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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview  
Narrator: Junji Sarashina  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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<Begin Segment 9>

NW: Before the war, I assume. So when the war started out with America in 1941, did this kind of aspect of your life change?

JS: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Like when I was in grade school, I remember, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, a person with a military uniform was there. I was playing in a school yard, and he just happened to be next to me. And since I didn't know how to address them, "Mr.," I called him, I called him "Oi!" So he was a Sergeant in the army. Instead of saying Mr., I said, Oi, hey, you know. He got really mad at me; he wanted to kill me. So I ran home. And then my momma came up to apologize . . . I remember that. And then I remember, every morning, we have, we had the, where the Emperor's picture was stored, you had to bow. And the *kenpei*, the military police, had a lot of power. Yeah. I was kind of afraid of them. But my, right next to my house, it was a medical captain, Army captain was there, we know each other, so he helped us a lot. I was thinking, gee, this guy rides a horse every day. Every morning a person would bring a horse, he jump on it, and go. I used to watch him all the time. And when the war started, the food is the thing. They didn't have enough. So, a lot of people starve, started to starve. They didn't die, but they at least started to starve. But fortunately, in my family's case, my mom had to go to the countryside, the church. She commuted a lot, because she had to take care of his church in the countryside, too. She had to take care of us in the city. So whatever food she can get, she would bring back to the city of Hiroshima. And I remember all the young soldiers, drafted, they all sent them out, you know, with the flag, and they all left. And a lot of wounded soldiers would come back, you see them quite often. And then, all the people living in Japan, ladies, and girls, and kids, they gave us a bamboo stick, and you got to train. I couldn't believe it, but you got to train. And those days, my farther used to come back to see us from Hawai'i.

NW: Okay, oh, sorry, I forgot, your father was still in Hawai'i.

JS: Honolulu. Yeah. He was living there all by himself, next to the church. And he used to come back quite often. And he had a chance to visit to Manchuria, China, India, all these areas.

NW: Before the war, you mean.

JS: Yeah, yeah yeah. Before the war. During the war, you can't do that. Anyway, he was out there. And he used to tell me, he knew the situation, you know, the relation between the United States and Japan, because Japan was 100% militaristic. You know about those things. So, even the cabinet was being controlled by military people. And a few times, my father told me, ahh, *dame, dame*, you know, you can't fight against the United States.

NW: Right, right. He thought that Japan is gonna lose.

JS: This is, in Japan [United States?] there is thing called bulldozer, and everybody has a car. In Japan, they carry it *mocco*, on the shoulder, carry the dirt and things like that. Um, this is no comparison. *Yamato damashi* is great, but you can't win against bulldozer.

NW: There is some truth to that word.

JS: You said it. Yeah.

**<End Segment 9> - Copyright © 2012 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**