



The Manning Exchange

Where Past & Present Meet



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History and current events are shared and preserved.

This week we continue the Korean War era Veterans with Dan Peters.

In 2013 I scanned Dan's album of Korean pictures and documents and then in 2016 I sat down with him to go over those pictures and interview him about his military story.

We've done some editing but I need to go over the write-up with Dan one more time this year to finalize it.

For now I will present the story as it is to show other Veterans what we are looking for about their military history which will hopefully encourage them to come forward with their pictures and information so I can begin working on their stories.

I know the Veterans and their families who I have already worked with and completed their military stories are anxious to see the final printed version, but at this point in time there are hundreds of Manning connected Veterans who I have very little to nothing about their service.

I can not emphasize enough the importance of getting as many of those Veterans' stories as I can.

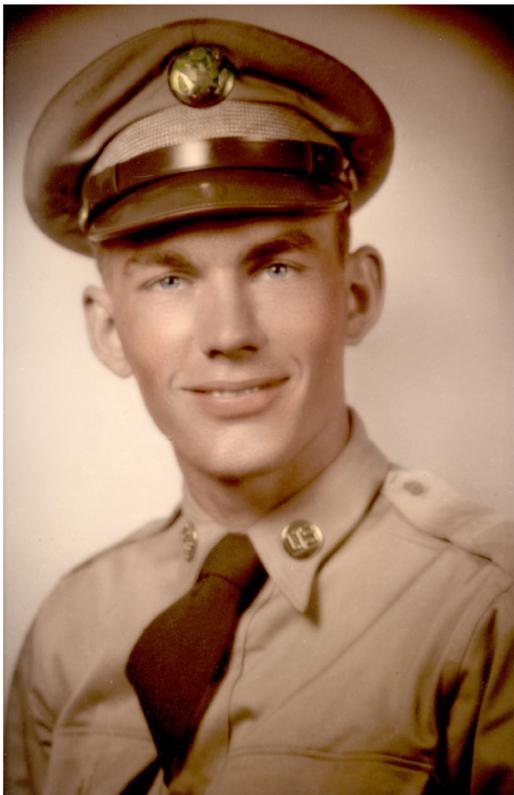
Each of them are just one part of the over 1000 Manning Veterans who will be featured in the Manning Veterans' history book but with each missing Veteran the Manning puzzle starts to fall apart.

Our history is in jeopardy today and in my opinion this will adversely affect our country into the future. Citizens of a country who know nothing about its past and how the nation got where it is today will fail to follow in those footsteps of their ancestors who built this nation into the great place to live.

Without this understanding, people start to live off what their ancestors built and soon the system will collapse in on itself.

They say Freedom isn't Free, well caring for and continuing to build the nation isn't free either.

#69 Dan Peters (many pictures, formal interview, and details about pictures)



There are three sets of information I have for Dan: a brief summary, the interview by Sally Hodne, and then the follow-up I did with Dan to get more information and details/captions about his pictures.

One thing I notice when working on interviews and previously written biographies is that each one will have different facts and perspectives because different questions will come up by different people, so when combined you end up with a more thorough story.

Dan Peters Sergeant First Class US Army

September 15, 1952 to June 15, 1954
Served as a Rifleman with the 17th Regiment, 7th Division from March of 1953 to March of 1954 in Korea.
Awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Campaign Stars, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal
Discharged June 15, 1954, at Camp Carson, Colorado, after 21 months of service.
Married Lois Wilhelm in 1952 - five children

Interview by Sally Hodne

On September 15, 1952, Dan Peters and eight others from Carroll County, Iowa, were drafted into the Army. Besides Dan, there was Erv Bauer, Raymond Hiatt (brother of Ronnie Hiatt), Alfred Peter of Dedham, Bob Mies of Carroll, and several others. Dan and several of the men took sixteen weeks of infantry basic training at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky. They were then assigned to their permanent locations, primarily overseas.

Dan left for Korea from Seattle, Washington, in February of 1953 on a troop ship along with 3,200 other soldiers. On the second day of their trip, the ship hit very rough water and immediately an estimated 2500 of those on board were sick. With so many sick it was an unpleasant experience. After fifteen days on the Pacific, they arrived in Japan and two days later sailed on to Pusan, Korea. They took a troop train north to the front lines where Dan was assigned to the 2nd Platoon of Charlie (C) Company, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

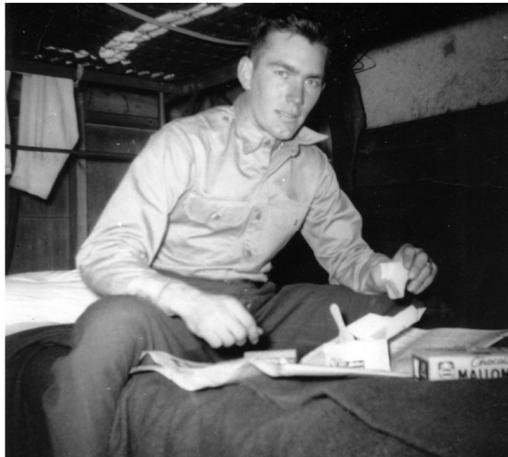
The 7th Infantry Division was holding down a sector of the main line of resistance (MLR) thirty miles north of Seoul. The MLR was a defensive line that stretched from coast to coast across Korea. The intent was to keep the enemy north of this line until a truce could be arranged to end the war. The sector assigned to the 7th Division was the head of the Chorwan Valley which was considered to be the most likely location for a new invasion by the North Koreans and Chinese. The last eighteen months of the war was mostly fought in trenches, not unlike World War I. It was fought in trenches with relentless artillery barrages. Many days were rather boring, but being aware of incoming artillery possibilities was extremely important.

