina-goot-aritet: which means a good appetite. The band was playing the little trains were running all over the place. Betty Lou, their daughter, wanted to know what the trains were for. I said, look in front of you, you see 3 buttons. I punched the first button, and a man came on German and English. You push the second button the train comes to your table and stop with the price of the total meals ordered. Put your money in the little box car, push the 3<sup>rd</sup> button and off goes the train, and when your order is ready, here comes the little train pulling 5 little box cars attached because of the 5 meals, 1 meal each boxcar per person. Betty Lou, Rudell's daughter, said trains taking the place of a waitress sure saved the café a lot of money. At this time the band, started to play lone ranger song, and was dressed like in the real movie. I told everyone, they dress, and sing for the real thing. They all thanked me for bringing them here, and Jeanette said the ?, had something to do with it. The next I decided to take them to King Ludwick's Castle in the middle of the Chem Sea. We had to take a boat 2 miles to the Castle. At the entrance was a big imitation of a large eagle with a big diamond for eyes. Rudell then told Jeanette they remind me of all that junk you have on, it must have cost you an arm and a leg. Jeanette grinned, looked at me, and said the ?, bought it for me a one hundred dollar bill. They enjoyed look at the big bathroom, looked like solid gold, the big dining room, where the dining room table with meals, come up from the basement like a elevators.





### Going to the Eagles Nest and back to Heidelberg

When we caught the boat back to where our car was parked, Ruedell wanted to know how long the King lived there, I said I was told 2 nights. I asked them if they wanted to go see Hitler's Hideshow, the Eagle's Nest. And they said I was doing fine, a hell of a lot better than our tour guide and lead the way. We spent the night in Burchas, Garden at the Army Resort Center, which was a real interesting place, slot machines, old grandfather clocks, and a lot of other things that the Germans call junk, but we would pay a fortune for. The next morning after breakfast, we caught a bus with a bunch of other Americans to the gate that opened up for us, and the driver told us that we will be traveling on a one way road about 5km per hour to the elevator that will take us to the elevator. When on bus gets to the elevator, the other waiting bus will come down. He laughed a little and said don't look at the clouds down there, you may get excited. When we arrived at the elevators we traveled 2000 feet straight up into the house. The driver also the tour guide told the audience, that the rug was given to Hitler from a hero from Japan, and when you look out of this window you can see countries. Betty Lou, Ruedell's daughter wanted to go back to the Beer Café in Heidelberg one more time and watch the trains. Ruedell wanted to know why the walls were so thick on this beer bottle. I told her the brewed beer in the walls. We went back to the hotel with them, stayed all night, and the next morning took them to the Bon-Haff and the caught a train to Frankfurt, and then my old plane Pan-Am to Dallas, then S/West to Corpus Christi, where they lived. Me and Jeanette went back to Baumholder with our daughter Debbie to our quarters. I went to work the next morning and Col. Dornburn wanted to know if we had a good time. I told him the rest had a good time but I had been to all these places before. He then told me of the promotion board coming up in a week, and I put your name up for E8, if you make it, and don't like Kaiser-Slotten, you can request to go back to Vietnam, he then said he was joking. I was promoted to E8, which calls for a First Sergeant assignment. So I was assigned to the 523<sup>rd</sup> Engineers at Keiserslotten. When I was interviewed by the colored Lt. Colonel, I felt the trouble coming on. He looked at my records, and made the remark, I see where you have been many places. But here I give the orders, and no one else. I met all First Sergeants, and they told me that he gives the orders, and we get the blame.



