

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly "Spotlights" our November 2010  
Patriot of the Month



**Harry E. Lucas**

Sponsored by:

**Armstrong Chapter  
Armstrong, Missouri**



In 1938, Harry E. Lucas graduated from New Market High School in New Market, Iowa. He married Mary Alice Blakslee on January 11, 1940, and also enlisted in the Iowa National Guard in January 1940. After enlisting and before receiving basic training, his National Guard unit was mobilized for active-duty.

Harry received basic training and AIT training in radio communications at Camp Claiborne in Rapides Parish, Louisiana. Leaving AIT in Louisiana, he went to Texas where he was involved in maneuvers that included over 1-1/2 million soldiers. He was placed in an anti-tank company as a radio communications sergeant and then shipped out to Belfast, Ireland in early March 1942. In late 1942, he set sail for the African invasion. In early 1943, he went to the African front lines and it was at Kasserine Pass that General Rommel's African Corps captured most of his battalion, including Sergeant Lucas.

Harry and the other Prisoners of War were taken to Stalag 3B in Furstanberg, Germany where they remained for two years, four months, and five days. The Prisoners of War had to stand during the entire trip, which took three or four days and nights.

Russian tanks, all manned by Russian women, liberated the Prisoner of War camp on June 22, 1945. At the time of liberation, the Prisoners of War had been without food for three or four days and only had water. Harry, along with several others, decided to walk toward the American lines to get medical help and food. They crossed the Elb River, linked up with the Americans, and were then flown to England. Harry returned to Chicago, where he was given a medical discharge on July 26, 1945. From there he returned to Iowa.

Harry and Mary Alice had two children, four grandchildren and one great grandson. Mary Alice passed away in 1992.

Harry is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans. He served for ten years as Sheriff of Taylor County, Iowa and also served as President of the Iowa State Sheriff's Association. Harry was employed by Western Surety Bonding Company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for twenty-five years. In 1972, due to his job, Harry and his family returned to Moberly, Missouri where he retired in 1981.