



Glen Root

5th Infantry Division, 5th Signal Company, U. S. Army
1953

I was working at Cody, Wyoming, for a surveying company when I received a letter from the draft board to report to Kansas City, Missouri. I was inducted into the Army May 26, 1953. I was sent for basic training to Ft. Riley, Kansas, which is about 13 miles from Chapman, Kansas, where I grew up. They sent me back home!

I had about 13 weeks of basic training, and then 7 weeks of communication training which included field wire and switchboard training. I had a 15-day leave, during which I married my high school sweetheart, Betty Steffen, on October 29, 1953. Then I went to Ft. Ord, California, to await orders to go to Korea. I waited for a week or two, but never received those orders. Instead, I was sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington, the Headquarters Battery of the 195th Battalion. There my main duties were to operate the field switchboards and string field wire.

After I'd been there about nine months, I received orders to report to the 5th Infantry Division, 5th Signal Company in Augsburg, Germany. I took a 30-day leave before going to Augsburg. Then I went to Bayonne, New Jersey, and took a ship to Bremerhaven, Germany. From Bremerhaven I went by rail to Augsburg. Again, my main responsibilities were laying field wire and managing the switchboards for the command and field centers. I was there until May 1955, when I was discharged from the Army. Then I went into the inactive signal group for eight years.

The training that I took in the military was beneficial to me throughout my working career. I took advanced communication training, like telephone, switchboard, and microwave training. After I was out of the military, I worked for a telephone company in Junction City, Kansas. I worked at a military base in Wisconsin for about ten years and then I went to Naples, Italy. I worked as a civilian for NATO for five years. I was responsible for telephone systems throughout the Mediterranean.

Following the time in Italy, the boys went back to the states for 2 years, and my wife and I went to Germany for seven years.

My time in service was a positive part of my life. I really enjoyed it. I didn't see any combat, but I really enjoyed the military and my career. I was a Christian, and we had a chapel we all attended. In Naples, we went to church all the time, and the chaplain there was a very good friend of mine. Later, when I was a civilian in Germany, my wife and I, sang in a German-American choir. That was a lot of fun.