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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview
Narrator: Junji Sarashina
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 10>

NW: How did you feel about the beginning of the war? So, you were a teenager . . .

JS: Well, I was brainwashed, yeah. Totally, thinking, die for the country. You got to win this war, do everything you can. That's the way it was in Japan. If you said anything else . . .

NW: You'd be punished.

JS: You are right. There is a lot of *kenmei*, too, you know. So you don't dare say anything bad about Japan, or the Emperor, or the war. The war didn't start yet.

NW: Right. How about you being an American citizen because you were born in Hawai'i, you had a citizenship naturally, right?

JS: Yeah, yeah.

NW: Do you think people treated you differently now that Japan is fighting against the U.S.?

JS: No, no. To me, it was a strange thing. I never was mistreated because I was American citizen. Dual citizen was those days the common thing. Japanese, Japan and . . . American. But I was there. But in high school time, in high school, junior years, so, you know, during the wartime, you know, the war started already. A lot of my folks, you know, you are gung-ho, you are going to die for the country. A lot of people are drafted to go to Kaihei, the officer's candidate school in Etajima, or Rikugun Shikan Gakkō, and they're all getting drafted. And they never asked me. Because why should they ask the American guy with American citizenship to go in there. That's the only thing, you know. Otherwise I was not discriminated. So you know, in a way, I was thinking, why can't I go to Kaihei-tai, because all my friends are going, I know they're going too, you know, nobody told me, but at least they knew about it.

NW: So, because you were brainwashed, as you said using your own words at that time, you were eager to go.

JS: I don't know if I was eager. [laugh]. You see, by that time, I had common sense, that when you see all the people go to the war, nobody was coming back.

NW: So there was that as well.

JS: At least I was aware of that. And a lot of these people, *byakui*, you wear, the kimono-like white thing, those are the soldiers, throughout Hiroshima. By common sense, you look at it, and you . . .

NW: That's what happens though.

JS: Even though if you read the newspapers these days you hear about winning, winning, winning. But, you know that's all propaganda.

NW: Yeah, yeah, right. The reality was a little different. Very different, actually.

JS: Yeah, yeah. And in Atsuto, Atsu Island, they all died, the soldiers died, *gyokusai*. The whole island, everyone died. Why? Because America won. And Saipan. You hear about it. And all the boat, *Yamato*, something like that, just common sense. You know what's happening, you know. They won't come out and say it. You are not supposed to say it.

NW: But you see it.

JS: Yeah, You know, but common sense, you know.

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