

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

July 2023



Paul Mincks

United States Army

Sponsored by:

Matilda Polk Campbell Chapter, NSDAR

A “Polk County boy,” Mr. Mincks family moved from Springfield to Polk County in 1933. And other than his time in Germany, he has spent the rest of his life in Polk County.

Mr. Mincks volunteered for service when he was eighteen years old – because he wanted to go! And he said he would do it again! His older brother had already gone into the service and was serving in the glider division of the Army.



Several other young men from Polk County, Missouri, went in at the same time as Mr. Mincks. So the quota for the county was met. Someone had to decide to stay home in order for Mr. Mincks to go! And someone did and so he went.

Basic training was at Camp Fannin in Texas, then he was shipped to Ft. Meade in Maryland and onto Germany. He arrived in Germany in the winter (cold weather) – either December or January of 1944-45. He joined his division at the Siegfried Line. The Siegfried Line was a man-made armament along the western border of Germany that was constructed in the 1930s. In 1944-45, the Siegfried Line was the site of a large-scale Allied offensive.

Mr. Mincks served in the Infantry, which, as he said, meant “a lot of walking.” At first he carried an M-1 rifle and the ammunition for the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle). The ammunition was heavy. Later he carried the BAR which was heavy, also, along with its ammunition. He was young and healthy, a farm boy, and he could do it!

He served in the 80th Division, also called the Blue Ridge Mountain division. After the war was over, he served in Quartermaster driving trucks around Germany, mostly in the area of Nuremberg. He spent over a year driving trucks in Germany. These were big rigs and prepared him for his civilian job of driving tractor-trailers.

He received several medals but doesn’t recall specifically. He received three service bars that were worn on the sleeve of his uniform jacket. Each bar represented six months in Germany.

One time they encountered a Tiger Tank and a 51 caliber machine gun mortar went through his helmet lining. Knocked him flat. He said he just laid there. According to the enemy he was dead and didn't shoot anymore at him.

Another time, a Lieutenant, wanting to become a captain, ordered some men to go down the hill and determine the depth of the water in the creek or ditch at the bottom of the hill. One guy said he wouldn't go. The Lieutenant said he would court-martial him. The guy said to court-martial him cause he wasn't going. Others, including Mr. Mincks, went down to the creek where they were fired upon. They made their way back through brush that was difficult to get through. But they all made it back to the top of the hill without any casualties.

He said the best advice he received in service was "Follow orders." And he readily acknowledges that God was with him through all the situations he faced in the war.

When he returned home, he married and had a family. He also drove big rigs - tractor-trailers and other large equipment. He worked for the other guy so someone else could be responsible for repairs. He and his wife had eight children and enjoyed 39 years together before she died of cancer. Later he married again and she brought four children into the marriage. It is his stepson that owns Cheney's in Weaubleau.

Mr. Mincks is a member of the Disabled American Veterans and enjoys dinners with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We very much appreciate Mr. Mincks' service to our country!