

Henry Waskow Handout

Henry T. Waskow graduated from Belton High School in Texas in 1935. He was the student council president and had the highest grade point average of any male graduate from his class. He attended Temple Junior College through 1937 and graduated from Trinity University with a bachelor's degree in English in 1939.

Waskow joined Company I of the Texas National Guard along with his two brothers, August and John Otto. It was tough times financially, and the three brothers joined to help support their family.

Waskow was a natural born leader. He was promoted to corporal before the company was activated to report to Camp Bowie, Texas, for further training. He rose to lieutenant at Camp Bowie and was chosen to participate in officer's training which sent him to Fort Benning, Georgia.



Captain Henry Waskow, Courtesy of Erin Coggins

When he reported to the Mediterranean in September of 1942, Henry was captain of Company B of the 36th Texas Division. This division ultimately succeeded in driving the Germans off the mountains surrounding the tiny village of San Pietro, Italy. This battle lasted from December 8–17, 1943. This success came at the cost of 80 percent of Waskow's company losing their lives in battle.

Captain Henry Waskow lost his life on December 14, 1943, and was immortalized in Ernie Pyle's column, "The Death of Captain Waskow." Waskow is buried in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy.