

Takohiko Togami  
By Emerson Hickman and Max Pearson

Takohiko (Tak) Togami was born April 23, 1926 in South Park, Washington.<sup>1</sup> He was born into a family that eventually consisted of 6 people; His older brother Daigo, younger brother Kazumy, his Sister Chizuko, his Mother Hideyo, and his Father Yutaro who was the head of the household.<sup>2</sup> It is believed that they all worked as farm laborers on the Togami Brothers' Ranch.<sup>3</sup>

He went to Vashon High School as a freshman in 1940 with his brother Daigo who was already a junior at the school.<sup>1</sup> He went there till 1942 where he was exiled and sent along with Daigo and the rest of his family to Pinedale Assembly Center.<sup>4</sup> Pinedale was one of the assembly centers in California that mostly housed Washingtonians. It was an 8 acre site with 269 buildings which the army split into five "blocks". Each person was given only a cot, there were no screens in the windows, and a singular electrical outlet in each building. When they arrived on May 16th they were among 549 arrivals. The camp was only open for 78 days, to which afterwards they were split up and sent off.<sup>5</sup> The Togami family was sent along with most of Pinedale to Tule Lake, which was located in California.<sup>4</sup>

Tule Lake was the only camp that was turned into a maximum security segregation center. Before the internment it was a federal work facility made during the Great Depression to house and help working young men. After the war started the U.S requisitioned it to be made into an internment camp. <sup>6</sup>

Prisoners who arrived at Tule Lake and all the other camps were given a questionnaire before they left assembly centers in order to separate the loyal from the unloyal. The last two questions asked participants if they would lay down their life for the US and serve for it. This caused massive turmoil causing fights and conflict to break out. Those who answered no were considered dishonest and disloyal and many of them were sent to Tule Lake. It was considered a segregation camp because all who answered no were eventually sent there. They were "protected" by thousands of soldiers and tanks and guard posts. It quickly filled up and became the largest camp overflowing its initial cap population. They had poor food, sanitation, housing, medical care and were treated horribly. In January of 1944 martial law was enacted.<sup>6</sup>

Tak, Diago and their family had made it out in 1943. Tak had been there since 1942, and stayed until September 30, 1943. The segregation of the camp was enacted on July 15th, Tak stayed two and a half months in the new segregation center before leaving on September 30th when he was transferred to Minidoka Camp.<sup>7</sup>

Minidoka was located in the Idaho desert, in Jerome County, to the West of Boise by 130 miles, and to the Northeast of Twin Falls by 20 miles. The conditions were really bad as the temperature was either really hot (100°F and up) or really cold (below freezing). The original occupants of the area were the Shoshone and Bannock tribes as Minidoka is located in the area that is part of the "Great Basin Culture Area of Native Americans."<sup>8</sup>

When Minidoka was turned into an internment camp the land was turned into farmland. The camp was over 33,000 acres, but residential areas were restricted to 900 acres. The "blocks" were made up of one mess hall, a latrine, and 12 barracks. Health

issues were very present due to the lack of partitions in the bathrooms. The mess hall was basically the activity center where parties and community events happened.<sup>9</sup>

Tak and the rest of the family were released on July 14th 1944.<sup>7</sup> Tak was drafted to the military in 1944 where he spent an unknown amount of time. According to his draft card he was short of stature at 5 '4 and 125 pounds at the age of 18.<sup>10</sup> After his draft he and his family left for a few years to an unknown place, but around the 1950s they all ended up in California. Most of his family, including him, resided in Fullerton or Orange County, California. Tak died on July 10, 1978 in San Bernardino County California at the Desert Hills Guest Ranch.<sup>3</sup>

**Documents Below in order:** High School Permanent Record, Draft Card, High school group photo with Takohiko circled.

**Sources Cited:**

1. High School permanent record, physical copy see image below
2. <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/180666981/family?cfpid=352357944441>
3. <https://basic.newspapers.com/image/57462426/?terms=takahiko%20togami&match=1>
4. <https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8918&h=58480&tid=180666981&pid=352357944441&hid=1034141131166>
5. [https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Pinedale\\_\(detention\\_facility\)/](https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Pinedale_(detention_facility)/) (There are some discrepancies on the date of arrival)
6. <https://www.tulelake.org/history>
7. Footnote 6 and [https://www.ancestryclassroom.com/imageviewer/collections/2982/images/40915\\_294011-00242?pld=49800](https://www.ancestryclassroom.com/imageviewer/collections/2982/images/40915_294011-00242?pld=49800)
8. [Minidoka](#)
9. [Minidoka Prehistory](#)
10. See draft card document below



