

World War II



Pvt. John F. Griffin
U.S. Army
Age 25

Born - Canton, Massachusetts
Entered Service - Canton, Massachusetts

John grew up on Leonard Street, the youngest of three sisters and a brother. He attended St. John School and graduated from Canton High in 1937. John had enlisted and shipped out to the 17th Signal Platoon, at Nichols Field in Rizol, Philippine Islands prior to the start of the war. On December 24, 1941 the Japanese invaded the Philippines and drove our forces into the Bataan Peninsular. They held out without any replenishment of food , ammunition or supplies; but on April 9, 1942 they were forced to surrender and taken prisoner near Mariveles. Griffin (and 10,000 other American servicemen) was involved in the infamous 85 mile “ Death March “ to San Fernando then by rail to Capas and then marched to Camp O’Donnell. He survived that but subsequently died May 21, 1943 (according to the Red Cross) at Camp 3 Calatabantuan. His body was never recovered.

Date of Death -May 21, 1943..... Camp 3 Catabantuan
Buried -(unknown)