



Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School Blog post – the Homefront WWII Women in the Workforce

By Kanako and Harata

Hello. This is Kanako Ito & Harata from Sendai Shirayuri Gakuen High School second grade.

As high school students, we often see various social situations in the world and in the news. We are interested in the world issues that continue to exist after WW II, such as the North and South Korean conflict and post war compensation.

We think that many various problems still remained unresolved, and so we decided to participate in the Japan-US Australian high school "War and Peace" project in order to deepen our knowledge from examining the roots of our culture and history.

In this project, we chose a topic that will allow us to examine the change in the role of working women (Women in the workforce) during the war and up to now. For us, learning at girls' school, this has extra meaning, to know the work and struggle of women living through wartime and to compare this to our modern culture and lifestyle. We feel a common bond with these women past and present, this is why we chose this topic.

In order to learn about the project's topics in detail, we first read materials (books) on this history at the Miyagi prefectural library located next to our school on May 19th. We could not find a specific book on the role of women during wartime, however we found many things written about women in war and what life was like during the war. Through this investigation, we gained a basic knowledge of their struggles.

We also interviewed those who had "experienced war", my grandmother who is 80 years old and experienced this first hand a second-grade primary school student. She spoke about her experience and gave us valuable information about this topic, so on 30 June, at the end of this month, we will go to interview her once again. We hope to videotape the interview and we plan to use it as part of our video submission.

My grandmother's house has a few books on the Pacific War, it would be nice to find something related to war women from these books as well.

This is the report and the research process of our team.