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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview
Narrator: Yuriko Furubayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 11>

NW: So tell me a little bit about what you were doing and how things happen on August 6th. You told me that you were going to school in the city of Hiroshima, is that where you were at the time?

YF: Yeah, you see, a couple years before that, you see, when you were 18 or 19, Japan's system was different. You go 6th grade and then you go, what's the third grade, 6th, 7th, 8th, no, 7, 8, 9, 10, four years of *jogakkō* and you graduate. I was, can I remember . . . but anyway, after that my school, you see, it was a private school, Yamanaka-kōjo. But this, during the war years, this, the owner of the school, a private, she didn't have heirs too, maybe, no. She gave that school and the big profit that they had to the government; she turned it in and then she just, I don't know where she retired, but her name was Yamanaka. Anyway, they owned it all, in the middle of the town, you know, there was this school, that's the school I was going, and she, during the war years, she gave it to the government, I don't know what reason it was, she was tired of operating the school or maybe the tax was too big, or I don't know what. But she had an enrollement, full enrollment and we were graduating with big classes and . . .

NW: Wait a minute, when the bomb was dropped, you were in what year of *kōjo*?

YF: The school graduate, and they won't, you work, are working for the . . . *Ah, dakara, teishin-tai dekara.*

NW: Ok, so you are already graduated from the school.

YF: And the school became, um, Fuzoku Yamanaka kōjo, because the government . . .

NW: Took it over.

YF: . . . Fuzoku *was* really, kinda had Fuzoku right by the university. This became, you know, another branch, you know. Because they inherit the big property and everything, so they made the school Fuzoku. We didn't enter as Fuzoku, we went as a private Yamanaka kōjo, but in the middle, in the war time, it became Fuzoku Yamanaka kōjo.

NW: So were you still going to that new Fuzoku Yamanaka kōjo in 1945.

YF: Yeah. Half a day we go to school, half a day we go to Mitsubishi and work. Because we were of age, I guess, you know, 16, 17.

NW: Right. What kind of work were you doing in that factory?

YF: The factory used to make airplane propeller parts. It's a stainless steel about a foot long and had this L-shaped kind of, you know. Well, sometimes it's different. It's just the plain ones, but most of the time it was like that. It's kinda heavy, you know? It weighs a few pounds, and solid stainless steel. And the machine is, a big machine, and have one machinist. And he cuts it, I guess, and asks all the students, especially the woman. We go and then we got to sandpaper it really good, you know? Sand it down, and then there's a box, you know, and we just put it right in the box. We just sand, the sanding takes three or four hours. It's . . . I don't know what else we had to do, you know, but we have to hang on to that for long time, and not only me, you know.

NW: Everybody was doing.

YF: 10 girls doing it. Boys had different work to do, I guess, you know?

NW: So is that what you're doing when the bomb was dropped?

YF: Yeah, that was my job.

NW: Tell me a little bit . . .

YF: But I wasn't doing that, I was, that's the job I was going to, just when I arrived the factory, the factory was kind of temporary, kinda, you know. I would say it was *totan* kind of roof, you know, long like that. It's Mitsubishi seikō, but for about a year, they had moved, they were on a oceanside, right on the ocean. Where the boat, not because of the boat, but right on the ocean, Mitsubishi had a big, big factory, you know? But for some reason, because they were being bombed all the time, you know, it's exposed, yeah? The factory. So, they build that complex right in the mountains. The mountain is Koi, the name of that mountain, you know? It's just like this kind of mountain. And have mountain and have a valley, you know? And right by the valley, they built, you know, the factory. And we have to go up, walk maybe twenty minutes, or twenty five minutes, before we reach the valley, we say from here to probably over there. And had houses, at the beginning, a lot of houses. And a little bit, and then really in a forest, you know. So we go up there and the factory's right there. And then we work there, you know? And you know, meantime, if there's a siren, saying B-21, B-49s is there, you know, we can, we have to go and take shelter, you know. And the shelter is, they dig this tunnel, you know, the valley, then tunnel and then we've got to go all in the tunnel, you know, we don't work nighttime but daytime. And we all, because we're student, right, we have instructors, like teachers, they tell you what to do and we just do it, we just drop everything and then go into the shelter so we don't get bombed, you know? Actually, the factory really never get bombed, close by, yeah, but we were pretty safe while we were working there. That is, I cannot remember if it was every other day or sometimes they would change and stay one week and one week you can go to school, but what they promised was, we work for the defense, but we don't have to pay tuition, and that was already, we were in *senmonbu*, you know, *senmonbu* is college. We don't pay tuition, and you can go half of the time, you can go school, you know. It's up to you, you don't have to go to school, you don't have to, but work, you have to.

NW: Okay, okay.

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