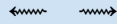


The Lost Two Years

by Ramsay Blair



My name is Donnal and I just started university in an English one even though I am bilingual. The French universities had my course but I was lucky to get a grant from the English universities which paid for the course. I am taking a science program in chemistry. The first week in school was interesting but hard. I started to make some friends and I found a place to live near the campus. Around the neighbourhood, the people were friendly and quietly willing to help you. This is a good place to live in.

In our land, there is some political discourse. In my state, some people would like to leave the country so the government decided to hold a referendum. The referendum vote would be held in two weeks and the debate was starting to heat up. People were picking sides, for or against and in some areas it got violent. In school people debate about this topic and some were heated but peaceful. On the day of the referendum, I am going to vote against separation. The people decided to leave our country but there was something wrong with the vote. They got over eighty percent of the vote which was too high so the central government asked for a

recount by the UN which they agreed to. This would take a month for them to do. In the meantime, everything would continue as normal.

Every day while walking to school I passed a busy army base but this time there was nobody around and nobody was at the gate. The base looked like it was empty until I saw a convoy of trucks moving out of this base. I continued to school to the end of the day. I found out that the troops were moving out of our land and all the armouries were empty too. During the weekend I was walking around the dock where I saw two large fraters (freighters - boat?) unloading military equipment and many troops were offloading too. They move off to the empty base and they move right in. During the week they started to patrol our city. Our local government on the air told us that these troops were here to protect us from troublemakers and this was done in every city in the state. I got a feeling that things were not going to be good. A

few days later I was on campus in front of the lab building. I looked up and saw a flight of fighters going toward the airport. They were Russian Migs fighters and I had a feeling our land was being taken over. A friend of mine saw arm patrol ships on the river. What is going on?

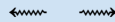
That night the leader came on the TV to explain that the military was here to bring in a smooth transition and the people would be giving a new ID card within two weeks. He told the people that everything was going to be alright. He talked more about what the government was going to do to improve their lives in the land. What he said was interesting but I felt that wasn't going to work out. What about the recount? If the count was turned over, what would happen next? The people who plan this takeover? They must have worked on this for many years and if the recount goes bad for them they would stay the course. They believed with the military in place the central government would not do anything. For me, there was no change for now.

During the week a team came into the school to take our picture for the ID card which they gave it right away. The first thing I noted was that the french students had a different colour than mine. I asked one of the workers about different colours and he said, "It's just to help the people to give aid to the other languish for their school and work. Is this a good thing?" I don't think this idea was a good thing but only time would tell. My class was going well this week and I am starting to like chemistry more and more. On the streets, I noticed there was some tension around because maybe it was close to the recount revue. The UN said they would have the recount by mid-week.

The UN gave their report, which showed that the vote was mist handled and a lot of the no-volts were miscounted. When they did the recount the no side won by 60 %. The vote was counted three times with the same result. The state government right away challenged the result. They ask the world court to review the UN decision which the court agreed to. For me, this was a delaying tactic for the state to further strengthen its control on the land. I believed the state knew this would happen and they would be so strong that the world would do nothing about it. Our central government would give in and that would be it. I believed that the state would do something stupid which would force the central government to invade the land. I hope this doesn't happen. Like I said before only time will tell.

My program was becoming fun because I started to work in the lab to work with

chemicals. This was what I always wanted to do. In the neighbourhood, people were talking about what was going to happen next. The people I talked to were alarmed about the future but they felt they couldn't do anything about it. Everything was going smoothly until one day at the campus the police came in and checked all our IDs. They said they're going to set up checkpoints for people coming and going from the school and there will be a curfew at eleven PM for the campus. We found out that only the English school was put under curfew. Throughout the land, this was going on and it looks like they're clamping down on the non-French communities. I felt that this was going down a slippery road. The school printable (principal) brought the school together and asked us to pack a bag with the close for two months and leave them in the school. He told us that you might have to leave school and go back home. He was right but instead of going home some of us were round-up and sent to an internment camp. I was one of them. Before we left they told us that we would become foreigners and would be deported from the land.



In the Internment Camp

With arms guards around us, we hopped on the bus and after two hours we arrived at an old army camp surrounded by guard towers. I was taken to a building where an old man met us and showed us to our bunks. Then he explains the roles which were, you wake up at six and at seven you have breakfast then at eight there would be a headcount then some of you would work around the camp. Lunch at twelve, suppers at six pm, light out at ten. Tomorrow you will be giving your work assignments. My job was to help repair the camp and build new barracks.

We were pissed off at what happened to us but we couldn't do anything about it. It happened so fast we didn't have time to think. That way they did it this way. On the first day in the camp, I had a good look around. They had six guard towers around the fence. One main gate and two others, outside the gate, was the barracks for the guards. Inside there were about one hundred barracks, three kitchens and twenty storage buildings. My first job was to work in one of the storage buildings to make shelves to store things. It was fun because I like to build things and since I am stuck here I guess I'll do the best I can. That night the old man introduced himself as Johnson. He said, "Do you remember when you were in high school during the summer you

worked in testing army equipment for three summers.” I look at him for a while then smile. Then said I remember you were the head engineer and we only met a few times. How did you land here? Johnson said, " I talk against the breakup of our country too loudly so I landed up here quite a few of us in this camp. The rest are like you caught up in the madness of this government trying to make this land only French. I will talk with you more later than enough for you to think about it for now.” He went off to his barrack for the night and went to sleep.

The next morning I was sent to work in the hospital which was on the edge of the wire. It was a three-story building completely equipped as a hospital and it has two main doors, one in the camp and the other outside. I think I should explain more about the barracks. There, two storeys tall on each floor had showers, a washing area and a room for washing close. For now, there are twenty people on each floor. Down the road from the guard barrack was the administration building and around their other buildings that looked empty. While working in the hospital I ran into people from the village hereby. I talk to some of them and they seem to be nice people but are nervous around me and the guards seem not too bad. Now I’m in the barracks for the night. By the way, the only time the guard carried weapons was at night. Now I have a good idea of how the camp works.

Just before the curfew, I walked around with Johnson and we talked about different things. This time he asked me if I could drive a truck and I said yes. He then said there was going to need drivers to pick up cargo from a train station nearby. He asked other people and now he has enough drivers for the job. I ask him how do you know what the camp commander needs? He looks at me then smiles, I am part of a team that works with the commander to make life better in the camp. Tomorrow the truck would be waiting for the drivers. He was right. The truck was outside the wire and there were ten of them with a guard in each one. We drove for about ten minutes over a bumpy trail. We came upon four train lines and one had ten cars on it. Each truck drove up to a car and with the driver and guard offloaded the car then we all drove off back to the camp. We went to three storage buildings and offloaded the trucks into the building. By now I am getting used to the camp routine.

It’s been about a month now, and on the radio, we heard that the court would give their decision within two weeks. We still don’t know when or if they're going to deport us. On our

walks, I asked Johnson if he knew what was going on and he replied evening the camp commander does not know. One morning I heard the sound of armed equipment moving in when I stepped outside the guard towers had machine guns on them and took them outside. At the row call our guards were with us behind the wire, and the army had taken over the camp. The army commander said you are now under army control and the guards are now enemies of the state like you are. The new roles would be posted in each barrack for you to read. I read them, and the only difference was that our movement would be restricted around the camp. A five people delegation met the new commander. The commander brought them in front of us and said this would not be tolerated and right in front of us he had them a shot. Then he said, “this is a warning you are now a prisoner of the state.”

The whole camp was afraid but angry and didn't know what to do. That night in each barrack we talked about what to do. Each barrack desired to get out of the camp and all the camp agreed but how to do it without being cot. I talked to Johnson about the problem and he told me that there was a way out of the camp. The only problem was the guards have to be taken out quietly. Some people are trained to do this. Would you help them? I thought for a while then said yes. Tomorrow during the count in front of the barrack they would put a bug in them. My people were telling people not to say anything about what we were doing. This was hard to do because people were afraid and somebody might squeal on us. If it's going to work, we all got to work together. He was right, they searched all the barracks which took all morning. This gave us a chance for all of us to talk about what to do and everybody was on track.

