



2ND LIEUTENANT JOHN M. JENNINGS
O-1322556
E COMPANY
359th INFANTRY REGIMENT
90th INFANTRY DIVISION

John Marlowe Jennings was born in Coshocton, Ohio on October 5, 1920. He enlisted in the US Army on October 6, 1942 and received his basic training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Florida, followed by five months of infantry rifleman training at Camp Blanding, Florida.

In May 1943 was accepted for U S Army Officer Candidate School. He attended the Infantry School at Fort Benning Georgia and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on July 19, 1943.



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On August 23, 1943 he was assigned to the 271st Infantry Regiment, 69th Infantry Division at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He was detached on March 6, 1944 and, after leave, reported to the 17th Replacement Depot in England on April 19, 1944. 2nd Lt. Jennings and 44 others joined E/359th as replacements at Bineville, France on June 17, 1944. He was assigned as a rifle platoon officer.

2nd Lt. Jennings participated in the battle for Hill 122 in Normandy beginning on July 3, 1944 and was wounded by mortar shell shrapnel on July 11, 1944 near the end of the battle. That same day he was transferred to the 67th Evacuation Hospital for initial treatment and finally to the 110th General Hospital in Oxford England.

2nd Lt. Jennings' wound, although resulting in the award of the Purple Heart medal, was relatively minor and he ordinarily would have been returned to service fairly quickly. However, while in the hospital he contracted infectious hepatitis which resulted in a prolonged 129 day hospital stay. He was finally released on November 17, 1944 and, after short stays in three replacement units, rejoined E Company on December 14, 1944 near Dillingen Germany as a rifle platoon officer.

2nd Lt Jennings participated in the combat actions of E Company and the 90th Division in France, Luxemburg and Belgium during November and December 1944 and January 1945. On the afternoon of January 31, 1945 the 359th and E Company crossed the Our River into Germany and ended the day in Winterspelt, Germany.

On February 1, 1945 the Second Battalion of the 359th Infantry Regiment, including E Company, was ordered to retake the town of Grosslangenfeld, Germany. Grosslangenfeld is approximately three kilometers east of Winterspelt over rolling open fields. It was one of the first towns retaken by German forces at the start of the Ardennes Offensive. On December 16, 1944 the Germany 62nd Volksgrenadier Division overran a Reconnaissance Platoon of the 106th Infantry Division which was holding the town.



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The actual attack on the town began about 1530 on February 1, 1945 led by E and G Companies. The attacking men were soon subject to heavy machine gun and sniper fire. 2nd Lt John M. Jennings was killed during the successful attack.

On March 25, 1945 2nd Lt. Jennings was awarded the Silver Star posthumously for the events leading to his death. According to the Silver Star citation, E Company was under heavy enemy fire and a sergeant in his platoon was critically wounded and lying in an exposed position. A medic went to aid the sergeant and was killed by sniper fire. 2nd Lt Jennings then left a position of cover to go to the sergeant's aid. He reached the man but was killed by a sniper's bullet to the left chest.

John M. Jennings served in E Company for a total of 75 days. He fought with distinction during two of the Company's most difficult and costly battles: The action against Hill 122 to help break the German main line of resistance in Normandy and the hard winter fighting in the Ardennes. I am proud to be his nephew.

2nd Lt Jennings was initially buried at U. S. Military Cemetery No. 1 in Foy, Belgium. At the request of his family, his body was returned to the United States in April 1949. He is buried in South Lawn Cemetery in Coshocton, Ohio, next to his mother and father.

Joseph T. Kiefer
Nephew of John M. Jennings
E/359th KIA February 1, 1945