Daytime was normally spent sleeping and keeping equipment in good working order. This was done in sleeping and resting bunkers. Nights were spent in firing bunkers and on alert for possible attack.

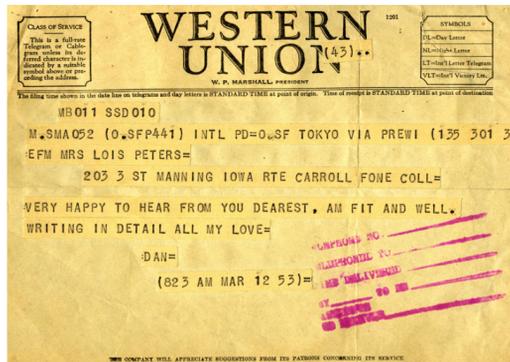
Most battles were fought over outposts, which were strategic defensive positions in front of the MLR. Dan's company was involved in one five-day battle over a place called Porkchop Hill. Ten two and one-half ton trucks transported the company to the battle, which Dan's company fought for twenty-four hours. It only took three of these trucks to take them away from the hill. Dan was fortunate to be in one of those three trucks coming back. The armistice was signed eighteen days later on July 27, 1953.

Dan was discharged on June 15, 1954, from Camp Carson, Colorado. This was a special day in another way also. It was Dan and his wife Lois's second wedding anniversary.

Now we go into details about Dan's pictures and the information he provided when I interviewed him last year.



Dan Peters at basic training October 1952 Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky



Western Union: To Lois when Dan arrived in Tokyo

Sgt. Danny Peters In Training Exercise (newspaper article)
7TH DIV., KOREA - Sgt. Danny L. Peters, whose wife, Lois, and parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Peters, live at 203 Third Street, Manning, Iowa, recently took part in Operation Red Wing, a training, exercise of the 7th Division in Korea. Army helicopters transported his fully equipped unit, the 17th Infantry Regiment's 1st Battalion, cross country to land them in a simulated combat situation.

A section leader in Company Peters entered the army in September 1952, and was stationed at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky, before arriving overseas in March 1953. He holds the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Korean and UN Service Ribbons.



Air strike on Chinese hills as seen from Dan's houchie on Erie outpost on a hill out in front of the MLR (main line of resistance). Erie was about 30 miles straight north of Seoul.

Arsenal was a nearby outpost that another platoon occupied. The houchie was the living bunker on the inside trench where the men slept and stored their personal gear. In the day time they would sleep and at night they would go out into the firing bunkers which is when the Chinese would generally attack. The fighting or firing bunker was about 30 feet away from the houchie on the outside trench that faced North Korea.

The time Dan served was about the last 5 months of the war. It was a static trench warfare in that no major offenses occurred by either side.

The US was basically defending South Korea from any advancement by the North Koreans and Chinese.

There were various companies, battalions, and units that rotated in and out of Erie & Arsenal. They were about 1/4 mile apart from each other.

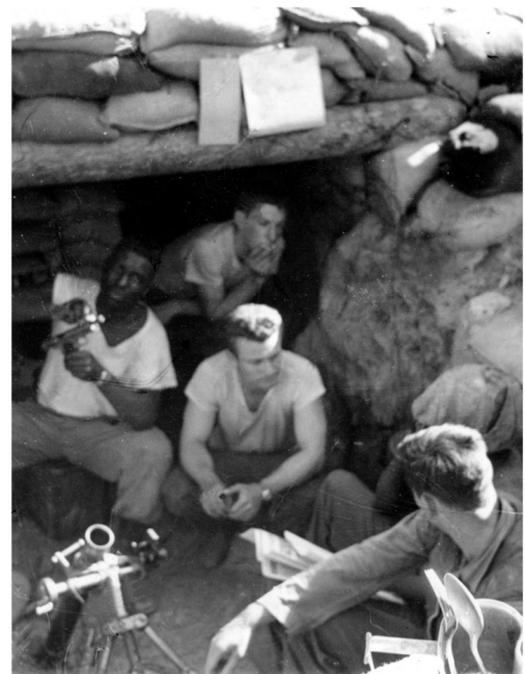
They were stationed in the outpost for a week, which was the most dangerous area. Then they would go back to the rear for a week to get some rest and clean up. Next they would go to the MLR for a week. They were in this rotation for five months.

Other outposts were Yoke, Uncle, Milk, Pork Chop, and several others.

Pork Chop was the main outpost and where most of action occurred during the war.

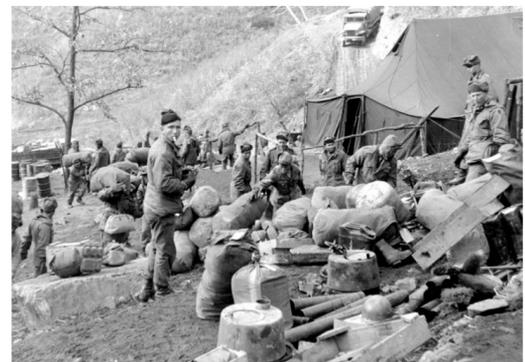


Sergeant Dunkin behind Main Line of Resistance (MLR) on way to Erie during the war. Tanks were dug in a pit on the MLR so just the turret was exposed... "As those shells whizzed over the firing bunkers up in front, the sound was deafening" as Dan explained from first-hand experience.



Bull session in Burke's mortar pit - Fagin, French, Burke in center, and Dunkin.

There were three Mortar units in each section and each unit was in a different pit. The sleeping quarters were right next to the mortars. Dan had a similar looking Mortar pit that he was in charge of.



Sergeant Buendel, squad leader with his platoon on the move, which shows just some of the gear that is part of the company.



In the background is a trail to the front line. Note the chimney on top of the bunker. This was a sleeping bunker.



Horsing around while digging a bunker.

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