

**MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

Proudly Honors



PAUL EDWARD BAILEY
SECOND LIEUTENANT
UNITED STATES ARMY
NOVEMBER 27, 1917-AUGUST 1, 1919

as

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT
OCTOBER 2024**

Honoring her Grandfather's Service and Sacrifice

Written by Susan Russ

Sponsored by: Saint Charles Chapter, NSDAR



Wounded in Action in St. Mihiel, France
September 16, 1918, during WWI



In August 1917, with the advent of World War I, my grandfather, Paul E. Bailey entered the Second Officers Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant in November 1917. He was ordered to report to Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio, in December 1917. He took leave and returned to Wisconsin to marry my grandmother, Ruth Chickering, on Thanksgiving Day at the home of her parents. After a brief honeymoon, Paul left at once for Camp Sherman in Ohio, reporting on December 12, 1917.

In May 1918 his unit, the 423rd Machine Gun Battalion, 83rd Division, left Camp Sherman for Camp Merrit, New Jersey, on their way to France. The unit sailed for England in June, arriving in Liverpool, England after dodging submarines and sailing around the north of Ireland. The soldiers received a letter from King George,

Windsor Castle, from England upon their arrival. They spent a few days in south England before sailing for Cherbourg, France, from where the 83rd Division went into training at Mayet.

Paul then transferred to the 103rd Machine Gun Battalion, 26th Yankee Division. The 26th Division was in support for some time before going into action in September 1918. As his unit was moving up to the front lines on September 12, 1918, they came under heavy German

artillery fire. He was severely wounded in action on September 16, 1918, in St. Mihiel, France. His injury was in his right shoulder and neck by a high explosive shell. He was given emergency first aid by a member of his unit which undoubtedly saved him from bleeding to death. He was sent to a hospital at Chaumont, France, which happened to be the Headquarters of General John Pershing. He suffered a complete loss of his right shoulder joint. He had several operations before being transferred to other hospitals on his way to Nantes, France, and then home. Paul learned while in the hospital in France, that their first child, a son, Paul Jr. was born on September 4, 1918. This was the father of Susan Russ. He sailed from Nantes, France, and arrived in New York about November 19, 1918, and was sent by hospital train to the hospital in Fort Snelling, Minnesota, arriving on December 23, 1918. He remained in the hospital until August 1, 1919, during which he had numerous operations, none of which were completely successful. Paul was listed as 50 percent disabled on his date of discharge, August 1, 1919, Second Lieutenant, Machine Gun Battalion, at U.S. Army General Hospital, Ft. Snelling, Minnesota.



Victory Medal

Soon after that time, he was awarded the Victory Medal (with "St. Mihiel" and "Defensive Sector" engraved). He also was awarded the Wounded Chevron and Gold Chevron.

Despite his injury and disability, he lived a long, happy, and successful life filled with family, much love, and a successful career. He passed away at the age of 92 in 1979. His wife followed him in death two years later.

Among many cherished family mementos is a pocket Testament that was carried by Paul E. Bailey, Sr., during World War I, presented to his son Paul E. Bailey, Jr., who served in the United States Army Air Forces, and was carried during World War II, then presented to his son, David L. Bailey, who served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Conflict, and in 2010 was given to Aimee Meurer, who served in the United States Air Force as she served our nation in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.



Grandpa kept the piece of shrapnel all his life that was removed from his shoulder. When he and Grandmother moved to Arizona in retirement, he had the shrapnel engraved with the location and date of injury and had it made into a slide for his bolo tie. I now have that piece of family history.

Also, I have a note in Grandpa's handwriting and the items, describing a gunmetal watch taken from a prisoner at St. Mihiel, France, on September 12, 1918, and the Gillette razor that was used by Grandpa during War I in France.



I have no idea when Grandpa received his Purple Heart, but I can only imagine it was in 1978, the year before he died based on the Certificate of Service dated 1978. Included with his Purple Heart and Victory Medal is a personal note from him identifying his medals, so I know he was aware of these honorable awards.

"The Purple Heart Award was made retroactive—World War I soldiers who had earned certain Awards could apply for the Purple Heart."



*Paul Edward Baily and
Granddaughter Susan Russ.
c. 1950s*

(Paternal Grandfather of Susan Russ,
Saint Charles Chapter, MO)
(Great Grandfather of Michelle Meurer,
Saint Charles Chapter, MO)
(Great Great Grandfather of Michaela
Russ, Saint Charles Chapter, MO)



"Arrived safely "Over there," a soldiers letter mailed shortly after arriving in Europe, from Paul to his wife Ruth.