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**Q.** Your best friend in service? Describe your military job? Where did you do basic? I did my basic at a such and such place. I might but in once and a while to ask you a question. So whenever you are ready.

**A.** I am Richard Hansen, I live in Johnstown, New York, I graduated from high school in 1949. I went to work for the telephone company in Johnstown in 1950. I was drafted in 1952, I spent 8 weeks in basic training in Camp Georgia. Then I spent 13 weeks in camp Gordon for single core (unclear) training. I went to Korea in January 1953. I was in Japan first, I was stationed about 15 miles south of \_\_\_\_\_ in Korea, first marine division base y final line of defense. IF they got through them, they got to me. Basically, we did have work on communication lines. I spent time at family John, these talks were winding down the cable went bad up there. We had to go up into where the Chinese and the North Koreans were. I was kind of early because the Marine MP's took our rifles away from us when we got there. The Koreans and the Chinese had theirs. We met some really really nice guys over there. One of my past friends lives in North Dakota. I didn't get there but we wrote back and forth until he died a couple of years ago. My other two friends lived down state, one lived in Westchester county and one lived in Long Island. We got together every year, a couple times a year and he died too. One of them did. We got a lot of (unclear) but won the war over and over. Which everyone does I guess one things that I got to see which probably a lot of people did. I had a friend from North Dakota and he had two friends in the 7<sup>th</sup> division and Marilyn Monroe came to Korea and she put on a show for us and I got to see her, just as close as I am to you right now. It was really close up, I got right on the front end of a tank and I listened with about ten below zero and she came out sleeveless purple sequin dress with her blonde hair over the top of that and I tell you what she was gorgeous. Then they said they had two tents setup and I got to sleep in a tent right next to her. That's as close as we ever got right there. Went on R and R to Japan out to Tokyo for when they gave us the R and R for the week. Which was an experience, came back and after the war when they signed the treaty. We ran communication lines for the prisoner exchange they only go just so far and they stop for the night time. They didn't travel 24 hours because they were a lot of hardcore communists in Coney Island and that's where they put the bad ones for the die-hard communists. They tried to raise double doughnuts for the country. I think the 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> division guarding the country. One thing to appreciate was also

seeing prisoners war at sea and the sick and wounded and trading them back and forth. That was something that sticks in your memory and when I came home I crossed the country on a train which was another experience coming home for their way you live in the West coast they put you on the slowest transportation that seemed to be government way of doing things. When I got out I went back to work for the telephone company where I retired from there in 1991.

**Q.** What was your most memorable time in the service?

**A.** The time over there where we had to go up to (unclear) and really get involved with they needed. The cable guy worked on the army engineers back in the thirties not the army engineers, the telephone engineers and the army core man ran the carry cable barrier from China all the way down through Korea under the sea of the Japan into Tokyo. One long piece of cable and every thirty miles there was a telephone station office that was made and it was manned by the Koreans and the Japanese and I stayed at a telephone station and they had a volley ball court, basketball court and showers. It looked like a YMCA. It was really big building; it was as big as the telephone office. It was a good size office. It was eleven men, men that's all there was – eleven men and we had Korean guards to keep everybody out. We had our own generator and built a bunker and put it in. We had a little girl, a little orphan girl and all the guys sent home the (unclear) or whatever and bought her all kinds of clothes. We put her right in the closet hut with us and put up little curtains around so nobody could see her and she was neat. She was a nice little girl and the cable we worked on was really really for the time for the thirties when they put it in really well engineered for the people who had to trouble shoot on it when things went bad, it was in three sections. So we always had some of the cable paired were always working so we always had lines what they used to do. It went into Soule and whenever the 8<sup>th</sup> Army sent out their bullets into the United States or Hawaii, it went over the cable that I worked on and there was about 12 different crews. It started down in Pusan and went all the way North into Seoul, it's what they call sole carry repeater and that was the last telephone station that was in the south side of the country. It went out to the Indian river and it cut off and that was as far as it went and it was really I didn't have enough brain back then to get into how everything worked because it was just the job and I figured I wasn't going to be there that long and when it was over with I own work any ways. I stood me a good step and when I got home I had more experience than the 10 months I had over there than the guys that worked home. It took them 10 years to learn what I learned. When you learn on the job you learn darn quick sometimes. Twice we had to cut the cable off because they had communists started a push they had places before I got there where they had determined that they could use the cable for a certain amount of miles and cut it off because if they got a hold of it they would destroy it. So twice we had to cut the darn thing off until the scare got over with and we went back and put it all back together again. A couple of times I had to run wire to help the infantry guys because they were shorthanded or something. They would just grab somebody that was standing around. Sometimes that's how they got picked. It was really quite an experience. I met a man, he was my first Sargent and I always kidded him and said someday you're going to work

for me and I went to work one morning and there he was out of the army, he was contracting and he was down in Johnstown and he also worked for a contractor company that was doing cable work in Adams center New York near Watertown and he would work for the phone company during the week. Out of all the guys in the army he had to show up one morning in Johnstown. I thought that was pretty neat, I almost feel out of my truck when I saw him. That was memorable experience to see, I figured that never would of happened. You make all these commitments to these guys but you don't follow through with them and that's how it works. You get out and you get your own life and that's how it goes. Other than seeing Marilyn Monroe, that was probably about the highlights.

