

## Richard M. (Dick) Bend, 90

Shabbona

Farmer: 61 Years

Branch of Military:

Army, 10th Infantry Division

Rank: Sgt. E-5 (Sergeant)

War: Peace time service, after the Korean War, January 1955 – November 1956

Location of Service:

Schweinfurt, Germany

Drafted/enlisted: Drafted

**Military Experiences:** “I took a train to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas got processed and was issued military clothing. I ran into my friend, Hank Wassmann, where he was in his Basic Training. A week later, we took a bus to Fort Riley, Kansas where we did Basic Training from January – May 1955.

At Basic Training, I’d go down to the PX (Post Exchange – store on military base) and buy a case of Hershey bars and bring some out in the field for our training exercises. We would be out in the field a half or whole day and some guys would be starving because they didn’t bring a snack. So, they started asking me if they could buy one. I began bringing extra candy bars on our field exercises and would sell them in the field. The guys gave me the nickname, “Candy Bar Bend” because they knew I always had candy bars on hand.

In June 1955 we took a train to New York to the troop ship called ‘The Patch’ (USS General Alexander M. Patch namesake). We sailed for 10 days to Bremerhaven, Germany. We then took another train to Schweinfurt, Germany where I served in the 10th Infantry Division for the next 17 months.”

**What Serving Your Country Means:** “I took pride in serving my country; I advanced through different ranks and became a Sergeant. I tried to take good care of my men. We trained long and hard doing many exercises during the day and at night. I did what I was told and ensured that my men did the same. By serving my country, I was doing my patriotic duty.”

**Notables:** Dick entered the Army as a Private and became a Sergeant and Squad Leader. He tied for 1st place in a rifle range exercise and received a trophy. ►



*“I took pride in serving my country. I was doing my patriotic duty.”*



Army Sgt. Richard Bend with the 10th Infantry Division served in Germany following the Korean War. He was drafted into the military at the age of 25. (Inset) Dick, a lifelong Shabbona farmer, remembers his Army days and service to his country 65 years ago.

**HONORING  
FARMERS**  
Who Served Our Country