

Korean War Veterans continues

If you are in contact with one of these Korean era Veterans or with their spouses or children of a deceased Veteran, please encourage them to e-mail me or call me so we can work on military pictures and information for the particular Veteran.

This is the only way I may get this information if they are not aware of this project and read these feature stories requesting information and pictures.

#30 Robert Grundmeier (no pictures, just a brief e-mail response from Bob about his military service in 2015)

February 24, 2015 e-mail from Bob: Yes, I am an Army veteran, served during the Korean War. 1954-1956, two years active and six years reserve, Honorable discharge on July 31, 1962. Did not serve in Korea, was in a Nike I Missile site based on the west end of Langley Air Force Base, Hampton Virginia. Was based out of Fort Monroe, Virginia.

From Bob's obituary: In 1954 Bob volunteered for the draft to serve in the US Army, took basic training in Fort Bliss, Texas, after which he attended Nike I Guided Missile School also at Fort Bliss. Upon completion of missile school, his battery & equipment were shipped to a missile site in Virginia located on the west end of Langley Air Force Base in the woods, based out of Fort Monroe, Virginia. Bob was released from active duty in 1956 and honorably discharged in 1962.

I hope to eventually find some time to contact Bob's wife, Betty, to see if I can get some pictures and more detailed information about his service.

Then I'll take the information I currently have and hopefully additional information and then write a formal story about Bob's service.

#31 Delmus E. Hacker (2 pictures, basic information)



Delmus Hacker - photo from Evelyn Hacker

Taken from the 1981 Gray Centennial book: Corporal Delmus E. Hacker, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Hacker, was drafted February 1, 1951, into the Army.

He attended cook and baker school at Fort Benning, Georgia. He went to Korea, and was assigned to 821st Q.M.C., from March 22 to December 27. He was discharged January 30, 1953, at Camp Carson, Colorado.

While I'll use information about Veterans from any source I can find, I would like to get more details than were featured in previous history books which would have been a generalized history, since those books were published to cover the over-all history of their community.

That is what will be unique about the Manning Veterans' history book, in that it will be specifically and only about the military history of the Veterans of the Manning area.

#32 Leander Halbur (2 pictures, basic information)



Taken from the 1981 Halbur Centennial book: Leander B. Halbur entered the Army on December 1, 1952, and took basic training at Camp Gordon, Georgia. He attended a school in high speed radio operation there, and was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado for a short time before going overseas.

Leander arrived in Korea in March 1954, where he served as a radio operator with Headquarters Battery of the 96th Field Artillery Battalion from March 1954 to November 1954. He was discharged as a Corporal on November 23, 1954.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Halbur.



1992 Leander worked for REXANNE STRUVE after his retirement

Quite often I come to a name in my database and wonder where I got it and if that person was really a Veteran.

The next name in the alphabetical list is **Billie Lee Hansen**. The thing is that the Billie Lee Hansen I'm aware of had Marfan Disease and would have never been able to qualify for military service. So I called Billie's brother, Bobby Hansen and asked him if he remembers another Billie Hansen...he does not.

Then I called Robert Hansen (different Hansen family) to see if he remembers another Billie Hansen and he does not remember anyone but the one Billie.

So then I started looking for where I got this name and it is on the Manning Memorial Day annual program.

My mother told me there was a Bill Hansen who would have been way too old to have served in the Korean war...he lived in Aspinwall and then that family moved to Manilla. We don't think he had a son named Bill.

For now I'm going to leave Billie Lee Hansen off my Veterans list until someone comes forward to let us know who he was and get some information about him.

This further backs up my comments I've written about that our history is fast disappearing and gets harder and harder to know what are the facts and what could just be errors.

#34 Fred O. Hansen (2 pictures, basic information)



We think this is Fred Hansen. This picture came from Fred's brother, Robert, but he was not 100% sure. Robert told me that Fred went through basic training with Don Zubrod so I hope that he will be able to confirm one way or the other if this is Fred.

Above is another perfect example of how our history is in jeopardy, in that what is out there pictorially has not been properly documented. Most people may not see the big deal about this one picture but trust me, there are thousands of pictures like this and of course most of them will be thrown away by a future generation that will not know who they are and ask themselves - why keep them?

While Fred was a brother of Bobby who had this picture and some other memorabilia of Fred, Bobby was not able to provide much information about Fred's service.

Of course I would not expect Bobby to know the specifics and details because he did not train and serve alongside Fred, so there is no way for him to know those facts.

