



Deadeye Jessie James Gray

April 15, 1918 - April 6, 1945

Jessie James Gray was the son of James T. "Jim" or "J.T." Gray and Sarah F. Billingsley of Crossett, Ashley County, Arkansas.

He attended school in Crossett and Portland, Arkansas and afterwards went to work at a paper mill as well as engaged in farming

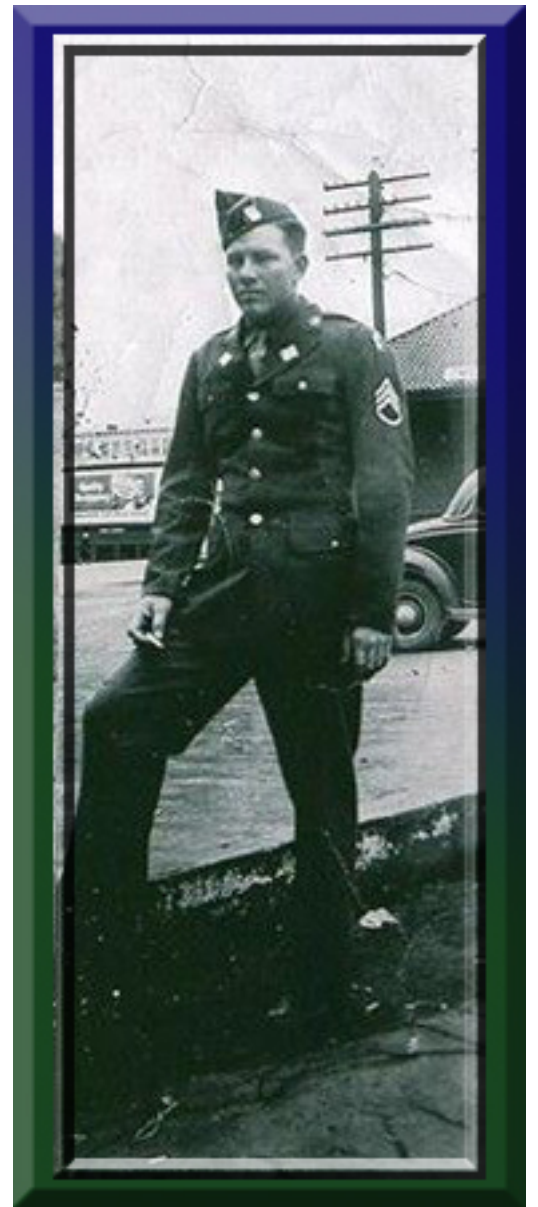
On 2/4/1941, Jessie married Beatrice Shelton at Crossett, Arkansas. Both were from Crossett and continued to live there after the marriage. They soon had a family with two children.

Jessie enlisted in the United States Army on 10/13/1942 and reported for induction at Shreveport, Louisiana. He completed his basic training at Camp Adair, Oregon. assigned to the 382nd Infantry Regiment, 96th Infantry Division - a "Deadeye"

On 7/24/1944, he sailed with his unit to the South Pacific and participated in the assault landing at Leyte Philippines. Jessie's regiment participated in the Battle of Okinawa as part of the 10th Army. The attack on this island was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War of World War II.

Jessie survived the landing on the island but was Killed in Action less than a week later. The circumstances of his death are not known as of this writing. His body was removed from the island and would later be buried at sea.

Jessie was one of approximately 12,500 United State Army, Navy and Marines who were killed or missing during the Okinawa campaign.



**Staff Sargent Jessie James Gray is honored at the Honolulu Memorial,
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA Courts of the Missing Memorial #: 56109217**



**Staff Sergeant Jessie James Gray earned the following badges/
decorations for his service during World War II:**

- Combat Infantryman's Badge
- Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Purple Heart Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Campaign Medal with two
bronze campaign/battle stars and arrowhead device
- World War II Victory Medal



Family Members

Parents

James Thomas Gray 1874-1951

Sarah Billingsly Gray 1881-1972

Spouse

Martha Beatrice Shelton Gray-Rice 1925-2011

Siblings

John Franklin Gray 1902-1992

Lizzie Bell Gray Morgan 1903-1923

Flossie Ethel Gray Morgan 1906-1966

Ruth Gray Brockwell 1910-1991

James Edward Gray 1912-1990

Odell C. Gray 1915-1981

Terry Willie Gray 1921-2007