

Chapter III

Last Assignment

October 28, 1945 – February 28, 1946

On Sunday morning, October 28th the rendezvous in New York came to an end. While Sheffield and Ramona were getting ready to leave, the Reprisal was preparing to weigh anchor and get underway. One last time they took the elevator down to the first floor to have breakfast. The food had been marvelous, but Sheffield was looking forward to an old fashion home cooked meal.

After breakfast, they packed the rest of their clothes, took one last look around to make sure they hadn't left anything behind. Satisfied that they had everything, they called for a hotel porter to come and get their luggage. Ramona waited in one of the comfortable chairs in the lobby while Sheffield settled their account. Most of the tab was covered by the Navy, since Ramona was there on official business. Business mixed with pleasure, that is.

The porter followed them out onto the street. The cabbie loaded their luggage into the trunk while Sheffield handed the porter his tip. As the cab drove off, the Reprisal began moving down the Hudson River with the assistance of two tug boats, one on either side. Once at Grand Central Station, they had a short wait to board the train for Washington.

As they boarded the train and settled into their seats, the Reprisal was rounding the tip of lower Manhattan and into the East River. Soon, the train pulled away from the platform and began making its way through the underground tunnel. After a few minutes it emerged onto the above ground tracks. As it crossed the Hudson River, the Reprisal tied up at the dock at the Brooklyn Navy Yard where she was to remain for the next four months.

For the the last three and a half years, Sheffield had a special connection with the Reprisal, except for the time he had spent with the Bureau of Aeronautics, and then he was still involved somewhat. Now they were going their separate ways. The Reprisal would always be a important part of Sheffield, and Sheffield was an integral part of the history of that great ship. With the war behind them, Sheffield had a long fulfilling life waiting ahead for him and so did the Reprisal.

Rather than looking back, Sheffield looked forward. He looked forward to his new assignment, to retiring from the Navy, and most of all, to going home. They visited between themselves and with other passengers as the train made its way through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Lieutenant Gover and Petty Officers Williams and Carlburg were also on the same train but in different passenger cars.

Five and half hours later, they disembarked at Union Station in Washington D.C, and collected their luggage. As they came out into the terminal, Ramona noticed that the October 29th edition of LIFE Magazine was on the newsstand. They stopped and picked one up to have a look. "At least they didn't plaster my face on the cover this time." Sheffield said. The cover featured a hunter and bird dog emerging from a stand of

trees. The table of contents told them that the articles about the he and the Reprisal were on page forty two, right after a story about the Enterprise. Sheffield pulled a dime from his pocket and handed it to the vendor. They found an out of the way place to read the article. It was well done and not too long, with a picture of them. The article about the Reprisal was also brief but accurate with a couple of pictures.

One more taxi ride and they were home. After unpacking, Ramona looked through the cupboards to see what she had and whipped up a tuna casserole. It wasn't anything fancy, but at least it was home cooked and that suited Sheffield just fine. The rest of the afternoon was spent just relaxing and enjoying being home. Sheffield did place a telephone call to his parents. It was the first time in a year that he had heard their voices. Before hanging up, he promised that they would be home for Thanksgiving.

On Monday morning, Ramona returned to the hospital and Sheffield went into the Navy Administration Building. He met with his staff in the office space that had been provided for them to see what they had and what they still needed. While Lieutenant Gover and his assistants went about getting organized, Sheffield met with his boss to get some instructions as to what his assignment was to accomplish. That first week was spent mostly in getting organized and identifying the material that they would need to access.

On Thursday the 1st of November, Sheffield couldn't help but reflect on the milestone that that day would have been. That day would have been Sandy's twenty first birthday. Oh what might have been? Would she be in her last year of college? Perhaps would she would have been married by now? She was beautiful young lady at seventeen, oh what a beautiful woman she would certainly be. He remember that day so well. Her birth was the important event of that day, not receiving his wings. She sure caused quite a commotion when she decided to come.

At the end of the week, they got together with Harvey and Marcella for dinner. They talked about Sheffield's plans to retire at the end of twenty five years. Harvey was still a couple of years away from that mark and hadn't really decided how much longer he wanted to wait or what he wanted to do with himself once he retired.

For the next two and half weeks Sheffield and his staff worked on defining the scope of their project and how to best go about things. Lieutenant Gover requisitioned the equipment and supplies that they would need. Gradually things fell into place and they were ready to get started.

