



Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Patriot of the Month
January, 2013



Raymond Diven

Sponsored by:

Missouris Shoal Chapter DAR

Raymond “Ray” Diven was born September 9, 1924, in Kansas City, MO. He graduated from Cameron High School, Cameron, MO, in 1942, and in January, 1944, he joined the U. S. Army. After Basic Training at Ft. Sill, OK, he took a train to New York where he boarded the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth with over 9,000 other soldiers bound for Europe. They docked at Glasgow, Scotland, went by train to Southampton, England, then crossed the English Channel escorted by four destroyers, and ended their long trip at LeHavre, France. Just after the Battle of the Bulge at the Ramagan Bridge, Diven and his comrades were trucked to the front lines where they replaced the fallen and injured.

Diven was attached to the 309th Service Battery Field Artillery, with the 78th Infantry Division, which was part of General Courtney Hodges’ First Army and for a short time was attached to the 3rd Army commanded by General George Patton.

After the end of the war in Europe, Diven was stationed at Kassel, Germany. For a time they repaired equipment to be used in the invasion of Tokyo, Japan and then his Division was assigned to relieve the 82nd Airborne, which had occupied the American Sector of Berlin. While in Berlin, they found a lot of children ranging from ages 6 to 12 whose parents had been killed. They kept busy giving these children something to eat and help them in any way they could.

American troops observed results of Nazi concentration camps. Earlier when Hitler's army would capture the Jews they would separate the families. Later, after the Jewish people had been set free, Ray and some of his buddies witnessed a woman going from house to house looking for members of her family, especially her children. When children were found and brought to this woman she would look into their eyes, as she stated the eyes never change, but as far as Ray knew she never found her children.

After Japan surrendered, he was sent to London, England, for some rest and relaxation, but when he got back to Kassel he was going to Berlin for the occupation. Ray left Germany on December 27, 1945, and arrived at New York Harbor where he was sent to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO, and received his discharge in April, 1946.

Medals and Awards Ray earned while in service were the Good Conduct Medal, the WWII Medal, the American Campaign Medal, German Occupation Medal, European Medal w/2 Battle Stars, Combat Service Medal, Cold War Medal, Unit Citation Medal, and the State of Missouri Medal.

Ray and his wife Mary Lou were married in 1948, and have a daughter, Sandra, and son, Michael. They have three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. As a civilian, Ray worked for Cramer Chair Company for twenty-four years and Blue Cross Blue-Shield Company for eighteen years until his retirement. He has been a member of the Christian Church, and belonged to the American Legion where he was Commander and Financial Secretary, the VFW, and the 40/8.

The Missouri Shoal Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution is proud to honor Raymond Diven as their Patriot of the Month, and thank him for his patriotism and service for our country.