

NAME: Frank

RANK: Not Available

ORGANIZATION: 11th Armored Division

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: European Theater of Operations

- The following text is directly from three original wartime period letters about Frank. These are three of several letters related to Frank in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following text is presented under public domain and fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text aside from edited derogatory terms for Germans for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Frank's battalion commander writes Frank's mother in the United States:

“XX XXX 1945

It is with a feeling of sincere regret that I write this letter informing you of the death of your son who was a member of my command.

Frank was killed in action in Belgium on XXX XX, 1945. A Catholic chaplain officiated at his burial, which took place in a cemetery in France.

Mere words of condolence seem utterly inadequate to express my feelings and the feelings of the men with whom Frank had been fighting until the time of his death. The memory of his supreme sacrifice for home and country is ever present in our minds, and the courage with which he performed his duties is serving as an incentive to those of us who are carrying on to gain the ultimate victory for which your son gave his life.

We who fought with Frank wish to express our heartfelt sympathy for you and others whose hearts have been made heavy by the sorrowful news of his death.

Sincerely yours,

X

Commanding”

Frank's squad leader writes Frank's mother in the United States:

“Hospital Somewhere

In France

XXX. XX, 1945

I realize that by now you have received word of Frank's death.

I know how hard it must have hit you and [your husband].

What I say I know can not alter that feeling of grief, but I do want to give you my deepest sympathy & let you know how proud I am to have known such a fine fellow as Frank was.

Probably Frank has never mentioned me but I have been his squad leader since he first joined our outfit.

We were in the thick of it somewhere in Belgium and pouring it into those Kr _ _ t when Frank was hit.

I don't think he realized what hit him & I know that he never suffered.

The last words I heard him say were 'Come on fellows we've got them where we want them lets give it to them ___.'

The night before Frank had helped take care of the wounded & did a wonderful job. It was his first aid & coolness that saved quite a few of the boys that night. I know how proud you would have been. We lost a great deal when we lost Frank, but somehow I feel he will always be with us.

We took our objective that night and a lot of Kr _ _ t...the squad was plenty mad & fought like Frank would have wanted us to (we did it for Frank.)

I was wounded that night & have been here in the hospital recuperating.

I am feeling fine now and will soon be back with the boys again.

We will never get enough Kr _ _ t to repay for the loss of Frank & some of the other boys but I want you to know that we will do our best.

If there is anything I can do for you please let me know & I will do my best to help you.

I hope that my writing to you has not opened new wounds. God bless you...

Yours sincerely

X"

Frank's squad mate writes Frank's father in the United States:

"Sept 18, 1945

Last night [someone] informed me that you would like to hear from one of the boys who was with Frank when he was killed. I was the only one who was near him when it happened. I would have written before but army regulations don't permit such during time of war.

We had just taken [a town]...Frank and I went to the edge of town to act as security against counter - attack. [The lieutenant] called us back into town after we had been out there a few minutes. We started back into town. Frank was beside me but about two steps ahead of me. Suddenly he dropped. I knew where the shot had come from so myself, [the lieutenant] and [one other] killed the sniper. There

was nothing we could do for him as he died almost instantly. There was no suffering or pain what so ever. The day before all of us had been to mass and communion.

At All of us felt quite badly as he was like a brother to all of us in the squad. All I can say now is this world is a better place for his having passed thru it.

If you should like to know his place of burial you can obtain the information from the Bureau of Graves and Registration. If you should like to write me...I am being transfered and ~~the~~ my family will forward the letter

Sincerely Yours

X”

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- Frank was killed in action in the Second World War.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the above time period and Frank’s organization (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/CB-40>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Frank’s wartime organization, the 11th Armored Division (reader discretion advised):**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/11th_Armored_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/11th_Armored_Division_(United_States))