

VETERAN OF THE WEEK

27 October – 2 November, 2024

L103004 Private Frank Penner

Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, RCIC

Second World War



Photo: Private Frank Penner. Courtesy of Frank's niece and nephew Glennis Stienley & Garnet Dyck

Frank Penner was born on the 1st of September, 1922 on the farm near Wymark to David and Helen Penner. Frank attended the village school until the age of fourteen. Frank was not the most studious of students, as he regularly failed to attend school and often argued with his teachers. Following his departure from school, Frank went to work as a farm labourer. Frank would enlist in the Canadian Army on the 17th of November 1942 in Regina. He would attend basic training at Maple Creek, SK and Shilo, MB. Following basic training, Frank would embark for duty overseas, arriving in the U.K. in mid June 1943. He then proceeded to duty in the Mediterranean theatre, arriving in Italy on the 10th of November. He would serve with B Company, PPCLI during the Italian Campaign.

Sadly, while on a patrol to capture a house near the Naviglio Canal, in the Bagnacavallo area, Frank would be killed in action on the 15th of December, 1944. As Frank and the patrol had approached the house, the Germans ambushed them. Frank and the others attempted to rush the house but met heavy enemy fire. Initial reports from those who returned to friendly lines stated two men appeared wounded and the rest were taken prisoner. However, following the Germans withdrawal to the west bank of the Senio River, three Canadian graves were discovered. Unfortunately, one of those graves belonged to Frank. Frank would be temporarily buried in Grave 15 of the 2 Canadian Brigade Cemetery near Bagnacavallo. After the war, he was reburied in Plot 6, Row D, Grave 24 at the Ravenna War Cemetery, Ravenna, Italy. Frank was just twenty-two years old.