

2 LT FRANCIS M. PASSARO - (KIA)

410th, I-Company, 3rd Platoon



Francis M. Passaro, the only son of Michael and Concetta Passaro, was born September 1920 in Frederick, Maryland. The birth announcement was published in the September 24, 1920 edition of The Daily News, the local newspaper. Passaro was inducted into the Army September 5, 1942 in Baltimore, Maryland. On December 20, 1944, 2nd Lt. Francis M. Passaro joined Company I, 410th Infantry Regiment as a platoon leader. Lt. Passaro was killed in action March 15, 1945 in the town of Urhwiller, France and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star medal for gallantry in action.

Passaro grew up in Frederick, Maryland where his family ran a produce business. In 1931, the Passaro family relocated to Brooklyn, New York. By the early 1940's Passaro was working as a tin smith helper at the Coca Cola Bottling Company in Baltimore, Maryland. On a visit home to Brooklyn he met his future wife. Francis and Sophia Carol Passaro were married in 1942.

On June 19, 1943, Passaro was commissioned a second lieutenant at Fort Benning, Georgia and was shipped overseas. The following year the Passaro's only child, Michael Francis Passaro, was born.

On December 20, 1944, 2nd Lieutenant Francis M. Passaro reported for duty with Company I 410th Infantry Regiment where he served as platoon leader of 3rd Platoon.

On March 15, 1945 Company I was advancing through the town of Urhwiller, France when the forward elements of the 3rd Platoon came under intense enemy fire. Lt. Passaro left his covered position and moved forward under fire in order to more accurately direct fire onto the engaged German troops. From an exposed position, Lt. Passaro directed bazooka fire into the enemy strongpoint. During the firefight, Lt. Passaro was mortally wounded by enemy fire.

Passaro's Silver Star award citation states, "Lt. Passaro's outstanding valor reflected the highest traditions of the military service."

Lt. Francis Passaro is buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

(Information for this biography provided by Michael F. Passaro, son of 2nd Lt. Francis Passaro.)