

Chapter XXXIX

Working Honeymoon

July 1, 1944 – July 31, 1944

It had been a long two days, first flying across the Continental United States and then the Pacific Ocean. Anticipation grew as the Island of Oahu came into view through the window of the Douglas R5D, the Navy's designation for the DC-4. As they drew nearer, the features of the island began to take shape. As the plane made its approach from offshore, Diamond Head loomed just ahead. Ramona scanned the shoreline looking for her beach house. And then, there it was, right where she left it just over a year earlier.

Once the plane passed Diamond Head, Honolulu came into view, with Waikiki Beach stretching along the shore. Lined up with the runway on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor lay directly ahead. When the plane touched down Sheffield and Ramona were more than ready to begin their working honeymoon. Sure there would be some work involved, the majority of the time was theirs.

After retrieving their luggage, they caught the ferry to Hospital Point. Once on the other side, Sheffield left Ramona to tend their things while he went to the motor pool to check out a vehicle, a 1941 Chevrolet Special Deluxe 4 door sedan, in Navy markings. Several minutes later he returned for her and loaded their luggage into the car. Since they were going to be there a whole month, they brought a lot with them.

Driving out of the main gate, Sheffield had a flash back as they approached the spot where he had found Geannie's car; shot up, blood saturated, and abandoned. As he drove past, he had a sickening feeling in his stomach.

The feeling left him as they drove on into Honolulu. Ramona suggested that they stop at a market to get enough groceries and other items that they would need. Being Sunday evening, nothing was open, so it would have to wait. They did however find a place to stop and get something to eat. As they drove through Honolulu, they took note of the changes that had taken place since they were last there. For her, it was fourteen months; for him it was over two years.

Leaving the city behind them, they rounded Diamond Head and continued east on Highway 72 along the shore. Soon they pulled into the driveway at 5793. The place was a bit overgrown as the maintenance crew that she had hired to take care of things hadn't been there yet that month. Overall, the place looked pretty good for having set that long.

The two bedroom house was built in 1923 and she bought it in 1930. At the time, it was the only house along that stretch with the cove all to herself; until 1938 when another house was built a little further up the road. The people who owned it were rarely there when she was, so she still had the cove to herself. It didn't look as if they had been there for a while either, so they were sure to have the cove all to themselves. She noticed another home being built a little further to the east.

During the time that they lived in Hawaii, Sheffield and Geannie and the kids had spent time there; either with Ramona or at her invitation, by themselves; with or without the kids.

Once inside, it was just as she had left it, with sheets covering the furniture. Dust had gathered and cobwebs were in the corners, nothing a good cleaning wouldn't take care of. But it was getting to be dusk. Ramona set about putting things away while Sheffield brought it all in. After doing what absolutely had to be done, the weary travelers sat out on the patio overlooking the ocean for a while before going to bed.

The patio looked out over the beach and Maunalua Bay with the Pacific Ocean beyond. The bay forms a broad, eight mile indentation in Oahu's southern coastline nestled between Diamond Head to the west and Koko Head to the east. The sun went down around seven twenty, but for them it had been a very long day. According to their body clocks it was more like midnight. The rest of their things could be put away tomorrow and the cleaning would have to wait until then too.

It was all still there waiting for them the next morning and had to be taken care of before the honeymoon could begin. Ramona sent Sheffield to a little market down the road to get some groceries while she got busy with a broom. When he got back, they stopped to have breakfast. Next, she sent him outside to take care of the weeds while she finished straitening up inside. By mid afternoon, things were in order and the honeymoon could begin. The first order to business was to....

Afterwards, they went down to the beach and went for a swim and just relaxed. The beach was nothing like the beaches that Hawaii are famous for. Swimming conditions in the bay were rather poor because of the shallow, rocky ocean floor. Maunalua Bay was home to a variety of marine life, including surgeonfish, parrotfish, goatfish, eels, lobster, dolphins, turtles, whales and occasionally monk seals.

