Akira Ojiri was born in Papaikou, Hawaii, on March 16, 1917. He was the son of Miyakichi and Hanayo (Ichinotsubo) Ojiri. He was educated at Kalanianaole Elementary and Intermediate School, Hawaii. Before entering the service, he was a foreman at Onomea Sugar Co., Hawaii.

In March 24, 1941, he was inducted into the Army at Hilo, Hawaii (serial no. 30101184). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 299th Infantry Regiment and the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company F, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pvt. Akira Ojiri was killed in action on November 7, 1943, near Santa Maria Oliveto, Italy, during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign, and is interred at the Veterans Cemetery, Hawaii.

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