



John French Greenland

United States Army

Service No. 31430806

World War II

Born: 06 Sep 1906

Died: 18 Dec 1988

Place of Birth: Coley's Point, Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Stephen and Mary Emma (nee French) Greenland

John was the second eldest child born to Stephen and Mary of Coley's Point, Newfoundland. Besides his birth certificate, the next official documentation for John is found in the 1921 Newfoundland general census. John is listed as fifteen (15) years old and one of six children.

At the time of the next census in 1935, John is nowhere to be found. The Greenland's, Stephen, and Mary are 59 and 56

respectively and there are just three (3) children at home now, Hayward 23, Stephen 18, and Frank 14.

John is not in Newfoundland, having moved to Massachusetts, United States in May 1926, according to border crossing records. His older brother, Henry Augustus had moved to the US in 1923 and John lists him as the person he would be visiting while there.

Subsequently, John applied for immigration status and became a naturalized American citizen. In June 1932, he married Mildred Rogers in a ceremony at Watertown, Mass. Surprisingly, she was a Newfoundland girl, having been born in Old Perlican, Trinity Bay. The couple had a child, a girl, Jane, who was born in 1934 at Roxbury, Mass.

The 1940 US Federal census lists John 34, Mildred 29 living on William Street, Cambridge. Jane is five years old. John is working for N. Tucker construction company as a labourer.

Having received a draft card, in January 1944, John enlisted at Boston for the duration of the war plus six months. He is now divorced with dependents. The enlistment papers provide a physical description of John as 5' 9", 160 lbs. with brown hair, blue eyes, and a ruddy complexion.

John would serve in the 3rd US Army and see action in France, Belgium, and Germany. He would receive the Purple Heart and citation for his action and injury (wounded) in January 1945. He would spend three (3) months in hospital in Belgium from January to March 1945.

John married a second time to a lady by the name of Jean Hart. Jean was born in 1906, the same year as John and grew up in Coley's Point, Newfoundland like John. It is quite possible the two knew each other as children.

Jean passed away in 1967 and John in 1988. John is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett, Massachusetts.

Below is a clipping from the Bay Roberts Guardian Newspaper dated 16 June 1945.

**FORMER COLEY'S POINT
BOY RECEIVES U. S.
PURPLE HEART AWARD**

Private John French Greenland, now serving with the United States 3rd Army, was recently cited with the Purple Heart for Military Merit while in action in Belgium. John's brother, Henry A. Greenland of 47 Chestnut St., Cambridge, Mass., received the official citation from the War Department, stating that he was wounded on the 25th January, 1945.

John had been recuperating at an Army base hospital in Belgium for about a year and a half months, and has since been released. He served with the U. S. forces in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Greenland of Coley's Point.