Minoru Inoue was born in Honolulu, Oahu, on October 31, 1921. He was the son of Fukumatsu and Shizuo (Yamamoto) Inoue. He was educated at Kaiulani School, Kawananakoa Intermediate School, McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a clerk at Hawaiian Pineapple Co., Ltd., Honolulu, Oahu.

In March 25, 1943, he was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu (Serial No. 30105615). He trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company B, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Italy, and France. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Pfc Minoru Inoue was killed in action on April 6, 1945, near Serravezza, Italy, during the Po Valley Campaign, and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.