

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Mick Ruff.

After graduating from Assumption High School in 1965, classmates; Mick, Barton Coulter, Frank Jones, and Tom Pinkston entered the Army in July 1965 as enlistees. Mick was sent to Fort Dix, NJ, for training as an Intermediate Speed Morse Code Radio Operator after basic training at Fort Leonard Wood.

Upon completing his training at Fort Dix, Mick reported to the 7th Army Headquarters in Bamberg, Germany. He was assigned to a small squad of five men stationed at Coburg, Germany, on the border between West Germany and East Germany. Their job was to man a small portable ground radar with a range of about 8,000 meters that used sound to detect movement. The radar was so sensitive that they could actually tell whether a person walking was a man or woman. His squad of which he was the squad leader operated only at night logging everything that moved. They moved to a different site every night. His squad was involved in apprehending East German soldiers and civilians that crossed over onto West Germany. Mick was on duty every night for two and half years except for some leave time. He is really proud of what he did because he was doing an important job.

Because his father was ill, he was called home three months early. He was sent to Fort Sheridan, IL, to finish his enlistment. At Fort Sheridan, he was in charge of soldiers whose Military enlistment had been extended to make up the time they had spent in confinement. They weren't pleasant people with whom to work.

After returning home, Mick worked at the Radford Fertilizer Plant, Trulocks, and Taylorville Town and Country before going to work in 1974 in sales for Northtown Ford in Decatur. He worked 34 years selling cars; twenty-two of which were with Bob Ridings. The last thirteen years, he was sales manager for Bob Ridings.

Linda Lewellyn and Mick were married November 7, 1965. They have one son, Ricky, and three grandchildren. Rick lives and works in Houston, TX. He is the Worldwide Risk Manager for Shell Oil Company traveling all over the world.

Thank you, Specialist 4 Henry Michael Ruff, for what you gave for us.