

Vanic, John

Bethlehem Soldier Loses Life In Action on African War Front

AUG 14 1943

Mrs. Mary Vanic, 647 Atlantic Street, yesterday received this telegram from Adj. Gen. Ulio of the War Department, "The Sec. of War desires that I tender his deep sympathy to you for the loss of your son, Pvt. John Vanic. Report just received states that he was killed in action on July 11, '43, in the North African Area. Letter will follow."

Pvt. Vanic, youngest son of the Bethlehem woman and her husband, the late Michael, was inducted February 3, 1942. He had his basic training at Camp Meade, Md. Before embarking for Africa, he also served at Camp Wheeler, Ga., Fort Devens, Mass., and Camp Pickett, Va.

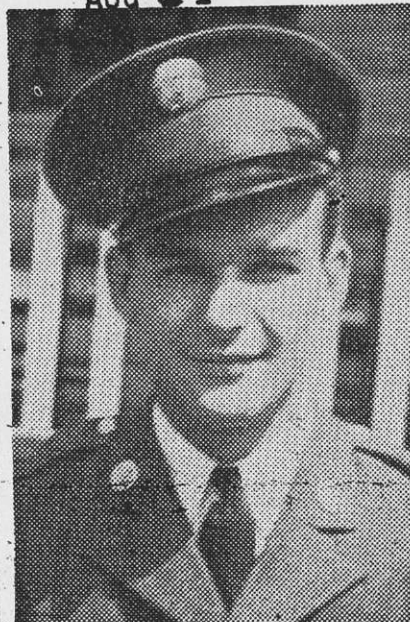
He arrived in Africa in June this year. It is presumed he was killed in his first combat.

A native of Bethlehem, the 24-year-old soldier was graduated from S. Cyrillus and Methodius parochial school. He attended Bethlehem Technical High School and was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Company before his induction.

He is the first parishoner of SS. Cyrillus and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church here known to have been killed in action.

Besides his mother, he has two brothers, Michael and Andrew, and two siter, Mrs. Mary Lawrence and Sister M. Geraldine, MSC, of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in St. Michael's Convent, Hyde Park, Reading.

Two of his cousins are serving with the nation's armed forces.



PVT. JOHN VANIC
... killed in action

Both are sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Vanic, 649 Atlantic Street. Sgt. Joseph Vanic is somewhere in Australia. Stationed in this country is Cyril Vanic of the Navy.

Sgt. Vanic was awarded the Purple Heart for heroic action at New Guinea last year. Then, with a group of three officers, four other sergeants and two privates, he risked his life to save millions of rounds of ammunition and thousands of huge bombs during a fast spreading grass fire.

August 14, 1943