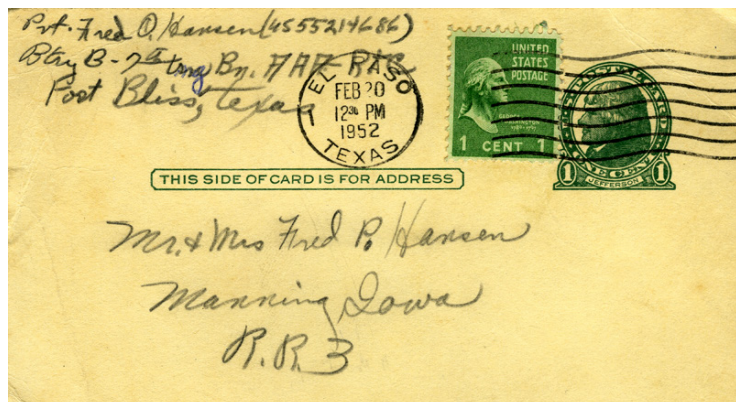
So this is another example why all living Veterans need to write down their own personal information and tell their story to family members so their service won't be lost forever.

Now if a Veteran doesn't want his/her story documented or recorded that is his right and a different perspective, but for those Veterans who want or are OK with having their story recorded they need to do it now, otherwise their descendants/relatives someday will wonder what it was and, like Bobby, won't be able to accurately tell the story.

Taken from the 1981 Gray Centennial book: Fred O. Hansen was inducted into the U.S. Army February 4, 1952. He was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, for his basic training.

He attended a radar mechanic school for nine months, also at Fort Bliss.

Fred was then transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia, to operate a Radar M-3 until his discharge February 3, 1954.

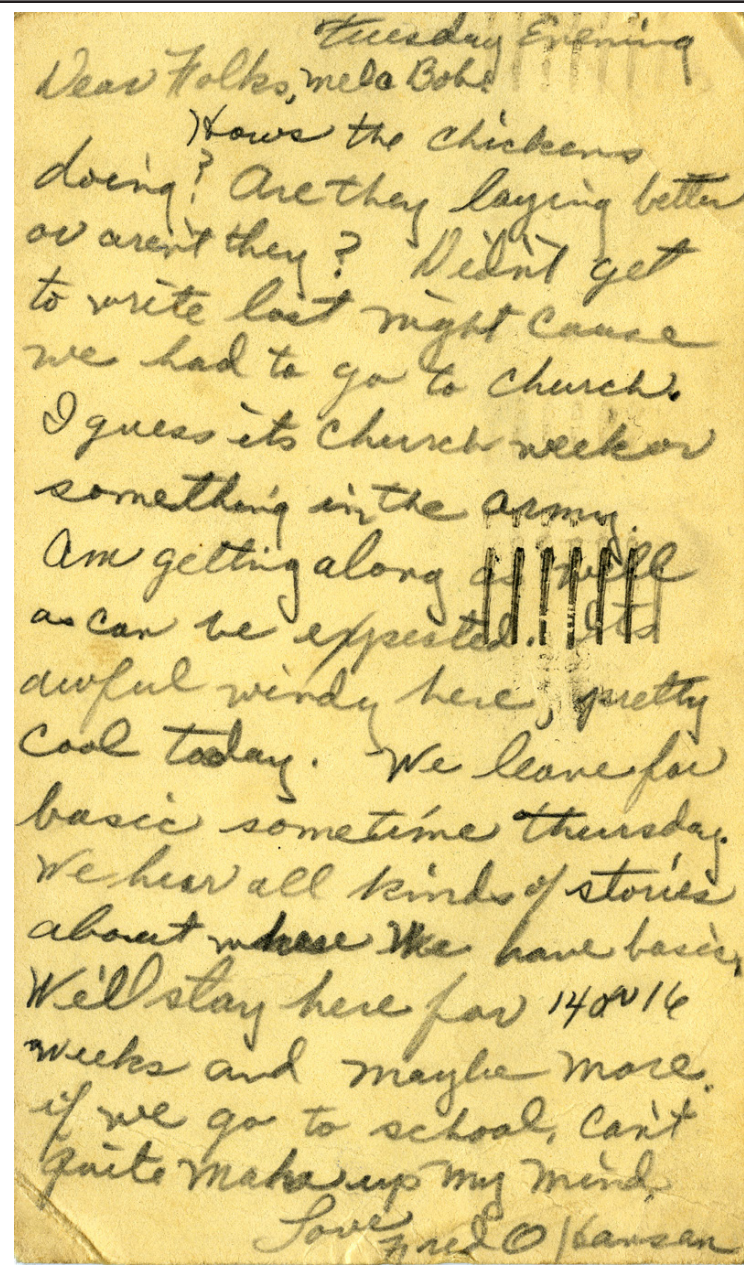


A postcard from Fred to his parents. Private Fred O. Hansen (US55214686), Battery B, 7th Training Battalion, AAARTC, Fort Bliss, Texas - February 20, 1952 El Paso, Texas - to Mr. and Mrs. Fred P. Hansen, Manning, Iowa RR3

Message follows: Tuesday Evening, Dear Folks, Mel & Bob How the chickens doing? Are they laying better or aren't they?

