

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Proudly Honors*



**EDWARD EWING SHIKLES**  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS (E-3)  
AUGUST 11, 1944 – JUNE 28, 1946  
WOUNDED IN ACTION APRIL 7, 1945



*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT**  
**JULY 2025**

*Roxann M. (Shikles) Kinkade, Honoring Her Father's Service and Sacrifice*  
*Sponsored by: Jane Randolph Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR*



'Edward Ewing Shikles graduated from a one-room schoolhouse in rural Moniteau County and was beginning his freshman year of high school in 1939 when news began to spread through the community regarding the German invasion of Poland.

Throughout the next four years of his education, he witnessed the country enter the war, following its progression while going about his life and assisting his parents in their farm work.

But like many of his young contemporaries, Shikles was required to register for the military draft a few weeks before his graduation. Within two years, he would be in a military hospital overseas recuperating from injuries sustained in combat.

"66 Pre-Inductions Friday, April," noted a headline in the Moniteau County Herald on April 13, 1945 "The register of inductees is a large one this week – all are

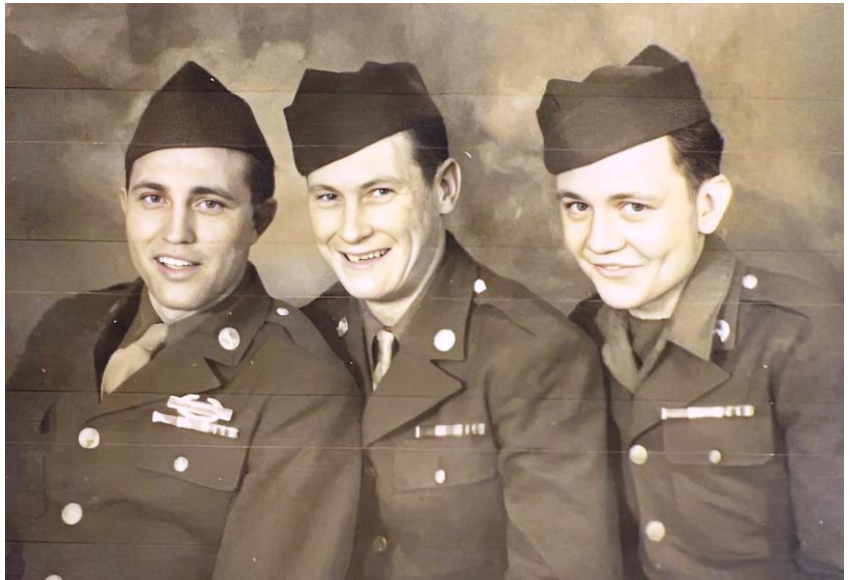
between the ages of 18 and 26. The government is recruiting the infantry, which has not been in the active fighting much," the newspaper added.

The 17-year-old Shikles was among the more than five dozen Moniteau County men listed. Graduating in May 1943, he spent the next year assisting on the family farm before receiving notification to report for duty. On August 11, 1944, Shikles was inducted into the U.S. Army at Fort Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and traveled to Camp Robinson, Arkansas, for several weeks of infantry training.

After receiving a brief furlough and visiting his family in late December 1944, Private Shikles was transferred to Fort Meade, Maryland, and deployed overseas in mid-January 1945. he was attached to the 313th Infantry Division, those soldiers had already been combat-tested in Normandy and Northern France.

Around the time of his assignment 313th had been given orders "to abandon the whole Hagenau Forest to the enemy, and to fall back on the Hagenau-Bischwiller line, taking advantage of the barrier offered by the river," explained The History of the 313th Infantry in World War II.

This resulted in some skirmishing in and around Hagenau, France, and concluded with further movement toward their next major operation of the war – the crossing of the Rhine River and the concerted push into mainland Germany.



The 313th history added, "On March 9, 1945, the regiment received orders to prepare for the Rhine crossing north of Orsoy. The warning order was substantially as follows: To prepare plans to train the regiment in river crossings at a site of the Maas River south of Maeseeyck.

Then came a bevy of training, planning, and intelligence gathering in preparation for the crossings with military leaders anticipating the level of resistance they might encounter. The primary crossings were made at the end of March and several days later, on April 7, 1945, Shikles joined the regiment in making the Rhine-Herne Canal crossing.

The canal was described as 35 yards wide and the regiment's crossing location was situated in a factory area where German snipers could be easily concealed.

"PFC Edward E. Shikles has been wounded in the jaw by a bullet from a sniper's gun April 7 and is in the hospital in France, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shikles have been informed," reported the California Democrat on April 26, 1945.

Later transferring to a hospital in England, Shikles recuperated from his injury and was awarded a Purple Heart. However, his division returned to the U.S. In December 1945, but, Shikles not possessing the necessary points to be returned to the states and discharged, was reassigned to Company M, 16th Infantry Regiment stationed in Hamburg, Germany.

An article by the National World War II Museum explained that " ... the Army ultimately devised and implemented a system called the Adjusted Service Rating Score GIs more commonly referred to it as the point system."

The article added, "Under this scheme, every U.S. soldier was awarded a number of points based on how long they had been overseas, how many campaigns they had taken part in, and how many children they had."

As a member of the Army of Occupation, Shikles remained overseas until early June 1946, at which time he had received enough points to qualify to be released from military service. On June 28, 1946, the "automatic rifleman" received his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army.



Following his arrival back in Moniteau County, Shikles returned to farming and in 1952 married his *fiancée*, Ethel Mae Thompson. The couple raised one daughter, Roxann, and three sons, Graig, Kim, and Kevin.

Although he never left his agricultural endeavors and continued to farm, he also worked for McGraw Edison and years later retired as the district gas meter tester for Union Electric.

The veteran was also a man of faith, serving as a deacon and adult Sunday school teacher at Corticelli Baptist Church, where he had been baptized a few years prior to his military service.

"My parents never talked about my father's service and most of his military records were destroyed in a fire at the National Personnel Records Center (in 1973)," said his daughter, Roxann Kinkade.

Yet through other resources such as newspaper files and divisional and regimental histories, Shikle's story of service in World War II takes shape and becomes a tribute to his sacrifice. He may not have vocalized to family his experiences in combat, but his silence spoke volumes.'

~Jeremy P. Amick, author of the historical compilation, *Moments on the Moreau*,  
**[enewstribune.com](http://enewstribune.com).**