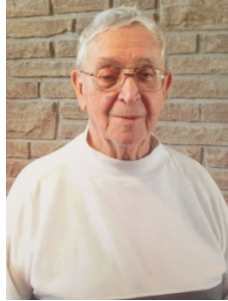


Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

September 2015



Sam Shapiro

Sponsored by:

Missouris Shoal Chapter



Sam Shapiro was a Private First Class in the Army from January 1943 to January 1946. He entered the Army at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, when he was nineteen years old. He was part of the 79th Combat Engineers-Demolition. He blew up structures but also built bridges. He was stationed at Camp Phillips in Salina, Kansas, for basic training and was then sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, for one year for maneuvers. At this time, he went to New Guinea, and the U.S. Army invaded Hollandia, New Guinea, on April 22, 1944. He departed New Guinea in December 1944 and went to Luzon, Philippines, where the U.S. Army invaded from January 9, 1945 to December 1945. He was then shipped back to the United States. Sam received the Asiatic Pacific Medal/Ribbon, Philippines Liberation Medal/Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, 4 Combat Battle Stars, Battalion Commendation Award for Invasion of New Guinea and was discharged from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Upon returning from the war he had malaria for two years. When he became well again, he worked for his dad driving a truck and then worked for KCP&L for thirty-four years and retired. He had a gun collection and worked on union committees when working at his job. After retiring he helped people in the community. His mother came from Poland in 1914 and his father from Russia in 1908. He is a second generation U.S. citizen. He has one sister. He was married fifty-two years and has two sons, one living and one deceased, one great grandson, and two great granddaughters.

As he was reminiscing, he said he remembered the beer rations in New Guinea without refrigeration. He was one of fourteen million that did their job. He met the man that dropped the bomb on Nagasaki which was an honor. Humor kept one going under war conditions, as well as the determination to survive. He was with the same group for three years. They also had a "wind talker" with their group, a Navajo Indian from Gallup, New Mexico.

The Daughters of the Missouris Shoal Chapter DAR are proud to nominate Sam Shapiro as Patriot of the Month and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.