Harry Minoru Hayakawa was born on November 23, 1923 in Wahiawa, Oahu. He was the son of Shizuichi and Tsuya (Nakamoto) Hayakawa. He was educated at Wahiawa School and Leilehua High and Intermediate School on Oahu. Before entering the service he was a mechanic for the U.S. Army.

On March 23, 1943 Harry Hayakawa was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu (Serial No. 30 104 259). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu and later at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion, Company A in the continental United States and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. Pfc Harry Hayakawa was killed in action near Genzano and Rome, Italy on June 3, 1944 in the Anzio to Rome Campaign and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu.