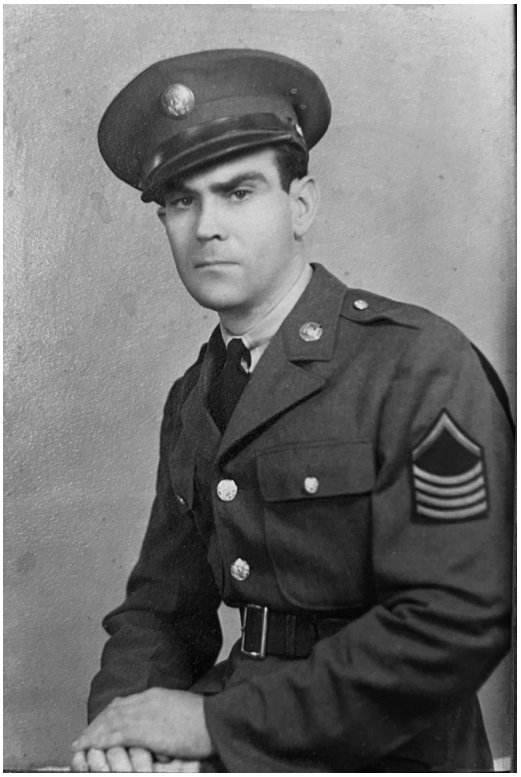
MITCHELL OLIN MCGUIRE

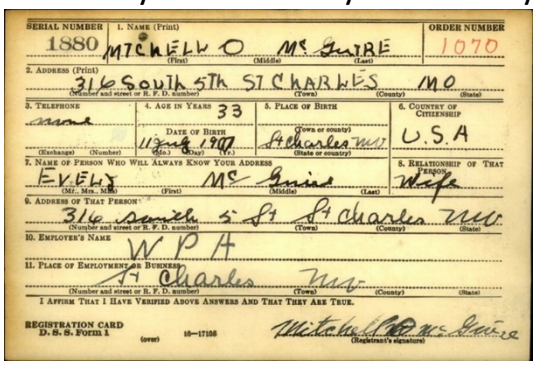


US ARMY 1941-1945

MITCHELL OLIN MCGUIRE
US ARMY 1941-1945

Mitchell Olin McGuire was born 11-Jul 1907 in Truxton, Lincoln County Missouri. His parents were John Frederick McGuire (1864-1946) and Susie E. Schamma (1886-1949). He had four sisters: Mertie, Lucy, Elda, and Nellie and four brothers: Theodore, Fred, Harry, Joseph, and Clarence. In 1930, according to the Federal Census, Mitchell was living at 1532 Gallagher Avenue in St. Charles MO.

When Mitchell registered for the draft, he was working for the WPA. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was a New Deal program that employed millions of people during the Great Depression. The WPA was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935 to help relieve unemployment and increase purchasing power. At the time he was living at 316 South 5th Street in St. Charles. He was married and working as a laborer in the construction industry. He was 22 years old. By 1940, the census says Mitchell was renting a home at 1912 4th Street in St. Charles. He was now 32 years old and married to Evelyn (they later divorced).



SERIAL NUMBER 1880 — 1. NAME (Print): MITCHELL O McGUIRE (First, Middle, Last) — ORDER NUMBER 1070

2. ADDRESS (Print): 316 SOUTH 5TH ST CHARLES MO (Number and street or R. F. D. number; Town; County; State)

3. TELEPHONE: none — 4. AGE IN YEARS: 33 — DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.): 11 [illegible] 1907 — 5. PLACE OF BIRTH (Town or county; State or country): St Charles MO — 6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: U.S.A

7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS (Mr., Mrs., Miss): EVELYN McGuire (First, Middle, Last) — 8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON: Wife

9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON: 316 South 5th St Charles MO (Number and street or R. F. D. number; Town; County; State)

10. EMPLOYER'S NAME: WPA

11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: St Charles MO (Number and street or R. F. D. number; Town; County; State)

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

REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. FORM 1 — 10—17188 — Mitchell O McGuire (Registrant's signature)

Mitchell enlisted in the Army on 19-May 1941 at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis MO. His enlistment indicates that he had completed grammar school, and his civilian occupation was semi-skilled welders and flame cutters, and he was divorced without dependents. His serial number was 37057282.

Dice patch of the 11th Corps

Mitchell was an engineer assigned to the U.S. 9th Army, XVI Corps, comprising the 29th, 75th, 79th, and 95th Infantry Divisions. They entered combat in Normandy France in September 1944. They liberated Caen France. He later served in the 11th Corps.

He married Lydia Hilda “Lily” Arndt McCormick McGuire (1921-2010) on 8-Nov 1941. They had three children: Alvin, Walter, and Martha. In 1950, the family lived in St. Charles MO.

