

Korean War Veterans feature Robert Hansen concludes

They left Pusan, Korea, and were transported on a boat to a naval base in Yokohama, Japan. There, they boarded the General A.E. Anderson transport ship and headed for home. One of the things Bob remembers about this ship, were the little shops where he could buy ice cream...something he didn't get in Korea.

Their first stop was in Okinawa where they docked for a while and then sailed straight through to San Francisco Bay. Along the way a pod of whales was spotted near the ship...the first whales Bob had ever seen and surprised him how large they were.



USS General A. E. Anderson (AP-111) - which is a more recent image of this ship.

The men exited the Anderson and were transported on a small boat to Pittsburg, California, where they were processed out at Camp Stoneman, Army base. Bob boarded a plane and flew to Denver and then on to Omaha where his brother, Mel, was waiting for him.

Bob had a month's leave and then had to report to Fort Carson, Colorado, where he spent the remainder of his time in the Army from the first of February through May as communications chief for the 538th Field Artillery. Bob was released from active duty on May 14, 1954.

He received the Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After active duty, Bob was transferred to the Army Reserve (Iowa Military District) and honorably discharged on July 31, 1960, with the rank of Sergeant (E-5).

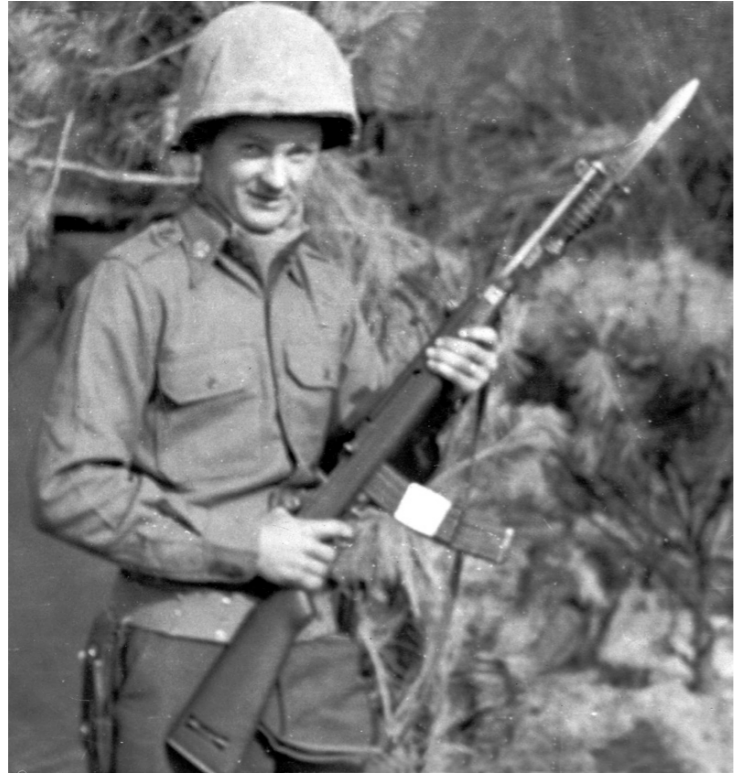
When Bob returned home he farmed with his brothers, Mel and Alvin, and their dad on the Willison farm near Gray.

Even though Bob lost his pictures when the Chinese overran his base, he has a lot of other wonderful pictures he was able to send home...here are some of them.



