

Unless you are famous or become famous, writing your memoir or autobiography serves no real purpose except as a personal catharsis or possibly background information for future generations. That is if they are interested enough to bother reading it.

Besides my Marine Corps exploits, my life, while remarkable, is not that memorable, so I doubt I will ever become famous. Therefore, I expect writing this will serve no purpose other than possibly providing tidbits for my obituary.

My early childhood and Marine Corps exploits were noteworthy; however, they are already well documented in my novel *Orders are Orders*, which I published under the pen name Edmund Aiken in 2015. So if you want to learn about that part of my life, you must read the book. It is available from Amazon in Paperback, Kindle, and Audible.

I said that *Orders are Orders* is fiction based on fact, and I have been asked many times what parts were fiction and what was fact. So, to finally answer that question, Part I of the novel is pure fiction; no, I never attended Stanford. However, there are elements of that first part that do directly relate to actual occurrences, which are documented in Part II.

As implausible as it may seem, Part II is almost all fact except the ending. After I dropped out of Annapolis, I went directly to Lakehurst, New Jersey, and was there as a pistol range instructor until my separation from active duty in June 1961. I finally got discharged in March 1962 after completing six years of service.