

PFC FRANCIS P. POSTUPAK - (KIA)

410th, I-Company, 2ND Platoon



Francis P. Postupak was born in 1921 in New York. The Postupak family lived in Watervliet, New York. Postupak's father, Peter, had immigrated to America from Poland in 1913.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Francis P. Postupak was just completing the first semester of aeronautical engineering classes at Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. Hoping to complete his degree before having to go into the Army, Postupak enlisted in the U.S. Army as a member of the Enlisted Reserve Corps on October 19, 1942. The ERC was a special Army program which allowed college students to postpone active duty while completing their degrees. However, Postupak never got the opportunity to complete his degree. Less than six months after he signed up, the ERC program was cancelled and all ERC reservists were called to active

duty. He was assigned to 2nd Platoon, Company I, 410th Infantry Regiment.

The company had been subjected to intermittent artillery fire since relieving Company F, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division on November 11 1944. His platoon was dug in on the hills near St. Die, France. On November 16, 1944, PFC Francis Postupak was killed in action during a heavy artillery barrage.

Francis P. Postupak is listed on the Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute Roll of Honor which pays tribute to those RPI students who lost their lives in defense of America during World War II. He lies at rest in the Epinal American Cemetery in Epinal, France (Plot B, Row 36, Grave 5).