

## CONVERSATIONS WITH THE 369th

During the 2002 celebration of the centennial of Fort Worden State Park Conference Center, the Friends of Fort Worden initiated an effort to collect the significant memories of the people who have lived, served, or worked at Fort Worden over its long history.

The Fort Worden Oral History Program (FWOHP) began collecting these stories, focusing on veterans who were stationed at the Fort during its days as a military installation, 1902-1953.

Many of the veterans interviewed had served in the US Army 369th Engineer Amphibious Support Regiment during the Korean War Era.

In 2004, the FWOHP began a concerted effort to interview as many of the veterans of the 369th as possible. Letters were sent to a sampling of those listed on a 1999 roster of the 369th (the latest available) with a biographical data form and a release that would allow the FWOHP to archive and use the interview. Those veterans who responded were contacted by the program's scheduler, and the tape recorded interviews with FWOHP volunteers were arranged. Several potential interviewees failed to keep their appointments and were recontacted, a few unsuccessfully.

Since most of the interviewees were unable to travel to Port Townsend, it was necessary to conduct the large part of the interviews by telephone. While FWOHP is aware that in-person conversations are preferable, it was decided that, rather than lose the veterans' stories, taking a practical approach was better than following strict rules.

The Interview List which follows represents the results of FWOHP's efforts and is by no means an exhaustive nor complete catalog of the veterans of the 369th who served at Fort Worden during the Korean War Era. The tape recordings of these interviews are available to be heard at the Fort Worden History Center office, and typescript copies of those that have been transcribed are available upon request for a nominal fee.

The Friends of Fort Worden and the FWOHP salute the veterans of the 369th EASR on the occasion of their September 2006 reunion.

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# Fort Worden 1951 – '53

- Being drafted into the Military in 1951 was a bit of unknown to me. No military skills and not knowing where I would end up. Somehow they said I had Topography skills, so I ended up on a Bus to Fort Worden, Washington. ????????

# My 1<sup>st</sup> view of the Fort



From my bedroom window



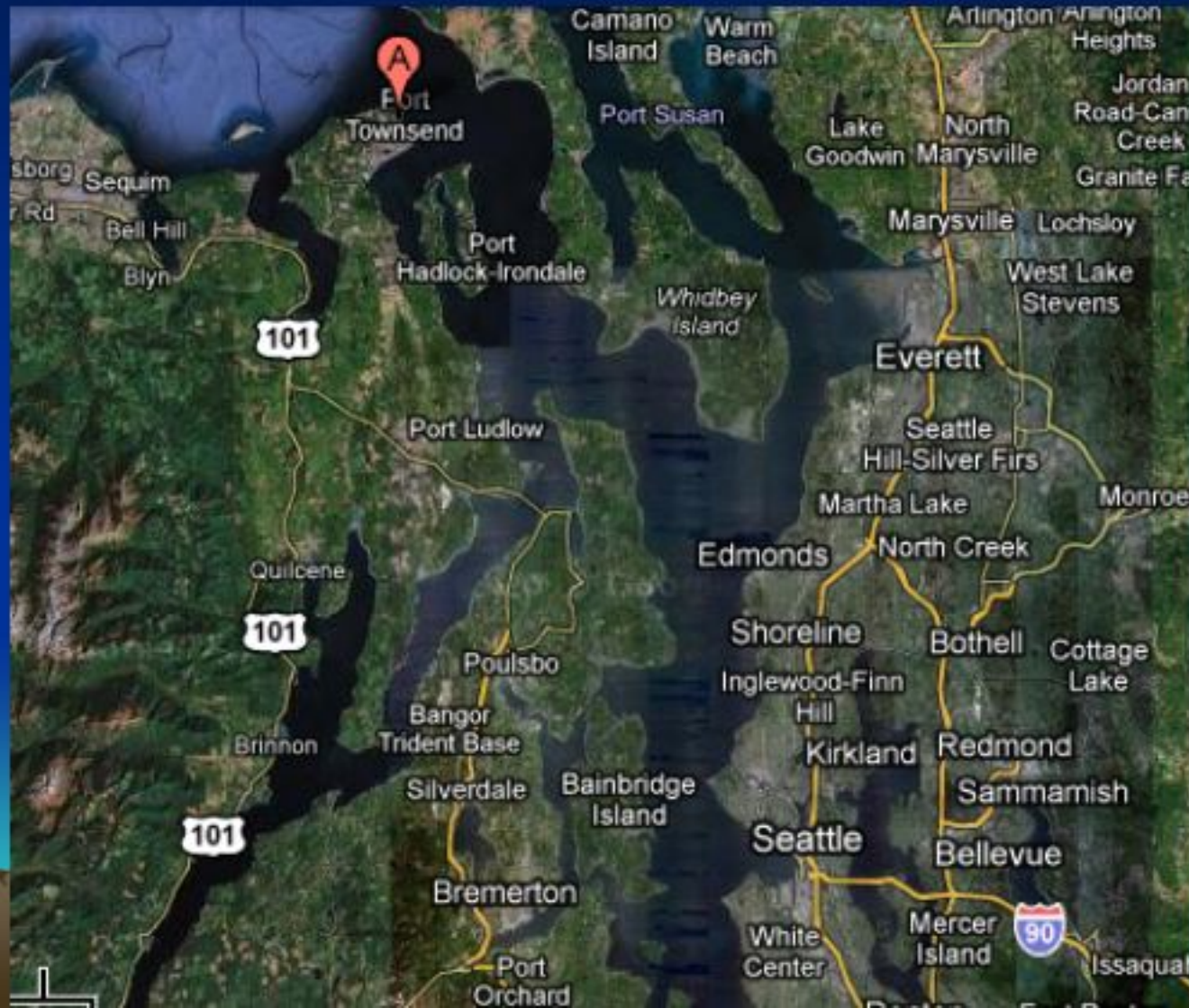
Our 1<sup>st</sup> walk along the beach, in the fog, led me to believe we were on the Washington coast



