

Ronald Loveless, 91 years old in 2023, was a signal message supervisor while serving in the military. In 1948, Loveless joined the National Guard, then the 45th Infantry, traveling to Korea during the war. He then joined the 95th Division ranking Master Sergeant E7, advancing to E9.

First joining the Guard in 1950, Loveless entered service at McAlester. He was ordered into active service with the 45th and released from active military service in July of 1952. Loveless said his most significant assignment to Korea was with Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 180th Infantry APO 86. He was in Company D of the 180th Infantry, Oklahoma National Guard. His time with the 180th expired in March of 1953.

When in the 180th, Loveless said they were loaded in New Orleans to be sent to Sasebo, Japan. "We served there for support for Japan, and from there we made an amphibious landing in Inchon, Korea."

Loveless said the arrival in Korea was fraught with danger and mishaps. "We came down ropes off the ship and made the landing. There were some broken legs because the seas were rough and we were supposed to wait until the sea came up, then jump. The water was pretty cold!"

He remembered, "We moved up to the firing lines in Korea. I was the supervisor on the message center. We were responsible for getting messages from our line to the Korean line – probably a half mile or so."

He said the messages were diverse. "When we sent a message back to the company, it could be to bring in mortars or something. We had a radio man stationed there all the time. We had a cipher machine called the M-209." This portable, mechanical machine used for cryptography was about the size of a lunchbox and weighed a little over six pounds.

"We put text in our cipher machine and the other end had a converter to read the message," said Loveless.

"We were set up in bunkers. The enemy was all around us, firing, but not much was happening directly on us," he said. "In our immediate area there really was not that much going on. We would be on the line awhile, then the 179th would replace us then another would replace them. We rotated, about every month. We would go somewhere we could have showers and hot meals. While we were in the bunkers, we ate C-rations. There would be three of us to a bunker – supervisor, radio operator and messenger." He said, "We could find ways to take up time. We played penguin for a penny a point. We had a beer ration, and I didn't smoke so I could trade my cigarettes for beer. Nobody I know of ever got drunk, because it was two cans a day on our ration. We also got candy rations. I think the best candy was Mr. Goodbar."

Loveless said he got frostbite coming home. "We didn't come home as a group. First to come home were married men with children, then married men, and so on. Later, the rest of the division came home – on the same ship we went over on." His medals and citations included Army Occupation Medal (Japan); Korean Service Medal w/1 Bronze Star; United Nations Service Medal; Combat Infantry Badge; Korean Peace Medal.

He had several jobs after coming home from Korea. "I got set up on a ranch at Ponca City, but I got bronchitis and moved to Shawnee, working with Sylvania electronic products, then worked as GE customer service in Oklahoma City.

Loveless joined the Army Reserve in July of 1955 for three years. "We went with the 95th Army Reserve to Fort Chaffee for Summer Camp. We had a firing range at Norman at a former Navy base and a firing range at Fort Still," said Loveless.

"I settled down and went to work at Collins Radio in Richardson, Texas. They are now known as Rockwell International. I worked there ten years. We had to turn in a 'manufacture improvement program' every month. If I saw something that could be improved, I had to fill out a form. I had 750 projects.

"The first project completed was called 'Quick Track'. I got to go to Andrews AFB and see it in operation. That was a system so the President could pick up and talk to anyone whether by satellite, plane, home line, and get information real-time. They showed us a demonstration, talking to an airplane. We also had a project with Boeing. I made about fifteen trips through projects, including Canada. I went to Kansas to view the missile silos and went to Florida and California to both Disney locations," said Loveless.

His advice for future generations is, "I would like for them to get along. I want the love to continue. I have a good family!"