

NAME OF PROJECT: *Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens: Memories of WWII*

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 14, 2011

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Thunder Bay, Ontario

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Rino Albanese

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: John Potestio

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Maverick Entertainment Group

TRANSCRIBED BY: Krystle Copeland

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PROJECT NOTE:

Please note that all interviews have been transcribed verbatim. The language in this transcript is as it was provided by the transcriptionist noted above. The project staff have not edited this transcript for errors.

ABSTRACT

This interview features Rino Albanese, who was born on November 12, 1924 in Thunder Bay, Ontario (then known as Port Arthur). Rino is the son of enemy alien Giovanni Albanese, whom was born in Mammola, Italy and moved to Thunder Bay where he married and raised seven children with his wife. Rino explains that his childhood was directed by his strict father who viewed playing as a wasted opportunity to be productive. He adds that all the community members got along quite well and that his first encounter with discrimination was from Italian children at St. Joseph's elementary school, where he and his twin brother were asked: "What are you?" And we said, 'We're Italian.' 'You're not Italian!' they said. 'We're Italian! You're Calabrese!'" From what Rino remembers, there was no fascist activity in the community in general, but he affirms that his father was a fascist whom kept his opinions to himself so that he was never interned by the government. Rino says that he was upset by the fact that the local Italian language school in Thunder Bay was shut down by the RCMP during a period of time when he was taking classes there. At the age of 18 Rino Albanese enlisted in active

voluntary service with the Canadian Military with his twin brother and some of his friends. They were trained at Petawawa and were sent overseas where they served with the Canadian forces in Holland, Germany, and England.

INTERVIEW

RA: Rino Albanese, interviewee

JP: John Potestio, interviewer

ME: Maverick Entertainment, videographer

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:10]

JP: This is uh John Potestio interviewing Mr. Rino Albanese. At his home on 150 High Street North, Thunder Bay, Ontario. On June 14th, 2011. Rino, thank you for doing this interview for us. As you know the questionnaires [you added] into a number of sections and I'll start with the first section which is uh background. Your [own] background. Could you give me your full name?

RA: Rino Salvatore Albanese.

JP: Uh when were you born and where?

RA: November 12, 1924 in uh Port Arthur. Which is uh, what uh used to be well Thunder Bay used to be Port Arthur.

JP: Yes. Uh, can you tell me a little bit about your family, your parents, grandparents, siblings. Uh, what you remember.

RA: Well, my uh my grandfather on my mother's side uh left Italy about 1865 and he spent uh, uh, 15, 15 years uh in Pueblo, uh Pueblo Arizon—Arizona—

JP: Colorado maybe.

RA: Uh, yes that's right. [says as he's pointing towards JP] Pueblo, Colorado. And uh, that he went back to Italy and married my grandmother and they came to Thunder Bay. My mother was born, she was the second born uh in Port Arthur then. My dad was born in Mammola, Italy. He came here in 1911. And uh, he was married in 1923 to my mother. And they uh, subsequently raised uh seven children. And uh, my dad was by trade a carpenter. And my mother uh a housewife. And uh...what else can I say? Uh...

JP: A little bit about your brothers and sisters maybe? You got seven uh...

RA: Seven brothers and sisters yeah. I just have a picture of my twin brother uh with me.

JP: Okay.

RA: And um, uh, most of them have passed on. There's— I have a sister and a brother still surviving beside myself.

JP: And your father came from Calabria were you saying?

RA: Yeah, Mammola, Calabria.

JP: Mammola, Calabria. Good, thank you. Now uh Rino what do you remember about your childhood?

RA: Well uh, my dad was very strict. Uh I remember that. Uh, he didn't like us playing. He had, he had the philosophy that if you were poor you had no business playing, eh? [laughs] And I remember one time, some of our English friends uh came, came over nearby and started yelling at my brother and I, "hey Rino, hey Phil, come on over and play!" [says while waving arms around] And my dad I remember yelling out "get the hell out of here you English bastards!" [Yells with hands around mouth and then laughs]

JP: [Laughs]

RA: No, he didn't, he didn't, he didn't believe much in frivolity. Uh, he was quite strict. And uh, my mother well she was, she was very, very even tempered. And uh very pragmatic. And uh, uh, she uh she managed the finances such as they were at that time and uh, my dad, my dad uh he got a dollar or two together he'd head down to [Marsh Wells] and buy tools. and then my mother, she'd save her pennies, eh? [Laughs] No, no, she was that [good], she was that way, she was very, very good-hearted.

JP: Okay. Uh, let's move on to your education now. Uh, did you go to school uh Rino?

RA: Yeah, well my brother and I went to [points behind the camera] the local Hillcrest High school up here. And uh, uh, we graduated and uh, not long after, not long after we graduated we, we both enlisted. And uh, after, after we were discharged, my twin brother went to uh, went to college got his uh degree in education through the veteran's uh, uh allowance uh educational program. I didn't, I didn't bother going to uh to university, I went right to work after. After I uh, I got out of the service.

[5:36.8]

JP: Can you tell us a little bit uh more uh about your school experiences?

RA: Uh...

JP: What do you remember about elementary school, high school, maybe trade school?

