

MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Proudly Honors



HOWARD MERLE MENEELY

**UNITED STATES ARMY
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3)
SEPTEMBER 1944 – JUNE 1946
WOUNDED IN ACTION**

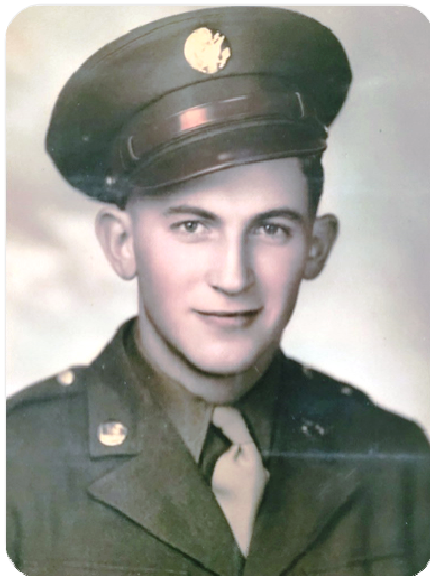
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PURPLE HEART PATRIOT

JUNE 2025

Sarah Meneely Schad Honoring Her Father's Service and Sacrifice

Sponsored by: Rock Island Chapter, NSDAR



Howard Merle Meneely served in World War II and received a Purple Heart Medal due to a wound sustained during action in the Philippines. His daughter, Sarah Meneely Schad, a member of the Rock Island Chapter, NSDAR, shared what he related to the family about his experiences and injury. Some of the information Mrs. Schad has gathered about Howard Meneely's service to his country was from newspaper articles, his honorable discharge papers, and other family members.

Howard was a soldier in Company E of the 11th Infantry and was sent to the American Campaign to defeat the Japanese in the Philippines. As listed on his honorable discharge papers, Private First Class (PFC) Meneely's specialty was as a rifleman.

Mrs. Schad stated "In 1943 Howard's father died. My father's elder brother was to stay on the farm during the war. The need for service to his country was answered by Howard. After graduating from Meadville High School in May of 1944, my father enlisted in the U.S. Army. He began his time in the military on September 26, 1944, and received his basic training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas. He returned home on leave in February of 1945, before being sent overseas to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater."

Her father told of the military action during which he received his wound. His company was to enter one of the combat areas in Mindanao, the second largest island

of the Philippines to secure it. Howard was one of the first soldiers to enter this particular area. One reason for being among the initial thrust was that Howard carried a particular gun that was heavier and bigger than other guns. His gun was the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR), which was used at the point of a group entering enemy territory. Mastery of this machine gun was considered a challenge with its open bolt and strong recoil spring.

During this encounter with the enemy, Howard was shot in the hand. He rolled behind a tree for cover. His fellow soldiers repeatedly called out, asking, "Are you okay?" He didn't answer. He was afraid if the enemy heard him reply, they would know he was still alive. After the area had been secured, the journey to medical assistance was not a short or easy one. He was transported in a truck to a First Aid Station six hours away.

Howard's hand had been wrapped, but there was dirt in the wound. Also, Howard had suffered a heavy loss of blood. He was taken to a hospital in Okinawa, Japan. During this time, his mother received a postcard informing her that he had been injured. Howard eventually returned state-side to California. He and Mary Stewart were married shortly before his service ended in July of 1946. The couple purchased a farm in the Chillicothe, Missouri, area in 1949, where they lived the rest of their lives.

As is true of many soldiers who served during wartime, Howard did not often speak of those experiences. Among those he did share with his family was a day-dream, in which he saw his family at Thanksgiving dinner. He noticed his seat at the table was vacant and Granny was calling him to supper. His reply was "I'll be there in a little bit."

Howard's daughter, Sarah Meneely Schad, recalls that when she participated in a 4-H food project, her father wanted her to use "no recipes that included rice". He shared that in the Philippines there had been a lack of water. He had to drink water from a pool and had to strain out the maggots with his teeth. So, we can understand his reason for avoiding rice after that kind of experience. One other story was that he lost his class ring somewhere in the Philippines.

In addition to the Purple Heart Medal, Howard Meneely received a Bronze Star, a Victory Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, and a Good Conduct Medal for his service to his country.