



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Patriot of the Month; July 2009
Francis Hales



The Missouri State Society NSDAR is pleased to honor Francis Hales as a Patriot of the Month for July 2009.

Francis was inducted into the U.S. Army on August 21, 1943. He took basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He spent a brief time at Indiana University as part of ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program). Shortly after beginning this program, the Army decided they needed him more, and he was sent to South Carolina and Tennessee for infantry training.

Francis' unit, the 101st Infantry Regiment, was sent overseas as part of a large convoy guarded by battleships. They landed in Cherbourg, France. Francis and two other soldiers were captured as members of a three-man patrol. One of the soldiers was killed and the other wounded, but rescued by another patrol. Francis was wounded by shrapnel and captured by the enemy. The next few months were spent being shuttled by box car into Germany. He was in Austria when the war

ended and came home without further incident. He was discharged December 4, 1945.

Francis received the following honors and citations:

- Purple Heart
- Good Conduct Medal
- Bronze Star
- Prisoner of War Medal
- Three Battle Stars

For sixteen years Francis was the Clinton County Collector of Revenue, served on the Board of Oakridge Health Care Center for three terms (9 years), and is presently on the Board of Plattsburg Housing Authority, which is a low-income facility for senior citizens and handicapped people.

Francis is an active member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and has served at the local, district, and state levels for the Knights of Columbus. He is a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church in Plattsburg, Missouri, where he was the organist for forty years.

The Missouri Shoal Chapter proudly nominated Francis Hales as Patriot of the Month.