

6-25-41

Drafted into the army on this date at the Fort Douglas Reception Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Left here July the 2nd and travelled Union Pacific to Vancouver, Washington, at the Barnes General Hospital

7-2-41

Enroute to Vancouver met Mr. Cross an inspector of railroad equipment on this line. As I passed along the Snake River from Ontario on to point where train crosses the river and heads up Canyon toward Huntington, at especially Weiser, was impressed with the numbers of waterfowl utilizing the river. This snake river plays an important part in the offering of suitable and relatively undisturbed nesting grounds for both the duck and geese. Certainly if this river were not present the waterfowl would have a problem in utilizing the unstable and limited agricultural areas adjacent the river course proper. The ducks and geese literally lined the river edge. Noted that while they were generally distributed there were some areas greater populated than others. Most of the ducks and waterfowl utilized the peripheral 100' of the river edge feeding in the emergent masses and water plants found consistently along the edge in the slower moving section of the river. The trails among the green masses etc. indicated their continual use. The more familiar site was family groups of ducks and geese; the young ones following closely after the adult birds. As the train passed along the edge of the river, the ducks would be seen leaving the water masses and edge of river and would swim out into the center of the river. In contrast to this procedure of the ducks, the geese in turn would fly clear across the river and alight upon the opposite side of the river. In one favorable section of the river counted 150 Branta canadensis many groups of 5-10- and up to 30. Many of the smaller groupings would indicate family ties. This was impressively brought out in the relative size of the members of the group. Observed on occasion a Pelecanus erythrorhynchos. One group of approx 65 resting on bellies upon a sandbar with heads resting upon their backs or tucked in wing. Water develop white caps. Other birds using the edge of the river among the green emergent masses and water plants were Killdeers, avocets, sandpipers, blackbirds, Am. Coot and many species of duck. Except for coot & ducks the above birds were observed walking upon the surface of the masses. Arrived at Vancouver July the 3rd in morning.