

Private Pete Fights Illiteracy at Fort Ontario

The Men it Changed

Stephan Virostko was born December 31, 1913, in Matysova (modern day Slovakia). On March 8, 1937, Stephan immigrated to the United States and on May 31, 1943 he enlisted in the US Army.



In August of 1943, Stephan received a was medical discharge from the army. Following the end of the war, he spent 27 years with the Ameilotex Company of New Jersey. With his wife, he raised three daughters. Stephan retired in 1973 and died June 3, 1980, in Princeton, NJ.

Frank Ranzancini was born on May 4, 1916, in Negaunee, Italy, and immigrated to the United States on November 14, 1935. Prior to the war, he worked as a truck driver in New York City. Frank enlisted on June 16, 1943. After training at Fort Ontario, he joined the 398th Infantry Regiment, which was part of the 90th Division.



On July 22, 1944, Frank was wounded and captured at the Battle of St Germain. As a prisoner of war, he was sent to Stalag IV B, Muhlberg Sachsen 51-31 (Germany). Liberated on May 25, 1945, he returned to NY and worked for the City of Mount Vernon. Frank died on August 9, 1971.

Albert Strem was born January 28, 1908, in Gussing, which was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. On November 19, 1929, Albert immigrated to the United States and worked as a waiter in New York City. A naturalized citizen of Jewish descent, he enlisted in the US Army on August 3, 1943.



Following his discharge on September 9, 1945, Albert became a reserve police officer for the City of New York. In 1951, he joined the newly established Auxiliary Police Force, eventually attaining the rank of Inspector. He continued to serve until his death on November 22, 1999. At that time, he was the department's oldest and highest-ranking auxiliary police officer.