Johnson told me that I was trained for this because of the training you receive when you work during the summer. We have friends outside that could help us and tonight with me we would go outside to meet them. In each barracks, their tunnels go under the wires to a different part of the base. Nobody knows about this because there were no plans. I know this because my father built this camp during the First World War. This was done because if the camp was attacked people could escape. That night we went outside to the railway track where we met his contact. We talk about how to get the people out then we snuck back into the camp. Johnson told me that we got to move fast before they put their plans into effect.

The guards during the day came in and snash people then at night they came back beat

up. They started to shut down our supply coming into the camp. The camp commander told us if you want them you would have to pay two thousand dollars a week. We could do this for a while, but he only gave us half the food we needed so we only had two meals a day. It looks like they are trying to slowly get rid of us. Also, there cutting down on our water coming in, we only have water during the day. We gotta get out of this place.

One night I was taken down to a room filled with weapons I tested when I was younger. Johnson said these weapons are the ones we are going to use to take over the camp and this one is yours. He handed me one which I knew how to use. I spent the rest of the time working with it before curfew. Another night I went through a tunnel to one of the storage buildings to meet the team I would be working with. That night they showed us the building we were going to take over. It was the administration building and we would come up by a tunnel in the basement that would be done at night. They gave us a plan for the building for us to study. Our leader was a sergeant in the army and his name was Sam and he started us by walking us through what we have to do. Every night we went through what each person had to do. My job was to take over the communication room and keep it running so they didn't know we took over the camp and we were a four-person team. The plan was ready to go and we were just waiting for the right time.

One morning I got up early to tape the sound of the camp. At row call, I had the tape with me and two guards grab me and drag me to the administration building. They slam me down on a chair in front of the communication center. I could see and hear what was going on so I tape what was going on. Most of the communication was done in French but another language was spoken and I think it was Russian and I made sure it was taped. They came for me and grabbed me then put me into a room where a man was waiting. He asks me a lot of questions about who I was and if my family had money. I told him that my family had some money. He then said. "If your family is willing to pay twenty thousand dollars you could get out of here. We would allow you to contact your family to send the money." I looked at him and said, "I don't think they could put that amount together but I will try." The man went out and the guards came in and took me back to the camp.

That night Johnson came up to me and asked me if I was all right and told him I was all okay. I told him what happened and he wasn't surprised. When I told him about hearing Russian

speaking I was surprised. He then asked me, did I tape what they were saying and I told him I did. Then I said, "They're going to destroy this camp and they didn't say what they're going to do with the inmates." Within two nights we are to take over the camp. The trains would be ready to transport the people across the border. We go to prevent them from finding out for three days. Is your team ready, I reply that we were ready. Then he said, " Sargent Sam speak Russian so you should have no problem To improve your odds another Russian speaker would be added to your team,"

The next morning the guard gave me my cell phone so I could call my family. I called and my father answered and I explained what was going on. He said that he needs to get your three sisters to help out, so to call back at the end of the week he said good-by and the guard took the phone. He said, " he would give me the phone back on Friday". I went over to Johnson and told them what happened. I thought it was strange because I only have one sister. Johnson smiled then said, "The three sisters mean, the other three comps are preparing to take over their camps. It depends on what your father says." On Friday I called home and my father answered "that your three sisters agreed to help pay for your freedom. The money would be ready on Monday afternoon and we hope to see you soon. I told Johnson and he said," that night we are going to take over the camp.

The attack force went down to the tunnels to prepare for the operation. At that time I had a chance to talk to Johnson. I ask him, "I believed you planned for this for a long time." He looked at me and with his smile he said, "You are right we were planning for this since you work with us, we hope it would not happen but we had to be ready" It dark now and we were in our position to attack. Over the radio, we got the word to move, a group went up first to safeguard the area in front. Then we move up toward the communication room. When we arrived Sergeant Sam threw a knockout grenade and then we moved in and looked around and found their logs. They keep a good record, so it was easy for us to step in. When we attacked everybody was to move forward at the same time. By midnight the whole camp was taking over with nobody getting hurt. All the guards were taken to their barracks and they would wake up within ten hours and they were put under guard.

In the communication room, we went through their log to find out how they run

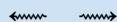
everything. From midnight to six they only talk to the towers every hour, so we did the same thing. The only difference was that we talk to our people. By six another team came in to take over. Sam explains to them how everything works then we went off to sleep. During the morning count, Johnson explained to the rest of the camp what happens and what to do next. He split them up into teams of one hundred and the first three thousand for the first-night movement, at night with your bag, you would be transported to three trains which would take you over the border. The next night the rest of the camp would do the same thing. It is important for the people left to make sure the camp looks normal. In Incase, somebody flies over or visits the camp”. Everybody went off to repair themselves.

When we captured the camp the base commander was not there. He came back the next day while I was asleep. I worked up late afternoon and I had a bite to eat, while I was eating Johnson came in and sat down. We talked about what happened last night then he told me what I would be doing tonight. He said, “Your assignment would be to set up the routes to and from the trains. Then help drive the people to the train and back and we have twenty trucks for that. “A bunch of us took off to mark the trails. By the way, you might be wondering why we get along well together. They’re mostly young people of mixed races and gender and some elder which the young people respect. This is why we get along so well. We put a chemical that glows in the dark which I help make. We put it along both trails to help the driver to stay on the trails because they would be driving at night without lights. While this was going on another team opened the back of the camp to the other trail to the trains, the plan was to load the people into the trucks then drive them to the trains. Then by the other trail go back and start all over again. If everything goes right the first train should leave by ten PM. On the train, their crew of twenty people to help the passengers' last train should leave at midnight.

When it got dark the driver went to their trucks, checked them over and before moving they sat in their truck to accustomed their eyes to the dark. Thirty people were loaded into each truck then we carefully moved down the trail. When we got to the train crew helped to put the people on the train and when the train was full it left. We kept doing this until all the trains left. When we got back to camp the back wire was closed so nobody could see the trail. The whole thing was done by midnight and nothing went wrong. We were all tired so we had a bite to eat then went to bed.

When I got up the camp was quiet, just then I remembered half the camp and was gone. That gave me a good feeling. Just before dark, we went out to make sure the trails were ready for the night work. When we arrived at the track the trains were there. We met the train crew for the first time and they told us, it took them four hours to cross the border without any trouble. Around the same time, we started to move the people. After the second trip had to stop because we heard a plane nearby, it didn't fly over so we continued. By one we were finished and we went back to camp for a rest.

The camp was empty now, this was the most dangerous time for the people who were left. This time I walked up by noon and after a bite to eat. Then Johnson sent four of us out to a hill nearby with a truck to see if anybody was coming for the rest of the afternoon. We watched for any movement around. When it got dark we came back to repair it for our trip. This time instead of taking the truck we would walk. We parked the truck and made sure they would not work. We move off in a group of a hundred people with thirty minutes between each group. I was in the last group because we had to make sure the trail was clean. When we arrived at the one train we hopped on it and off we went. On the train, Johnson on the intercom told us that we were not going over the border but going to a new camp deep in the mountains where we will start to take our land back. After about four hours we arrived at our destination we offloaded and went to our quarters for the night.



Coming Back

After breakfast, we were put into teams of thirty to forty people. There were thirty people in my team. Then they gave us a tour of the base and it was interesting. One part was for training, another was an airport with fighters and cargo planes. They had a storage area field with army equipment and other goods to keep an army in the field. After the tour, Johnson came up to us to explain our task would be. All of us would train as a team would use drones to look for the enemy and we would work out of an armed vehicle. All of you know this vehicle so it would not take you too long. Sargent Sam would be promoted to your lieutenant and Donnal would be promoted to troop Sergeant and the training would start the next day.