Her particular section of beach was secluded. It was simply a narrow strip of sand that gently sloped out into the ocean, with a fairly smooth bottom compared to the rest of the bay. To the west was an out cropping that formed the edge of the cove. To the other side was a point with some tall brush that went down to the water's edge. Behind her house, A dock extended from the beach out into deeper water. It was perfect for tying up a small boat and made an excellent diving platform.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor, the Army strung barbed wire and placed barricades along the beach, as they had at Waikiki and other beaches in the islands to make an amphibious invasion more difficult. On the top of the ridge, at the midway point of the bay, were two shore batteries that had once been two of the four eight inch gun turrets that had been removed from the carrier Lexington. In addition, soldiers patrolled the shoreline. The beach had only been reopened a little while before she left.

As it got later in the afternoon, Sheffield scoured around and gathered up some firewood and built a campfire there on the beach. While he was doing that, Ramona went in to get something to bring out for supper. At seven seventeen, the sun set over the hill just three quarters of to the mile west. A nearly full

moon was hanging in the darkening sky over Koko Head three miles to the east. Having the beach all to themselves, they stayed out until late in the evening before going in.

The next day, Tuesday, was the 4th of July. They spent the day in Honolulu and took in the parade. It was made up of entries from all of the islands in the territory as well as a number of military units. During the afternoon they walked, hand in hand, up and down the streets looking at what all of the street vendors had to offer. At one point they stopped for some shave ice, pineapple and coconut of course.

While enjoying their shave ice, Ramona noticed a poster that got her attention. "Hey Babe, look at this."

Sheffield looked to see what she was referring to.

She continued, "There's a rodeo up the coast north of Kaneohe all this week. After going to the ranch, I'd like to go and see what it's all about."

"I didn't know they had such things over here."

"Oh sure. Cattle ranching goes way back in the Islands. Back around eighteen hundred, someone gave King Kamehameha a small herd of cattle. He didn't know what to do with them and just let them roam around on the Big Island. After a while they began to multiply and became a nuisance so he hired some Mexican cowboys to come over from California to round them up and show the natives what to do with them. Some of them were brought here and several ranches sprang up during the eighteen hundreds."

"Really, I didn't know that."

"Well, when you've lived here as long as I did, you learn a thing or two."

"Gennine and I once went to a rodeo in Battle Mountain, Nevada while on our western vacation back in twenty nine. I really enjoyed it."

"I'd really love to see what it's all about. It runs through Saturday. It says that's the night the rodeo queen is crowned. What is a rodeo queen anyway?"

"I'm not sure."

"So will you take me to it on Saturday?"

"Sure it sounds fun, why not. But first, we need to get some western duds so we don't stand out like a sore thumb."

The shave ice was refreshing, now that it was gone they moved on to see what else there was. In the evening they watched the fireworks display over Waikiki Beach before going home.

On Wednesday, Sheffield took a break from their honeymoon for the work part of the trip. That was the day that he was scheduled to visit the Pacific Night Attack and Combat Training Unit at the Barbers Point Naval Air Station. It was the counterpart to the unit that he had visited in Rhode Island earlier. Barbers

Point is seventeen miles west of Pearl Harbor and adjacent the the Ewa Marine Corps Air Station where the plane he was riding in had been shot down on December 7th. In the process, he was wounded by a piece of shrapnel in the back of his shoulder. After parachuting to the ground, he was nearly captured by a squad of Marines, thinking him to be an enemy pilot.

At the time of his visit, Night Fighter Squadron Seventy Nine was training for their upcoming deployment on the light carrier Independence. The squadron commanded by Commander Turner Caldwell consisted of some radar equipped F6F-3N Hellcats and TBM-1C Avengers. During the meeting, it was determined to meet with Captain EC Ewen of the Independence the next day to workout the details required for night operations.

Meanwhile, Ramona spent the day puttering around her beach house, relaxing. She had dinner ready and waiting for Sheffield when her returned in the early evening. Again they spent the evening out on deck overlooking the beach and the cove. As the sun set, a full moon rose and climbed higher into the night sky out over the ocean.