During that time, Sheffield decided that he needed a car. Before, he had always had a staff car, but one was not provided this time around. One weekend he and Ramona went car shopping. During the war, automobile manufacturers had converted their industrial output to the war effort. With the war now over, they had retooled their factories for the production of automobiles once more. As the 1946 models began rolling

off the assembly lines, they were in high demand as the availability of prewar used models had become scarce.

After shopping around over a couple of weekends, he was down to a choice between a 1946 Chevrolet Fleetmaster Sport Sedan or the Cabriolet. They were both five passenger cars, except the Cabriolet was a two door coupe with a fold down top.

Geannie used to love convertibles and that was all they drove. But they were living in either Florida, California, or Hawaii at the time. He decided that a convertible wouldn't be very practical during the coming winter in Washington, or for winters in Roanoke either, so in the end he decided on the more practical sedan. The dark blue car was powered by a 216.5 cubic inch straight-six engine and a 3 speed manual transmission.



Soon it was Thanksgiving. On Wednesday afternoon, Sheffield and Ramona swung by Ruth Ann's apartment and picked her up. The trip to Roanoke was the perfect road test for his new car. Sheffield asked Ruth Ann, "What did your cousin do about her dilemma?"

"Well." Ruth Ann explained, "Dan, her second husband, the older brother, knew that Peggy was still very much in love with Cal, her first husband, the younger brother. She had married Dan more out of convenience so he offered to step a side and filed for a divorce, which went through rather quickly.

"But because Cal had been declared legally dead, their marriage had been dissolved, so they had to get married again. There were no hard feelings and Cal and Dan still have a good relationship and Dan is seeing someone else so everyone is happy."

"What about Dan's child?" Ramona wanted to know.

"He's still to little to know the difference so for now so they have time to figure that one out."

"Well," Sheffield concluded, "I hope everything works out for them."

The sun had set when they arrived in Roanoke. The first stop was to drop Ruth Ann off at Shenan's. When they arrived at his parents home, Ellen was waiting for them with with supper. It had been more than a year since Sheffield had seen his parents, so he was shocked at how frail his father appeared. His once robust and energetic frame was a little stooped. He seemed a little stiff as he came to greet him and when he gave him a hug, Sheffield could feel him trembling. "It's good to see you, Dad. You look great." he said. After supper and an evening of visiting, it was time to go to bed.

That year Thanksgiving fell on the 22nd. This time, everyone would be there. Sheffield went next door to the church to get some tables and chairs and set them up so there would be a seat for everyone. Ramona was busy baking pies while Ellen worked on getting the turkey ready to go in the oven when the pies came

out.

Sarah arrived with a pan full of potatoes that were ready to go on the stove, along with some fresh baked rolls. When Shenan and Emily and their family arrived, Emily had the cranberries and a green bean salad. Soon the whole family had arrived; each had brought a contribution to the feast.

When the final touches had been made, everyone was called to the table, all twenty one of them, including Emmaline's boyfriend Willie Casper. Emmett said Grace, thanking God for the feast, and the fact that everyone was together, and especially that the war was over.

As soon as the Amen was said, the food began to be passed around as plates were heaped high. Danny, who had been discharged from the Navy Reserve only a week earlier, had an announcement to make. "Now that I'm home, I'm going to use my GI Bill and put my civil engineering degree to work and start his my own business right here in Roanoke."

"That's great." Shenan replied. "It would fit right in with my surveying business."

"I know. That's the idea. I have a lead on some surplus military equipment that I can pick up. What the money from the government doesn't cover, the bank is willing to lend me. I hope to be up and going soon after the first of the year."

"You know," Sheffield began, "I have always wondered how you ended up being a pilot instead of going into the SeaBees like Ray Austin."

"When volunteered, I did so with the expectation of signing up for the construction battalion, since that is what my degree was in. At that particular time they needed pilots and I was presented that as an alternative. You, Uncle Sheffield, was the first thing that popped into my head. I thought, 'I'd see more action flying planes than I would building runways.' so I signed up."

"And a good pilot he was." Shenan boasted. "He came home as an ace, you know."

"I'm just thankful that he came home." Ellen interjected. "Make that all three of you."

After everyone had commented and congratulated him, Sheffield said, "Ramona and I have an announcement too. We have decided to retire from the Navy and move back to Roanoke."

"Why that's wonderful news." Ellen exclaimed. "When?" she wanted to know.

"We are going to request June first. That will make twenty five years for me and twenty for Ramona."

