



Joseph Oklahombi was born on 1 May 1895 at Bokchito, Indian Territory. He was killed by a truck while walking along side a road on 13 April 1960 at age 64. His final resting place is Yashau Cemetery in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. He is a full-blood Choctaw Indian.

Oklahombi enlisted into the Army on 25 May 1918 and served, with Honor, until 19 June 1919 earning the rank of Private First Class. While training at Camp Bowie, Texas, he was assigned with D Company, 141st Infantry, 36th Division. The 141st Infantry arrived in Brest, France on/about 7 August 1918.

PFC Oklahombi was one of twenty-four enlisted soldiers and one officer awarded the Silver Star to be worn on the World War I Victory Medal and the French Croix de Guerre, for action, from 8-12 October 1918, near St. Etienne, France. He was awarded the Silver Star (posthumously) by the Secretary of the Army on 14 August 1992 for Gallantry in Action for his actions during World War I. It is documented during this action that *“these soldiers jumped off under fire of more than 25 machine guns, intense artillery fire, toxic gas, barbed wire and numerous snipers to rush within 200 yards of the enemy. They captured and turned on them the enemy’s own guns and held out for four days although under a constant barrage of high explosives and gas shells. Their action resulted in the capture of 171 enemy soldiers.”*

PFC Oklahoma was also one of nineteen World War I Choctaw soldiers awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award of the United States, for his service as a Code Talker during World War I. The Code Talker Recognition Act of 2008 was signed into law, by President George W. Bush, on 15 November 2008 and presented posthumously on 20 November 2013 in Washington DC. The Choctaw Code Talkers pioneered the use of Native American languages which successfully baffled the enemy. Their code was never broken. Oklahombi and his fellow Code Talkers were inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame on 11 November 2012.

After the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918, the 141st performed occupation duty and training around the Tonnerre, and later in the area of Le Malls, France. The 141st arrived back in New York on/about 4 June 1919 and was disbanded shortly thereafter at Camp Bowie.

At the time of his death he was survived by his wife of 45 years, Agnes (1903-83) and a son, Jonah (1918-93).