“Do you want to know what I used to do on a night like this with the full moon when I was here all by myself?” she asked.

“No, what?”

With a twinkle in her eye she said, “I’ll show you.”

Quicker than a flash she stood up, took off all of her clothes, ran down to the dock and dove off the end into the ocean. “Come and join me.” She beckoned from the water.

Sheffield got up and sauntered down to the dock where he sat down at the end of the dock to watch her splashing and diving. At first, he took off his shoes and socks and dangled his feet in the water. He remembered one of those times that he and Geannie had stayed there alone that she had done the same thing. The memory brought a smile to his lips and he too slipped out of his clothes and dove in, just like he had done with Geannie. After a while of playing in the water they got out and lay on the dock under the moon to dry off. And so the honey moon continued....

Sheffield's meeting with Captain Ewen the next day was time perfectly to coincide with Ramona's visit to the hospital. Sheffield met Commander Caldwell and together they went aboard the Independence to meet with Captain Ewen. Capitan Ewen was an academy classmate of Sheffield's had served under Sheffield in the Enterprise Air group and followed Sheffield as air group commander. He had just assumed command the Independence and he too has been fascinated with night flying, thanks to Sheffield's earlier experiments with night flying. Sheffield shared with them what he had learned during the trial on the Chesapeake Bay, which was smaller and slower than the Independence, but could operate the same

number of aircraft. The only thing that stood in the way of the Independence operating as night carrier was approval from Admiral Nimitz's staff. An appointment was made for the following Monday with Nimitz's air officer, Captain Mark Shirley.

Once their meeting was over, Sheffield took the ferry across the harbor to Hospital Point to meet up with Ramona. She wasn't through with her business so Sheffield wandered down to the cafeteria where they had arranged to meet up. He happened to pass the very spot where he found Geannie just before she died. Again the scene flashed before his eyes.

After waiting only a little while, Ramona showed up. She bought dinner for the two of them and visited over their meal. In telling him about her meeting, she said that biggest gap in their training program was that the nurses and pharmacist mates weren't prepared psychologically for some of the horrific wounds they had to treat. With their work done, they went home and enjoyed the evening on the patio of the beech house.

After sleeping in on Saturday morning, there were a few household chores to take care of before leaving for the day. The first stop was in Honolulu to shop for some clothes appropriate for the rodeo. After looking around in the first store, they didn't find anything. As a joke, Sheffield tried on an outfit. Ramona took one look at him and burst out laughing. "I wouldn't be caught dead being seen with you in that get up."

"Why whats wrong with it?" he asked referring to the ten gallon hat, a vest that looked like a child's Halloween costume, woolly chaps, a pair of tight fitting jeans with a rolled up cuff, and a pair of outlandish multi colored snake skin cowboy boots.

"For one thing, its way too Hollywood. If you show up in that, they'll either string you up or laugh you right off the island. Try to find something like what Charlie fixed you up with for the ride back at the ranch in Texas."

In the mean time Ramona had a hard time finding much in her size. After going to another store, she was able to put together matching outfits, which included cattleman's style straw hats, long sleeved red and white plaid western shirts with snaps, a pair of wrangler jeans for him and a denim split riding skirt for her, and to finish it off, matching cowboy boots.

With the proper attire, they headed out of the city and up through the Nuuanau Valley on the Pali Highway, also known as Route 61 and dropped down into the lowlands of the windward coast into Kaneohe. The Kualoa Ranch, where the rodeo was to be held, was just another eleven miles up the coast.

The Kualoa Ranch was a four thousand acre cattle ranch established in 1850. The terrain varied from dense rain forest to broad open valleys and from beautiful white sand beaches to verdant cliff faces. At the time, the Army Air Force had an auxiliary airstrip located on the ranch.

The rodeo was obviously a big deal. Cowboys and livestock had gathered from all over Oahu and even the other islands. The stock from the other islands came by boat, several of which were tied up at the dock. It soon became obvious that the Hawaiians had their own way of doing things, unlike what they had just seen in Texas. Much of their customs bore Spanish influence. For example, cowboys are called “paniolos” a Hawaiianization of the Spanish word vaquero.