"What would you do then?" Walt asked.

"I'd like to look into flying for one of the airlines and Ramona is thinking about teaching at Hollins or maybe working at the hospital. We'll just have to see."

After the buzz of his announcement settled down, Walt surprised everyone with what he was thinking about. "My private counseling practice is going so well, I'm considering leaving the ministry to do it full time."

Everyone went silent, not knowing what to say. "You have a calling, you know son." Emmett said.

"I know. But sometimes God calls us to go on to something else. That's how we grow. I can't help but think there is something very good that will come from all of this. Besides I've been thinking a lot about Geannie's questions lately. I never have been able to answer them and it bothers me. It makes me think there is more to what I have been preaching all of these years.

"About a year ago, I was at a conference where one of the top theologians in the church was a guest speaker. I requested a personal interview with him, which was granted. I told him that one of my parishioners had come to me with several questions that I couldn't answer. He wanted to know what they were, confident that he would know the answers. So I asked them of him. It turned out that he couldn't answer them either. I told him that I'd really like to find the answers some day.

"What he said next caught me by surprise. He said that the pursuit of such answers would lead me into hearsay and plunge my soul into hell. Ever since then I have been a little disillusioned. It occurred to me that it is hypocritical of me to preach a sermon each week, when I question the completeness of what I'm teaching."

Ramona chimed in, "I'm new to this whole idea of going to church. I too have found Geannie's questions intriguing. The comments and notes in her Bible are quite insightful. A lot of it I have never heard come over a pulpit. I'm not a life long Methodist like all of you, so if I ever find anyone who can answer them or fill in the blanks left by her notes, I'd listen to what ever they had to say."

"That's just it," Walt concluded, "so would I."

"Me too." Sheffield added. Several others said that they were aware of Geannie's studiousness, but not the particulars. Many of them agreed. But after some discussion, the consensus was that until or if that ever happened, they were and would be devout Methodists.

Emmett summed it up by saying, "I don't know that you'll ever get them answered, but one should always question things. It can only lead to truth. God is truth, therefore it will lead one to God."

"Well Walt," Emmett said, "All I can say is follow your heart. If you choose to leave the ministry to pursue your counseling business, you have my blessing."

"When would you make such a move, Walt?" Sheffield asked.

"First I need to see how my clientèle grows. Then we'd need to find a place to live, because we'd have to move out so my replacement can have the house. It could take a while to get my ducks lined up, so I'd appreciate it if no one said anything until I'm ready to announce my decision."

Every one around the table promised that they wouldn't say a word. In addition to promising, Emmaline said, "Daddy, you can't quit until after you perform our wedding. Willie has asked me to marry him and of course, I said yes."

Again a buzz went around the table as everyone offered their congratulations. When asked about a

date, she replied, "We don't know yet but we're thinking some time in the spring."

The next announcement came from Joe and Adelle. They were expecting another baby in June. Then Tim had one of his own. "I'll be eligible for discharge sometime next month. I plan on using my GI bill to go to school. I've already been accepted at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg for the next semester. If I take summer classes as well, I could have my degree in three years."

"That's great." his grandmother cheered.

"What are you going to major in?" someone else asked."

"I want to take what I learned in the Navy and go into electrical engineering with an emphasis in radio and television broadcasting."

"What's television?" Grandpa Brason asked."

"Its something new that they've been working on during the war. You know how you can transmit sound over the radio?"

"Actually, thats still a mystery to me." Emmett confessed.

"Well, its kind of like radio, only instead of just the sound, a picture is transmitted as well. The signal is picked up by a receiver that projects the picture on a screen, kind of like a small movie screen, right in your front room. It's the next big thing and I want in on it."

"Who's going to have time to sit around and what a picture on a little screen?" Grandma Brason demanded to know. "I don't think it will fly. You'd better stick with the radio. Everyone listens to the radio."

"No, Mom." Sheffield interjected. "Its kind of like the radar we use on our ships to be able to see out over the horizon. They have actually proved that what Tim is talking about works. Its just that with the war, the attention was focused on radar. With the war over, now they can put more effort into developing television."

"It's like this, Grandma." Tim concluded. "What's your favorite program that you listen to on the radio."

"I just love listening to Ozzie and Harriett."

"Just imagine being able to watch as the story unfold as the actors tell the story and be able to see whats taking place instead of imagining it."

"Well, I'll believe it when I see it." Ellen huffed.

