

## Sgt Henry Yoshio Nakamura

*November 16, 1915 - January 23, 1944*

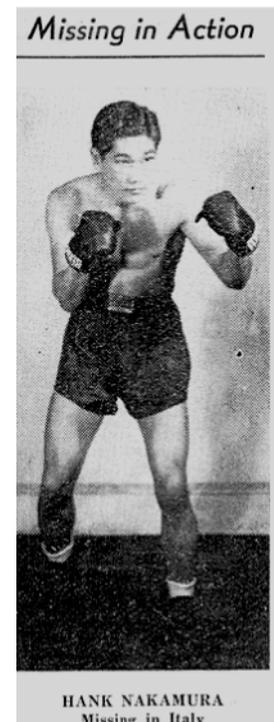


Henry Y. Nakamura was born in Honolulu, Oahu, on January 6, 1915. He was the son of Shuntaro and Nikie (Watanabe) Nakamura. He was educated at Kauluwela School, Central Intermediate School, and McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a stevedore at Castle & Cooke Terminals, Ltd. in Honolulu, Oahu. In November 15, 1941, he was inducted into the Army at Schofield Barracks, Oahu (Serial No. 30102147). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu; Camp McCoy, Wisconsin; and Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 298<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria, and Italy. Initially he was with Company "E" and later assigned to Company C. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart; Combat Infantryman Badge; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal;

American Service Medal; American Campaign Medal; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; and the World War II Victory Medal

Before induction into the armed forces, Henry "Hank" Yoshio Nakamura was an outstanding professional boxer. His biggest fight was in New York with Pete Scalzo, then the world's featherweight champion. Nakamura lost a close fight by a decision before a crowd of 14,000. Before turning professional "Hank" Nakamura performed in Los Angeles and in the east as an amateur and won 22 straight fights. In his boxing career, both as an amateur and as a professional, he engaged in more than 100 fights, but he was never knocked out. "Hank" returned to Hawaii in 1940 and whipped Chris Crispin, then featherweight champion of Hawaii. He enlisted in the army at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, early in 1941. He was described by the Honolulu Star-Bulletin as "one of the gamest fighters to be seen in action here," after he had continued to fight in one bout, though he had wrenched his shoulder and his right arm was useless.

"Hank" Nakamura enlisted in the army in 1941 and went overseas with Company C, the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion in 1943. Sgt Henry "Hank" Nakamura was killed in action on January 23, 1944 near Cassino during the Cassino to Anzio Campaign. "Hank" Nakamura was initially declared Missing in Action. "Hank" Nakamura is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) Honolulu, Hawaii.



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**\*\* DIVISION CITATION (MISSING IN ACTION)**

**Under the provision of Army 600-55. the following named individual is cited, now missing in action:**

**Henry Y. Nakamura, 30102147, Sergeant. Company "E", \*\*\*Infantry Battalion (Sep). For exceptionally meritorious conduct from \*\*\* September 1943 \*\*\* November 1943, in the Italian Campaign. As a squad leader, Sgt Nakamura has consistently demonstrated initiative, efficiency and dependability. During this Campaign he has successfully led numerous combat and reconnaissance patrols and on \*\* October 1943, he personally evacuated a wounded member of his squad while under heavy enemy artillery fire. His superior leadership was demonstrated on \*\* November 1943, in the vicinity of \*\*\* Italy, when by his skillful execution of a flanking movement his squad was able to cut of the retreat of a German force and assist in the capture of 21 Germans and the killing of ten more. The conduct and devotion to duty of Sgt Nakamura has been highly commendable and a credit to the Armed Forces of the United States. Entered military service from Honolulu, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii. Next of kin: Mrs. Nikie Nakamura (Mother) 1492 Liliha Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, Territory of Hawaii.**

*By command of Major General RYDER;  
NORMAN E. HENDRICKSON,  
Colonel, GSC, Chief of Staff.*

\*\*\*asterisks used for security purposes

*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.*

*Additional material for this profile came from the National JA CL Pacific Citizen, San Francisco*