

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Carlos Fathauer.

Carlos attended Assumption High School for three years, but he graduated from Moweaqua in 1937. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps on January 28, 1942, and was sent to Barksdale Air Base, Shreveport, LA, for basic. Although he was signed up to go to pilots school, there were no openings, so he was told he would be notified when there was an opening. In the meantime, he was placed in the 1910 Aviation Ordnance attached to the 5th Air Force. Later when stationed in Australia, he received orders to report to flight school, but his commander told him that he was not going because he needed him.

Carlos left San Francisco for an unknown destination on July 23, 1942, aboard the USS Mount Vernon, a converted luxury liner, that was used to transport troops during WW II. They arrived in Sydney, Australia, on August 14, 1942, where they disembarked and set up camp. For fourteen days, they cleared an area for a cemetery for Americans killed in the war. They traveled by land stopping in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Katherine to build bomb dumps that were used to store bombs for the Air Corps. Carlos operated a bulldozer. They received their first air-raid by the Japanese at Katherine. From Katherine, men and equipment boarded an LST and started "island hopping" to the north building bomb dumps as they went into places like: Port Moresby, Lae, and Wewak in New Guinea; Biak, Indonesia; the Philippines; and Okinawa. While on Okinawa, Carlos got to see his brother Herbert, who had been with the LST(Hospital) 930 that had received wounded during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Carlos' unit was loaded on a ship at Okinawa in preparation for the invasion of Japan, but the second atomic bomb was dropped, and Japan surrendered. Two of his vivid memories are having a big, pink snake drop into his lap while operating a dozer, and the horrendous explosion when a Japanese bomb hit one of their bomb dumps. Carlos was sent back to the states and was discharged at Fort Sheridan, IL, on October 30, 1945.

Upon returning home, he went to work with D. M. Lake Construction of Shelbyville operating heavy equipment. Starting in 1954, he worked as a Standard Oil Company bulk agent for 21 years. He drove a school bus for 25 years and was the transportation director for Assumption schools from 1975 to 1989. Carlos married Berdella Ashinhurst Fathauer on December 24, 1947. They have four children: Pam, Carla, Dennis, and Paula, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Thank you, Staff Sergeant Carlos W. Fathauer, for what you gave for us.