The car we would be working in looks like this. It's a ten wheel drive with a turret on top with a thirty-millimeter gun, two machine-gun and two tubes on each side of the turret to launch the drone. It also has a tow trailer for cargo. It's a six-person crew: a driver, gunner, crew commander and three drone operators. All our training would be done in a simulator. We were to be trained in all positions of the car. For me, this was a lot of fun and not hard to do. The training went fast and it's now time for me to get my car and crew. I have three men and two women. Their name was Jim, Lora, Sam, Susan and Peter. My driver was Sam, the gunner was Lora and the three drone operators were Jim, Susan and Peter. We checked over our car and went out for a week's exercise to work out the bugs. The crew worked well together and we learnt a lot about our jobs.

When I got back I was moved into the Sargent quarters. Every day we work on our car and three times a week we went to work in the simulators to improve our skills. By doing this my crew became friends and we started to think like one. While all this was going on the international court brought down their decision which was that the referendum was not legal and there had to be another one. For me, that is not going to happen. Another thing we found out, the enemy was bringing in more troops to strengthen their hold on the land. We are a true teen now which was good for us. At the end of the week, we had a sit-down, to talk about any problems we might have and ideas to help to improve our work. This was another way to bring us closer to gather.

Afternoon my gunner came up to me and asked me a question about a problem she had. I said, "I don't know if I could help but ask It." she replied, "My family told me that they're having pressure on them to spy on their neighbors." I told her to come with me and we went to the headquarter. Inside I introduced her to Jason and she told her story. Jason was an intelligent officer. Jason said, "This was not the first time he heard this. Tell your parents, for now, due to what they said but if you trust your neighbor tell them. They're starting to bring more pressure on the population to insert more control." When we left I asked Lower, "does this help you and she replied it does." I walked her back to her barrack and said, "If anybody has trouble like this, bring it to Jason he would like to know."

On Friday night Sam calls a meeting with the troop. He had some news about what was

going on around. The government rejected what the court said and would declare its independence within two weeks. The troops were sent on the street to stop any trouble. We have been given a task to do and we will be getting the details tomorrow. Our troop was picked because we are ready for anything. He turned to me and said you have to get the supply for two months and have any questions, nobody said anything and the meeting ended. I went off to do the paperwork to get the supplies.

On the morning of the routine troop meeting, Sam gave us the details of the operation. He put a map on a table that sold the location we were working in and he gave us time to copy. He said, "Each car would be sent to different locations. The first location was to look over a patrol base along the river, another one was to observe a fighter base than the last three were army camps. The first one I will take, the fighter base Sargent Donnal would take. One army camp goes to Master corpora Susan and the other to Master corpora Markis and the last one goes to master corpora Lola. Your job is to map the camps using your drones than just watch how the camps work. The location you are going to observe is marked on the map. You probably will be there for a month." Any questions and nobody said anything. You should leave tonight and make sure you have everything you need. We will meet just before we leave." Everybody studies the map then went off prepared for the assignment. The first thing I did was to brief my crew, then we checked our car over, then we loaded our car up with everything we needed.

We met just before it was time to leave to make sure everything was all right and everything was all key to go. Our cars left a half-hour apart and I was the last one to leave. Two hours later we rolled into our position. I looked around at the same time the crew was hiding the car. This position was overlooking the fighter base and we were well-hidden from view. The operators program the drones' one was to map the camp, two others were to move around to watch what is going on and the last one was to watch over us and run our communication. These drones can run for three months on their own and they can launch smaller ones to sneak into buildings and listen to what is going on. These drones can scan around for about four kilometers. From the information I received from the drones I made a map of the camp and sent it on to headquarters. Once a day all data was sent to headquarters. We were split up into two people's shift to watch the camp.

Our camp was set up in this way, the ramp went down and locked on to the trailer. Then the three other sides open up to make sleeping quarters for the crew. On the left side, a tent was put up for us to cook, wash and rest. On the backside, our toilet was put in and a place we could wash our close. On top of the trailer and tent was put solar panels and wind-generated to run our car. Completely around the tent and trailer, there was a system to collect water when it rains. We found a stream nearby and all the water we caught would be filtered and our camp was pretty cumfurbul. This camp can be torn down within a half-hour so we could move fast.

Every morning four fighters take off and come back at lunchtime. During the afternoon a cargo plane comes in for a while then leaves. At the same time, four fighters take off and come back at midnight then another four take off. We launched another drone to follow the fighters. We found out that they went to patrol around the southern border.

I am doing my first shift which was four to midnight. This was a good time for me because it is usually quiet so I could check on my paperwork. Every day I had to send a written report on what I need and what is going on. The drones made me another map that showed all the anti-aircraft guns positioned around the airfield. I checked it over then sent it right off to headquarters. I noticed a fleet of bombers came in and parked at the far end of the camp. That was the only excitement I had all night. My shift is over and I am going to sleep.

I got up early to check on what happened on the other shift after I did my daily cleanup then I cooked a meal for me. When I looked over the information I found out that the bombers had left and we found out that they were from Chana. I thought that was strange, maybe the headquarter would know. Now it's time for my shift and the first thing I am going to do was to send another drone out to find another location for us. By mid-shift, the drone found a new location. It looks like a better one and it gives us a better view of the airfield. There was a building we could work out of and our car has a good firing position also there were three routes to the location. By next week we would move to this location. It's good to move every so often to prevent the enemy from finding us.

It's time to move and we started to pack up just before it got dark. It took us two hours to finish and it looks like we weren't there. Early at night we moved to the new area and did our setup. The building was in very good shape, and it had a solar panel which with a little work it

would work. We had a working kitchen and a working bathroom with water. While all this was going on we were watching the airfield. I took a walk around with Lower to see what was around. We found out this place was empty for a few years. Also, we found an old truck from the early fifties and this was a good location.

The drone which was looking over us spotted a village nearby and did a sweep of it. The drone told me that we should send a drone to watch the village so I did. From this drone, we-spotted twice a week a patrol came in and the mare gave them some money then they left. The drone listened to the people and found out that the money was to keep the troops out of the village and the people don't like this. I decided to stay away from this village. Our command told us that there would be a supplied drop next night. That's good because we need to replace two of our drones. They came in just when it got dark and the truck looked like a postal van. They gave us eight more improved drones and they also gave everything we asked for. They told us that we would be heated for another three weeks and they expected the airfield would start to get busy.

They were right, when I started my shift large cargo planes started to come in and they offloaded troops and equipment, these troops were from Russia. When my shift ended there was still bringing in troops. The other shift saw them leave and they went toward the west. Susan was watching an army base west of us, so we contacted her to tell her that company was coming. The next night more transport came in but this time they came from China and they moved to the base to the west. The airport went back to normal for two weeks then the transport came back to take the troops away. From the radio, we found out that it was a large training exercise to show that the government in power has the backing of China and Russia.

It was time for us to pack up and return to base and we made sure nothing was left behind. Two of the new drones were left behind to keep on watching the airport and we would monitor from our base. When we arrived at the base the first thing we did was to have a good hot meal. Then work on our car for the rest of the day. We all had hot showers then went to sleep in our beds for the night. The next day Sam brought us to gather to give us a briefing on how we did. He said, "All the crew did their jobs very well and the information we gathered would help free our land. We are going to spend a week off for a break but we can't leave the base. At the end of the week, we will get together to plan on the next step and have a good week off. For me,

I am going to rest and sometimes go to the gym to keep in shape and to write home.

That week went very fast and it was just what I needed. We were back to work and Sam told us what our next assignment was. He said, "It is now time for us to take back our land. We are going to do this from the inside. We are going back to the fighter base to prepare to take it over. This time we are to work as a troop to support the attack force. We are going to move into Donnal's last position to set up a headquarter. With our drone, we are going to find the best way to take over the base. Pack up and we are moving within two nights. We took off to repair our cars for the move.