There was a definite Hawaiian twist to it. The barbecue prior to the rodeo was much like a luau only with beef having been slow cooked in the ground, instead of pork. It was an odd combination of old west meets the islands. There was nothing odd about the food, it was all very good.

After the barbecue the attendees took their seats in the grandstand and got settled in to watch an evening of rodeo action. The paniolos, both cowboys and cowgirls, made their grand entrance into the arena to the strum of ukuleles, wearing leis as did their horses. The reining rodeo queen led the procession.

Once the rodeo got started, it was all cowboy business, from saddle broncs, to bareback, to roping, to steer wrestling, to the bull riding. During the intermission there was a recap of the queen contestants from the previous nights of competition. At the end of the evening, a new queen was crowned. The finale of the evening was spectacular fireworks display.

By the time the evening was over, it was ten thirty. Rather than go home the way they came over the mountain, they followed to the coast. Either way, it was about thirty miles. Impressed with the show, they came away wanting to grow up to be a cowboy and cowgirl.

The entire next week was free with no business the attend too. On Sunday they attended services at the church where Sheffield, Geannie, and the kids had attended as a family when they lived there. It was also the same church that Ramona attended once she started going to church. Pastor Robbins was still there and he remembered both of them. He was pleased to see that Sheffield had healed and had found love again. He was particularly pleased that it was with Ramona. Many of the congregation remembered them and wished them well in their lives together.

With nothing going on, they stayed close to home for the next few days with an occasional trip into Honolulu. One morning, Ramona woke up to find Sheffield no where in sight. The car they were using was gone too. She figured that he had gone into town for some reason. She didn't have to wait long to find out what that reason was.

Enjoying a cup of coffee on the patio, she saw a sailboat come into sight as it came around the point of the cove. That wasn't all that unusual actually. She loved to watch the boats glide by. This one however stood into the cove and made its way toward the dock. Having a hunch as to who it was, she got up and walked down to the dock.

Sure enough, it was Sheffield. He called out over the water to her, "Good morning sunshine." as he lowered the sail.

"Good morning Babe." she called back. "What do we have here?"

"Why, its a boat." he said as he drew alongside the dock. "Here. Catch this." he said as he sent one end of rope hurtling her way.

"What am I supposed to do with this?" she asked as she picked up the end off the dock.

"Wrap it around that post a couple of times."

With the rope secure, he pulled the boat next to the dock and tied it up. As he helped Ramona into the boat, he asked, "What do you think?"

"I think I'd like you to take me for a ride."

"Thats exactly what I had in mind. I remembered that you said once that you'd love to go out on a sailboat. Well, I just happen to be a sailor."

"Where did you get it?"

"I rented it for the day from the Honolulu Yacht Club on the other side of Diamond Head. Let me show you around." He took her down into the cabin. "See, it has a galley so we can make something to eat. And look at this the table and the benches fold down into a bed. Pretty snazzy huh."

"I'll say. Lets go get some things together for a picnic and take her out." Ramona said excitedly.

They went up to the beach house and boxed up some things to take with them. While they were at it Sheffield suggested that they change into something more suitable for a day on the water. Ramona grabbed their swimming suits and they packed it all down to the boat and stashed it in the cabin.

With everything aboard, Sheffield untied the boat from the dock and gave it a shove and hopped in. He raised the sail and brought the boat about and pointed the bow out into the bay. Once out of the cove, he came about and headed through Maunalua Bay toward Koko Head. Rounding the point at Koko Head, they sailed east along the shore past Hanauma Bay. It was still closed to the public and machine gun bunkers guarded the entrance to the bay.

A little further east, they passed Koko Crater rising twelve hundred feet above the water. At the base of the massive cinder cone is the Halona Blowhole. On windy days when the tide is high, the ocean breeze sends the waves rolling on to the shore into the rock formation shooting sea spray high into the air like a geyser. This day was not one of those days.

