

# ***Smokey's Books***

## ***Introduction***

### ***January 2010***

It is now January, 2010. As they say, time flies when you're having fun. I started this book project a little over five years ago. As the first book writing progressed, my focus was shifted to creating Web Sites through which I could find those who would collaborate in the writing. As conduits for information exchange, these Web Sites have provided a treasure chest of 'content'. My 'Memory Jar' has been filled in such a way that I cannot describe. I have provided a way to share such that the 'Memory Jars' of thousands of others have also been filled to overflowing. If I don't live long enough to finish this book project, I can rest in knowing that the overall story has been recovered, recollected, remembered, and recalled by these thousands of individuals who have touched my life and have shared space and time with me for almost 70 years. As I write these books, I am forced to remember the bad first and then the good. I have to stand back occasionally and rest from the writing because of the swing of emotions. As we begin the 'New Year' of 2010, I plan to finish at least one and possibly two of my books. I will spend a lot less time on Web Site publishing and a lot more time on writing. The working title(s) are as follows:

**From Poverty to Peace**  
**Part 1 - Early Years**  
**Poor & Proud in Earlimart**  
**Part 2 - Trabzon Turkey**  
**TAS - 457 Amazing Days**  
**Part 3 - Twice Viet Nam**  
**By Boat & Back - The Bass**  
**Part 4 - Later Years**  
**Blessed by God - Peace @ Last**

At first I expected to write one long book with four parts. That format gave way to a series of four shorter books. The book(s) will tell the story of my life. The first 'book' actually starts a number of years before my birth when my grand parents left the 'Dustbowl' of Oklahoma in search of work in California. It ends when I ran away from home in search of a better life away from the Central Valley of California. The second 'story' is about my life in the USAF and more specifically the 15 months I spent on a 'Spy Base' in North Eastern Turkey about 100 miles from the old Soviet Union, now Georgia and Armenia. The third 'book' is about the years I spent in the United States Navy, aboard the USS Brinkley Bass DD-887, a Destroyer and Fighting Ship of the USN 7th Fleet, and more specifically the 13 months in the South China Sea and the Viet Nam War. The fourth 'book', if I ever get to the fourth book, will cover the years from 1968 to the present. The first three of the four shorter books will each be divided into two parts. The first part of each book will be fiction and the second part of each book will be a true recollection of my life as it was lived at various times. The fourth book will be a chronology of the 40 years of my life leading up to the writing of this book. As I began to pen the many stories that together tell the story of my life, I slowly began to realize the gaps in memory. I quickly realized that I would, of necessity, have to find those who might collaborate with me in the re-filling of the 'memory jar'.

In the summer some four years ago I launched the first two of a number of information sharing Web Sites. The first Site : <http://www.smokeystover.com> , was launched as a Book Information Site. Its purpose was to introduce me as the author of a series of books, introduce the books, and to describe the content of the books. The second Site : <http://www.smokeystover.net>, was launched to facilitate the 'Posting' of 'Photos' and 'Stories' I received that would eventually add to the 'Content' of the books. Both Sites served well in their intended functions. In June of 2006 I decided that the two sites should be consolidated. I merged the Sites into the .com Site leaving the .net Site available to be re-used in one of my many business ventures. While <http://www.smokeystover.com> remained as the Book Information Web Site until 2007, it lost most of its usefulness and because of a financial drain of too many Web Sites, I shut the site down. Smokey Stover's Place (a company info site) is now housed at <http://www.smokey-stovers-place.com> . As the Sites brought in information, I began making contact with many individuals from my past. I soon discovered a requirement for launching other Sites to serve very specific functions. I saw a need first to launch a Web Site that should be dedicated to Trabzon Veterans and for the specific purpose of them sharing their 'Story' and 'Experience' with each other and with their children, grand children, family, friends, and the rest of the world. In March of 2006, I launched the third of my information sharing Web Sites : <http://www.trabzonairstation.com> was launched and dedicated to those GIs who served on the 'Mountain' called 'Boztepe in Trabzon Turkey from June 1953 to April 1970. What a story !!!!! This is a 'High Maintenance Site' in that I receive something to 'Post' almost every day from one or a number of the Trabzon Veterans with whom I am communicating. The 'Trabzon Story' is being told by those GIs who were there and it is being 'Posted' on this Site daily. As the 'Story' is being recalled and recollected by the 63 Trabzon Veterans who have been placed on

the 'Duty Roster', I am beginning to pen my 'Story'. By 2007 I had rebuilt this site and published it as <http://www.trabzonairstation.net> and by mid 2009 I merged these two sites into the original site which now provides photos, stories and slideshows for viewing by Trabzon Veterans and their families and friends.

In June of 2006, I decided that information sharing was very slow for the third book. Because other individuals were hoarding the information about the USS Brinkley Bass DD-887, I launched a fourth Web Site that is dedicated to the 'Story' of the thousands of sailors who were stationed aboard the USS Brinkley Bass during her 29 years of service in the US Naval Fleet and to those Brazilian sailors who served aboard B. Bass during the remaining 27 years of service to Brazil. The Site is <http://www.ussbrinkleybassdd887.com> . Within 6 months, this site was beginning to bear fruit in the 'Photos' and 'Stories' which were coming in daily emails. This site was rebuilt and given over to the USS Brinkley Bass DD-887 Association and now serves as their 'Official Web Site'. I have taken on the job of Bass Association 'Historian' and Web Manager'.

The biggest 'Story' that may very well be part of the fourth 'Story' is the 'Story' of the collaboration of many by way of Internet Communications in the bringing together of so many individuals with common pasts to tell these 'Stories' to the world. I have come to the realization that my 'Story' is just a minuscule part of the overall story. I have come to an understanding that if I can tell the overall story, my story will be woven into the fabric of the bigger 'Story'.

Since I have launched the last two information sharing Sites, the original Sites : <http://www.smokeystover.com> and <http://www.smokeystover.net> have been allowed to fade away. The Domain Names will remain registered such that I can use them at a later date. As mentioned in the first paragraph of this preface, the first three books will have two parts comprised of 1 part being fiction and a 2nd part being the truth of my life. I will in a brief statement, attempt to explain the reasoning behind this format. The first part of each book will be produced as fiction because of the following reasons:

1. This story begins almost 68 years ago. Many of the 'facts' are not and cannot be substantiated and therefore cannot be sold as biographical and or complete truth.
2. Memory is a funny thing. Most of what we remember is true. Some of what we remember is only wishful thinking.
3. Many of the 'Stories' are rumors, innuendoes, urban myths, and twice told tales.
4. Many collaborators wish to remain anonymous and therefore their names will not be given. Even though their stories are true they will be produced as fiction because their names will be fictitious.
5. Many characters in the 'Storyline' cannot be named for a myriad of reasons. Some may sue for libel. Some have requested to 'not be named'. Many will not be named to protect them from the wrath of others, while some will not be named just because I don't wish to expose them for their past to others. Although all names in the first part of each book will be fictitious, many will be able to identify themselves

**and others. Almost anyone who has a desire for whatever reason to read these 'Stories', will find himself or herself in the 'Storyline'.**

**The second part of each book will be true or I should say as true as my own memory will allow, because the second part will be my own 'Story'. I will use the true identities of the primary characters in the non-fiction part of each book. At the present time, I'm not at all sure which part of each book will take the most paper. I do know that the true story will be the hardest to tell. Please read the front pieces and introductions to each book. They will contain all the information one will need to lead into the 'Storyline'. The end of each story is the beginning of the next and the completed 'Story' will contain the 'Story' of my Life.**

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