RA: Uh...

JP: [What comes straight to your mind?]

RA: I can remember uh, [says with a laugh] I remember grade school. That was my first uh, first experience with discrimination. I remember uh I guess my brother and I were just started school and we attended St. Joseph's school and there were a lot of Italian kids going to—attending school at that time. And uh, some of the kids uh accosted us and said, "What are you?" And we said, "We're Italian." [Leans forward quickly close to the camera] "You're not Italian!" they said. "We're Italian!" [Pointing to his chest with emphasis] "You're Calabrese!" [Pointing towards JP and laughing] That was my my first, first uh incidence of discrimination.

JP: So this was discrimination of Italians, by Italians.

RA: [laughs] Yeah. By Italians. Other than that, other than that we had no problems with uh, with discrimination uh in school that I can recall. Uh, and there's always some uh, some uh smart Alec that's always got a comment to say or something. But uh, uh, uh...any reasonably uh educated person...discounts types like that you know. Go out of their way to be insulting, no we didn't have much problem no.

JP: Okay. Uh, we move onto your work experience now. Uh, at what age did you begin to work?

RA: Uh...I began to work uh, just after, after our discharge in 1943. Uh, I started work oh; I started work at uh Canada Car in the early 50s. And uh, uh, one day I heard one of my coworkers had got a job with Day Company. I didn't know what Day Company is, but I wanted to get out of Canada Car. So I says "maybe I should look this up" you know. [says with a laugh] Maybe they're hiring whoever they are. So I phoned up the manager at day company and he says "come on down for an interview." And uh, I went down for an interview and he hired me and I spent 25 years there. Uh, doing uh mostly [dust] control drafting. In those days they were doing a lot of air pollution work in the elevators and we uh we were primarily, primarily uh, uh enraged in providing dust control equipment. And personnel to install, to install that equipment. So we were pretty busy for 15 or 20 years. And uh and besides that we did installations across the country. Uh, in flour mills and uh, and uh breweries and places like that we went in and installed equipment. And uh, occasionally I had to go and uh travel to these places to uh, uh to...inspect the area, uh building and so forth before we did any um installation. Find out where to put the steel work and this sort of thing.

JP: Did you work at any other place other than uh Canada Car and if so, what other type of work did you do?

RA: No uh basically that uh, that's, that's it. [Nods]

JP: [Unclear]—

RA: Uh, yeah with uh dust control. Most uh, yeah, except for those few, few years at Canada Car.

[10:03.4]

JP: Okay. We move onto your uh, your experiences in the neighbourhood now. Where you lived. As you grew up. Um, where did you live in uh Thunder Bay?

RA: Well we lived on Crown Street. Uh, we and uh, uh as I say it was close to St. Joseph's school, so that's where we attended and it was a nice neighbourhood that was uh, I didn't I didn't feel any discrimination there at all, in that neighbourhood. Not at all. And uh, uh, after, after the serv—after my service, uh we moved up in this part of town [motions a higher level with hands] and uh I never had any problem with discrimination.

JP: And uh, uh, after you got married uh did you live in a house, an apartment building; can you tell us a bit about that?

RA: Well uh, in uh yeah. In early 50s yeah. Uh, uh, we got our, our, our uh, our...uh discharge allowance from the army. Uh, so I bought a, I bought a bunch of cement and uh, while we were in the service my mother bought this property for my brother and I. With the money that we sent home. In the service, if you were serving overseas, you had to...you couldn't use all your salary. You had to send some of it home or put it in an insurance policy or something like that. So my mother took the money and she bought property and uh after the war I built this house here. [Lifts hands up to show the house around them]

JP: And you've lived here since...

RA: I've lived here since. [Nods] Yeah.

JP: Okay. Uh, a little bit about your social life. Uh, Rino, what kinds of social activities were you involved in?

RA: Well, when I was, before, before marriage uh, I was uh, I was in the young people's...at St. Andrew's Church there for a long while. I was also engaged with the boy scouts. Uh, for a long time. Uh, uh, since I guess since I was 14 or 15. And uh, uh, even, even after the service they uh, they asked me to take over as assistant, assistant [scout master] one of the Boy Scout troops at St. Anthony's Church. And uh, between that and the young people's uh, that was about, about it.

JP: So you did not belong to any fraternal or Italian organizations for example?

RA: Uh... no I can't think of anything no.

JP: Did you belong to any sporting clubs?

RA: No, no, no, no, no. I wasn't uh, I wasn't uh sports inclined. Uh, at that time, I never was to be uh, to be frank. Uh, so uh, no it was pretty well, pretty well with the scout movement. And young people that...

JP: Okay, now what did you do for fun? Do you remember about uh the activities you did for fun?

RA: Well...uh at that time, well not many, not many young people had cars in those days.

JP: Right.

RA: Not like today. And so, most [unclear] activities were centered around the church. Uh, and we, we had uh dances and social activities going on and uh, uh we didn't uh, we didn't really need cars in those, at that time. We could get along without them. If you're a cars was alright if you were going fishing or you lived out of town or you wanted to see friends out at that country or something like that. But uh, very, very few young people had cars in those days.