Our cars were ready, now it's time for us to move to my last position. We led the troop to the position and we parked the car where we were before. I went out to find a location for the other cars. When they came in I guided them into their position. Our headquarter would arrive the next night and they would set up in the house. This time we had to set up our trailer to sleep in. The headquarter trucks were parked around the house. They hid then and set up tense (tents) up to work out of. Everything was hidden from the air and the ground. Our cars were set up in defensive positions around the Headquarter. For now, our job was to protect the headquarters until they finish their move in their defense force would take over.

The next night we started to move into four attack positions around the airport. We are now ready to take over the base. During the day we snuck in commando dress as workers. Their assignment was to take over the tower and their communication center just before we attacked. We were going to attack just after the night fighter patrol left. The commando went in and at the same time, the four attack forest moved, in. Before the fighter came back and the base was ours and they were taken by surprise. Our losses were very light and so was the enemy. The prisoners were put on a train and sent across the border. We move into the base and set up. The base operation was continued as before to look like everything was normal.

We were placed around the base to watch what was going on outside the base, for now, everything looks normal. The next day heavy transport came in. These aircraft were going to be used to take over the other three fighter bases. Other recce units were watching these bases and would assist in the attack. For three nights they would capture the bases one at a time. The planes were loaded for the first base and by morning the planes returned with the wounded. For

the next two nights, the same thing happened and all the bases were taken without anybody knowing. We did this by continuing the base routines.

While this was going on our drones were watching the patrol base on the river notice that there was a lot of movement in and out of the base. My patrol which was two cars and was sent down to find out what was going on. We travelled for a night. By early morning we arrived at a sight overlooking the base. Some of us went to sleep and the rest monitored the patrol base for the rest of the day. During this time everybody had a chance to sleep and eat. When it got dark everybody in the patrol was ready to move in. My car carefully started to move forward scanning as we went there was nobody on the front gate so we moved through. The base was empty and all the equipment was gone. We walked through to make sure they didn't leave surprises around and they didn't. We then called our patrol boats in and we took over the base. We found out that they left for the main base at the mouth of the river. Our drones looked around the base and there was nobody around. This patrol base was isolated and hard to resupply and maybe that's why they left.

We returned to the troop and they were repairing to return to the mountain base. Another troop came in to replace us and that night we moved out to our home base. It took us two nights to get there and when we arrived they took us to our parking area. They told us to take everything out of our cars and put them into a locker they gave us. Then we were taken to our quarters. That night we got together with Sam and he told us what was going on. Our cars were going to be overhauled for three weeks and they were giving us a week off. The other two weeks we are going to work on our cars.

The week off went fast and for me, I didn't do too much. When we got back to our cars they changed the inside of the back by installing in new drone monitors. Which gave us more space to work in. They also change the motor and put in an electrical one and improve the solar panels and the windgenrater. They added two more tubes on each side of the turret for anti-tank missiles. Our gun sights were changed for the anti-tank missiles. The last thing they did was to modify the trailer to make it bigger with a better storage department. It still opened up so we could sleep in it. While we were moving the motor charge up and when we stopped for a while the solar panel and wind generator took over. When everything was finished we took it out for a

test run. It is quieter and handled much better. At the same time we tested the sights and there much better. In the back deck behind the turret on each side of the hatch they added some storage pods. We are going to test it for a few more days then we are ready to go.

While all this was going on our land started to fall apart. The people were starting to get fed-up with what the government was doing to them and they started to demonstrate on the street. The troops from the camps were moved to the cities to control the demonstration. We sent people into the cities to try to control this problem because if we don't people would die. It worked and the demonstrations were stopped for now but the troops stayed in the city. This could be good for us because the troops were away from their main supply bases.

In the mountain base every night our fighter and transport planes came in and the next night they went out to a fighter base. By the end of the week those bases became operational. It is now time for us to start to move to free our land. The plan was to move outside troops to the east and west border to draw their troops to their borders. Our troops started moving out to their attack position to what for the word to move. In the village and cities over time our people sneak in. The people in the cities and villages were helping us to free their area. Our assignment was to help take over the airport in the largest city. All units would attack at the same time and we were in our position to jump off.

Through our drones we saw the airport was defended. They gave us all their position and the area we were to move through had mines in front. Just before we moved it the engineers would destroy the mines. Since there were no tanks our cars were to support the infantry. We were at the far end of the main runway. We moved through the minefield and I was in front. I spotted a machine gun position which I engaged and took it out. Off in the distance my gunner spotted a tank digging and we locked on and fired one of our anti-tank missiles. She fired and the tank was gone. Our troop took out other enemy positions. When we got close to building the infantry went forward to clear the building. At the same time other members of our unit were moving in. All these movements were controlled by our communication center and by the end of the day the airport was ours. While this was going on other units went into the city and freed it.

The enemy troops on the border started to move toward us. As soon as they left, troops on the border went across and quickly went through the enemy troops who were left. By the end

of the week the troops from the eastern border met with ours and we started to move on to engage the last of the enemy force. The enemy was trapped between our two forces and our fighters were hitting them all the time. Why this was going on our troop's new assignment was to go into a village and city to clean out what was left of the enemy. We had mobile infantry with us. When we arrived at a village we scanned for the enemy if we found them and asked them to surrender if they didn't we took them out. Most of the time they surrendered and we found out that the enemy were formed troops. Every village and city we went to, the people were glad to see us. This took us a week to do because the area we were giving was not too big. Other troops were giving other regents to search. The last village we went in was the one we scanned while we were looking at the fighter base and we didn't go in at that time. Boy they were glad to see us. That night our supply came up with us and we were ready for our next assignment.

From the prisoners they found out about a prison camp here by and we were sent to this place as before we had infantry with us. We arrived at the location and found a large building. It looked like it was an old convent as usual we sent our drones in. They found out the guard was gone and there were dead and living people inside. The most important thing was that the building was booby-trap. We had demolition people with us so they went in by the window on the second floor. After a few hours the building was clear. I went in with Sam and our medicks and what we found was terrible. Some rooms only had dead people and other people were just alive. Our medics started to work on them. On the radio I called for a med aback and a few minutes later they were arriving in a field nearby. They vertical takeoff planes and each plane could carry twenty wounded. The first thing we did was to move all the wounded and a special team came in for the dead to remove them.

While I was searching I came into a room on the top floor and found a young lady just barely alive. She was wounded so I talked to her until a medick came. Both of us work on her and all this time we talk about funny things to keep her mind busy. I stayed with her until she left in a plane. We found about two hundred dead and four hundred alive. From the document we found this building was a political prison and their order was to kill all the people and blow up the building .For us this was the hardest thing we had to do. We stayed there for a few days then went to a rest area.

When we arrived at the rest area we prepared our equipment for the next assignment. They wanted us to take a medical so we did. While in the hospital I found out where the girl I help from the internment camp and went to see her. She was glad to see me and so was I. First thing I said was my name and she told me her name and it was Carren. We talked for a while about what happened to her. She was arrested for demonstration against the leaders and she was torcher for a few days then left alone to survive. You just came in the right time to save us. I talk about my time in the internment center. Carren was getting tired. I told her I would try to come back the next day.

This rest area was a campus in a school and it had everything we needed. Like Kleene quarter, a sports center and a good cafeteria. They said that we would be there for two weeks. They gave us new uniforms which were better. After the medical, Sam brought us to gather to talk about what we saw and did. We talk about how we felt about what we saw. This was good because we blew off steam which broke the tension we were all feeling. We talked for a while then Sam said that's a nuff for tonight and we will get together tomorrow. Just before the meeting ended Sam told me that my report on the troop has to be done tomorrow and I said that would be no problem and off we went.

