



5th Army



88th Division



350th Infantry

John Terfinko
Corporal U.S. Army
12 March 1936 – 24 May 1938
7 March 1942 – 1 December 1945

John was born on 19 July 1916 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. After completing grammar school in Macungie, Pennsylvania, John worked as a Molder for East Penn Foundry in Macungie until enlisting in the Army as a Private on 12 March 1936. After completing basic and infantry training in 1937, he was assigned to the Panama Canal Zone until he returned to the States for discharge on 24 May 1938. He returned to Lower Macungie Township, and resumed working at East Penn Foundry until he was drafted back into the Army during World War II. John was inducted as a Private in the Infantry on 7 March 1942 at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, and remained in the States for duty and training until 4 June 1944, when he left for the European Theater. He arrived in Italy on 14 June 1944 while the Rome-Arno Campaign was in progress, and was assigned to Company E, 350th Infantry Regiment, 88th Infantry (“Blue Devils”) Division, under the 5th Army. At that time, the 88th Division was refitting and preparing for operations subsequent to their participation in the capture of Rome. The Division resumed operations on 5 July 1944, when they relieved the 1st Armored Division in the vicinity of Pomerance, Italy. They seized Volterra three days later. The 350th then continued fighting in the Northern Apennines Campaign, linking up with Italian partisans on 27 September 1944 and occupying Mount Battaglia. During the next six days, the Germans mounted a fierce attack in an effort to seize this key terrain. The 350th threw back the assault, suffering 50% casualties. For its part in the brutal fighting on Mount Battaglia, John’s Battalion was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation. The entire 88th Division went on the defensive in late October 1944, and patrolled and improved their positions over the winter of 1944-45. In the spring of 1945, the Po Valley Campaign began. They crossed the Po Valley, capturing Verona and Vicenza. After that, they turned northward into the Brenner Pass toward Austria and, while deep within the Alps, they received word of the German surrender in Italy on 2 May 1945. The 350th then rounded up remnants of the German Army in Northern Italy, after which they occupied the Morgan Line in the Venezia-Gulia Province of Italy—the focal point in the Italian-Yugoslav border controversies during the first years after the war. John returned to the States on 4 August 1945, and was discharged as a Corporal on 1 December 1945 at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. He returned home and resumed working for East Penn Foundry until he retired shortly before his death on 16 January 1980. John married **Catharine Bandura** (born 16 January 1923) at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Fullerton, Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania, on 14 November 1942. They had two children, **Jerry** and **Janet**. John died of heart failure in the Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital and was buried at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. John’s parents were **Lesco Terfinko** (12 Apr 1893 – Aug 1969), and **Anna Haluschak** (1896 – 1961). John had three brothers, **Peter**, **Metro**, and **Michael**, and a brother-in-law, **Francis Oldt**, who served in World War II.