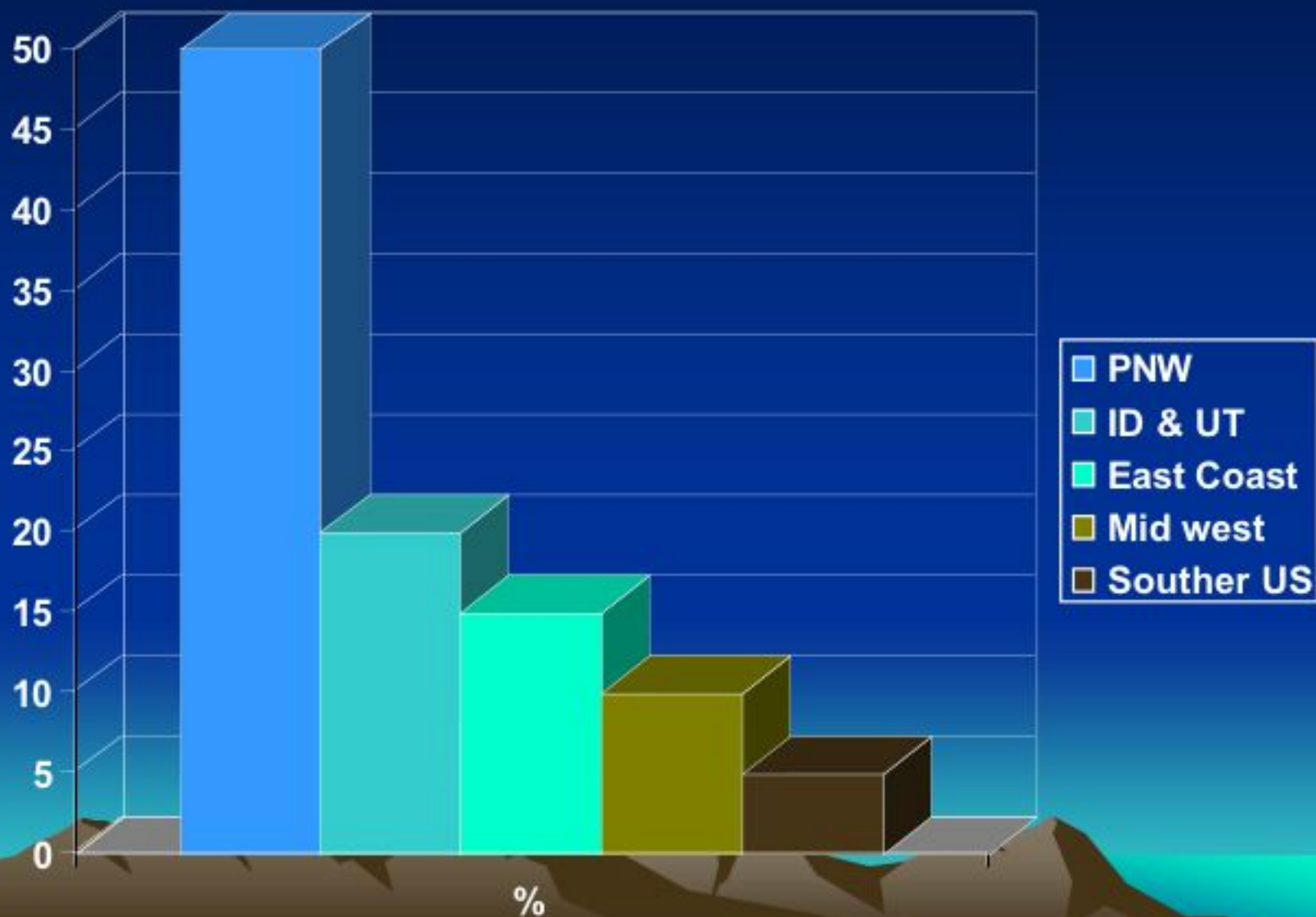
# BUT 80 miles or so inland



Also not too far from Seattle by  
boat!