**Q.** What was your best time in the service?

**A.** The best time was when I had a lot of fun for three weeks out in the state of Washington. They tried to put us on detail. If you had any brain, you got out of that. If they grabbed you, you were done. I didn't like Camp Gordon Georgia, they were still fighting civil war over there. They didn't much of it from up north. Damn Yankees they called us. This one school I went to, they had some nice guys good for telephone people. I met a guy from over there he was from New England, he was stationed at Camp Edwards, he had been to Korea. He was in my school company, he gave a lot of good pointers on what to do and what not to do and I had an advantage over some people because I worked in a phone company here for a couple of years. I was more less on my own because I worked on the town a lot so I mean it wasn't like I just got out of school and got a job and all the sudden your out of school and on your own. I already had that experience being away from home looking out for myself because no one else would look out for you. If you don't take care of yourself you are in big trouble, that kind of helped me out. I had a lot of fun over on laurel run troopship to I mean it was nothing like the second world war where they had to worry about summaries or any of that stuff like our life boat drill. One a day in not too much to do you get a bunch of Canadian soldiers on my ship and you get to know them a little bit more in the way there was a Canadian abrasion in Australia right near where I was. Some of the guys were right just north of us. Montreal's close by and just to talk to them sometimes was nice their way was a little different than ours. You know it was nice more or less it's all like we do and it's kind of neat where here the Koreans I didn't understand their language, they didn't understand mine so it was kind of a drawback. I did have a Korean splicer when I had new territory to maintain there was pretty good. All the sergeant's in my company were all sergeants first class or masters. You all ordered to veterans and they all had been friends since the second world war. Some went in 1940 soldiers and in 53 when I got there they were all still good friends, they all were basic trained in Florida during the second world war. Every time one of them rotated we gave them a big party threw the on the train down to sole. They went home which was really something to see. Those guys that they had that close of a relationship over the years, I didn't think anything of it and I got my two friends from down state and it's all most of the same thing. We didn't stay in, it was alright, I wouldn't want to do to it over again but I would never want to give it up either.

**Q.** Now what exactly was the name of the unit you were assigned to in Korea?

**A.** I was out because Korean communication long lines sick K com 2 long line signal, it went from one end of the country to the other and section that I took care of was mainly fifty quad could be cable this big around, it was divided into three sections. Went out from my office so far with one cable and you went with two cables and back to one cable that way if one of the cables in the two sectioned part got hurt it would keep working because it was still one piece. If it was like regular cable you had one long piece and it got broke in half then all your communications long and we had to keep a good track of it. All the dispatches and everything from an army one through our cable council were somewhere from Japan and Hawaii backed the United States and stuff like that. It was a cable that was double steel banded outside then it got down to lead cable then was 16 gauge wire being they had to have a heavier wire back in the days that they built it. It was really quite of that piece of engineering the way it all turned out, you could use it forever. Got old ones over there now, you know it did last for a long time. We had a circuit in there that went from one end of the line to the other that went right out to soul and you could just push one button like a telephone operator ringing a guy down in Pusan mile if you really need in the people that worked on it in the offices. Just like a switch that worked for the regular phone company now they had to do the wire work inside and they had people outdoor.

One more story when I went into Camp Gordon they gave you what you did in civilian life in life and I had to talk to a captain there and I told him what I did. I worked for a small company here, we were jacks of all trades and he said I glad to have a guy like you he said you never going to get out of the suit as long as you're in the army because we have people work in New York City all they've done is work in a man hole. They don't do nothing else they'd good at what they do but they're not versatile guys that work for small companies, do everything. He said can you climb poles, yep climbed a lot of poles. You know doing stuff like people from big cities don't even have poles to climb so that made a difference too for some reason. I thought I didn't want to do that but I'm glad I did the experience was well worth it.

**Q.** When you came home you used that experience quite a bit.

**A.** Yeah yeah, I was home about a year and I was home about a year and I started my truck doing jobs. I was my own boss more or less for 42 years. I retired in 1991, certainly didn't hurt me for sure. The experience I had in the army would pick up some friends because of it you now get to see things, you learn how to get along, then you got this out here you are luncheons demeanor close-knit what you guys think they harass each other give each other a lot of harassment. They need it once in a while.

**Q.** So you think that military service has helped you a lot?

**A.** Oh yeah definitely

**Q.** Both camaraderie and relationship

**A.** Oh yeah and you know it's you can like when you're in the service and somebody tells you to do something you don't have the choice of not doing it because your Sargent is going to make you do it. I got home if I was told to do something at work it really wasn't a discussion about it. That's how if somebody told you to do it you did it. After a while I think I brought my three boys up the same way. I'm the Sargent and you do what I tell you to do, it didn't hurt them either. Only one boy in the service, he is retired 20 years in the coastguard so it certainly didn't hurt him any. Sometimes I think they should have a draft again. I don't think it hurts anybody for a couple years and then if they want to give them all the benefits. Going to school that's fine too. I'd really think that it do some good for a lot of kids I hate to see them get hurt. I think they sometimes need something besides getting out of school and getting a job see how the other hand is once in a while.