



Francis E. Niemiec
Private, U.S. Army
Service # 11106369

508th Parachute Infantry Regiment
Died 12 June 1944

Buried at: Normandy American Cemetery
St. Laurant-sur-Mer, France.

Awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart

A Eulogy to Francis:

We did not learn of losing Franny (as we called him) until about a week before we were expecting the birth of Judy. No brother and sister could be as close as Doris and Fran were.

We were perhaps the last family members who saw him before he shipped overseas. After completing parachute training at Ft. Benning. Franny had visited us in Augusta, Georgia where we were stationed at Georgia Aero Tech, A private flight school the Air Corps had taken over.

I remember he wanted to have a pearl-handled Colt .45 to take with him. So, we visited a local gun shop where he found what he wanted. Often wondered what became of that.

When he left the next day, the parting at the station was very difficult for Doris.

When the news of his death arrived, and concerned about her condition, I chose not to tell her the news until after Judy was born. I'll never forget the night I told her. It was after we had retired. There in the dark, when I thought the time had come, I whispered, "One of the boys will not be coming home." Immediately she thought it was one of my brothers, Carl or Earl who were in harms way. Carl had gone through the battles at Salerno, and Anzio and was somewhere in Italy, and we knew Earl was in the thick of things in the South Pacific. When I told her it was Franny, she just broke down completely and cried most of the night. I thank God for Judy coming along just at the right time., and I know Doris felt the same. She would say, God gives and He takes away. We have remembered and missed him every year since then.

Franny will always be especially remembered on every occasion concerning our nation's finest, our military family. . He was indeed "one of our finest."

God bless all our servicemen for their service -
Your father and Grandfather