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## Ernest O. Pederson

Born: 1907    Died: 1992

*Ernest O. Pederson was a great four-way competitor. Entering the army in 1942, Ernest was assigned to the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the famed 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry Division.*

Ernest O. Pederson was born in Berlin, New Hampshire, on April 3, 1907, and was a product of the Berlin School System, graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 1930.

As a competitor, Ernest was the National Ski Association (USSA) Boys' National Jumping Champion in 1925, winning the title at Brattleboro, Vermont. Pederson has been acclaimed the earliest truly great four-way competitor born in this country according to the United States Ski Association Historical Committee.

Some of Pederson's competitive accomplishments after his 1925 national title include the State of Maine Jumping Championship at Rumford, Maine, in 1926; the United States Eastern Amateur Jumping Championship at Berlin, New Hampshire, in 1926; the Lake Placid New York College Week Ski Jumping Championship, in 1927-1928; the International Intercollegiate All-Around Ski Championship between the United States and Canada in 1927 at Montreal, 1928 at Hanover New Hampshire, 1929 at Lake Placid, New York, and 1930 at Murray Bay, Quebec.

Pederson also won the National Intercollegiate Jumping Championship in 1929 at Brattleboro, Vermont, and represented the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association on a six man team at Red Wing, Minnesota in 1928, winning the longest standing jump in the intercollegiate class. He was selected to represent the United States on a fifteen man Olympic Ski Team in 1928, but he was left off at the last minute because of financial problems of the Olympic Committee.

Ernest O. Pederson entered the military service in January 1942, shortly after the outbreak of World War II, and for a year, until January 1943, was the Rifle Company Commander of the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Camp Hale, Colorado. From January 1943 until June 1943, Ernest was the Regimental Director of the 87th Mountain Infantry Ski School at Camp Hale, Colorado, promoted to Executive Officer of the Mountain Training Center at Camp Hale until September 1943, when he left Colorado with the regiment for the European Theater of Operation.

Pederson remained in the army until his retirement as a Colonel in June 1967. After his service retirement, he settled in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he taught mathematics at the Springfield Trade High School. Ernest still remained interested in skiing.

Ernest O. Pederson was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame at Ishpeming, Michigan, in 1968.