Didn't get to write last night cause we had to go to church. I guess it's church week or something in the Army.

Am getting along as well as can be expected. It's awful windy here, pretty cool today. We leave for basic sometime Thursday. We hear all kinds of stories about where we have basic. We'll stay here for 14 or 16 weeks and maybe more, if we go to school. Can't quite make up my mind.
Love, Fred O. Hansen



Letter Fred Hansen wrote to his parents

In 2015, I had the honor of sitting down with this next Veteran to get his story. We began with his family history and then went into his military service and then ended with his life after the military.

Robert went by Bobby his whole life because there was another Robert Hansen who grew up in the same area as Bob did, so to avoid confusion Bobby stuck.

Unfortunately I don't have time to sit down with all Manning connected Veterans to work with them to get their story like I did with Bobby, and not all of them would have as many pictures and experiences to share but I will work with as many Veterans as I can find time.

It would be helpful if Veterans would sit down and jot down highlights and make notes to help me when we start the interview.

Bobby's story will go into more details and pictures than we'll have room for in the Manning Veterans' book but I want to show everyone that we want as many details as we can get and what doesn't fit in the history book will be preserved in the Manning Historical database I'm building.

Please keep in mind that this story began over 67 years ago. Everyone's memories fade some, but even if Bobby didn't remember everything 100% exactly as it occurred, he provided a very excellent story about his service.

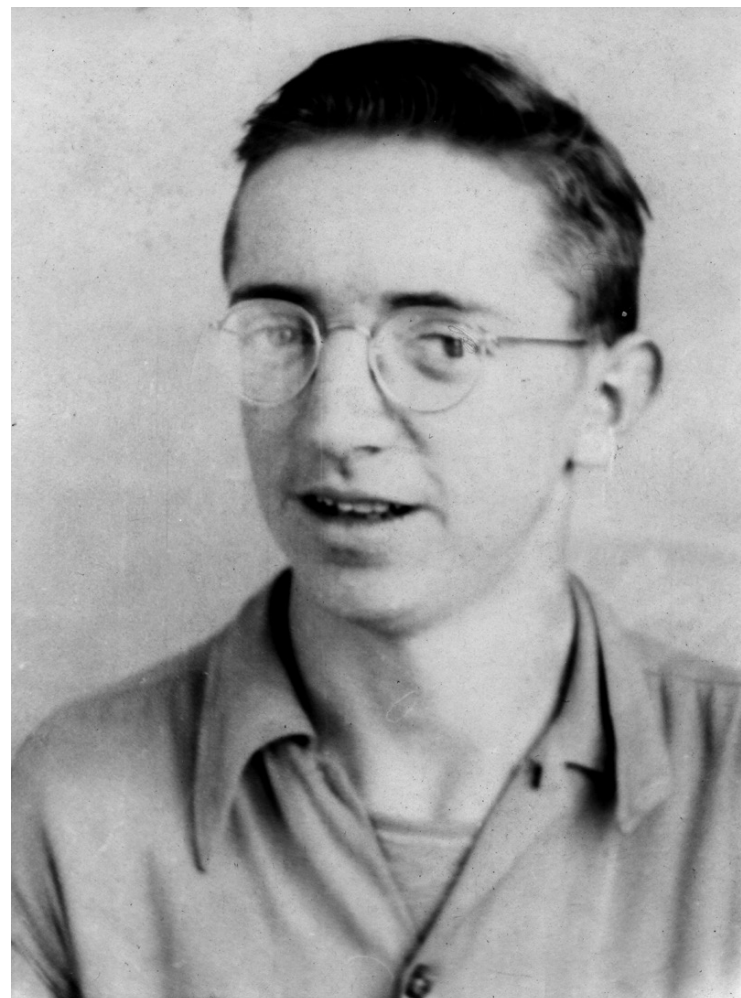
#35 Robert Dean Hansen (Numerous pictures and a full interview with Bobby January 2015)

Sergeant Robert Hansen

Robert "Bobby" Dean Hansen was born June 24, 1931, in the Wyatt Hospital in Manning. His parents were Fred and Hilda (Rowedder) Hansen. His brothers were Alvin, Melvin, Fred Orren, and Bill.



Fred Orren, Melvin, Hilda (Rowedder), Bobbie, Alvin



Billie Lee Hansen - Billie dealt with Marfan Disease his whole life and passed away as a young man which is why he was not in the family picture above.

Bob first lived with his parents and brothers one mile west of Manning on the old Delmar Mundt farm. He remembers the winter of 1935-36 when his older brothers had to walk down to the Milwaukee tracks and then into town to get groceries and walk back home.

Bobby Hansen continues next week