

WAR STORY

by Paul Cooper

Joe Crookston's songs about people and events draw the listener in emotionally as much as any singer-songwriter I know. Joe's CD, "**Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog**", of which this is the title song, received the most airplay of any folk album at the time it was released, and was awarded "Album of the Year" by the International Folk Alliance. This song can be heard on Joe's CD by the same title or on the HFMS song archive..

Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog

by Joe Crookston

G **D** **Em** **C**
My baby girl was born in nineteen forty-three
G **D** **Em** **C**
The year before the navy shipped me out and overseas.
G **D** **Em** **C**
So I held her and kissed her, and I said my good-byes
G **D** **Em** **C** **G** **D** **G**
Leaving Virginia with a thousand other guys -- leaving Virginia.

In the South Pacific beneath the blistering sun
On Tinian Island there was work to be done.
Four thousand Navy Seabees on the ground
Crushing up coral, and packing it down -- crushing and packing it down.

CHORUS:

Em **G** **D**
They never told us -- forbidden to ask
Em **C** **G** **D**
They handed down the orders, we finished the task.
Em **G** **D**
We never knew what the runways were for
Em **G** **C** **D**
They said our job would be the one to end the war.

Now the Seabees work like hell till the work gets done
We built four long runways laid straighter than guns.
And the runways they glittered in the sunshine and fog
Named Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog. Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog.

And the diggers and the cranes and my battalion guys
We paved the way to the Japanese skies.
Eighty-five hundred feet made of coral and clay
We built them all in just fifty-three days. We built 'em in fifty-three days.

CHORUS

Now the rumors flew around Tinian, none of us had a clue
What Enola Gay and Little Boy could do.
And in the early August heat we all got the news
That the runways we built were the runways they used -- Able, Baker, Charlie, and Dog.

CHORUS