Henry M. Shiyama was born in Onomea, Hawaii, on January 23, 1920. He was the son of Hatsuji and Yukie (Shimada) Shiyama. He was educated at Kuhio School, Washington Intermediate School, McKinley High School, Oahu. Before entering the service, he was a shipping clerk at Swift & Co., Honolulu, Oahu.

In November 15, 1941, he was inducted into the Army at Honolulu, Oahu (serial no. 30102322). He trained at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, Camp Shelby, Mississippi. He served with the 298th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Battalion, 1st Battalion, Company C, in the Hawaiian Islands, continental United States, Algeria and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Cpl. Henry M. Shiyama was killed in action on February 12, 1944, near Cassino, in Italy during the Cassino to Anzio campaign, and is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu, Hawaii.