



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

**Patriot of the Month; May 2009
Edison A. Little**



The members of Poplar Bluff Chapter NSDAR are pleased to nominate Edison A. Little of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, as a Patriot of the Month.

Edison served from February 1942 to November of 1945 in Company 2, 22nd Infantry of the Army. He had extensive training for four months in England in preparation for the D-Day Invasion; studying maps and other training exercises. The invasion was scheduled for June 5, and the men boarded the small boats that would carry them across the channel on June 4.

The weather was so bad that “General Ike” and “General Bradley” couldn’t decide whether they could make the crossing, but finally gave the order that they would be crossing on June 6. Edison states that the troops left the ships and boarded a landing craft with 35 or 40 men on a craft. Each man was carrying 80

pounds of ammunition, a heavy load, and Edison and others were also carrying 20 pounds of TNT. The crafts were so close together that Edison said you could step from one to another. The men were let out in water four feet deep and encountered barbed wire and heavy angle irons and concrete that had been poured into the channel and that couldn't be seen. Edison said that the men had a 75 yard mine field to go through when they got to the beach, as well as booby traps, and feels lucky to have survived the experience. He knocked out one machine gun and captured six German officers during the D-Day Invasion.

Edison received the following honors and citations:

- Two Purple Hearts
- Combat Infantry Badge
- D-Day Medal
- Combat Infantry Ribbon
- President's Citation

Edison and his wife Helen have three daughters. Edison enjoys speaking to groups regarding his experiences during the war and the information provided is taken from one of those speeches. He especially enjoys talking with senior high school students.

Poplar Bluff Chapter thanks Edison A. Little for his service to our country.