

**NAME:** Ernest

**RANK:** Second Lieutenant

**ORGANIZATION:** 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

**OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE:** North African and Mediterranean Theaters of Operations

- The following text is directly from a reproduced wartime period document about Ernest. This is the only document related to Ernest in the site curator's possession.
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**The President of the United States awards the Medal of Honor to a Native American soldier:**

“The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of The Congress the Medal of Honor to

SECOND LIEUTENANT ERNEST X

UNITED STATES ARMY

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Second Lieutenant Ernest X distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action on 22 September 1943, at Oliveto, Italy. Although Lieutenant X previously had just suffered a fractured instep, he, with eight enlisted men, advanced up a hill toward enemy machinegun nests. The group advanced to a rock wall overlooking a cornfield and Lieutenant X ordered a base of fire laid across the field so that he could advance. When he was fired upon by two enemy snipers from a nearby house he killed both of them. He moved behind the machinegun nests and killed all occupants of the nearer one. He continued toward the second one and threw rocks into it. When the two occupants of the nest raised up, he shot one. The other was killed by one of the eight enlisted men. Lieutenant X continued his advance toward a house farther up the hill, and single-handed, captured an enemy mortar observer. The exceptional leadership, initiative, calmness under fire, and conspicuous gallantry displayed by Lieutenant X were an inspiration to his men.”

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- Ernest made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
  - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period and the Italian Campaign (viewer discretion advised):**  
<https://archive.org/details/NPC-2688a>
  - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Ernest's wartime organization, the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (reader discretion advised):**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th\\_Infantry\\_Division\\_\(United\\_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/45th_Infantry_Division_(United_States))