Emmett spoke up, "Well it sounds like there are a lot of good things in store for all of you. I hope the best for each and every one of you. After all of this good news, I hate to tell you my news." He paused and looked at Ellen. She nodded her approval to continue. "As you all know, I'm getting to be an old man. I can accept that, it happens to all of us eventually. I thought that I was just showing signs of age when my hands started trembling, or when my posture began to slump, or when I began to stiffen up. Come to find out its all

related. Earlier this week, the doctor confirmed that I have Parkinson's Disease.”

Everyone went silent as they assimilated what he had just said. He continued, “I've had the symptoms for a while now but over the last year or so, they seemed to have gotten worse. There is no cure for it, but with medication, the progression can be slowed down. Now I don't want you to worry about me, I'll be alright. At my age things like this are to be expected. They way I see it, there are a lot of worse things. We all saw what cancer did to Marie Austin. I thank God that I don't have that to deal with. So I don't want anyone to feel sorry for me, I don't. This is thanksgiving, and I, we all have so much to be grateful for. The war is over, we're all here together, there is such a bright future for all of us to look forward to. Now, please pass me the mashed potatoes.”

Sheffield enjoyed the time at home after having been gone for the last year. Over the few days they were there, he and Ramona talked a lot about retiring in Roanoke. The reality of his father's condition made him realize that that was where he needed to be. He hadn't spent a lot of time with them since he went away to the Academy. He certainly didn't want to miss out on their later years in life, however many they might have.

On Sunday after attending services and a light lunch, Sheffield, Ramona, and Ruth Ann drove back to Washington. Sheffield was very pleased with his new car. It wasn't as smooth as Geannie's '39 Buick had been, but it was good solid automobile. It was stylish and quite comfortable. Ramona's '41 Ford coupe was sporty but a little cramped, especially the back seat. Since his car was brand new, Ramona gave up the garage to his car, and began parking hers in the driveway behind their townhouse.

On Monday, Sheffield's staff all returned from their Thanksgiving holiday, ready to go back to work. Morris had spent it with Mrs. Watson and Molly. Petty Officer Williams went home with Petty Officer Carbug, who was from the Pittsburgh area.

The next two or three weeks were spent gathering the information they would later sort through. Since none of them had taken any leave time in more than a year, Sheffield granted everyone, including himself a thirty day leave over the upcoming holidays. They would wrap up the gathering phase on the 14th of December and return on the 14th of January to begin analyzing the information. That was expected to take a couple of months. Then compiling their report would take another couple of months, leaving them a month to wrap things up and close down their office.

With six months before their planned retirement, they both submitted their requests with June 1st as their retirement date, but their last day on duty would be Friday May 24th, allowing them to have Memorial Day in Roanoke. Once their paperwork had been submitted, they were told that it would be the middle of January before it would be approved.

That year, Sheffield's birthday was on Friday. It was his forty seventh. Birthdays just weren't the same anymore. He used to look forward to them more for Geannie than himself. He used to go all about for her and plan for it months in advance. As with his three previous birthdays he just didn't get excited about it any more.

Ramona wanted to make this one special, since he had been away the year before. For starters, she baked a birthday cake and decorated it. In the evening, she took him to dinner followed by a performance of the US Naval Concert Band at the Daughters of the American Revolution's Constitution Hall.

Because of the week of leave that Ramona took to meet Sheffield in Hawaii, she only had three weeks for the holidays. Sheffield took advantage of the week before leaving for Roanoke to look into the requirements for flying for the airlines. The first step was to take a one hundred question written test. He also worked on putting together his resume with all of the details of his naval career. He wasn't typically one to toot his own horn, but in this case he wanted to use everything he had done to his advantage. What he really hoped for was job flying out of Roanoke for American Airlines, so that was the course he focused on. The one thing he lacked, in his estimation, was that he had no experience flying multi engine aircraft. After taking the test, he submitted his resume, now that too was a waiting game.

On Saturday the 22nd, Sheffield and Ramona loaded their Christmas gifts into the trunk of the car and left their townhouse and picked up Ruth Ann for yet another trip to Roanoke. It was early afternoon when they arrived; just ahead of a cold front. It had only been a four weeks since they were last there, but it was home and soon it would be permanent.

On Sunday morning the entire Brason Family were in their usual place during services, right behind the Austins. Sheffield hadn't seen some of them for quite some time and an evening was set aside during the holidays to get together with them. As they left the church to go next door to Emmett and Ellen's for Sunday dinner, it was snowing lightly.

