

Terry Mishiro

By Danny Baldinger, Saffron Hinz, and Máire Kennan

Junzo and Iki Mishiro immigrated from Japan, then came to California in 1917. They moved to Washington in 1921 and gave birth to their first child, Sachi Mishiro.¹ A few years later, in 1927, their first son, Terry Mishiro was born on Vashon Island. Four years later Janie Fumy Mishiro was born, their second daughter. Their last child, Amy, was born 5 years after Fumy. Their family worked as farmers on Vashon Island. Terry enjoyed playing football in school.² It is unlikely that Terry would have attended high school before internment as he was only just high school age when he was forced from the island.³

Terry was only 15 when he was removed from the island in May of 1942. He was taken to the Pinedale Assembly Center in Fresno, California. From there he was relocated to the Tule Lake internment camp. Tule Lake had about 110,000 Japanese-Americans within the camp that were forced there from May 27th, 1942 to March 20th, 1946.⁴ There were local events held in the camp such as movie nights and projects for people to participate in.⁵

In 1943, loyalty questionnaires were distributed to all interned Japanese, asking about their views on the US Government. Question 27 and 28 went even further, asking if individuals would “swear unqualified allegiance to the United States and forswear any form of allegiance to the Emperor of Japan.”⁷ After this questionnaire was filled out, Tule Lake served as a segregated detention center for the “no no boys,” Japanese who had answered “no” on these last questions, and so were seen as a direct threat to the US Government. The camp changed when it became segregated: barbed wires were put up, and guards lined the perimeter. A curfew was also announced. There were job sites in the camps, and often the conditions were unsafe. In 1943 a truck accident killed one inmate and injured 5, resulting in a workers strike.⁸ Though there is no solid information on Terry’s opinions on internment, the conditions at Tule Lake were definitely far from enjoyable or safe. Both Terry and Fumy stayed at Tule Lake from July 23rd, 1942 - September 21st, 1943. The Mishiro family was then sent to Heart Mountain Camp in Wyoming until the fall of 1945.

A few years after Terry was released from internment by the US Government, he was drafted to fight for the US Government in World War II in 1945.⁶ Later, after the war, Terry got married to Mary

Eiko Tsujimura in 1952 in Multnomah, Oregon. ⁷ Terry had two children with his wife Mary and stayed in Oregon to raise his kids. There is little information on their children's lives.

Later on Junzo and Iki Mishiro, their parents, passed in the years 1987 and 1970 in Oregon. As the Mishiro family grew, they had a total of 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.² Years later after the passing of the Mishiro parents, Terry's wife Mary passed in 1995 in Oregon. Terry's death is unknown, but it is believed he passed and is now buried along with his sister Fumy at the Willamette National Cemetery and is honored as a veteran that served in the war. ⁸

¹ Washington, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1961

² "Japanese Presence Project." Vashon Maury Island Heritage Museum, n.d. Accessed February 7, 2022.

³ Japanese Americans Relocated During World War II Ancestry.com

⁴ U.S., Final Accountability Rosters of Evacuees at Relocation Centers, 1942-1946

⁵ Patricia Wakida. "Tulean Dispatch (newspaper)," *Densho Encyclopedia*

⁶ The National Archives in St. Louis, Missouri; St. Louis, Missouri; WWII Draft Registration Cards for Washington, 10/16/1940-03/31/1947; Record Group: Records of the Selective Service System, 147; Box: 122

⁷ Loyalty questionnaire. Loyalty questionnaire | Densho Encyclopedia. (n.d.). Retrieved February 9, 2022, from https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Loyalty_questionnaire/

⁸ Tule Lake Isolation Center (Detention Facility). Tule Lake isolation center (detention facility) | Densho Encyclopedia. (n.d.). Retrieved February 9, 2022, from [https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Tule_Lake_isolation_center_\(detention_facility\)/](https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Tule_Lake_isolation_center_(detention_facility)/)

⁷ Oregon, Marriage Indexes, 1906-1924, 1946-2008

⁸ Oregon State Library; Oregon Death Indexes, 1971-2008; Reel Title: State of Oregon Death Index; Year Range: 2001-2005

Fumy Mishiro

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Junzo and Iki Mishiro immigrated from Japan, then came to California in 1917. They moved to Washington in 1921, and gave birth to their first child, Sachi Mishiro.¹ A few years later, in 1927, their first son, Terry Mishiro, was born on Vashon Island. Four years later Janie Fumy Mishiro was born, their second daughter. Their last child, Amy, was born 5 years after Fumy. Their family worked as farmers on Vashon Island.

In May of 1942, Fumy was taken to Pinedale Assembly Center, and then eventually was taken to Tule Lake internment camp. 110,000 Japanese people were taken there between May 27th, 1942, and March 20th 1946². The people forced to be there tried to start new lives, but many of them still missed their old lives. Tule Lake had a newspaper that advertised events happening around the camp such as movie nights and other projects³.

In 1943, loyalty questionnaires were distributed to all interned Japanese, asking about their views on the US Government. Question 27 and 28 went even further, asking if individuals would “swear unqualified allegiance to the United States and forswear any form of allegiance to the Emperor of Japan.”⁷ After this questionnaire was filled out, Tule Lake served as a segregated detention center for the “no no boys,” Japanese who had answered “no” on these last questions, and so were seen as a direct threat to the US Government. The camp changed when it became segregated: barbed wires were put up, and guards lined the perimeter. A curfew was also announced. There were job sites in the camps, and often the conditions were unsafe. In 1943 a truck accident killed one inmate and injured 5, resulting in a workers strike.⁸ Though there is no solid information on Terry or Fumy’s opinions on internment, the conditions at Tule Lake were definitely far from enjoyable or safe. Both Terry and Fumy stayed at Tule Lake from July 23rd, 1942 - September 21st, 1943. The Mishiro family was then sent to Heart Mountain Camp in Wyoming until the fall of 1945.

After Fumy and her family were released, they tried to rebuild their lives. Fumy and her brother Terry both moved to Wyoming in 1944, and later both of them moved to Oregon. Fumy got married to

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Yoichi Kitayama in 1954 in Multnomah, Oregon⁴. Fumy passed away May 5th 2004, in Portland, Oregon, and her burial was at the Willamette National Cemetery. Terry has two children that are alive today.

¹ Washington, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1961

² U.S., Final Accountability Rosters of Evacuees at Relocation Centers, 1942-1946

³ Patricia Wakida. "Tulean Dispatch (newspaper)," *Densho Encyclopedia*

⁴ Oregon, Marriage Indexes, 1906-1924, 1946-2008