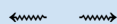
The next day I finished my report and gave it to Sam before lunch. While I was doing this my crew did some work on the car. In the afternoon some of us went to the gym and pool. I went to the pool for a swim then went for a walk. After supper we met with Sam for our talk, this time we talked about improving of the troop, one of the improvements was a better way to store our equipment. Sam thought that it was a good idea and we would try it the next day. After the meeting I went to see Carren and we talked about our families and friends. We found that we had a lot in common. I left with a good feeling about the two of us. The next time we met we went for a walk and talk about the future. She wanted to become an engineer and I am a camis. She told me that she was going home tomorrow and that she would write to me. We exchanged our address then she gave a big hug and kiss then we parted company.

The next day we tried to store our equipment in the new way and it worked. We passed this way to the other car and they did the same thing. The way the troop works if one crew has an idea they would try it and if in work the rest of the troop would do it. That night we had another

troop meeting and we talked about anything that came into our mines. Like now to improve our ration and the way we move the car. Sam brought up Carren and asked me now what she was doing because the crew was concerned about her. I smiled and said she is getting better and today she went home. Susan said, "Can we get in contact with her and I said yes." I have her number and would pass your concern to her. At that moment the whole troop smiled and at that moment the meeting ended.

During the next day Carren emailed that she said she was happy to be at home and her family was very supportive of her. How are you? I sent an email back saying that I'm doing very well because I heard from you and the troop would like to get in touch with you and would it be all okay. She replied that it would be great, while I was in hospital and they came by to wish me well. I told her that I will pass on this to them. The next troop meeting I passed what Carren said and everybody was happy. The troop as a group sent an email to her saying they were glad to keep in touch with her. An hour later she replied that she was thrilled to hear from us.

Our two week off is over and we all feel better. Tonight we are going to get a briefing on our next assignment. Our commander told us that our troop would be going to a defense position near the coast to help stop the enemy from retreating to the coast. They don't believe the enemy would go that way that why you will not get any armor with you. You will have infantry, artillery and some engineers to support you. The commander of the infantry would be in charge and you would move out tonight. We are all ready now and we left when it got dark. It took us three day to get to the location. The engineers showed us the two positions we are going to work out of. One position is in front of the other one. My patrol was sent to the first location and it was a well thought out one. When we got there we launched some drones and scanned around. It was on high ground with a good fire position. I map the position for the artillery to fire on and for us to do the same thing. I launched one of our long range drones to see what was coming up and another patrol did the same thing for the other position. Sam took all this information to headquarter and brief the commander. The next night the hold combat group moved up to occupy the front position. We moved and started to scan around. That night I had a chance to email Carren to say that we are all doing well and where we are has a great view of the land.



The Last Battle

The battle group keeps improving their positions. We installed more equipment in each position also the headquarter was set up just behind the second position and the gun positions were further back. Every night we were bringing in more equipment to secure our location. The commander asked us if we could send our probe to the coast to have a look around that night. We did it and it was from my car. The probe spotted two beaches that could be used to evacuate troops. My troop with engineers was sent to have a closer look early the next morning we arrived at the first beach. The engineers went down for a close look and we did a scan of the ocean around. This beach was stable for amphibious landing and so was the other one. This information was sent back to headquarters. Our commander asked the navy if they could do a long-range sweep of the ocean around us and they agreed. They spotted four large cargo ships moving to work our location. When they get closer our probe can have a closer look.

Now I am going to explain how our battle group was put together. There were two companies of infantry, a squadron of rekey, a battery of artillery and an engineering group. Also, there are non-comeback units like medical, supply and communication. There were about eight hundred people. Our position forced the enemy through a defile which was a narrow piece of land where they could not go around. This was called a blocking position to slow their retreat. Now you know why we were sent here. Our position was well hidden so if the enemy scans us they would not find us. The only thing was that it was to wait and this was called the quiet time.

During this time all the troops sent an email home, for me one to my family and another to Carren. Carren sent me one saying that she was thinking about going back to school in a few months. I replied that it was a good idea and would start to bring you back to a normal life. Last time I asked her if I could tell my family about her and she said yes. My family had talked to her and they liked her. Carren then said that the rest of the troop sent her emails and it picked her up and incurring her to get better. The way the email works was once a week at night everybody writes the email and it was sent to a drone to our mountain base then the next day they were sent out and the same thing happened the other way. This was done for security so the enemy didn't know where we were.

Our command sent us a message that the enemy broke off contact and might be moving

to your location and they were right. Our long probe spotted them about two hundred kilometres from our position. The navy told us that the four ships were a week away and two other ships came up with them. Sam and I went to see our commander and told him that we felt these ships were probably an invasion fleet and he agreed with us. He said it is now more important to slow the enemy down. At that time the rest of the leaders came in and the commander told them the same thing. The engineers were building two more defensive positions and asked Sam's troop to look the position over and the next night we went to have a look. These positions were good blocking locations. At the same time the first ship came into our water they launched patrol boats to screen their ships.

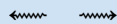
When the last ship came into our water they brought up fighters on deck. We were right in the middle.

It's mid-spring and it was cloudy so our planes and their planes can't fly. So there was no air support. From our drones, we could see the enemy moving up. They sent a drone over us then sent a patrol to have another look. The next morning a tank column started to move forward. As they got close to our key car with our missiles we opened fire and the front of the column was knocked out and the rest fell back. They were caught off guard so they went back to regroup. Our drones notice that they sent patrols out to see if they could go around us but they could not. They started moving up their artillery for another attack on our position. That night we shifted our location and waited for their attack. At dawn, they started firing their guns on our old position which we weren't there. They hit the position for two hours. The last shells were gas and we were ready for that. This time they attack with their infantry supported with tanks. My car sighted on four tanks in front of me when we got the order to fire. The four tanks were knocked out and at the same time our infantry opened up and their attack was stopped and they retreated. That night we were resupplied and our wounded were evacuated to the rear.

At night we reloaded and prepared for the next day. Sam came up to me and told me that I was going out with an infantry platoon to a rocky position on our flank to see if the enemy would try to attack by this location. With the patrol, we went out and found a good position to watch for the enemy. The platoon leader did a firing map of the area around and passed it back. When we were done we spotted the enemy moving up toward us, when they got closer we

opened fire and a fierce firefight started. I was firing down on the enemy when I felt something hit me and threw me down. I was stunned for a while when I got my senses back and a medick was patching me up. He told me I was hit in the arm and it wasn't too bad you only need a few stitches. The troop leader got hit and our position was becoming precarious so I called down artillery. This was the first time the artillery was used and it saved our neck. The enemy fell back and we picked up our dead and wounded and did the same. That night we pack up and move back to our other position. My patrol was the last group to leave. My arm was stinging but I had one last thing to do was to arm the booby-traps and then I fell back.

Instead of going back to the next position, we were sent to the hospital behind the fourth line. Our cars were beating up but still working and a few of us got wounded. The first thing I did was to make sure our cars would get ready for our next job. Then I went to get my arm checked. They cleaned the wound and gave me a few shots. They told me to take it easy for a few days. That wasn't too hard; we needed a week to work on our cars. When the cars were ready they sent us to set up a landing zone. The enemy tried to move forward but ran into our booby traps which took them some time to clear. Then they run into the second defence line which stops them cold. We set up the landing zone and that night cargo planes started to come in even though there was cloud cover. Most of the armed equipment went to the fourth defence line. We sent some large artillery guns and tanks to the coast. Most of these troops were from other countries like France, England and India. This was all done within four days. Also, we found out that a large force was moving in from the north. We moved back to the second line and dug in. When the enemy attacked us, a comeback force would attack them from two sides. Our navy patrol boats attack the enemy fleet and slow them down. When the sky cleared out, fighters went after the enemy ships. The ships were in the range of the guns and they opened up which forest the fleet to surrender. The ground enemy troops were defeated. This was truly over.



