

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Robert Ashinhurst.

The Draft Board notified Robert in September of 1957 that he was to become a member of the U. S. Army. He reported to St. Louis and then was sent to Fort Leonard Wood for ten days where he was issued his clothing and military gear. From Fort Leonard Wood he went to Fort Benning, GA, for six months of training with the 9th Artillery, 3rd Infantry Division preparing to be deployed to Germany.

The 3rd Infantry Division was sent to Germany in March of 1958. It was stationed in West Germany near the Czech and East German borders. Robert was based at Kitzingen, Germany. Any time the Russians had war games near the border, the Allies would also have maneuvers on their side of the border. One time Robert spent a month in the field in a tent with deep snow and zero degree temperatures. He said it gave him a little understanding of what the soldiers in WW I and WW II endured all the time. Robert was a communications chief for an artillery forward observation team. It was their job to direct artillery fire onto the enemy, so they had to be up on the front lines. Although Bob came back to Fort Sheridan, IL, to be discharged on August 28, 1959, the 3rd stayed in Germany until April of 1996.

The 3rd Infantry has quite a storied past. It had the highest casualty rate of any division in WW II. The 3rd's WW II exploits were told in the movie *To Hell and Back* starring its Medal of Honor winner, Audie Murphy. In the Iraqi War, the 3rd was the first conventional unit to cross the border and to enter Bagdad.

On Christmas leave in 1957, Robert married Marilyn Decamp Ashinhurst. They were married on December 24th. Robert had a ten day leave in December and another leave in March before departing for Germany. Marilyn says that many letters kept them in touch. They have a son, Mark.

Thank you, Sergeant Robert Ashinhurst, for what you gave for us.