The Ninth Army

Activated just eight weeks before the June 1944 Normandy landings, the Ninth Army was one of the main U.S. Army combat commands used during the campaign in Northwest Europe in 1944 and 1945. It was commanded at its inception by Lieutenant General William Simpson. It had been designated Eighth Army, but on arrival in the United Kingdom it was renamed to avoid confusion with the famous British formation of the same designation, taking the name of a unit of the fictitious First United States Army Group prepared for Operation Quicksilver. All American field armies in the European Theatre of Operation were designated with odd numbers; even numbered field armies served in the Pacific Theatre of Operations.

16th Corps patch

In July 1944, the St. Charles Weekly Cosmos Monitor reported Mitchell was home on furlough. Soon he would be in the European Theater of War.

The first responsibility for Ninth Army, upon its arrival on 5-Sep 1944 was to take part in the final reduction of the German forces holding out in the French port of Brest. After the surrender of the town fifteen days later, Ninth Army was sent east to take its place in the line. It came into the line between Third Army and First Army.

In November, Ninth Army was shifted to the very northern flank of 12th Army Group. It undertook operations to close the front up to the Roer River. 16 December saw the opening of the last great German offensive of the war, the Battle of the Bulge. Ninth Army was isolated from the headquarters of 12th Army Group, and it was thus placed (on 20 December under the command of General Bernard Montgomery's 21st Army Group along with First Army, despite opposition from General Omar Bradley. Simpson reoriented his command quickly to help in the reduction of the salient that the Germans had created.

Many of Ninth Army's units passed to the command of First Army, which was doing the main work of reducing the German salient from the north. In the meantime, the remainder of Ninth Army continued to hold the line along the Roer. When First Army and

Third Army had finished reducing the salient, First Army returned to the command of 12th Army Group, but Ninth Army remained under the command of 21st Army Group for the remainder of the Rhineland Campaign.

In late February 1945 the Ninth Army launched Operation Grenade, which was the southern prong of a pincer attack coordinated with Canadian First Army's Operation Veritable, with the purpose of closing the front up to the Rhine. By 10 March, the Rhine had been reached in all sectors of Ninth Army's front. It was not until after 20 March that Ninth Army units first crossed the Rhine itself (Operation Flashpoint). However, after doing so, the Army quickly struck east around the north of the Ruhr. An enormous pocket soon formed containing the German Army Group B under Walter Model. By 4-April Ninth Army had reached the Weser and was switched back to 12th Army Group.

Corp of Engineers M2 Treadway Bridge over Rhine River.

The end was now clearly in sight, and as part of Ninth Army, along with the newly arrived Fifteenth Army, reduced the enormous Ruhr Pocket, other elements reached the Elbe on 12 April. On 2 May 1945, the whole of Ninth Army's front reached the agreed demarcation point with the Russians, and the advance ceased. Around 7-May 1945, the Ninth Army accepted around 100,000 prisoners from the German Twelfth Army under General Walther Wenck, and the German Ninth Army (Germany) under General Theodor Busse.

On 15-Jun 1945 the units of the Ninth Army were turned over to the Seventh United States Army and the Ninth Army headquarters prepared to redeploy to China to support combat operations against the Japanese.

On 5-July 1945, Mitchell was discharged. He had served just short of three years. When he was mustered out of the Army, he was $8922.22 by check and $1700.00 in cash at Jefferson Barracks.

On 8 July Ninth Army headquarters had moved to Deauville, France to prepare for re-deployment to the United States. On 27 July the headquarters boarded the Army transport ship John Ericsson bound for New York City, where it arrived on 6 August, the same date of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. The headquarters then was moved to Camp Shanks, New York for administrative processing prior to deployment to China.

The Japanese surrendered on 15-Aug 1945 and the planned deployment to China was cancelled. The headquarters was moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in mid-September for demobilization and was inactivated on 10-Oct 1945.

The patch on the right sleeve is that of the Free French Forces. There was a cooperative effort between the French Forces and United States.

Mitchell McGuire was Honorably Discharged on 5 Jul 1945. He achieved the rank of Master Sergeant. He was eligible for the following medals and commendations:

- American Defense Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Europe Africa Middle East Campaign Medal w/3 Stars

Mitchell McGuire participated in three campaigns *(As noted by the 3 stars on his Europe Campaign medal. Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland Campaign).*

The 1950 Federal Census, reports Mitchell McGuire living in an apartment at 315 Nathan in St. Charles MO along with his wife Lydia, one-year old daughter Martha and stepson Walter (12). Mitchell was now 42 years old. The census lists his occupation as a skilled laborer in the construction industry. He had worked 40 weeks in 1949 and earned $2775.00 in income. Mitchell was a Pipefitter. In 1950, a pipefitter's job involved installing, repairing, and maintaining piping systems, often for heating, cooling, and industrial applications. The family later lived on 102 S. Pam in St. Charles MO.

Mitchell Olin McGuire died on 5-May 1980 in St. Charles, Missouri. He was 72 years old. He is buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery alongside his wife Lydia, who died on 12-Nov 2010.