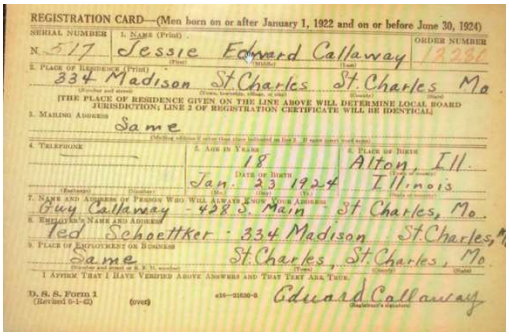
Jesse Edward "Eddie" Callaway

Jesse Edward "Eddie" Callaway was born 23-JAN 1924 in the city of Alton, Madison County, Illinois. His father was Guy Judson Callaway (1892-1963), and his mother was Ann Elenore "Elsie" Lee Sophie Clowers (1900-1942). The family later lived in Lincoln County and then St. Charles MO. The 1930 Federal census lists the family living in St. Charles and the 1940 census lists the family as living in Portege de Sioux MO. Eddie had three brothers: Roderick, Ray, and Jerold and one sister: Ruby.

Eddie enlisted in the Army at Jefferson Barracks on 9-MAR 1943. His serial number was 37605273. The draft card states he had a grammar school education.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER N 517 — 1. NAME (Print): Jessie Edward Callaway — ORDER NUMBER 12231

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print): 334 Madison St. Charles St. Charles Mo.

THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL.

3. MAILING ADDRESS: Same

4. TELEPHONE — 5. AGE IN YEARS: 18 — 6. PLACE OF BIRTH: Alton, Ill.

DATE OF BIRTH: Jan. 23 1924 — Illinois

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Guy Callaway - 428 S. Main St. Charles, Mo.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Ted Schoettker - 334 Madison St. Charles, Mo.

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: Same St. Charles, St. Charles, Mo.

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. Edward Callaway

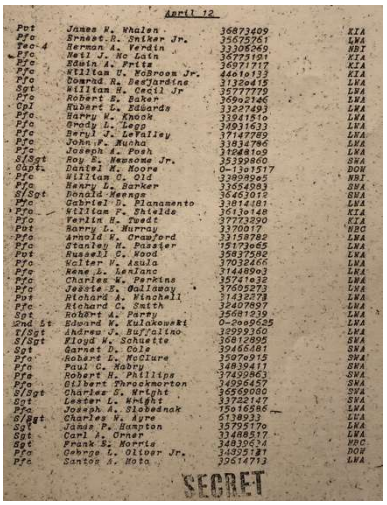
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 9-1-42) (over) 16—21530-4

He was a Private and served with the 83rd Division, 331st Infantry Regiment in Company I. On 18-JUN 1944, the 3rd Battalion (included Company I) boarded troopships for France. The 331st arrived in Normandy on Omaha Beach on about 24-JUN 1944, two and a half weeks after D-day.

The regiment moved to an assembly area near Bricqueville France and on 26-JUN 1944 to Auvers France just east of Carentan to relieve the 101st Airborne Division. Activity on the front of the 331st from 26-JUN to 30-JUN was described as "very dull" in the after-action report. The activities of our troops and the enemy during this time was described as "night patrolling." The enemy occasionally laid down harassing artillery and mortar fire. The next few days were spent patrolling and attempting to capture prisoners.

In early July, the regiment met stiff resistance in the hedgerows around Carentan. As July wore on, the action subsided for the regiment as they maintained defensive positions.

On August 3rd, the regiment moved by motor to the area of Pontorson. The 1st and 3rd Battalion were ordered to seize St. Meloir and the crossroads Villegantier. On 13-AUG 1944, the 331st Battalions K and I were advancing on the town of Dinard, a commune in France. It is believed it was during this action Eddie was wounded. By the 15th of August, the entire city of Dinard was occupied by the 331st. The later part of August was spent training and in reserve.
Eddie was released from the hospital in November.



