

Ernie Crick Digital Story

For my National Service I came from Blacktown in Aldershot doing my training, I was posted down to a little place in Shrewsbury, Leeton it's called, just a holding unit, waiting for an overseas posting. A posting came through for Japan, so obviously I went to Japan; it took five weeks on the Empire Pride. Good experience mind I was short of money I was for some unknown reason and all we were doing was playing cards for cigarettes. You had your free issue of cigarettes didn't you in tins, so the cigarettes were filthy dirty at the end of the voyage.

Anyway i got there to the holding unit and i thought well where to next? So anywhere luckily I was posted to HQ, HQPCFK in Curie, Curie House. I went into an Australian camp where we had all the luxuries, swimming pool, plenty of salads, ice cream and things like that. So I spent six months enjoying the comforts and working as a clerk.

Well one day the chief clerk he wanted me and he said I'm afraid you're going to have to go to Korea he said. He said there's a man in Korea he's going to ??? camp in Tokyo, he's been two miles from the frontline in a lorry in a clerical position and he says he wants a replacement to enjoy his month.

So I was posted to Korea. Well I ended up in a lorry doing my job in a lorry with a tent coming down, sleeping quarters in one side and I had a photocopier in the other. That was two miles from the line that was and I served only a month there and this man wanted to come back for some unknown reason. So I came down then to a holding unit where it had a headquarters and I spent all my time in there then until I came home you know.