Roy R. Shiozawa, son of Heijiro and Kane (Fukura) Shiozawa, was born on June 8, 1925 in Rigby, Idaho in Jefferson County. He was the last born of eight children—Shizue (deceased), George, Kenji (deceased), Sam Saburo (deceased), Shiro (deceased), Setsuko Judy, Yoshio Joseph Kumagae, and Roy (KIA). Roy never knew his mother, as she had passed away when he was but eight months old. He was reared by his father, an Issei tenant farmer on a 50-acre place in Rigby, a 90 percent Mormon community. Roy was a Mormon.

Roy attended local schools and graduated from Rigby High School. At home Roy helped with chores, thinned sugar beets, pitched hay, and picked potatoes. All of this work was manual labor. His closest friend was Susie Mason, a neighbor girl with whom he played as a youngster. They attended school as classmates and graduated from high school in 1942. Then it was war time, and Roy was called up for military duty. Thereupon Roy and Susie made a pact to marry when Roy returned from the battlefront...but he never did.

His brother George wrote, “Brother Kenji said only time he ever saw his father cry was when a telegram from the U.S. War Department apprised him of Roy’s demise in the Italian Po Valley Campaign by the U.S. Army. Dad must have cried once before when his beloved mate, Kane, passed away after their life together of less than 20 years, and he was left the lone parent of seven children—all under the age of 12. Roy was just a ‘babe in arms.’”

Pvt. Roy Shiozawa (Serial No. 39 930 082) completed his basic training in Camp Blanding, Florida before going overseas. He served with the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company A. He was killed in action at the end of the Po Valley Campaign in Italy on April 21, 1945, about 12 days before the War ended in Italy. Pvt. Roy Shiozawa received the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Bronze Star and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.