

## **ONLY ONE GOOD DAY**

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The part of the Alaska Highway which is actually on Alaskan soil was built by three black engineer outfits: I was the staff sergeant for Company C, 95th Engineer's Regiment and in charge of the 1st platoon, which consisted of secretaries, engineers, cooks, mechanics, etc.

My job was transportation and I was in charge of everything that rolled—trucks, tanks, tractors, road grading equipment—all of it. It was also my job to teach my men to drive, operate and care for this equipment.

I was ordered to keep one-third of the highway open whenever it snowed, but all I had to work with were trucks. We put sand and snow blades on the trucks, but it was still difficult. I didn't have any salt or anything to help melt the snow or ice.

Once one of my drivers drove his truck off a mountain and was killed. Three other men froze to death walking back to camp when their truck broke down. Times were hard.

The only good day I had was the day I left. That was on Easter Sunday. The snow was three feet deep and it was still snowing.

I saw only one woman in the eleven months I was up there.

### **Source:**

Blasor-Bernhardt, Donna. Pioneer Road, Archebooks Publishing (2004), p. 18.