

INTRODUCTION

The Frontline Fugitives is a plot driven historical fiction story about the search for two 18 year old fugitives, who join the U.S. Army to avoid arrest, after they rob a bank that results in the death of a New York City Police Officer. Their escape plan is both daring and ingenious. While being assisted by an aging retired gangster, the two fugitives change their appearance as best as possible and use fictitious identities to get through the Selective Service induction process. Once the two fugitives are inducted into the U.S. Army, the wanted men “blend in” with millions of troops and look forward to the day when they can live on foreign soil as free men when the war is over. Even if the two fugitives don’t survive the war, dying in battle seems like a much better alternative than being arrested and convicted in a New York court for murder, bank robbery and other serious crimes.

The readers of The Frontline Fugitives Book I and Book II will follow the adventures of a fictional New York City based U.S. Army CID Task Force that is responsible to investigate black-market activities and conduct other criminal investigations during World War II. When government officials learn that the two fugitives joined the U.S. Army as a way to facilitate their escape, law enforcement officers from various agencies join forces with U.S. Army Investigators to pursue the fugitives identified as Ivan Larson and Francis Shorty Mc Ghee.

The hunt for the two fugitives is complicated by the fact that the wanted teenage felons have no prior criminal history. The investigators working this case are also unable to find any personal photographs of the two fugitives. Without photographs or fingerprints of the two subjects, the civilian and military investigators are unable to prevent the fugitives from being inducted into the U.S. Army.

The fact that the main witness in the case is a Negro Police Officer, also creates certain operational problems for the two primary law enforcement characters of this story. This is the case because it is no easy task for a Negro Police Officer (Patrolman Al Parker) and a white U.S. Army CID Agent (Major James Beauregard) to travel together in a segregated society while searching Army bases for two fugitives. Even more bizarre is how U.S. military personnel are segregated, despite the fact that white troops and Negro soldiers are killed and wounded on

the same battlefields without discrimination. The insanity of it all is mind-boggling, yet it happened.

Finding the two fugitives among the millions of men who are serving in the U.S. Army during World War II proves to be no easy task, especially when months pass and the members of the CID Task Force have to face the possibility that Ivan Larson and Shorty Mc Ghee could be serving overseas. This concern places tremendous pressure on the members of the U.S. Army CID Task Force as they race against time to locate the two fugitives.

The Frontline Fugitives Book I and Book II also lives up to the definition of good historical fiction by accurately describing what it was like to be a black market operator, a violent criminal, a fugitive, a police officer, a police detective, a police captain, a federal agent, a Provost Marshal, a military policeman, a U.S. Army CID Agent, an infantry soldier fighting in the jungles of Guadalcanal, a combat medic, a C47 pilot, a glider pilot, a U.S. Army Glider Infantryman and a U.S. Army Paratrooper during World War II. This includes characters from different ethnic backgrounds. Last but not least, this story also includes a number of named and unnamed characters who represent the forces of evil.