

In Memory of Private Ernest Lorin Phelps

1925 - 1945

(103rd Infantry Regiment, 43rd Infantry Division United States Army)

Age: 19

Parents: Ernest Phelps & Eveleen Colclough

Conflict: World War II

Country Enlisted In: United States of America

Country of Death: The Philippines

Relation: Maternal Half 6th Cousin 1X Removed



Private Ernest Lorin Phelps, aged just nineteen, gave his life in service to his country during the liberation of the Philippine Islands in the Second World War. Born in Massachusetts in 1925, Ernest was still a high school student when he enlisted in the United States Army in June 1943, eager to do his part in the global struggle for freedom.

Before leaving for service, he worked briefly as a welder at the Charlestown Navy Yard, contributing to the war effort at home while awaiting his call to active duty. In December 1943, he sailed for the South Pacific, where he saw action in the demanding New Guinea campaign, enduring the harsh jungle conditions and intense fighting that characterized the Pacific war.

In January 1945, Ernest's unit, the 103rd Infantry Regiment of the 43rd Infantry Division, took part in the invasion of Luzon in the Philippines. The campaign, which began earlier that month, became the largest Allied operation of the Pacific War, as American forces pushed south toward Manila against determined Japanese resistance.

On 27 January 1945, during fierce fighting against Japanese forces, Private Phelps was killed in action, only three days before his twentieth birthday. News of his death struck deeply at home; he was reported to be

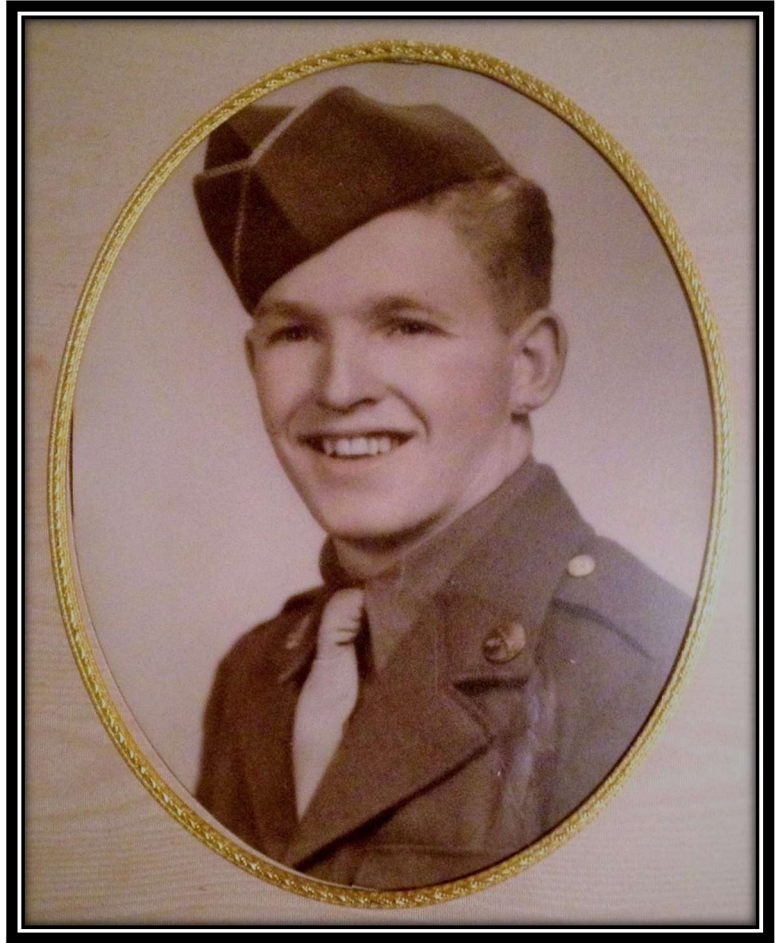
*Private, 103rd Infantry Regiment,
US Army*



the first young man from Lynn to be killed during the Luzon invasion.

Private Ernest Lorin Phelps rests today in Swampscott Cemetery, remembered as a young soldier who left school and home behind to serve in distant lands. His sacrifice, made at so young an age, stands as a reminder of the heavy cost borne by families and communities during the struggle to restore peace and freedom.

He is remembered with honour.



Swampscott Cemetery
Swampscott, Massachusetts, USA