They sailed on east to Makapuu Point, the extreen southeastern tip of Oahu before tuning around and coming back the other way. Things looked different from that perspective. Sheffield brought the boat back into the bay and lowered the sail and dropped anchor about three quarters of mile directly south of the beach house in about forty feet of water.

Romona had prepared lunch, tuna sandwiches with some potatoes salad, and brought it up from the galley where they could enjoy the scenery while they ate. After a while, they removed their clothes and put on their swimming suits and went over the side of the boat into the water and dove down as far as they could before having to come back up for air. The clear water gave them a breathtaking view of the marine life that called the bay home. After a while, they climbed back into the boat and stretched out in the sun to dry off, which turned romantic. After all, this was their honeymoon.

When they were ready to move on, Sheffield hauled in the anchor and raised the sail and they went on their way. Before long, they rounded Diamond Head and glided along just offshore from Waikiki Beach and Honolulu as far as Honolulu Harbor. Any further and they would have found themselves in restricted water.

Rather than turning around there, Sheffield pointed the bow south and sailed several miles out to sea before turning back toward the marina where he got the boat. The sun was setting into the ocean as they neared the marina. With the boat returned and paid for, they put what they had brought with them into the car and went home. Ramona had a special way of thanking Sheffield for a wonderful day.

Other than that, it was a pretty laid back week. Sheffield put together a packet of the notes that he made at the various meetings he had attended and sent it to Yeoman Gover to file. The only other excitement came on the weekend when they attended an authentic luau. Sheffield still had the Hawaiian shirt that Geannie bought for him on the Lurline when she and the kids came to Hawaii. Ramona wore the hula gown that had been Sandy's, with a gardenia in her hair, naturally.

When the hostess seated them, she made the same mistake that a lot of people had been making. With Sheffield's premature gray hair and cane, and Ramona's youthful look, the hostess assumed that they were father and daughter. It always irritated Sheffield when that happened, after all there was only a four and half year age difference. On the other hand, Ramona took it as a compliment that people thought that she was much younger than forty one.

The meal was fabulous and the entertainment was terrific. At one point during program, the announcer called for volunteers to participate in an armature hula competition. Without hesitation, Ramona went up on stage. As the music started the dancers began to gently sway. Some of the women didn't have a clue what they were doing. Others, like Ramona, who had been in the islands for a while, knew a thing or two about it. As the tempo picked up, several dropped out because they couldn't keep up. Others dropped out later as the tempo continued to increase. Ramona stayed right with it. For a woman with no hips, she could sure swing them. In the end, there were only two left, Ramona and one other woman. The other gal had more hip to put into it and ended up winning.

On Sunday, they again attended services and spent a while wandering around Honolulu before

returning to the beach house for the rest of the day.

Sheffield heard that the Enterprise had come into Pearl Harbor on Sunday. They too had been pioneering night time flight operations and Sheffield wanted to talk to some people and pick their brains. He made an appointment to meet with with Lieutenant Commander Bill Martin on Tuesday at Kaneohe where the squadron was stationed while ashore. Commander Martin was the commander of Torpedo Ten and like Sheffield was one of the main instigators of night flying. He also made an appointment with the air officer on the Enterprise for Wednesday. He wanted to see how they handled nighttime flight deck operations.

On Tuesday when Sheffield drove up to Kaneohe for his meeting, Ramona went a long for the ride. His meeting with Commander Martin was very informative. As early as November 1942, while the executive officer of Scouting Ten operating from the Big E in the South Pacific, he began experimenting with flying by radar in a radar equipped Avenger that he borrowed from Torpedo Ten. By December 1st he had accumulated fifteen hours of flying.

When he returned for a second deployment aboard the Enterprise in January 1944, he was commander of Torpedo Ten. With the latest radar installed in their aircraft, he trained his pilots and air crews extensively in night flying operations. During an attack on enemy shipping and shore installations at Truk in February, Torpedo Ten was given the opportunity for a night bombing attack on enemy ships in the harbor.

