

# Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution Proudly Honors

## Patriot of the Month



## December 2017



# Russell Buysse

United States Army

Sponsored by:  
Armstrong  
Chapter



Russell graduated from high school in Illinois, in May, 1943. He received his draft notice before graduating and joined the United States Army in July, 1943. He went to basic training in Michigan, and was then sent to South Camp Hood, Texas, where he guarded Prisoners of War (POWs). These POWs were German Nazi's who were captured in Europe and sent to the United States for confinement.

Later, he was sent to Camp Adair, Oregon, for Infantry Training prior to being sent to the European Theatre of Operations during World War II. After infantry training, he departed out of Boston, Massachusetts, with the 70th Infantry Division on a ship bound for Marseille, France.

Upon arriving in Marseille, the soldiers boarded a train with train cars from the 40 & 8 cars of World War I and rode for five days across France to the front. When the 70th Infantry disembarked from the train, it was on Christmas Day 1944. They ended up on the front lines at a little town called Philippsbourg, France, where the action was on-going. The 70th Infantry advanced further and further into enemy territory and ended up in Germany. The 70th Infantry Division became known as the Trailblazer Division. They spearheaded the Seventh United States Army's drive into Germany, South of Saarbrucken.

Sometime toward the first part of February, 1945, Russell was injured by shrapnel and was taken from the battlefield to a military hospital. After receiving treatment for his injuries, he was flown from

Paris, France to England where he remained for a few months. Russell was going to be returned to the United States. While he was on the dock waiting to board a ship, he found out the war in Europe had ended that day which was May 8, 1945. After the ship docked in New York, Russell went on to Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver, Colorado, for further care for his injuries. He was dismissed out of the hospital and discharged from the military during the spring of 1946, with the rank of Private First Class.

Russell received the following medals: The Purple Heart; Good Conduct Medal; World War II Victory Medal; and Combat Infantry Medal. Russell stated of his experience in the Army, "It was something you had to do and I met and made a lot of buddies."

Russell graduated from the American Academy of Horology in Denver in 1947. He worked in a jewelry store in Iowa. Later he returned to Illinois to farm and continued employment as a watch maker. He retired in 1991.

Russell married Shirley in April 1951. He and Shirley bought a farm in Missouri, and moved there on New Year's Day 1961. They have three children, two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Knights of Columbus.

Armstrong Daughters are very proud and honored to recognize Russell Buysse as Patriot of the Month for his dedication, patriotism, and service to our great nation.