April 12

Pvt	James W. Whalen	36873409	KIA
Pfc	Ernest R. Sniker Jr.	35675751	LWA
Pvt-4	Herman A. Verdin	33305249	NBT
Pfc	Neil J. Mc Lain	36773191	KIA
Pfc	Edwin A. Fritz	36971717	KIA
Pfc	William O. VanBroom Jr.	44616133	KIA
Pfc	Dowrad R. Desjardins	31320415	LWA
Sgt	William R. Cecil Jr	35777779	LWA
Pfc	Robert L. Baker	36992146	LWA
Cpl	Hubert L. Edwards	33227493	LWA
Pfc	Harry W. Knock	33941810	LWA
Pfc	Grady L. Legg	34931633	LWA
Pfc	Beryl J. LeValley	37147789	LWA
Pfc	John P. Rucha	31811786	LWA
Pfc	Joseph A. Posh	31648109	LWA
S/Sgt	Roy E. Nemnome Jr.	35399860	SWA
Capt.	Daniel M. Moore	O-1301317	DOW
Pfc	William C. Old	33898945	NBT
Pfc	Henry L. Barker	33654983	SWA
S/Sgt	Donald Menge	36463015	SWA
Pfc	Gabriel B. Flanamento	33814181	LWA
Pfc	William F. Shields	36130148	KIA
Pfc	Verlin H. Twedt	37773290	KIA
Pvt	Harry L. Murray	31700017	NBC
Pfc	Arnold K. Crawford	33159782	LWA
Pfc	Stanley H. Passler	15173065	LWA
Pvt	Russell C. Wood	35837592	LWA
Pfc	Walter V. Azula	37032466	LWA
Pfc	Rene L. LenLanc	31448903	LWA
Pfc	Charles W. Perkins	35741632	LWA
Pfc	Jessie E. Callaway	37605273	LWA
Pvt	Richard A. Winckell	31432278	LWA
Pfc	Richard C. Smith	32407897	LWA
Sgt	Robert A. Parry	35681939	LWA
2nd Lt	Edward W. Kulakowski	O-2069628	LWA
T/Sgt	Andrew J. Buffalino	32999360	LWA
S/Sgt	Floyd W. Schuette	36812895	SWA
Sgt	Garnet D. Cole	33466481	SWA
Pfc	Robert L. McClure	35076915	SWA
Pfc	Paul C. Mabry	34039411	SWA
Pfc	Robert H. Phillips	37459863	SWA
Pfc	Gilbert Throckmorton	34985457	SWA
S/Sgt	Charles S. Knight	36569000	SWA
Sgt	Lester L. Knight	33732147	SWA
Pfc	Joseph A. Slobodnak	15116596	LWA
S/Sgt	Charles W. Ayre	6138933	LWA
Sgt	James P. Hampton	35795170	LWA
Sgt	Carl A. Orner	33488317	LWA
Sgt	Frank E. Norris	34839614	NBC
Pfc	George L. Oliver Jr.	34595187	DOW
Pfc	Santos A. Mota	32674713	LWA

SECRET

The 331st was heavily engaged with the enemy from 7-DEC to 20-JAN 1945 during the German counteroffensive (Battle of the Bulge). After the breakout from the Battle of the Bulge, the 331st Regiment advanced from the Rhine River 29-MAR to the bridgehead established across the Elbe River 13-APR 1945. It was during this advance on 12-APR 1945, Eddie was once again wounded in action.

Editors note: Personal family records suggest the date was 13-APR 1945. Official after-action Army reports list the date of Eddie's wound as 12-APR 1945.

The rapid advance of the 331st was described in the after-action report thusly: "The establishment of the 331st bridgehead across the Elbe River climaxed a lightning advance of more than 220 miles into the heart of the German Reich only 65 miles from Berlin. This accomplishment by an infantry division in a face of a sometimes-fanatical enemy resistance with its flanks open for as much as 80 miles of depth and with 65,000 enemy troops in one pocket of its exposed right flank is unparalleled in the annuals of military history."

His daughter Jeanne said, "His father had told him to always keep his "Willie" in his hip pocket and believes that is what got him through WWII and feels that was the source of his strength through these last several and all he went through."

Eddie served with distinction and was awarded two Purple Hearts. Local newspapers reported he was wounded the second time on May 1945. Jesse Edward Callaway was discharged 16-NOV 1945.

Eddie's awards and ribbons include:

- Five Bronze Stars
- Purple Heart w/Oak Leaf Cluster
- European African Middle Eastern Theater Campaign
- Army Overseas Ribbon
- Northern France and Germany Campaign
- American Theater Campaign
- Central Europe Campaign
- World War II Victory Ribbon
- Good Conduct Medal

Eddie married Jeannine Kay Johnson. They had four sons: Jim, Edward, Gerald, and Guy and three daughters Janna, Jill, and Jeanne. In 1959 the family lived at 2234 Benton Avenue in St. Charles MO. In 1993 the family lived at 2119 N. Fourth Street in St. Charles MO.

Eddie was a “fisherman’s, fisherman and a hunter’s hunter.” Many of his friends believed he could catch a fish “in a mud puddle.” He was always ready to teach others his sporting skills.

Jesse worked and later retired from St. Louis Car Company. The St. Louis Car Company was a major United States manufacturer of railroad passenger cars, streetcars, trolleybuses, and locomotives that existed from 1887 to 1974, based in St. Louis, Missouri. He was a member of St. Charles Pentecostal Church of God and was a member of AMVETS.

Jesse Edward Callaway died 14-DEC 1991 and is buried in Saint Charles Memorial Gardens, in St. Charles MO. Eddie’s wife Jeannine joined him in 2019 and is buried alongside him.