

# National Archives & Records Administration

## War Department Files 1 LT John H. Cunningham

**Class 53-43**

**ID: 01178115**

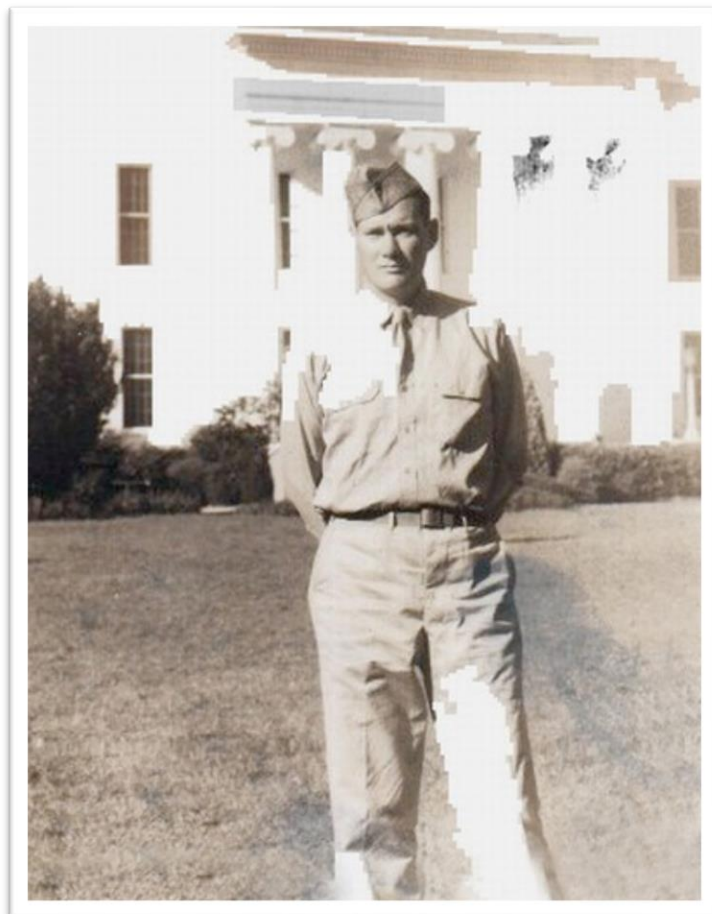
**Branch of Service: U.S. Army**

**Hometown: Natchitoches Parish, LA**

**Status: KIA 5 Jan 1945**



**Killed in action serving with the 11th Armored Division at Bastogne, Belgium  
during the Battle of the Bulge**



## Silver Star



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Field Artillery) John H. Cunningham (ASN: 0-1178115), United States Army, for gallantry in action in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. On 4 January 1945, Lieutenant Cunningham, then Adjutant of the \*\*\* Field Artillery Battalion, 11th Armored Division, volunteered to go forward to establish and maintain liaison with the \*\*\* Glider Infantry Regiment of the \*\*\* Airborne Division. Despite the fact that he had been pinned down by enemy artillery and mortar fire for the greater part of the previous day in the same sector, he insisted on performing the missions himself, pointing out that the Battalion liaison section, which had been operating in another area, would be in danger due to the uncertain and rapidly changing status of friendly and enemy front lines. Allowed to go forward, he began a search for the Infantry command post which had changed position for the night. While on this mission he was surrounded by an enemy patrol and killed near \*\*\*\*. Lieutenant Cunningham's actions in volunteering for a mission of hazardous nature which was not within the realm of his duties displayed an outstanding regard for the safety of others, a complete disregard of his own, and a continuous unselfish desire to further the interests and duties of his unit. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army.

**General Orders:** Headquarters, 11th Armored Division, General Orders No. 25 (1945)



*Buried in Catholic Cemetery in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana*