Francis Eugene Carnrike

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D-Day Omaha Beach



by Lori Hahn

Francis Eugene Carnrike was born to John H. and Velma (Wilson) Carnrike in Corry, Erie County, Pennsylvania, on 09 Jun 1916. He led a pretty normal life in the small city of Corry as siblings and cousins abounded in the area. He graduated from Corry Area High School in 1934. Frank went to work in a Corry furniture manufacturer.

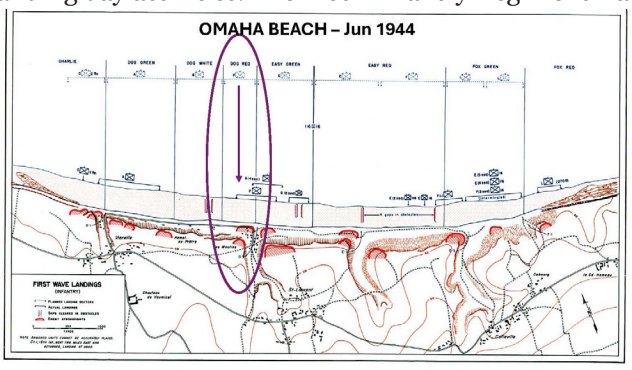
On 07 Dec 1941, war broke out. Frank joined up on 21 Feb 1942 and was assigned to Company F, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division in the European Theatre.



29th US Infantry Division

Frank made it through the bulk of the war and was on the front lines for one of the most famous landings of the war—D-Day, 06 Jun 1944, known by the military as Operation Overlord.

The troops had practiced for months prior to the action. But, the weather and the earlier strafing of German strongholds entrenched above the beach did not assist in the success of landing day activities. The 116th Infantry Regiment was cha



Company F had one of the lucky landings and landed where planned. Other companies in the regiment did not. Company F found itself without the support it had hoped for because of those missed landings. It also found its machine gunner sergeant killed within minutes of landing, and their commander, Capt. William Callahan, was seriously injured. The Germans pounded the beach with ground fire from their bunkers. Losses were heavy. Among those losses that first morning was Sgt. Frank Carnrike.

By the end of the three days on the beach and inland, there were over 35,000 casualties killed/injured. The only bright light of this horrific event is that this engagement would spell the beginning of the end for the Nazis.

To learn more: Omaha Beach: D-Day, June 6, 1944, by Joseph Balkoski.