



Duane wrote on back: "You can see the barge on the pier that is where we hauled off of. This is Naha."

Barges delivered supplies from the large transport ships out in the bay/ocean.

Naha is a city on the East China Sea coast of the southern part of Okinawa Island, the largest of Okinawa Prefecture. The modern city was officially founded on May 20, 1921. Before that Naha had been for centuries one of the most important and populous sites in Okinawa.

**Duane's rough draft story that will be refined later on.**

Tec 5 Duane Edwin Wegner 37766127 was born April 16, 1926, Aspinwall. He farmed 190 acres with his father near Botna, from 1941 to 1945.

Duane reported to local draft board Norgaard's Drug Store in Harlan on April 3, 1945, at 2:30 PM. Anita Ramsey was clerk of local draft board.

Induction with immediate active service began on April 4, 1945, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Duane recalls riding a passenger train from Kansas, through Missouri, and down to Texas.

He received orders for Camp Fannin, near Tyler, Texas April 9, 1945 where he served with Company B 84th Battalion, 15th Regiment. While in Texas he trained in the infantry for four months and for two months as a M-1 Rifleman and began heavy truck driver training.

Duane doesn't specifically remember the training he had and if he trained specifically for a possible invasion of Japan but he thinks he did.

Duane recalled that the day he left Camp Fannin, the war was over.

Based on a postcard dated September 4, 1945, Duane was transferred to Fort. Riley, Kansas. He wrote on back that he was leaving the next day but did not know where to.

During Duane's interview he recalled he was sent to Camp Adair, Oregon, and then to a camp in Seattle, Washington, where he stayed for two weeks before heading overseas.

He recalls it took not quite a month to get to Okinawa but the return trip home was about two weeks...his discharge papers back up that his memory was correct on these facts.

Duane received orders for Okinawa on October 9, 1945, and arrived October 29, 1945. He served under Battery D 586th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. He drove military vehicles up to and including six ton trucks to haul supplies, equipment, and personnel; independently and in convoys. He drove day and night through all kinds of weather and over all types of terrain. He serviced and lubricated vehicles and performed minor repairs and held an army vehicle operator's permit.

One memory Duane had that was very vivid is that very few buildings were still standing when he arrived in Okinawa.

Duane received \$32 a month take-home wages after insurance was taken out. Duane kept this money to live on while in Okinawa.

Duane boarded the USAT GEN D.E. Aultman (AP-156) and left Okinawa October 23, 1946 and arrived in San Francisco November 6, 1946. He was on terminal leave from November 21, 1946 to December 30, 1946, and recommended for further military training.

He received his Honorable Discharge at the Separation Center, Fort Sheridan, Illinois, on December 30, 1946, with a final rank of Corporal (T-5).

**Decorations and citations:**

Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Japan medal.

Issued Lapel button, 1 overseas service bar

His muster out pay was \$300 with \$24.45 travel pay - total amount \$525.25

Served 7 months and 29 days in the US

Served 1 year and 28 days overseas



Professional photo of the traffic circle south of Kadena airfield handled as many as 20,000 vehicles a day by mid-August of 1945.



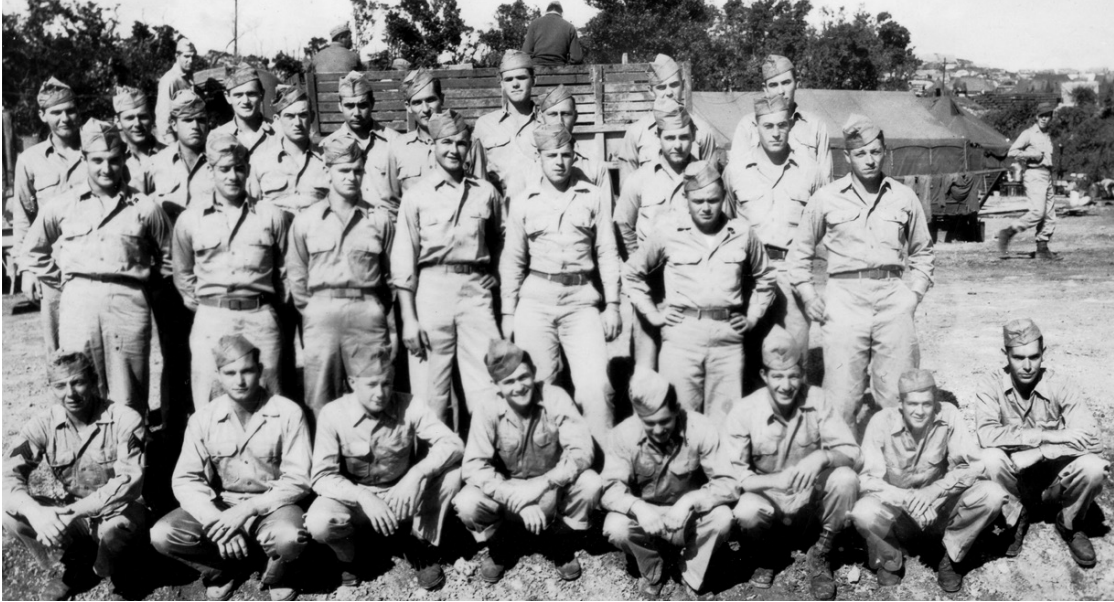
USAT Ultman - actual photo when Duane arrived in San Francisco



Japanese prisoners were used to load cargo at the pier.



Above: What's left of the boys' high school in Shuri, Okinawa  
Below: Isa cemetery - Duane drove daily on the road in background



Above: Duane back row 2nd from right (partially hidden)  
Below: Rice paddy



Even during world war, life continued on for some...



Photos in this part of the article that show dead Japanese soldiers who were killed during the Battle for Okinawa on April 1, 1945.

Troop train through Manning  
A troop train went through Manning on the Great Western - stopped for about a half hour. None of the men got off the train.

Duane didn't remember anyone from town greeting them during their short stay.

They were coming from San Francisco and went through Manning then headed to Illinois where Duane was discharged.

Duane returned home on the Milwaukee streamliner which stopped in Manilla. Duane called his dad who came to bring him home.

Pete Siem talked Duane into joining the Manning VFW.



Timed exposure of Anti-aircraft shells fired during the nighttime. Duane wrote on back: "I was told this is what it looked like the day the war was over. They thought the Japanese were attacking Okinawa again. They were shooting at each other. They said everybody had to dive for the foxholes."

WWII continues next week.