

HI TED:

10 Dec, 2016

I had to give up on supporting the Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech. After nearly 2 reams of typed stories I flat ran out of input. I had a few other stories from the list of covered topics, But I just could remember anything to go with the title. I remember one titled school kits. I knew or more precise the 25th Inf Div was handing out back-packs filled with paper, pencils I guess crayons etc. This was for the poor children would have some stuff in school. I had several other I all but forgot the name, and I had no idea of the motif for the job.

I did write a 23 page story for the Pearl Harbor Newspaper. It concerned the 2 months I spent on a ocean going tub boat with the Smithsonian Institution Division of BIRDS. Yeal I was in the Army on a Navy ship filming the S.I. people banding birds on tropic islands around the equator. Crossing the equator just South of Baker Island I became a SHELLBACK . This was on our way to Pago Pago, American Samoa. This U.S. territory lies about 400 miles South of the Equator and we stopped there for re-fuelling and the only mail call for 2 months.

Seven months later after I had talked with the editor for the project and found out he might know a Robin if he saw one, but tropical bird he knew nothing. Thus during the project I typed a 23 page summary of the islands the vegetation, the adults, the eggs and nests, the nestlings, immatures birds and differences between sexes if any in size or markings. Like a ring neck phesant the females are dull brown while the males are brightly colored.

7 months later I was shoved onto a project at the last minute by absolute demand by DESERET TEST CENTER. I was the reconnaissance for a project on BAKER Island. Along with the S.I. Team was a bug collector from the Navy's Pearl Harbor 6th Entomology. He was looking mostly for mosquitos, but was collected every bug, insect he located. I was on the 6th of an 8 part 2 year survey of the Central Pacific. I was to be jarred into realization that one island close by CHRISTMAS ISLAND had a atmospheric ATOMIC BOMB DETONATED over the island and this project to see if neutron bomb cause nutation to living things, plants, bugs and mammals.

Of couse Deseret Test Center got a copy of my 23 page story and was all the recon they needed. All the other cameraman that went of on the other 7 voyages Baker Island was just a dot in the Pacific Ocean. For Me it meant living plants, birds and bugs. Exactly what they needed. An on site know it all.

That was 2 of the 12 projects I worked on for DTC. Since The Nixon Administration halted all R&D of CBR/NBC agents and I worked on a dozen I have 87 page stories of my days testing nerve agents, atom bombs and biological agent tests. I think its labelled RESEARCH ONLY

Over

That was when I became an apprentice chemical munition person. Today I believe I'm the only living American that not only armed, but detonated a CHEMICAL WEAPON on U.S. soil. I only know 2 others that did it and if they are still alive both would be pushing a 100 years old.

In every other test I worked on a Field Grade Military Officer as TEST DIRECTOR or DAC GS-9 or higher Dept. Of The Army Civilian actually detonated the chemical weapon after the chemical munition men armed the ordnance. This one project was so isolated only phone lines connected the chemical munition men with the C.P. where the officialdom was located. Anyway the people that armed the weapon actually detonated the munition at the GO-A HEAD SIGNAL.

So I actually asked to armed and detonate one 155mm Artillery round filled with about 3 quarts of "GB" NERVE AGENT in the wild of Alaska.

Working with chemical weapons was tightly controlled, much like atomic weapons NO ONE PERSON HAS ALL THE CONTROL. Its split up between arming and actual detonation. EXCEPT FOR THIS ONE PROJECT. The worst part there isn't a MOS for chemical munitions man in the Army only in the DAC forces.

*Bill Loulke*