Edward Etsuzo Nakamura was born on May 25, 1918, in Puunene, Maui. He was the son of Sutejiro and Teruko (Yamane) Nakamura. He was educated at Puunene School, St. Anthony School, Maui, and the St. Louis College, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was employed as a store clerk at the Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., Ltd., Maui.

Edward Etsuzo Nakamura was inducted into the Army on March 25, 1941, at Wailuku, Maui (Serial number, 30101319). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 299th Infantry Regiment and the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company D, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Cpl Edward Etsuzo Nakamura was killed in action near Colli, Italy, on November 29, 1943, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign. He is interred at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery, Makawao, Maui.