Although Martin had been grounded due to an accidental injury received aboard ship, he assigned his executive officer, Lieutenant Vernon Van Eason to lead thirteen Avengers on the raid. Every pilot made at least one hit and the damage inflicted was substantial. Only one plane failed to return and was presumed lost.

Commander Martin introduced Sheffield to Lieutenant Commander Richard Harmer, the commander of Night Fighter Squadron One Oh One, who had deployed aboard Enterprise with Air Group Ten with a detachment of four radar equipped F4U-2s. He had an uphill fight getting permission for his pilots to fly their Corsairs on night missions as enthusiasm for night fighters was not shared by many officers. He was credited with his first radar-intercept shoot down of an enemy aircraft by a carrier-based night fighter in April while retiring from the raid on Truk. His success led to a softening of the prevailing attitude, leading to more night missions.

In all, the detachment made ten night interception sorties against intruding enemy bombers resulted in five shot down, two probably destroyed and two damaged. Lieutenant (jg) Robert F. Holden had three twin-engine torpedo bombers to his credit and another probably destroyed, while Commander Harmer had two, with another another probably destroyed.

The information that Sheffield gleaned from the interview was very helpful to his project and uncovered some points, both positive and negative, that he had not encountered before. Their lessons

learned were sure to contribute greatly to his final report.

Sheffield and Ramona had the rest of the afternoon to explore the area. Ramona took him to the Kanohuluiwi Fish Pond, one of only a few remaining such ponds on the island. Fishponds were primarily a grazing area in which algae is cultivated. Several species of edible fish were attracted to the ponds where they were easy to catch.

On their way home they took Pali Highway and stopped off at the Nuuanu Pali Lookout. In all of her travels, Ramona had never been there although she had been by there many times, but Sheffield had been. The 985 foot cliffs is one of the best views on Oahu. It was there in 1795 that King Kamehameha and his warriors defeated the Oahu army by driving them over the steep cliffs and claiming his victory and uniting the Hawaiian Islands. The breathtaking sight and the gruesome history of the battle fought there was enough to cause a chill to run up their spines.

The next morning, both Sheffield and Ramona put on their uniforms and after breakfast drove over to Pearl Harbor. They split up at the hospital and went there separate ways. Ramona took a launch out to the hospital ship Solace, which had just arrived with wounded from the fighting on Guam and Saipan. Her objective was the same as it had been at the hospital earlier, to evaluate the effectiveness of the training of personnel trained at Bethesda. Again the result was the lack of psychological preparation for the seriousness of the wounds encountered in combat.

Meanwhile, Sheffield took the ferry out to Ford Island where he went aboard the Enterprise. It was the first time that he set foot aboard her since he left her in April of 1942, after having been aboard her in a variety of capacities for four years. In the time since he left the ship, there were very few of her crew who had been aboard then, as a large number of men had just been transferred off the ship when she returned.

In his meeting with Commander Tom Hamilton, the air officer, he got the perspective of the men who put the planes in the air, brought them aboard, and took care of them while aboard. It was Commander Hamilton who had worked with Lieutenant Commander Edward "Butch" O'Hare to develop a tactic using a TBF with radar to direct fighters against enemy aircraft during the Makin campaign in November 1943 when night enemy air attacks on the U.S. Fleet was a major problem. During the experiment, Commander O'Hare was lost.

However, when Night Fighter Squadron One Oh One reported aboard in January, Commander Hamilton refused to let them off from the deck at first. The reason was because the air department was putting in eighteen hour days and if they had to launch and recover the night fighters too, it turned out to be a twenty four hour days. Eventually, with the insistence of Admiral Reeves, the night fighters were given their opportunity to show what they could do. After their initial success, Commander Hamilton had a change of heart.

Sheffield told him about the trials on the Chesapeake Bay and how in his opinion, if around the clock operations were to be undertaken, more crewmen would be required to handle to the workload. Otherwise a carrier should be dedicated to either day or night operations.

Sheffield and Ramona met up at the hospital and again had lunch in the cafeteria. They shared with each other what they had learned. Then Sheffield proposed, "What you say to leaving a few days early and finish up our vacation in San Diego?"

