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Title: Paul Satoh Interview
Narrator: Paul Satoh
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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[Mr. Satoh's son Gordon Satoh was present at the interview, and when he speaks, he is denoted as GS]

<Begin Segment 4>

NW: So, I mean, you seem to have family connections to both Yamaguchi and Hiroshima? And those—both of those two prefectures are . . .

PS: Yeah, so . . . And then what happened . . . So, the way back, uh . . . So I think we arrived in Hiroshima . . . maybe [to reach a ride or] something like that. I don't really recall much. But, uh, we lived in kind of the rear end of the house. And that confectioner's store was a little bit more modern Western style. And so, they even had a Western style, you know, toilet there too. Um, but then, um, we were eating breakfast on August 8th—August 6th. And then we heard a huge noise outside. And we thought that some big bomb dropped, because a few days before the atomic bomb, they had the U.S. Air Force put the two types of the pamphlet, um, leaflet, actually recommending the citizens to escape, go out of town if you want to survive, because we're going to drop a new type of bomb and you will nev—you can't really survive. And the other one was, Tōjō, was putting the house down, you know the cartoons there, and uh, I remember two diff—distinct leaflets there.

NW: You remember seeing them?

PS: Yeah. We—I used to pick up those things. Uh, and then shortly after that the police came and confiscated all of those things. I should have kept it but, you know. Uh, anyhow, because of that I thought well, maybe this must be the big, uh new type of bomb. But then, then but I looked at totaled city, it's all black and smoke is there and there's really lots of noise, but, there probably—there were no reasons for us to go backward. On the other hand, a friend of mine, Mr. Mori, was living—really, I didn't know at that time about him, but the—his house was uh . . . well, maybe, 500, no maybe one kilometers away from my house—the house I used to live in. And . . . but he's—his parents were in Hiroshima city, so he went back there, so. But, for us, we only had a couple of packages. You know, *furoshiki zutsumi*. So, we decided to say—you know, I told uh, the relatives, say hey, I think I'll go back to my, you know, grandmother's place in Ikeda-chō, Takata-gun. Almost close to the Shimane-ken. And that took a long time. When . . . I never walked that path because in the past we used to take a bus down to downtown. Only, whatever during the daytime—during the summertime we used to visit my grandmother's from Hiroshima station to the other route to Takata-gun. Uh, but this time I had to walk with my parents. And I started walking and walking. And it was a very hot day and then about 15 or 30 minutes ago—after that, I think they had a big squall of rain. Luckily we were near the temple,

so we were inside the temple for perhaps about two hours. So, the rain stopped, and then, we started walking. By evening, we arrived to grandmother's farm. And that's how we escaped. My experience to Hiroshima is . . . in a sense, it's a hi—the *hibakusha*, because we breathed and we have the—exposed to all sorts of ashes. But then, physically, but not really, uh, damaged.

NW: How close were you to the hypocenter?

PS: Koi must be five, maybe six kilometers from the hypocenter.

GS: Well showed on the . . . model they used to have in the museum. I don't know if it's still there, but you said it was around the five kilometer zone.

PS: Yeah, they had the . . . uh . . . Oh, yeah . . . I don't know whether they have that in this—Mr. Mori's. Anyhow, let's . . .

NW: Do you have a certificate of survivorhood?

PS: They probably registered. Uh . . . many of my friends are not registered as *hibakusha techō*. And um . . . there's a reason for that. I think many of my friends—the—you know, after I came back to the Hiroshima city, and started the elementary school at six years, and then they . . . that *chugakkō* and *kōtōgakkō*. And many friends during the, um . . . the um, middle schools and high schools are survivors, too. And also there are many who came back from other cities and um . . . well, we never talked about uh, you know, *hibakusha techō* and register as a *hibakusha*. Um . . . there was some stigma attached to that. That's why uh, when we were kids, we never talked about who is *hibakusha* and who is not.

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