Randall M. Ota was born in Waipahu, Oahu, on October 9, 1917. He was the son of Kame and Kamato Ota. He was educated at Molokai High and Elementary School, Maui. Before entering the service, he was an iron worker for the Army.

In May 24, 1941, he was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu (Serial No. 30100780). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 298th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Battalion, 1st Battalion, Company D, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc Randall M. Ota was killed in action on November 4, 1943, near Pozzilli, in Italy during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign, and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.

Excerpts taken from In Freedom’s Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War (1949) with permission from The University of Hawaii Press.