

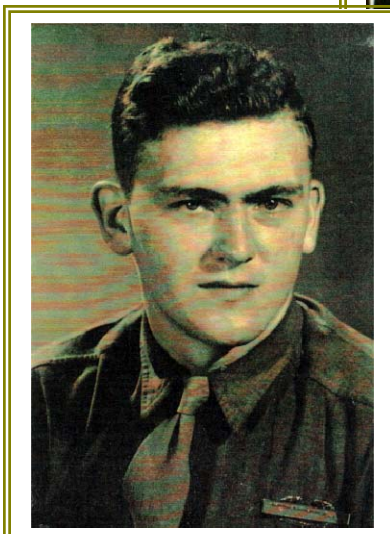
The Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
Proudly “Spotlights” our March 2012  
Patriot of the Month



**Jack Eldon  
Oliver**

Sponsored by:

**Columbian Chapter  
Columbia, Missouri**



Jack Eldon Oliver was inducted into the United States Army in March 1943 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He went to Camp Butner, North Carolina for thirteen weeks of basic training. He was assigned to Company L, 310<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 78<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, commanded by Major General Edwin Parker. His assignment was mortar gunner. The 78<sup>th</sup> was called the “The Lightening Division” and the guys jokingly referred to themselves as “Sparky Parker and the Lightning Bugs.”

In mid May 1944, Jack sailed out of New York harbor aboard the *SS Uruguay* to Liverpool, England and then arrived at Utah Beach on July 1, 1944. During World War II, he served in England, France, Belgium, Germany, and Holland.

Jack was in three major battles during World War II: Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland. During the battle of Hurtgen Forrest, his Company suffered 70% casualties. At the battle of Hedgerow in Normandy, Jack was injured by a mortar. He was sent to England for care and then sent back to his Company.

Jack's medals and badges include:

- Purple Heart
- Bronze Star Medal
- 3 Bronze Battle Stars
- Combat Infantryman Badge

Jack states he is most proud of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Jack returned home to Columbia. He married Dorothy June Perkins "Junie" in July 1950. They have two daughters, three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Jack was a painter for John Epple Construction Company. He is a Mason, and a member of the Disciples of Christ Church, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Military Order of Purple Heart.

Jack relates his service was not unlike millions of other young servicemen except many did not return home. He stated, "War doesn't end with the signing of an Armistice. The effects of war remain the rest of our lives."

Jack has written a book "As I Remember... A World War II Journal." There is a copy at the Columbia Regional Library and the Boone County Historical Society.