By evening the snow had let up and the sky was clearing a little in the west. The rest of the family gathered for a round of homemade eggnog and Christmas Carols. By this time, Ramona was becoming much more comfortable with sharing her voice and singing out. But she was still reluctant to do a solo, even for family.

During the night, another front moved in that blanketed the area with about an inch of snow. The forecast called for scattered snow showers throughout the day. By early afternoon, the snow picked up which set the mood for the Christmas Eve services and program at the church. Ramona felt right at home with the people there. In the time since she became acquainted with the Brason Family and the congregation, she had come to be one of them.

Outside of the family, she had particularly become good friends with Samantha Taylor. Sam was

excited to learn that they would be moving to Roanoke. Ramona was concerned about Sam's health. She looked pale and it was obvious that she had lost a considerable amount of weight. True, she had always been overweight, but she just didn't look healthy. She did admit that she felt tired lately but chalked it up to the hectic pace leading up to the holidays. Ramona told her that she needed to see a doctor. Sam said that she'd try to work it in to her schedule. After the program when everyone went home there was a good four inches of snow on the ground.

On Christmas morning, the Brasons observed their tradition Christmas routine. Ellen and Emmett opened their gifts to each other, as did Sheffield and Ramona. Once again, Ramona had pie duty while Ellen got the ham ready. Sheffield trudged through the snow to bring some tables and chairs over from the church. Walt sent Tim over to help him. Sheffield decided that he wanted a place big enough to host the family events. It was too bad that the Austin Mansion wasn't still available.

Later in the morning Walt and Sara and their family came over. Tim had just been discharged from the Navy and Emmaline brought Willie. All of Shenan's family was there as well. All during their gift exchange, the aroma of the ham in the oven filled the whole house. After opening gifts, it was time to put the rest of dinner together. Each family had brought something to contribute to the feast. Toward evening everyone bundled up as Walt led the entire family around the immediate neighborhood to do some Christmas caroling to the neighbors, whether they were members of his congregation or not. Afterwards, they went back to Emmett and Ellen's for some hot chocolate before everyone went home.

The week between Christmas and New Year's Eve was spent visiting in the homes of each of his brothers as well as the promised get together with the Austins. Their family had grown as well with marriages and births. All of the Austins who served in the military during the war were now home, except for Horace who was a Lieutenant in the Navy serving as a meteorologist stationed in Japan.

Murry had been assimilated into the Austin family and was doing very well in his new life. He was especially glad to see Captain Brason, the man who pointed him in the right direction. He had earned the trust and confidence of the Austin brothers and had worked his way up to the position of lumberyard foreman. He and Maxine had been married for six months now and had a baby on the way, due in February. As far as Maxine's five year old daughter, Virginia, was concerned, Murry was her daddy.

The Austin brother's business was doing very well and now included the sawmill, the lumberyard, and a building supply store. They were well known throughout the valley and beyond for their competitive prices and their integrity. Anyone in the family who wanted a job with in the business had one, as long as they worked hard and did their job. When Ray came home from the SeaBees he decided to start up his own construction business, which still worked hand in hand with the what his father and uncles were doing.

Charlie was the recognized patriarch of the Austin family, which had remained as close knit as ever.

They still looked to Sheffield, including Ramona, as an integral part of their family. The Austins were happy to hear that they were moving back to Roanoke. Geannie had definitely left an impression on the family. Charlie, Winslow, and Stirling, missed their sister dearly. She was often brought up at family gatherings. Her questions about a deeper meaning to life and religion had also left them wondering about what she was on to.

Naturally, Sarah remained a part of the family as well. She was more of a sister to the Austin brothers than a cousin. In fact most people outside of the family weren't aware that she wasn't their sister. She and Walt were included in on everything they did as family.

The cabin was still shared equally between Charlie, Winslow, Stirling, Sarah, and Sheffield held Geannie's share. When Marie died, her share was distributed evenly five ways. Although Sheffield hadn't used it much, it was always available to him anytime he was in the area. Now that he was moving back, he planned to do something about that.

On New Year's Eve Sheffield and Ramona went out on the town with Walt and Sara for dinner and movie to welcome in the new year. They went to "They Were Expendable" starring John Wayne, Robert Montgomery, and Donna Reed about the exploits of a squadron of PT boats defending the Philippines against Japanese invasion of the Philippines. 1946 promised to be a year of new beginnings. That week and the next were spent relaxing and enjoying being with family and friends.