Back to School

Our troop was assigned to work with the engineers to clean up the battlefield. Our drones would fly over and look for unexploded ordnance, when we find them the engineer would go in and clean them up. One time we found a complete enemy ammo dump. Another thing we spotted

was an enemy command post which gave us information about how the enemy works and who was controlling them. There were other teams doing this so it only took us two weeks. After this we were sent back to our mountain base for our debrief and complete medical. When we arrived they told us to strip our cars. They mean we take everything out because these cars were so damaged they were going to be scrapped. The troop felt sad about that because the crews became attached to their cars. After this we move into quarters for a long overdue rest.

The first week we took our medicals during the day and at night I did my field report and report on my crew and the crew commanders. By going through the records I found out that everybody in the troop got wounded during this operation. I recommended that my crew should be promoted and further their traits. I sent my report to Sam and he agreed with me. All our reports were sent on to headquarters. That night we had our troop meeting and we talked about what happened and we talk about what we do in the future. The next day I had a meeting with a counselor which helped me. Our squadron commander told us that we could have a zoom call to our family next week, contact your family and give them the day and time. I told my family the time and day the call would be available. They emailed me back that day would be all right, I called and I saw my family for the first time in a while. I was surprised that Carren was on the line. I was happy and we all talked for an hour about everything. When it was over I felt really happy.

In one of our meetings Sam told us within two week there would be a parade and your family and friends were invited. The date would be June tenth and there would be transportation, and would pick them up the day before and they would have quarters and meals. That night I emailed my family and Carren the invite for the parade and they said they would be there. A week after the parade we were going to be released from the army. During a troop meeting I said that I was going into the reserve army, The rest of the troop said the same. All of us were seeing a casurler every week. They helped me to get back into school with a skoler ship for the three years which I had to do.

While I was walking around the base I ran into soldiers from other countries and they were fun to talk to. Another person I ran into was the infantry officer who was wounded with me and he thanked me for what I did to save most of his men during the attack. I thank him but I

thought to myself that I only did my job. Now we were practicing for our parade. At first we were kind of sloppy but after a few more times we got pretty good. The day before the parade I met my family and Carren. They all gave me a big hug, especially Carren. In their quarter we talked and I told them my plan was that I would continue my schooling and join the army reserve. My family thought that it was all right and Carren agreed. Carran and I went for a walk and we talked about our futures. I posed for a while then I asked her, would you like to go out with me and she said yes. Sam was walking by and heard this and stopped and we talked for a while. Then he said goodbye and quietly said to me it was about time then he walked off with a smile. We went back and told my family and they were happy.

It was early in the morning of the day of the metal parade. Our troop was getting ready for the last practice. At that moment I told the troop that Carren and I were going out and the whole troop congratulated me. We had a good practice and within an hour we would march out. In the meantime they put hooks on our uniform for the medals. They're going to give two medals for the operations and another for being wounded in a battle. Some of us would be giving medals for their courage. Now it's time for the parade and I march the troop on and then hand the troop over to Sam. There was an inspection by the base commander. Then the medals were given out. The last once was the medals for bravery. Each one was called out and they explained what they did then gave them their medals. My name was called out which surprised me. I marched out in front of the commander, then they read what I did. It said, 'During an action against an attacking overwhelming force while wounded he calls artillery down which forces the enemy back, enabling the troop to withdraw to safety.' The medal was the highest honor the military gave. They gave it to me and I marched back. Then we marched past and then we marched off. The troop came up to me and congratulated me. I asked Sam if he knew about this and he said he was told just before we marched on and I didn't have time to tell you. That moment my family and Carren came up and said that they were proud of what you did and they were proud of all of you who saved our land. That night we all went to a party for us and our family and friends. The first thing we did was to have two minutes silent for the friends we lost. This was the first time that Carren and I danced to gather and we both had a good time.

The next day my family and Carren left and we started to clear out. The first people to clear were the people who were leaving the army then it was our turn the people who were

joining the army reserve. The reserve administration signed us up and transferred all our wreckers to them. We were assigned to an armored regiment in our city which was not too far from my university. At that time we met our commander officer and the RSM means the Regiment Sergeant Major. The commander explained how the unit works. Then the RSM showed us the position we would be working in. My job would be in training and exercise planning. We would be working two weekends a month and two nights a week. We got our last pay then were transported to our armory to see where we would be working. We stayed there for two days where I found out that in July I would have to take a course for six weeks.

It's mid-June now and I got some time off which was good. I called home and told my parents when I would be coming home. When I got home Carren was waiting for me with my family. I told them what was going on and they weren't surprised. I unpacked in my room then Carren and I went for a walk and I met some old friends and neighbors. The only thing I did for the next few days was rest then did some shopping with Carren which was a lot of fun. I have to go to the university to get my schedule for the next term. The casurler did a good job, everything was ready for me and I got my schedule for the year. That night Carren and I went out for dinner. She told me that she would have to take courses during the summer. I said, "Since I have to take courses too, we would have to work around it. When we get our schedule we might work around it." Carren then said, "her schedule would come in next week. "I said, " I will try to find out my schedule too." We had a good night. I found out about my schedule. I only have Sunday off, luckily Carren has Sunday off too. So we plan to have these days together.

The Carren course started a week before mine. My course was in the university and we were put into dorms. Our classes were in the same complex so we didn't have to leave the complex. The night we arrived they gave us our room then showed us around. They gave us the schedule of the course and it was on how to run a unit. We got up at five thirty, then half an hour of exercise, washed up then had breakfast. At eight o'clock the course started then took a break at lunch. We worked to supper and from seven o'clock at night we had study sessions. This showed us how to do the administration of the unit . How to plan for a year's train plan within a budget and run a filled exercise. The last thing they showed us was to run parades and mess dinners. At first I thought it would be boring, boy I was wrong. The six weeks went fast and I learned a lot. On our day off, Carren and I went for a walk and had dinner. We talk about our

course and we talk about spending time with both families. We decided the best thing to do was to bring the two families together after we finish our course. We invited our families and they gave us a date. At the end of my course I realized working with the reserve would take up a lot of my spare time and I don't know if it would be fair to Carren. On one Sunday I brought this topic up. I said, "The army reserves are going to be a part of my life for a long time and it might be hard on our relationship. I care for you a lot and I don't want you to feel trapped in this relationship. I want you to improve to your full potential." Carren smiled then said, "I already understand the army reserve is a part of your life and that doesn't bother me because I see the bond you have with people who become close friends. You remember I am friends with your friends too so I have the same feeling with them. I know you would not stop me from improving myself. You're not going to get rid of me that easy." I felt good about that and so did she.

The conversation was over and the only thing left to go was the parade. They put me as the parade commander. We practiced for two nights and then we did the parade which went pretty good. Sam and the troop were there and they all thought I did pretty well. After Sam and I got together and we talked about getting the troop to gather with partners before the school starts I agreed and the rest of the troop liked the idea. We found a date where everybody was free. We rented a hall in a pub near the campus. Carren and I arrived early to check on the setup and it was great. This was the first time we met our friends and partners. Right at the start everybody got along and we all had a good night and we all plan to keep in touch. Carren on the way home told me these people are good friends and I agreed.

One Saturday we got together with our parents. The first thing they asked was when are you getting married? We had an answer for that, Carren said, "When we graduate and start to work and I agree." My father smiled then said, "That is a good idea to stabilize yourself before getting married. Are you both ready to go back to school in September?" We both said yes at the same time and everybody laughed. That night Carren said, "That was a good day and we got support from both families." I said, "you know they're going to push us a little bit to get a marriage sooner." And Carren smiles.

