

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Leo Trumper.

Leo graduated from Pana High School in 1937. On February 11, 1941, he enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps (The U. S. Air Force did not become a separate branch of the military until September 18, 1947.) for three years which turned into almost five years because of WW II. After completing basic training at Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul, IL, he was assigned to duty at Chanute. Because he could type(Where have we heard that before?), he was assigned to Personnel where he was the Chief Payroll Clerk for the Third Provisional Group. After 20 months, he was transferred to the Provost and Prison Department and promoted to First Sergeant, the highest ranking enlisted man in the department. The Provost and Prison Department was responsible for training military police for security for U. S. bases stateside and overseas. Leo's sister, Madeline, was with the 8th Air Force, 1st Division Headquarters in England when a unit of MP's, trained by Leo's group, was assigned for base security. Recognizing the name Trumper, the sergeant of the unit looked her up to see if she was related to First Sergeant Trumper at Chanute. At night when he was not on duty at the base, he worked at a glove factory in Champaign which was considered an essential industry for the war effort. Leo was discharged at Chanute on November 16, 1945.

Leo is very proud of the war effort put forth by his family. Of a family of seven, he and five of his siblings served in WW II, and Leo's younger sister was married to navy-man, Paul Hayes. They were stationed in England, Germany, France, China, and at sea. Madeline served as a clerk during the Nuremberg Trials held after WW II to prosecute Nazi war criminals

After being discharged, Leo returned to Pana and worked at the glove factory there. On May 7, 1947, he married Mary Louise Sloan Trumper. They lived in Moline for a year before moving to Assumption where Leo ran the Assumption Oil Company at the corner of Chestnut and East 1st Street. After 65 years, at the age of 93, he still goes to work at the Assumption Oil Company now located on Business 51. Leo and Mary Louise have three children: Mark, Jill, and Carol, and four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Leo has recently been honored by the American Legion for being a 50-year member of the Neil E. Hillabrant Post 284 of Assumption.

Thank you, First Sergeant Leo Trumper, for what you gave for us.