### Assigned to the 549<sup>th</sup>

Engineers at Kaischrsloffen, Germany. When I met my Company Commander of company "B" I knew I was in for trouble, he was afraid of his shadow. That whatever he decided to do he might do it wrong. After a week of checking out the Motor Pool and the past morning reports, I knew we had a lot of work to do before the command inspection I thought he stood a chance of passing. And then I found a locked barracks that was full of junk, like bags of cement, spare tires + every that you could think of. I asked him what the idea was having all this junk. He said we need this stuff, and you are not going to get rid of it. When the inspection team arrived, I recognized General Pressley, who was my CO, at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He came up to me, I saluted him, and wanted to know how I was doing. I didn't say anything, just shook my hand, he then said I will chat with you later. All of the 5 company's flunked the inspection. After it was over, General Pressley called me over the one side, now tell me what is wrong. I told him what the PN CO, told me a year ago when I arrived. He said that's what I figured. He then said I need you at the 77<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Heidelberg.



### Back to Vietnam Second Trip

I told the General, thanks anyway, just to get out of here. I'll take Vietnam for one more year and then retire. I then asked him to issue orders to that effect. He said I sure will, and you should have them within a month, and I will let you know the outcome, on this situation. Note: he later informed me that the Colonel was riffed, and the pill 9 months in order to retire as a Colonel as a Corporal. I received orders and was to report to the 549<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and be First Sergeant of Company "B: at Anhke. The First Cavalry Division was there at this time. I arrived there in February 1968, and out job was mostly building bridges from Pleique, to Quinyon, and burning tress along the roads sides that had been sprayed with dioxin. After 4 months, Col Atkinson calls me in, and wanted me to be his acting Sergeant Major. I was with him for another 5 months, when I because paralyzed, I could not urinate, or have a bowel movement. Colonel Atkinson flew down by the helicopter to Quinyon. They administered about a quart of dye in my veins and found out that I had only one kidney, and my tubes going to the kidney was clogged up. After drilling out a cup full of crystals form my tubes and the kidney started to beat. The doctor claimed that the water had too much chlorine in the water.





### From Vietnam to the Philippines to Fort Hood, Texas

I was evacuated in January 1969, to the Philippines by plane on a stretcher because I got up to soon from the spinal shot, when I arrived in Manila, I told the nurse to give me a shot that would make me sleep for a while. When I woke up, there were about 15 Koreans inline waiting to shake hands with me before they went back to Korea. I remained in Manila a week watching the nurses netting on roosters fights, that's the big sport in the Philippines. I caught a ride on a coffin flight which was going to Charleston, South Carolina, the Colonel said that I had to ride with him, the Co Pilot, and Engineer up front, because he had 300 coffins in back. He had me set in the Co Pilot's seat and tried to show me how to fly the plane. He said we are flying on 45degrees and no one on our back asmath of 225degrees is allowed. He said the plane was in remote control to fly on this certain degree. When we landed in Engleadorf, Alaska, I had on short sleeve khakis and about to freeze. The Colonel said you can put on my jacket and be a Colonel for a day. He said that we will be here for 2 hours from a custom inspection. And then we have the long hop, to Charleston, SC.



### Assigned to Fort Hood to retire

From Charleston to Dallas, I hadn't notified my wife that I was coming early from Vietnam, so I caught a taxi, from Love Field to my home. I knocked on the door, and an old friend named Edna Miller answered the door, and hollowed out, Emmitt is here. The Jeanette rushed to the door, and wanted to know why I was home early? I told her the problem and she wanted to know how I got in the Army in the first place. I told her when you are drafted, they shine a light in your mouth, and see day light from your rear you know that you have passed. I told her that I would be on a light duty assignment at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Engineers at Fort Hood, until I decided to retire. We then all 3 of us sat down, had a cup of coffee, and told me that Polk Miller, her husband had died of a heart attack, I then told that the ? and I, agreed that this was my last time to go overseas in the Army. When I reported in to the 63<sup>rd</sup> Engineers I was assigned to the Battalion Commander as acting Sergeant Major. This time I had a big Swedish Colonel, and whatever I said was ok with him. I was on the list to make Sergeant Major and was told that I had to serve 1 year in order to retire. So when my wife had a severe heart attack, I had to retire with 27 1/2 years and put 21/2 years on acting reserved and had to report to Fort Hood 2 times 2 days each time.

This is my story and there is so much more. I hope all that read it will enjoy and remember myself and countless other men and women who served our country proudly.