I am back at home until I go into the dorm for the school year. That was part of the scholarship and so was Carren and would be moving into dorms in the same university as me. I

started to work with the unit in mid-August. I met Mager (Major?) Maclosly who was in charge of the training and planning. He gave me the plans for the year and asked me to look them over and give my opinion. The training would start mid-September until then we work on Tuesday and Thursday and on next Thursday you will meet your staff. When we work during the week at night we would work from eighteen hundred to twenty one hundred hours. He introduced my staff to me. There were two Sargent, three master corporals and five corporals. I introduced myself to them and the sergeants explained what we had to do. We have to make a training plan for the next year. We got to do this for January. At this point I just let them do their jobs and they teach me what to do. I cut on quickly and I was able to help them. I told Major Maclosly the plan looks good and I don't think you need to make any changes. He just got a new training order and he showed them to me. It was a three year plan and I would have to study it for a week. He said, "that we will meet at the same time next week." At that point we went home. On the way home I wondered if this was too much for me but I would give it a try.

Now it is time for me to go back to my chemistry course. I moved into the dorm and they gave a course package for this term. At the same time Carren moves into the dorm building next door. We thought this was easier for us to get together. That night I had to work in the unit and our yearly train plan was moving on. I wonder if I could jockey my time, only time would tell. I started my classes and at first it was hard to get in the rhythm. I met some friends and they helped me and by having Carren close by helped. One night in the unit I met Mager Maclosly and I told him I could only give them one weekend a month and the two days a week. Maclosly said, "He understands that you haven't been back in school for a long time and it would be hard for a while. Don't worry, just do your work the best you can and things will work out." The first week back went better than I thought and in the unit I am starting to know how the people work with me. There is a good group to work with and they started to trust me.

Around Christmas I realized that I could handle working with the unit and school. Carren and I meet twice a week to talk about what was going on around us and how our program was going. For the Christmas holiday we were planning to go skiing for a week in a resort up north. We passed our finals and the next day we hopped on a train and went to the resort. We went skiing every day and spent the night around the fireplace sipping rum punch. We were back in school for the next term. That week was the best time I spent with somebody. Now we are back

in the school routine and in the unit they finish the next year's train plan.

In the summer I am going to work for the unit in town and Carren has an in turn ship with an engineering firm for the summer. Which was good for her to get field experience and we both would be in town so we could get to gather. Our unit job was to put together a three year training plan for all the armored reserve units in the land. Also I just got promoted to a warrant officer.

While I was in university some people asked me if the last two years were a loss. I told them from the experience I got and the friend I made it was worth it. I am proud of what we did to free our country. Our country is much better off now than it ever was and our people now believed we are one people. The trauma we went through was worth it.

During the summer our command showed us a new train center which we built on the university ground. We had a tour of the base, It had quarters, training simulators, a sport center, classroom and all the sport possibilities we would need. There are five cafeterias which could feed about five thousand people. They built another center just like this one in the other city. These two centers would train all the army reserves in the land. Mager Maclosly said, "Our three year training plan would be done for these bases. We are the first people to work in the base so let's move in and we did.

A week later Sam came in and was promoted to a mager. He was tasked to run this base. He had a staff of two hundred people to run the base. Each core unit would have their own staff to run their training and Sam would run the operation and maintenance of the base. This was a full time staff. Each unit would do their three year plan then they would send it to the core commander for approval. Only one cafeteria was open. Each one was split up in this way. A large area for the canatet another for the staff which was split up into three ways, officer sergeant and men's. That was a description of the base and it is a good place to work in.

We put our plan together, and it looked like this. When a recruit comes in it would take three year to train him. The first year he would do basic core training which is machine gun, thriving, communication and tactics. The next year he would learn how to drive an armored car and a gunner course. Last year he studied drones. He would go work in a troop for a while. Then in the training center he would do other courses like, crucomander, and advancement of his rank.

Each trade was set up the way they train their candidates. The instructors ran through what they had to teach and our job was to assist them. We work on this to be ready for the next summer. This was fun because we had a chance to work with the simulator. By the end of summer the training plan was ready so was the base. During the winter we are able to use this base for unit training.

While this was going on Carren was working in an engineering company. They were giving her a project to work on which was challenging and she loved it. When I talked to her she explained what she was doing this week and the way she did it. The way she explained it I understood what she was doing and it was interesting. The summer we only had one weekend to gather. We spent it on a lake in a houseboat and we had a great time.

Now we were back to school. This was my third year and Carren was her last year. This time in the unit I would be doing more field time to help in field training also in the simulator on the base. At school I would be doing more time in a lab which is going to be fun. The company Carren works for likes her work so they told her when she graduated they would hire her.

That was good and now I am going to say what was going on with people in our troop. In the troop they all got promoted and everybody went back to school. My driver took a mechanic course in a trade school and I transferred him into a maintenance unit to help him. My gunner took a mechanical engineering course in university. The two drone operators took communication courses in university and were transferred to a communication repair unit. The rest of the troop, two of them went into nerson. Others took trade courses like electrician, plumber, carpenter and other trades. These people were transferred to units that could help them in their trades. Others went to university in different fields. While working in the training center I work with them some time. Once a month we get together with them and their partners for dinner and a good talk.

In the unit the training started. My first field exercise was this weekend. There were two field squadrons in the unit; only one could go into the field at one time because there was only enough equipment to supply one squadron in the field and the other would train in the unit. My job was to help in their training and advise them. The next weekend I would spend in the train center to get it ready for summer training and one weekend for school. As you see I was pretty

busy and the only time Carren and I got together was at night.

Everything moved smoothly and we were close to the Christmas break. The troop got together for the year end dinner and it would be this Friday. We had our dinner then Sam stood up and invited us to Lora and his wedding. It went quietly for a while, then Carren jumped up then went over to Lora and gave her a big hug. Then we all got up, went over to Sam and Lora and in turn gave them a hug and we wished them the best. On the way back to the dorm, I asked Carren if she had a feeling that was going to happen. She smiled then said, "When I talk to her before dinner Lora tips it off a bet. I wasn't totally sure until Sam told us and they are a good match." I looked at her then said, "You're almost finished and you need to hunt for an apartment pretty soon. Carren said, "She is already looking." I smiled at her, then said, "You know if you need help I will be there." When we got to the dorm, before going into her building she gave me a big hug then said, "I know you would do anything to help me because I love you." I said, "I feel the same way." Then we parted and went to my dorm with a great feeling.

We got together with our families for a week in a mountain cabin during the Christmas break. During this week we went skiing, bobsledding and at night just sitting around the fire. When we got back to school we got ready for the next term. On the TV I heard that the trial of the people who tried to destroy our land and they said it would take four months. I called Carren to ask her if she heard about the trial and she replied she did. Then I ask, "Are you ok with this?" She replied, "I am ok and don't worry." Then we talked about what we were doing next week.

Now I am back into a routine with school and the unit. In school they put me on a project, which was about a lightweight chemical battery that could keep a charge for a long time. This challenge was right up my alley, I like a good challenge. With another student we started to work. This was only part time because I still have my other courses. I told Carren about the project and she was thrilled about it. While I was working in the unit I thought about the project and talked about it. In April I heard that the trials ended with a conviction and they were sent to jail for life. I felt that a chapter of my life had ended and Carren felt the same way.

The term was almost over and I was preparing for the summer training in the base. Carren and I were working on her graduation and her move to an apartment. She found one and she could move in June. That is going to be a busy month and first Carren moving in, then Sam

wedding and Carren graduation and ball. The project was not going well and our professor said, "Take a break from it, then we could start it in the next term in September ". I finish the turn in May and then move into the base to prepare for the training.

The training staff came in, after they settled in. I got them together to give them their teaching package for them to study. Within a few days later I gave them a tour of the working area. The first was the driving center, next was the gunner center, then the drone center, the last one was the crew commander center. They all used simulators to help in the training. I told them they got until mid-June to get ready and if you need any help my staff would help you. They all had some problems which kept my team busy which was good. By the first week in June the base was ready to receive the candidates.