That Friday night, they went over to the Taylors for dinner and an evening of socializing. Their children were growing up. Craig was now fourteen, Norma was twelve, and Janet was just turning nine. Craig was in the ninth grade and was on the junior high wrestling team. When he learned that his hero had been a wrestler in high school as well as in college, a bond formed between the two of them as they had something in common. Ramona fussed over the girls like she did with all of the nieces, only they were younger which made it more fun. After dinner, they spent the evening playing games and visiting.

Ramona paid a visit to Hollins and took a look at their nursing program and left her resume for their consideration. They also looked at what housing their might be available, but it was too soon to do anything about it. They figured they would get an apartment for starters and look for a house later.

On Friday, the 11th, Sheffield and Ramona began to make their way back to Washington. Ruth Ann had gone back on the train just after the first so they were free to take advantage of the trip home to celebrate their anniversary about ten days early. It was the first time since they had been married that they were able to celebrate their anniversary and Sheffield wanted to do something special to make it up to her.

They took an out of the way route which took them up US Route 220 to Hot Springs, Virginia, the home of the The Homestead Resort and the Warm Springs Bathhouses. Although it was only eighty miles

north of Roanoke, Sheffield had never been there before. The Homestead was a luxury resort in Hot Springs, Virginia, in the middle of the Allegheny Mountains. The area has the largest hot springs in the state, which include the nearby Warm Springs Bathhouses.

The natural mineral spring waters had refreshed and rejuvenated a fortunate few who knew about the place for years. Samantha Taylor had told Ramona about it, as they had gone there on occasion over the years. The octagonal bathhouse dated back to 1761 and in 1818 Thomas Jefferson had spent three weeks there, bathing in the healing waters there times a day. In those early days it was not proper for men and women to use the pool at the same time so a ladies pool was later built in 1836. The buildings had changed little over the years, being made of wood with a roof that is open to the elements. In the modern times that it was, men and women were allowed use the pool together. The Homestead resort was originally built between 1888 and 1892 but was destroyed by a fire in 1901, after which the current luxury hotel was constructed.

Sheffield and Ramona spent two nights, and wanted to take advantage of the pools as much as possible. The only problem was they hadn't packed their bathing suits. In desperation Ramona looked around Roanoke, but in January, swimming suits were no where to be found. To solve the problem, Walt loaned his to Sheffield, but there was no one even close to Ramona's size so that wasn't an option.

One evening while getting undressed, she looked at herself in the mirror and got an idea. She slept on it that night to let the idea materialize. She took one of her bras and a pair of panties and died them red. Then she rummaged through Ellen's scraps of fabric and found what had once been a white pleated skirt. She took a three inch wide band and stitched it around the waste band to disguise the true identity of the garment. Likewise she dressed up the brassiere by sewing a band between the cups some of some longer fabric under the cups and around the band so it covered her midriff.

When she was done, she tried in it own and looked herself over in the mirror. She would have preferred a one piece bathing suit, but a two piece would have to do. After looking over her handiwork, she determined that no one would know the true origin of her bathing suit, particularly in the water.

The steaming warm water and cold mountain air made for an exhilarating contrast. It was so relaxing that they stayed in the pool until they began to be wrinkled. At times they had the pool to themselves, at others they shared it with those who came and went. When they were getting out of the pool, another women complimented her on such a cute suit. Ramona simply smiled and said, "Thank you." During the two days they spent at the resort, they went to the pools two or three times each day. Sheffield swore that the warm mineral water eased the numbness that he felt in his left leg; at least temporarily.

Once back at home, they both settled back into their work and making plans for retirement. On their

actual anniversary they went out to dinner. Sheffield's project was progressing according to schedule as he and his staff went through the information they had gathered. They sorted through all or the logs and actions reports, selecting the parts that had to do with night operations. It was rather tedious at times but by the middle of February, they had gone through it all. Now they had to task of compiling the information into a cohesive report.

At the very end of February, Sheffield got serious about what he was going to do next and contacted American Airlines about the possibility of going to work for them. The person he spoke with said that he would review his resume and promised to get back to him.

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The October 29, 1945 edition of Life Magazine featured a hunter on cover and an article on page forty entitled "The Long Voyage Home" about the Enterprise and Navy Day.

"They Were Expendable" premiered on December 19, 1945

The Homestead Resort and the Warm Springs Bathhouses are actual places as described.