

## Technical Sergeant John R. Milroy

John Milroy was born in Kalamazoo on July 7, 1925. In the summer of his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday draft papers arrived and he joined the Army at Fort Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan. He was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia for basic training and was part of the Army Specialized Training Program or ASTP where he was assigned to Washington State University. The program was cancelled due to the shortage of personnel in the European theater.

In February 1944 he was assigned to the 94<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. That August the entire division of 15,000 men boarded the Queen Elizabeth and sailed five days across the Atlantic reaching Scotland.

The 94<sup>th</sup> Division replaced a unit in September that was fighting German forces near two submarine bases on the west coast of France at St. Nazaire and Lorient where it experienced 800 casualties in four months. John was promoted to Private First Class (Pfc) in the first platoon of L Company of the 376<sup>th</sup> Regiment as an infantry scout. This meant his job was to look for enemy forces or draw enemy fire.

In January 1945 the 94<sup>th</sup> Division arrived in Trier, Germany and they headed east towards the Rhine River running into opposing forces the whole way. In February they had reached the Saar River and it was reported that General Patton was present to watch the crossing near Ayl Germany. The 376<sup>th</sup> Regiment was pinned down on the banks of the river waiting for boats and machines that would lay down smoke to cover the men from the view of the German pill boxes that were located on the steep hills on the other side of the river.

The Company Commander of L Company, Captain William Brightman, was killed leaving Lieutenant Robert Foster in charge of the first platoon. Sgt. Milroy was then put in charge of the platoon, leading a group of 40 men and getting promoted to Technical Sergeant. He was later awarded the Bronze Star. He led the platoon to the Rhine River where the 94<sup>th</sup> Division took the city of Ludwigshafen.

The Division was sent north to the Dusseldorf area for military occupation duties and then later sent to Czechoslovakia near Pilsen for further occupation duties. Technical Sergeant Milroy was sent to a port in France and was brought back on a Liberty Ship and reached home soil on New Years Eve of 1946.