

Densho Digital Repository
Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection
Title: Matsuko Hayashi Interview
Narrator: Matsuko Hayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: San Jose, California
Date: June 3, 2012
Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-4-11

<Begin Segment 11>

MH: So, I was living in Shōwa-machi.

NW: Ah, okay.

MH: I was . . . washing dishes.

NW: Yeah.

MH: When, when the flash came, and I . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: My hair—the window was open—so, my hair got burned.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: So I, turned around and . . . *okuni*, you know, *daidokoro ni* . . .

NW: Right.

MH: I mean, the kitchen *ni, doma*.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: And, then I went inside and *nani shite*, that's when I got, I still got a lot of glass in hair.

NW: Ohhh.

MH: And, once in a while, two time—neck *kara*—half-inch glass came out.

NW: It came out? Yeah.

MH: From my side, too.

NW: Oh, wow.

MH: Two time, it came out.

NW: Wow.

MH: But I still have a lot of glass in here.

NW: Mmm.

MH: See, like, over here, you can see the bone and blood . . . there was this . . . gushing out and I had to . . .

NW: Mmm.

MH: . . . tie it . . . *nani*, my a—my ankle, my ankle. You could see the bone.

NW: Ohhh. Mm.

MH: And I was loosing a lot of blood so I had to find a rag and tie it. And . . . Shōwa-machi Hijiyama *no shiyakusho*, Takeya-chō.

NW: Ahh. So how close is it from the hypocenter?

MH: Uh, one, uh they say one point six, but I was closest to the—a lot closer, so I think I was about one point three.

NW: One point three miles?

MH: Yeah . . .

NW: Or, kilometers?

MH: No. K . . .

NW: Kilometer.

MH: K-kilometer.

NW: Right, okay. That's very close. That's very close. Yeah.

MH: Pretty close.

NW: Yeah. Yeah.

MH: So . . . When the flash came, everything was like—it came out and everything is flat.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: And the smoke is coming all over *shōji nanka*. Start . . . smoking, so I thought if I don't get out of here . . .

NW: Uh-huh. Right.

MH: I'll get . . . I won't be able to go away . . . There were nobody out. Nobody was there.

NW: Mm.

MH: There was just—everybody was pinned down, or, I don't know what.

NW: Mm.

MH: But . . . I couldn't do anything . . . Tied my arm and leg, and . . .

NW: Right.

MH: Tsurumi-bashi *kara* Hijiyama. I walk up to *ni* . . . *niho* . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: And then I passed out . . .

NW: You did?

MH: Mm . . . girlfriend . . . I don't know how long I passed out.

NW: Mmm.

MH: 'Cause when I woke up . . . they put me—my girlfriend put me in, in the cave, you know, uh *bōkūgō*?

NW: Right, right.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Was it, was it your Nisei friend? When you . . .

MH: Yeah, my . . .

NW: . . . say girlfriend?

MH: . . . group of friends.

NW: Right.

MH: Sewing . . . sewing friend.

NW: Right. Oh, okay.

MH: She was living in Niho.

NW: Okay.

MH: Who . . . now . . .

NW: And then she was also a Nisei?

MH: Y-yeah.

NW: Okay.

MH: She's from Hawai'i.

NW: Okay. Okay . . . How about your father and mother? What were they doing?

MH: They were—Ushita . . . The house, is a lot of glass broken . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: And my sister, and, and, my younger sister and my father, was looking at the B-29 going back . . .

NW: Right.

MH: . . . after it dropped the bomb.

NW: Right.

MH: So my, my sister got burned on the neck.

NW: Mm.

MH: And still—she still got scars.

NW: Yeah. Okay.

MH: And my, my . . . younger sister . . . not young-youngest one. I had three younger sisters.

NW: Mhm.

MH: The middle one was in school . . .

NW: Mhm.

MH: . . . and she got burned.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: Died on the third day. And my other brother was in Yokogawa.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: It was pretty close. But he was between the—the wood and he was able to crawl out.

NW: I see. I see.

MH: So he didn't get burned, but . . .

NW: Mm.

MH: And he was lucky.

NW: How about your mother?

MH: Mother was, in, uh, in the house.

NW: In the house?

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Okay. Was she alright?

MH: Y-yeah, you know.

NW: Mm.

MH: Everything was okay.

NW: Mm. Mhm. But, uh, it feels like your family members are, are at different places.

MH: Different places.

NW: Doing different kinds of things.

<End Segment 11> - Copyright © 2012 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.