

**SERGEANT WILLIAM ALCHESAY**  
**US Army (Deceased)**  
**Medal of Honor Recipient**



Probably the most famous of Apache Scouts, SGT William Alchesay, or the "Little One," was born between Globe and Show Low, Arizona. He enlisted on 2 December 1872 at Camp Verde, Arizona, and became First Sergeant of A Company, Indian Scouts, commanded by LT Charles B. Gatewood (Hall of Fame 1988), 6<sup>th</sup> US Cavalry.

SGT Alchesay participated in major campaigns in the Tonto Basin area in 1872 and 1873 under MG George Crook. MG Crook had been sent to the Arizona Territory in 1872 to bring an end to years of warfare with the Indians by negotiating peace and moving the Indian tribes to reservations. By fall of that year, he facilitated a relative peace by crafting a treaty with Cochise, a chief of the Chiricahua Apache tribe. In November, MG Crook began a winter campaign

to quell the remaining Indians who refused to surrender.

Believing it would take Apaches to find Apaches, MG Crook hired Apache warriors who wanted peace to help the cavalry find those who wanted war. SGT William Alchesay was one of ten Indian Scouts who guided Crook's columns during the winter campaign of 1872-1873. SGT Alchesay received the Medal of Honor in 1875 for "Gallant conduct during the campaigns and engagements with Apaches." MG Crook gave a large share of the credit for his success in these battles to the valiant Apache scouts.

SGT Alchesay also advised MG Crook in the Geronimo Campaign in 1886. Alchesay convinced Geronimo to surrender and negotiated the peace talks. He and Geronimo remained close friends until Geronimo's death in 1909.

After serving more than 14 years for the Army, Alchesay became the Chief of the White Mountain Apache tribe until he retired in 1925. He made numerous trips to Washington D.C., visiting with President Grover Cleveland and acting as a counselor to Indian Agents in Arizona Territory.

SGT Alchesay died in 1928, a chief to his own people and to the US Army which depended so much on his abilities. Alchesay Barracks at Fort Huachuca was named in his honor in 1975. SGT Alchesay was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.



***MG Crook on his mule with SGT Alchesay on the right and an unknown Scout on the left, Apache Pass near Fort Bowie, Arizona, 1885***



***Chief Alchesay***