Richard Kanse Toyama was born in Kapulena, Hamakua, Hawaii, on November 30, 1915. He was the son of Kanhan and Masu Toyama. He was educated at Central Intermediate School, Oahu. Before entering the military, he was employed by Standard Cabs in Honolulu as a taxi driver.

Toyama (SN 30100322) was inducted into the Army in Honolulu in December, 1940. He trained at Schofield Barracks in Oahu with the 298th Infantry Regiment. He was later assigned to Company A, 100th Infantry Battalion for advance combat training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

Upon completion of combat training in the continental United States, he was dispatched overseas to Algeria, Africa and subsequently participated in the landing at Salerno, Italy and the Italian Campaign.

He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Cpl. Richard Kanse Toyama was killed in action in Leonardo, Italy during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign, on October 21, 1943.

He is interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Excerpts taken from In Freedom’s Cause: A Record of the Men of Hawaii Who Died in the Second World War (1949) with permission from The University of Hawaii Press.

Russell K. Shoho