

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution



Patriot of the Month

September 2014



William E. Shackelford

Sponsored by:

Alexander Doniphan Chapter



William Shackelford, nicknamed "Sgt Shack" by his battalion members, served in the U.S. Army from 1936 to 1945. He originally served in the National Guard from his home in Burlington Junction, Missouri, and his unit was mobilized in 1940. After a brief training period in Florida they received orders for deployment to Central Europe via Scotland and England. Here they were assigned to the 3rd Army Division under the auspices and command of Gen George S. Patton, Jr.

Sgt Shackelford served in five battles: the European Theater; Normandy, France; the Rhineland; the Ardennes; and Bastogne. During these campaigns he was awarded 5 Bronze Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal. When he retired in 1945 he had been promoted to Staff Sergeant. The most notable service was at Bastogne where the 3rd Army was sent to rescue and relieve the allies already there, a major victory known as the Battle of the Bulge. Although he was in and out of constant action and danger in so many battles, he returned physically unscathed. This he believes was the work of the Lord as there were many opportunities for danger and harm with the Germans striking from everywhere. He was in his twenties at the time, and he sure he would not make it to thirty. An ammunition explosion in the area nearby found him treating some of the wounded. When he returned his uniform was covered with blood. His battalion mates remarked that they would stay close to him, since they were sure he would take care of them.

After the war, Mr. Shackelford returned to Burlington Junction, Missouri, where he pursued many jobs including work with the local newspaper, movie theater, grocery store, and carpentry. He even started his own business as a printer. His last job was that of a shoe cobbler. Mr. Shackelford was married at age twenty-three and remained married to Bess until her death in 1992. He married a second time in 1994. His second wife died in 2008.

The Alexander Doniphan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is happy and honored to submit Mr. Shackelford as Patriot of the Month. We wish him well and thank him for his service to our country.