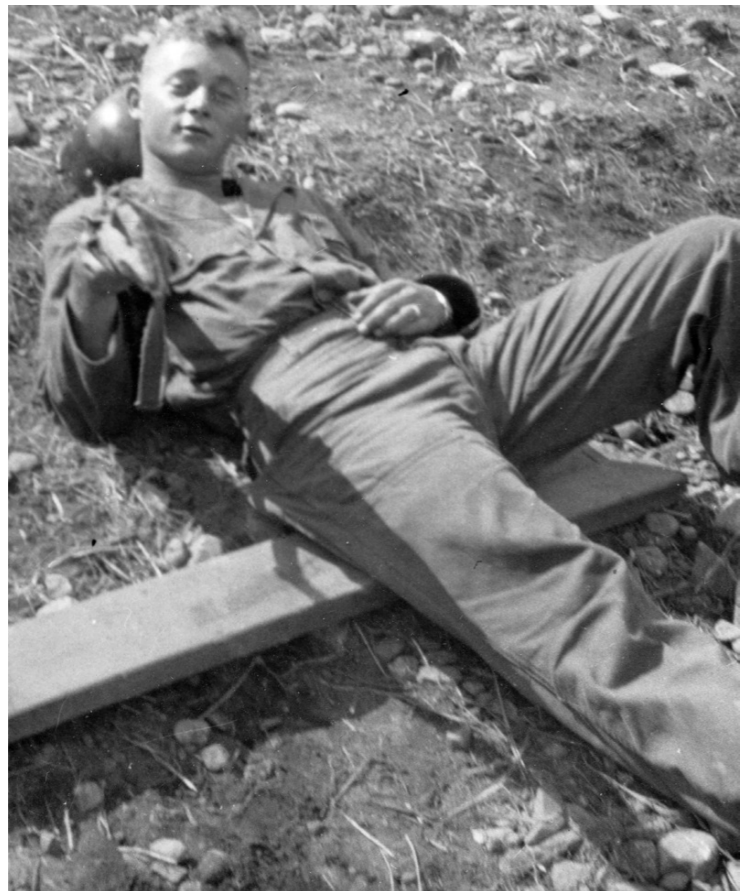
Whitford putting in a communication wire.

The men used empty shell boxes for walls around the base of the tents. Some even had wood floors. They slept on cots.



Whitford - Kumwha Valley before the Armistice

Note the clips taped together. When Bob was up front they taped three clips together so when one clip was emptied they could grab the next one in a hurry. Whitford was a communication wireman - he placed wires between camp and forward operation bunkers.



Trout - served with Battery B



Tent used in Korea - this photo was taken after the Armistice.



In a temporary camp after the Armistice.

They had to stay prepared - no one knew if the Armistice would hold.



Rockwell working on Gun No. 6 - Battery B



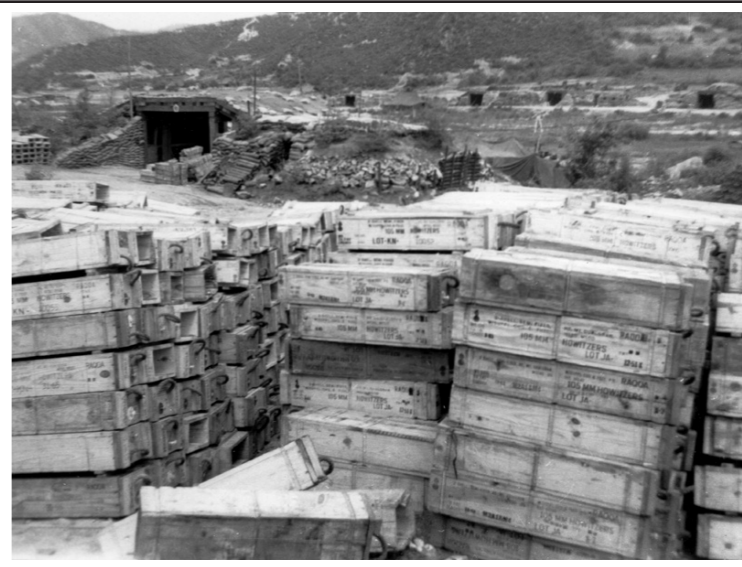
Recreation in a quonset hut. The symbol in front is of the B Battery. The man on the left is from Omaha, middle man from New York, and man on the right - his last name is Trout



Ping Pong in the quonset hut



Corporal Lancour (left) did book work for the Captain. The patch on Willy to the right is the 5th RCT symbol.



Empty shell boxes were used to build the mess hall.



Bob in front of the jeep



Bob Hansen (right) digging trenches



Barracks at Fort Sill, Oklahoma



Mail Call at Fort Sill



C-2 Inspection at Fort Sill

Korean War Veterans continues next week