

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



JOHN NEIBARGER

UNITED STATES ARMY

CORPORAL (E-4)

1942 – 1945

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

MARCH 2025



Judy Neibarger, Honoring her Husband's Service and Sacrifice
Sponsored by: Uldolpha Miller Dorman Chapter, NSDAR



John Neibarger enlisted into the United States Army in March of 1943. He was only 17 years old at that time. He served in the 90th Infantry Division, 358th Army Infantry Regiment, and was also a member of the 2nd Battalion Headquarters Cannon Company. His training for the invasion of Europe took him to Texas, Louisiana, and California.

In early 1944, John was sent overseas to Glasgow, Scotland. He then trained in England before moving to Wales. He spent three days on a boat in the English Channel before the Normandy Invasion took place. Then on June 6, 1944, at 6:18 a.m., he was part of the third wave of troops that landed on Utah Beach.

"I was nicked on the finger of my left hand as we landed on the beach, but this was only a very minor wound and didn't keep me from continuing on. The next day, I was hit in the chest by a spent slug, but again this wasn't serious", said Neibarger.

Then on June 12, near the town of St. Mere Eglise, serving as an observer for the cannon company, John was caught in the fire from a German 88. He was seriously wounded in the chest, arms, shoulder, back, neck, and face.

Neibarger was taken by medics to a field hospital where they were surprised he was alive. He was then shipped back to England where he spent five months in the hospital before being shipped back to the States for treatments. When he arrived in the States, he spent time in hospitals in New York, Nebraska, and Denver. He had major reconstructive surgery in Denver and this is where his parents were finally able to visit him.





He spent the next 18 months in rehabilitation in San Antonio and Arkansas. John said both the physical and mental rebuilding took time. While recovering in Arkansas, he began lecturing to other returning injured veterans about how to readjust back into civilian life.

John had three artificial ribs and a great deal of shrapnel in his body which caused him to have slight physical limitations.

On October 25, 1945, John was honorably discharged from the United States Army with four Purple Hearts, two Bronze Star Medals, and the Combat Infantry Badge for his service. He was appointed Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard of the State of Kansas on March 24, 1961, by Governor John Anderson.

"I think we should let the past bury its dead. I'm very happy and grateful that I survived, but I'd go back and serve again if they needed me. Right or wrong this is my country and you have to do what's right."



In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War, John was interviewed by the Tonganoxie Mirror Newspaper on Wednesday, May 3, 1995. John passed away on August 12, 2019.



The Daughters of the Udolpha Miller Dorman Chapter, NSDAR, are proud to nominate John Niebarger as a Purple Heart Patriot and extend their gratitude for his patriotic service and commitment to our great nation.



John Niebarger's wife Judy and their daughter shares memories of John during a Udolpha Miller Dorman Chapter, NSDAR, chapter meeting