We were mostly Draftees and the majority from the Pacific North West



May 1951 we learned what  
Saturday was “PASS IN REVIEW”





Parade ground

Main Barracks

Boat Basin

It was only a short 5 Miles to the  
Rifle range





Fort Worden

Firing range

Protection Island

Cook Ave

Ave W

F St

Port Townsend

Hearings

JEFFERSON

Port Townsend Bay  
Marwestone Island

20

Old Fort  
Townsend  
State Park

Cape  
George Pt

Discovery Bay

Jefferson  
County

LLAM

GTON

Ine  
Isl

# Company "A" fun, All from The Portland Area



Moored just outside the Boat Basin





# Just what was the 369<sup>th</sup> EB&SR

## Engineer Boat & Shore Regiment

- We learned to drive these 56 foot Landing Craft



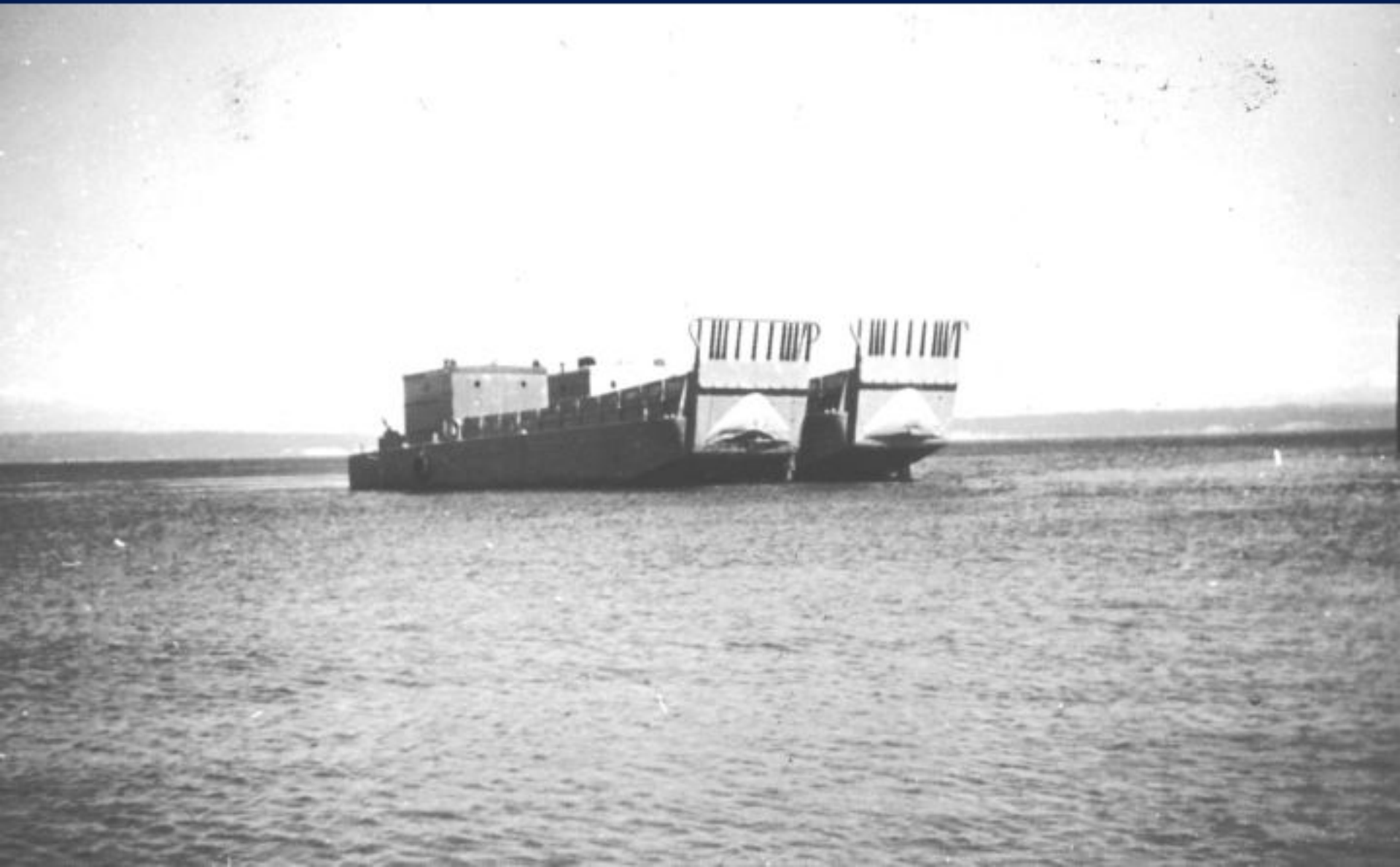
# View from the helm



# Our little boat Harbor



WHEN THE BOATS BROKEDOWN WE LEARNED TO TOW EACH OTHER BACK TO PORT



All of the boats that came in from Bremerton  
& Seattle were pulled up on the beach for  
cleaning and painting



We also kept a few boats at Port  
Townsend



We made many trips to Port  
Angeles and The San Juan Islands  
coxswain Bob Klum



THIS WAS OUR CONTROL BOAT  
VERY FAST AND MANUEVERABLE



My two years here at Fort Worden were enjoyable now that I look back on it. 240 miles from Portland, I was home 3 out of 4 week-ends and the scenery was beautiful summer and winter. Bob Klum