# HIGH SCHOOL—PERMANENT RECORD

Name Togami, Tak Address Vashon, Wash.  
 Name of Parent or Guardian Y. Togami Occupation Farming  
 Date of Birth Apr. 23, '26 of Vaccination 1935 of Entry Sept. 3, '40 Leaving May 15, 1943  
 Date of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Birthplace South Park, Wash. Admitted from Vashon  
 Admission secured by: Credentials \_\_\_\_\_ State Dip. May 27, '40 Promotion \_\_\_\_\_ Examination \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intention upon leaving this school: Business \_\_\_\_\_ Trade \_\_\_\_\_ Profession \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Health Good Physical Difficulty None Credits \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS:

## GRADE RECORD

SUBJECT	Year	Year	Year	SUBJECT	Year	Year	Year
Reading				Home Econ.			
Spelling				Agriculture			
Writing				Man. Train.			
Arithmetic							
Grammar				Wks. of Sch.			
Geography				Days Due			
Physiology				Days Absent			
History-Civics				Times Tardy			

## NOTE

A—Excellent, 90 to 100.  
 B—Good, 80 to 89.  
 C—Passing, 70 to 79.  
 Credits from other schools in red ink.  
 Credits by examination marked X;  
 Incomplete, I; Dropped, D; Failed,  
 F.

Form 5-35

Name Togami, Tak

Course

SUBJECT	Yr. 40	Yr. 41	Yr. 42	Yr. 43	Yr. 44	Yr. 45	Yr. 46	Total	SUBJECT	Yr. 40	Yr. 41	Yr. 42	Yr. 43	Yr. 44	Yr. 45	Yr. 46	Total
En. Comp. Rhet.									Bookkeeping								
Am. Lit.									Stenography								
Eng. Lit.									Typing								
Com. Eng.									Cooking								
Algebra									Sewing								
Geometry									Manual Training								
Latin									Art								
French									Orchestra								
Spanish									Glee Club								
Gen. Science									Citizenship								
Physiology									P.E.								
Botany																	
Biology																	
Zoology									Industry								
Agriculture									Punctuality								
Physics									Loyalty								
Chemistry									Reliability								
History Anc. Wld.									Health								
History Mod.									Home Conditions								
History U. S.									School Activities								
Civics									Weeks of School								
Economics									Days Due								
Comm'l Law									Days Absent								
Comm'l Geog.									Times Tardy								
Comm'l Arith.									Total Credits								
Pennmanship																	

CLINT W. LEE CO., SEATTLE

**REGISTRATION CARD** (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)  
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

<b>SERIAL NUMBER</b>	<b>1. NAME (Print)</b>			<b>ORDER NUMBER</b>
W. 248A	Takahiko	(None)	Togame	12959A
	(First)	(Middle)	(Last)	
<b>2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)</b>				
W. 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ Main Avenue Spokane Spokane Wash.				
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)				
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]				
<b>3. MAILING ADDRESS</b>				
Same				
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)				
<b>4. TELEPHONE</b>	<b>5. AGE IN YEARS</b>		<b>6. PLACE OF BIRTH</b>	
None	18		Seattle	
(Exchange)	DATE OF BIRTH		(Town or county)	
(Number)	April 23 1926		Washington	
	(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)		(State or country)	
<b>7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS</b>				
Mr. Daigo Togame-W. 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ Main Avenue Spokane, Wash.				
<b>8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS</b>				
Unemployed				
<b>9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS</b>				
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)				
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.				
DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) c16-21630-4 (OVER)				
Takahiko Togame (Registrant's signature)				





urton, Wilmetha  
n Fuller, Marie  
ra Rose, Anna  
erna Robinson,  
Thomas, Janet  
rice Zi