"I haven't been in San Diego since I came here. Why, what do you have in mind?"

"Well after leaving the Big E, I talked to some people and found out that the Ranger will be arriving here around the third of next month, after we leave, but they will be in San Diego for a few days later next week. There are some people I'd really like to talk to."

"I suppose that would be alright. We're kind of running out of things to do. I don't know if anything can top that boat ride."

"Alright then, I'll make the arrangements for a flight and a place to stay." Sheffield said. Then he added, "I'm sure glad that you have your beach house."

"Me too Babe, except I've been wondering if I should keep it since we don't live here. What do you think?"

"If you ask me, I think that you should keep it. It gives us a reason to come back someday."

Sheffield didn't have any more business to take care of during the week they had remaining. They took advantage of their time together in every way possible, from relaxing at home, to visiting places on the island, to going dancing or out to a movie. Tuesday was spent closing up the house putting everything away so it would be there and ready to use the next time they came, whenever that might be. A person can get used to living in the slow paced life of the islands and never want to leave.

The next day, the 26th, they flew back to the mainland, landing at the Alameda Naval Air Station and then flew down to San Diego. They checked into a hotel downtown, compliments of the Navy, for the first two nights since they were on Navy business. On Thursday, Sheffield went aboard the Ranger at the Navy Base and learned what he could from them. The Ranger had been assigned the task of training night fighter squadrons and the men he met with provided some valuable input for Sheffield's investigation. Meanwhile, Ramona visited the hospital where she began her career and learned what she could.

They had Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to themselves to wrap up their honeymoon. The change of pace gave their honeymoon a boost as it wound down. On Friday they set out in a rental car and spent the day in Tijuana. Then on Saturday they spent the day at Balboa Park, taking in the attractions there, including the San Diego Zoo and The Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego. Sunday was spent just relaxing and enjoying each other on the last day of their honeymoon.

Then on Monday, the 31st, they flew back to Washington. They had a wonderful time, even though it was interspersed with a little work. Sheffield accomplished more there during the month than he ever would have working from his office. After all, if it hadn't been for that, there would have been no trip. It gave them the time to really settle into marriage away from the fast pace of their busy careers. Now it was time to jump back in.

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Everywhere else, shave ice is referred to as shaved ice. Shave ice was brought to the islands by Japanese plantation workers in the 1920s.

The Night Attack and Combat Training Unit at Barbers Point Naval Air Station was real as were Commander Turner Caldwell and Captain EC Ewen of the Independence. The information about their meeting is from "Dark Sky, Black Sea: Aircraft Carrier Night and All-Weather Operations" by Charles H. Brown. Sheffield's role of course is fictional.

The cattle industry in Hawaii began on February 22, 1793, at Kealahou Bay on the Big Island. British Navigator George Vancouver presented to Kamehameha I four cows, two ewes and a ram he had brought from Monterrey, Mexico. In January of 1794, Vancouver landed many more cattle. Kamehameha recruited California Vaquero Joachin Armas to help contain the wild cattle and train local cowboys. As the years went by, more Spanish mission vaqueros from California came to work for the burgeoning cattle industry. They brought their trained horses, Spanish saddles, spurs, sombreros and Spanish traditions of cattle ranching, passing them on to the Hawaiians they trained. They also trained the Hawaiians to work leather, make beef jerky, and cure hides. Soon, hides and tallow were a major Hawaiian export.

The Hawaiians called the vaqueros "paniols", their linguistic corruption of the Spanish word "Vaquero"; which today remains the island word for "Cowboy". Cattle born on the Island of Hawaii were often shipped live to other islands and the mainland.

The hospital ship Solace didn't actually arrive at Pearl Harbor until August 26th.

The information about Commander Bill Martin came from "The Night Birds of the Big E" by Arnold W. Olson found at <http://www.cv6.org/1945/nightops/nightbirds.htm>.

The information about Commander Hamilton and Commander Harmer came from "The Big E's Impatient Virgins" by Randolph Barrett found at <http://www.usni.org/big-es-impatient-virgins>.