



John Edward Finn

Company B, 317th Infantry Regiment
80th Division

By Autumn Hendrickson
Author of "Reading's Boys"

Born on February 25, 1912 in Dorchester, Massachusetts to James and Mary Finn, John would spend much of his youth living in Medford, where he would graduate from high school with the class of 1930. However, John would move to Reading after being married on October 16, 1938 to Cecilia Eleanor Surette. Before the war, John worked as an accountant for a photography company in Boston.

John was drafted into the United States Army on January 6, 1944 in Boston, Massachusetts, and

after a period of training, was sent overseas to join Company B, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division.

On October 8, 1944, John's company would go forward with the goal of capturing Hill 400. On this day, John would go missing in action, but would miraculously return to duty on October 14, 1944. There is no doubt that John had many harrowing experiences in the days between his disappearance and return.

On November 26, 1944, John would go missing once again after his company went forward earlier that day. Sadly, on December 12, 1944, his status would be updated to killed in action, and the news would make its way home to Reading.

In the aftermath of the war, John's widow would ask that John be permanently interred overseas, so as to rest alongside the men who he fought and died with. As a result of this choice, John can today be visited at Plot J, Row 32, Grave 37 in the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial located in Saint-Avold, France.

It would seem that John's widow did eventually remarry, but it is unclear when. Regardless, she lived a long, happy life after spending her entire life in Reading, and passed away in 2010.