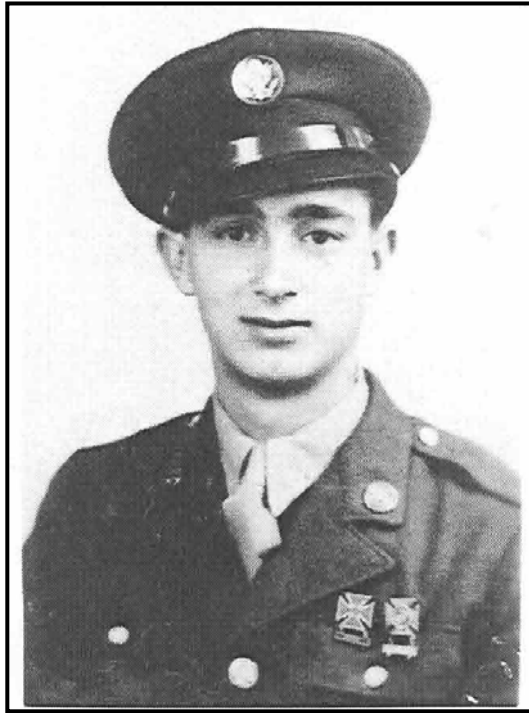


PFC GENE C. WISE - (KIA)

410th, I-Company



Gene C. Wise was born in 1925 in St. Joseph, Missouri. Following graduation from high school in 1943, Wise joined the Army. In early 1944 Wise was assigned to Company I, 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Infantry Division in Camp Howze, Texas. By the summer of 1944, Wise had been promoted to Private First Class and on August 14, 1944, he departed Camp Howze, Texas on a ten day furlough. On December 10, 1944 Pfc. Wise was killed in action in France.

Wise, the only son of Orville and Golda Wise, grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri. He graduated from Benton High School in 1943 and was the only member of the graduating class to be killed in the war.

Wise's 1st platoon of the 410th, I-Company was settling down for a well needed rest on December 10th, 1944 near Neubourg, France. They were billeted in a storage room of a large building next to the railroad track.

About 30 members of his platoon were in the room.

At approximately 1745, PFC Wise was removing his gear when the pin was accidentally removed from his grenade. He was heard to yell "Grenade". Realizing the danger to all in the room, he instantly dove on the grenade to shelter his comrades from the pending shrapnel. The resulting blast killed PFC Wise. His undaunted courage saved the lives of many members of the 1st Platoon and possibly the wounding of all present in such a confined area.

PFC Wise's valor was never recognized by the Army. But the men of Company I never forgot. In 1999, through the efforts of former Company I comrades, PFC Gene Wise was posthumously awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. According to the award citation, "His (Wise) undaunted courage saved the lives of many members of the 1st Platoon and possibly wounding of all present in such a confined space."

PFC Wise was repatriated to St. Joseph, Missouri in 1948 and now rests in honor at St. Joseph Memorial Park.