

## ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Lyle Nicol.

Lyle was 23 and had two children, Lyle and Larry, when he was drafted into the Army in 1944. He had married Doris Burch on February 7, 1939. Lyle had not been able to attend high school because his dad wanted him to help farm. To fulfill the age requirement for school attendance, he attended his one-room country school for one more year. He was inducted into the Army at Fort Sheridan, IL, on July 12, 1944. After basic training, he was shipped to the Pacific theater to join Company I of the 182nd Infantry, Americal Division.

The 182nd was on Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea, defending airstrips when Lyle joined them in February of 1944. From Bougainville, they were sent in January of 1945 to the Philippines Island of Leyte to "mop up" after the Battle of Leyte in the fall of 1944. It was during the Battle of Leyte that on October 20, 1944, General MacArthur waded ashore to utter his famous saying, "People of the Philippines, I have returned." The "mop up" operation turned into a full-scaled battle because more Japanese were left on the Island than estimated. After Leyte, the 182nd was given the task of capturing the Island of Cebu by amphibious assaults on March 26, 1945. After securing the beach and moving inland against numerically superior Japanese forces, the 182nd attacked hill 21 on the night of April 12 - 13. The following information is taken from the G-3 report concerning the battle: *"At 1920 (April 12) I, K, & G Cos assaulted hill 21. Heavy enemy concentrations of 90mm mortar, knee mortar, HMG, LMG and rifle fire was received by all elements. At 2355 all elements had reached the trench system 75 yards from the crest of hill 21. Assaults were sent to top of hill but met heavy fire from heavy machine guns. At 1156 (April 13), hill 21 was secured by elements of I, K, & G Cos following a bayonet charge."* Lyle was wounded by shell fragments to both thighs, chest, and left arm on April 12, 1945, during the assault of hill 21 for which he received the Purple Heart.

Lyle was separated from the Army in September of 1945 at Percy Jones Hospital Center, Fort Custer, Michigan. He worked for Christian County Farmers Supply as a petroleum salesman for 41 years. His wife Doris died in June of 1954. He married Jean Anderson Nicol, August 11, 1957. They added one daughter, Paula, to their family. They have seven grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Thank you, PFC Lyle E. Nicol, for what you gave for us.