

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



BRUCE MILLER, SR.

UNITED STATES ARMY
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3)
APRIL 10, 1942 – SEPTEMBER 25, 1945

as

PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

APRIL 2025

Rosalie McGaugh, Honoring her Father's Service and Sacrifice
Sponsored by: Valley of the Meramec Chapter, NSDAR



Bruce Miller, Sr., was born in Bland, Missouri, to Edward and Etta Miller on March 18, 2021. He passed away at Cedar Crest Nursing Home in 2017.

Bruce spent his life on a farm outside of Cooper Hill, Missouri, fishing and hunting. Bruce walked to and from school most of the time just through the front door and out the back door.

In 1930 Bruce entered the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp in Jefferson City, Missouri. This gave young men an opportunity to experience life beyond the farm and help the community.

In 1942 he received his draft notice, and his brother Harvey laughed at Bruce when he received the notice. Upon further observance in the mailbox, Harvey had his also.

Bruce entered the service at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis on April 10, 1942, and served as a heavy machine gunner in the infantry until September 25, 1945.

After 13 weeks of basic training at Camp Roberts California and a train ride to Florida, he was headed overseas with 15,000 other troops to England. He traveled on the ship Queen Mary. The 116th H Company, 2nd Battalion arrived in Scotland and was later sent to England for 21 months of amphibious training. They trained on the English Channel in preparation for landing in Normandy.

It was an eventful trip over, the Queen Mary was dodging German U-boats when it collided with a British Cruiser at top speed, "shearing the escort vessel in half like

matchwood, sending it to the bottom”, a newspaper account reported it 31 months later. The Queen Mary had 15,000 U.S. troops aboard and the ship suffered only a dent, continuing safely to Clyde Scotland. The cruiser went down in five minutes with 338 casualties. The Queen Mary could not stop as the German U-boats were in the area.

On June 6, 1944, his unit landed on Omaha Beach. Bruce lost friends and fellow soldiers during the beach landing. The soldiers were pinned down on a bluff for four to five hours. The survivors of his unit later made their way to Germany, France, Holland, and Belgium. Bruce was wounded twice by flying shrapnel and lost hearing in one ear due to a shell concussion. Bruce went in on the second wave in Normandy. He spent three years in England, Germany, France and Belgium.

Bruce received the following Honors and Citations:

- Two Purple Hearts
- Good Conduct Medal
- European African-Middle Eastern Theater with four Campaign Stars for service in Central Europe, Rhineland, Normandy, and France.

After returning, Bruce worked on the Missouri River for the Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, Missouri. He was a member of the Carpenters Local 1839 Union and VFW Post 2661.

Bruce loved baseball and fishing on the Missouri and Gasconade Rivers. He volunteered at the local food pantries in Washington, after retirement.

He was honored to take a trip to Washington, D.C., in 2008 with the Franklin County Honor Flight.

September 28, 2010, he was chosen to throw the first pitch out at a Cardinal Baseball Game.