They came in on Saturday and were sent to the different center on Monday they would start their training. My teen job was to make sure everything went smoothly. The same weekend Carren moved into her new apartment which didn't take too long because our friends helped. Our friends left and Carren and I sat down with a glass of wine when my phone rang and there was an accident at the base where somebody got hurt. I looked at Carren then she said, "Go and find what happened." I went to the base hospital which was just built. I walked in and the fire chief was waiting for me and told me that one of your technicians got a mild shock. The doctor walked over and told me that she would be alright and you could talk to her. I went into her room and asked her, "Are you all okay and she answered yes." Then I asked her what happened." she replied, "that she is not sure. I found a gel on the counter when I touched it that was the last thing I remember." Are you up to go with me and show me the gel." She got dressed and we went to her shop where she picked it out. I look it over with a tester. I check it and nothing happens. I looked at it closer and found out it was made out of three different chemicals. It looked like one chemical split the other two so I touched the two ones apart and I got a reading. You remember that my project was to find a chemical way to carat and store electricity. I think we found it. With isolated tools I pick it up and put it into a glass jar for storage. The next day I tested it and still gave off electricity. I called my professor and told him what we found and he came right over. He tested it and took it back to his lab for study.

The fire chief told me that the chemicals leak from cleaning chemicals. If two of these

chemicals mix there would be an explosion. The third one prevented this from happening. The fire chief showed us a better way to store these chemicals and how to use them. I asked him if he could do a safety and rescue course. He said it could be ready next week and I told him the first candidate would be the base staff. It could be done in one weekend and two week at night. The base staff would be there next week to start. I took this course with my staff and it was very helpful.

A few days before Sam and Lora' wedding, Carren and I went to the hall to help set up. The day of the wedding I put my tux on in my quarter they went over to Carren apartment. Then we both went to the church, and Carren looked fantastic. The church served was short and beautiful then we went to the hall for the reception. I gave Sam and Lora toast and wished all the best. Carren and I danced the night and after it was over we went to her apartment. In the morning we got up late and I cooked brunch. The rest of the day we went around shopping for the apartment. When we got back we both cooked supper. After cleaning up I went back to my quarter to get ready for the next day. The next day Carren started her first day at work.

Mid-week my professor called and told me that the jell we found work but it was too unstable to use. He was going to send it to the super lab at the French university for better study and he would keep me informed. That night I called Carren and told her about the jell because I knew she would be interested in it. I also asked her what time I would pick her up for the graduation. She told me that she would be at her parents and you could come by around nine. My parents would bring me back home and you could pick me up at eight pm for the graduation ball. I said, "That grate and I will pick you up at nine. The night before I called her to make sure that everything was all right and it was. I picked her right on time and we went to the university center where the graduation would be held. I drop Carren off then park the car. Since the graduation was eleven I had time to spare. So I went over to see Professor Jonson to ask him about the jell. He said, "The lab was working on it and it was starting to look good but we won't be for sure until fall. When you come back your team can work on it and this would help in your marks. I then checked my watch. It was time to go so I thanked him and went to the center. When I arrived my family and Carren were waiting for me. Then Sam and Lora came up which surprised me because they were on their honeymoon. Lora said, "we would not mince this for anything." We walked to our seats then sat down. I spotted the whole troop and their partners

were sitting in the crowd. When she walked across to pick up her degree I was extremely proud of her. During the small reception, all the people who knew her congratulated her. Then she went home to get ready for the ball. I went back to my quarter and put on my tux then went to pick Carren up. When I saw her my heart jump she was so beautiful. She saw how I looked and gave me a big smile. Then we went to the ball and had a great time and at the end I took her back to her family home. I kissed her goodbye and drove back to my quarters.

The training started in earnest and for now everything was going smoothly. That night I called Carren and asked her, "How was her first day at work?" She replied It was a good day and the staff was very helpful. What about the jell? Did you hear anything about it?" I said, "Not too much, they were still looking at it and they were moving slowly. Jonson still thinks it would be something useful. I got a good feeling about the jell." During the week we had some glitches with the simulators which didn't affect the training. I had to work this weekend with my staff to start talking about a new course we might add. We agreed that we should set up a rescue course and we asked the fire chief to set up a five week course. The next day he called me back and told me that he would have a course by the end of August. Also he would put together a winter course which I didn't think about,

The courses were almost over and they went better than we could have seen. Sam told me that there would be an inspection of the base from the command and they want to see how the people were trained. I told the instructors and they planned a demonstration of each trade. Last week inspection came in and we showed them how the people were trained. The demonstration showed them how well they were trained. The inspectors were pleased with what they saw. It was a good summer of training. The candidates were gone and the training staff had two week left to plan for the next summer. They tossed around ideas to improve the training and they suggested training through the winter. Which is what we were planning to do. At the end a detailed plan was done for winter and summer training. Everybody has a week off before they return back to school.

This year I am going to concentrate on my school work since it is my last year. I have to do three lap projects, one is to study bacteria, another is to help find plastics without any oil in it. The last one to work with was the gel and my regular course. In the unit I don't need to do too

much because we did the work during the summer. I would go in on the weekday and be available if needed. My first project on bacteria was a paper on how the bacterial effect on the human body. This was research work and only took me a few months and I delivered it before Christmas. During this time Carren and I didn't spend too much time together. Her work and my school keep us very busy. I didn't have any time off over Christmas because of the two projects left and I spent a lot of time in the lab. The placid project we mixed chemicals to find a way to eliminate oil from the placik. We got close but there was still more work to do. I did a paper on what we did. The gel project is the one I like the most. We managed to find the three chemicals that would safely produce electricity and store it. We put in a paper on what we did. All the papers gave me a high passing mark and I graduated with high honor. Jonson offered me a job in the university to continue researching the gel power sale. I jump at it. This would give a job for life if I do good which I will. I called Carren at work to tell her the good news and she was thrilled.

It was the day of my graduation and both family and friends were in the audience. Sam and Lora were right in front and when I got my degree and when I looked at them they were both smiling. At the reception after Sam came up to me and said that he was proud of what I accomplie. Carren and both families came up to wish all the best. This time Carren picked me up from my dorm and we went to the ball. Like the other one we had a good time.

The next day at her place she cooked me breakfast then we went around to look for an apartment for me. We were lucky that we found one next door which I took right away. Two week later I moved in with help from our friends. Now it's time for my first day at work and Jonson took me around the new lab which had everything we would need. The university allowed time off to work with the army and which was good for me. For the project we could store power in the gel but we need a protected cover over it. We tried many materials but nothing worked. We are going to work on this problem until we solve it. That's why I like my job.

Carren and I have more time together so we started talking about getting married. I told Carren when we get married my father would give us a house for a wedding present. Carren said, "that her father would give us the furniture we would need for the house." I said, "the both of them got together to help us out." We both decided to get married next June. During the week we

told our parents that we were getting married and it would be next June. Both families were delighted and they started right away to prepare for the wedding. The first people we told were Sam and Lore and they gave their best wishes.

It's now time for the wedding and all preparation was done and Sam was at the door to escort me to the church and Lora went to pick up Carron. At the church the seats were filled up with our family and friends. It was short and wonderful. We left the church with an optimistic feeling. In the reception we mingled with our friends and family for a while because we had to leave early the next day to go on our honeymoon which was three weeks in Europe. Last week Sam and Lora were going to meet us in England for a tour. The three weeks were great and we learned a lot about the people in Europe. The three weeks went fast and we were glad that Sam and Lora met us for the last week. Before we left we got our own apartment and when we got back we were glad to go into our own place. The next week we went back to work.

Both jobs were moving forward and we enjoyed what we did. Carron was planning new buildings. For me the army reserve was keeping me busy and the lab we were still working on the new power sale. Our parents gave us a new home and we're going to move in July. Around that time Lora would have their first child. Life is good. We never know what would happen in the future but if you have a loving partner and good friend you could handle anything. Well that's my story for now maybe I would write a continuation to our story.