

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Dean VanDeventer.

Dean A. VanDeventer was driving around the square in Taylorville, Illinois with his wife and two sons when announcement was aired of the Pearl Harbor invasion. Dean soon volunteered into the Army and completed basic training at Francis Warren, Wyoming. He received further training at camps Sam Houston, Bowie and Maxey each in Texas.

After schooling, Dean received the rank of captain and was assigned to Fort Huachuca, Arizona. The fort was an all colored troop post near the Mexican border where he assumed Quartermaster command. Captain VanDeventer continued command of all black troops throughout the war, serving in England and Northern Europe.

Though a preschooler, I vividly recall the drive to Taylorville train depot with mom and big brother, Larry, to meet the troop train filled with soldiers going home after the war. I recall also how Dad looked and what he wore; especially the duffle bag that contained gifts for his little family. My gift being a hand-crafted Scandinavian music box with a painted scene of the Swiss Alps that I still have and it still works.

Captain VanDeventer maintained contact with several troop members until his death in 1973, providing his family members the opportunity to meet and greet some of his fellow soldiers and friends during his funeral service.

After the war, Captain VanDeventer continued his support of country via the Army Reserves, reaching the rank of Major. Major VanDeventer was activated during the Berlin Crisis and assigned to munitions depot in Savannah Illinois, once again serving as Quartermaster until his full retirement in the late 60's.

Between periods of service, Dean owned and operated the Singer sewing machine and RCA television business in Assumption for over 30 years becoming well known throughout Christian County. After retirement, Dean sold his business and assumed leisure-life with his wife, Dorothy, in Assumption.

Thank you, Major Dean A. VanDeventer, for what you gave for us, and thank you, Roger VanDeventer, for sharing your story about your dad with us.