

**Korean War Veterans feature Don Hinners concluded**



Employees of the snack bar



Bar



Various employees - Don 4th from left. Don would return to base after the club closed at midnight.



You may have heard of plate spinning, well this is cup catching.



Don on the left. The other man was a civilian photographer who frequented the club and took pictures for Don.

While overseas, Don was able to travel and see other parts of Europe including Dublin, Ireland, and London, England. Don's good friend, Bill Durham (who he met at the EM Club) was a member of the U.S. Air Force and was often able to get Don free flights. On a boat trip to Ireland the soldiers didn't book a room for the all-night trip, but it worked out as the captain gave them free first-class beds because they were soldiers. While in Ireland, they met a politician from Texas who gave Don and the other soldiers a ride back to Germany in his plane.



FRANKFURT Bayer. Attraktions- und Stimmungskapelle Schorsch Lettenmeyer  
One of the bands Don saw in Frankfurt, Germany



Don on the right purchased the Indian motorcycle while in Germany. He wished now he would have brought it back home with him. The man on left is Charlie Orr from Florida...he served in the same Ordnance company with Don.



View from Don's barracks on the Rhine Ordnance base. Men from the Rhine Ordnance leaving the base for an overnight bivouac. You can see the forest in the background.

Don would get up at 6:00 am. and then spend eight hours at the welding shop on base where he rebuilt wrecked jeeps and vehicles. A fact of the military is that the men who served were young and some had a tendency to drive fast and take chances when driving up steep trails, so they would wreck the vehicles.

Don had a crew of eight German women who cleaned the disassembled parts that another crew had given them. Don noted how many of those women were pregnant and really shouldn't have been putting their hands in parts cleaner...they didn't use any rubber or protective gloves.

Another duty Don had was once a week he would be on guard duty around the tanks and munitions. There were generally two on duty at a time. A sergeant of the guards would check up on them during the night to make sure they were on their feet and patrolling the area with their weapons.

After serving on the base for a while, Don was hired full time as the assistant manager at the EM club in Kaiserslautern so he was dismissed from most of the other military duties and bivouac training sessions.

Don's barracks was a three-story brick building. They had large rooms which housed six men.

The Polish military also served on this base. Don attended the Polish Catholic Church even though he couldn't understand the sermons.



Two story wooden barracks at the Engineering section where Herb Eich (shown above) lived on the Rhine base at Kaiserslautern.

The Rhine base was near a mile long bridge that was blown up during WWII and had not been rebuilt as of 1952-53.

Don made lots of great friends while in the Army. On his last night at the EM Club, around fifty tearful fellow employees got together to say good bye and sing "So Long, It's Been Good to Know You."



Herbie Eich on left. Each post on the base had a PX. You could get a haircut there for 25 cents.

Don would purchase coffee and cigarettes in the PX and then give them to the German workers at the EM club. They had approximately 30 cooks in the kitchen alone.

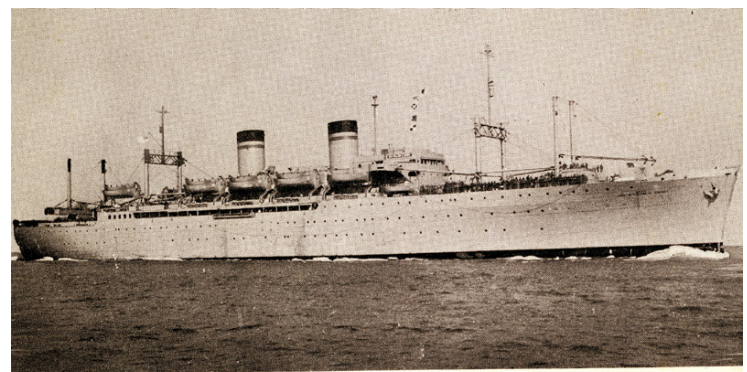


Mess hall

On the return trip home they ran into a typhoon. The ship had to head directly into the waves or it could have capsized. This lasted for 24 hours and the ship was forced backwards about fifteen miles. The men weren't supposed to go out on deck from below but Don did. Everyone was sick below deck and he wanted to get away from that experience.

Don received the National Defense Service Medal and was discharged from the Army on January 21, 1954.

After his Army discharge, Don served six years of inactive duty with the National Guard and was discharged on February 10, 1960.

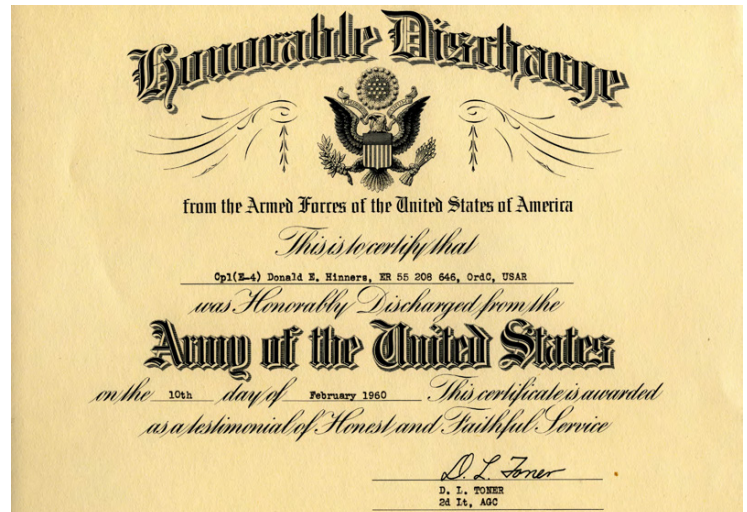


U.S.N.S. GENERAL Wm. O. DARBY (T-AP 127)

USNS Darby

While Don doesn't have a picture of his transport ship, the Darby was anchored right next to the ship Don was transported on when he arrived at the German port.

Don can't remember the name of the military transport ship he was on, but he returned home on the very same ship.



February 10, 1960 discharge certificate



2014 Don & Lois Hinners 60th wedding anniversary

Korean Veteran feature continues next week