JP: Okay. Uh, let's move on to family now. Family background. When did you marry uh Rino?

[15:02.5]

RA: 1952 married.

JP: And how did you meet your wife?

RA: Uh, through the young people's club again. Yeah. And uh, there are a lot of marriages that came out of that uh young people's organization. [Laughs] Uh, because that's what it was. It was a place where young people gathered and met and a lot of them got married.

JP: Uh, do you have any children Rino?

RA: Children? We had six children.

JP: Can you tell us a little bit about them?

RA: Uh, have one son uh John, he's an archaeologist. He lives in uh, in Edmonton Alberta. And uh, well he lives uh well west all year long. And another son uh Mark is uh, uh oh I forget...he's Program Coordinator with uh, with uh a, a... [Pause]

JP: That's fine, that's not really [unclear]

RA: Yeah, with a construction company.

JP: Sure.

RA: And uh, uh, before that he, he was uh followed my footsteps in [dust] control business. And uh, I spent, he spent many years doing [dust] control. Uh, making drawings and this sort of thing. And uh, uh, I have a daughter, she's in Edmonton. She's uh, a school teacher. And uh, uh... [Pause]

JP: Okay, now we have a good idea of uh...

RA: Yeah. [Nods]

JP: Let's move onto politics.

RA: Oh, politics.

JP: Were you involved in any political organization or group?

RA: Yeah, yeah in uh my younger days I was uh I was involved pretty heavily with the young Liberals. And uh, uh, we put on dances and raised mon—uh raised funds for, for the Liberal party and that. Yeah. That was before, before we were, before I was married.

JP: Okay. Was the Italian government active in your neighbourhood as far as you remember?

RA: That what?

JP: Italian government. Was it active in your neighbourhood?

RA: Uh, no not that I know of. No. Uh...

JP: Was it active in any of the organizations to which you belong?

RA: Oh, there was, there were a lot of, there were a lot of Italian organizations you could uh, you could uh join if you uh if you wished. There was the uh Holy Name Society. There was uh, there was uh clubs associated with the Italian hall. [Lists counting on fingers]

JP: Right.

RA: And uh, uh...I, I...

JP: As far as you remember the government was not involved in these organizations?

RA: No, no. No.

JP: Was there any fascist activity in these clubs as far as you remember?

RA: No. No, no I don't recall of any fascist activity at all. Except I think I mentioned that uh they started an Italian uh school for Italians wanting to learn, to speak Italian properly. And that was through the Italian hall. And but uh, the Mounties came and closed it down because the books were supplied by the fascist government. And they had the [imprinture], stamp on them eh?

JP: Yes.

RA: So that gave the Mounties an excuse for, to lock up and I was pretty, pretty sad about that because uh...

JP: You were [unclear] at the time then? You were a student at the time?

RA: Uh, yeah. [Nods] I was very interested at that time yeah. And uh, I forget how many I went to maybe half a dozen lectures. And uh in learning to speak the language and all of a sudden was locked up and of course we didn't...before we started school [coughs] we spoke Italian at home. My mother was uh, she was fluent, fluent in Italian and English. Because she was, she was born here and she went to school here. And uh, in fact she taught Mr. Petrone how to speak English when he came over from Italy. Uh, because she was fluent in both languages. And she was fluent in Italian because she had to read my, my grandfather the Italian newspapers from Toronto.

JP: I see. [Says quietly]

[20:40.9]

RA: That's where she learned her Italian. But she was fluent and she had no, no accent at all or...

JP: Now, this incident about closure of the school. Do you remember when that, that took place?

RA: Uh...[removes glasses]

JP: Around, roughly?

RA: I would say around 19...41, '42 roughly. Around that time.

JP: So right after probably Mussolini declared war that's when they...

RA: [points at JP] That's yeah. Probably, probably what was, it was 1941 when they...

JP: 1940, yeah.

RA: 1940. [Nods]

JP: And so you actually remember the RCMP coming in and shutting down the school?

RA: I remember that. Yeah. I don't remember them shutting down the school but I remember you know going to classes one day and it was announced that there was no more, there would be no more lectures. Nobody said why. [says with hands up] But we found out later what the reason was.

JP: There was no explanation given to you?

RA: No. No.

JP: The school had just closed. Okay. How do you feel about that? You said you feel pretty upset about that.

RA: Yeah, I was kind of upset because uh, uh, I thought it was kind of uh, uh, a non-political organization and uh, they weren't caught doing any harm or causing any trouble or anything. [Shrugs] But uh...that's, that's the way things were.

JP: Uh hmm. Okay, now let's move onto a different aspect now. Uh, in your opinion how did the Italians get along with non-Italians in your neighbourhood?

RA: Ah very good as far as I know. Yeah. [Nods] Very good, I don't uh, I don't recall of uh...of any real, any real problems...with uh Italians of our acquaintance with their neighbours at all.

JP: This was prior to the war—

RA: Yeah.

JP: Would it have been the same after the war? Uh, still got along okay?

RA: Yeah. I would say so, yeah. There was ah, there was, there was, there was, I don't recall any hostility or anything else. I mean, uh, there are a lot, an awful lot of uh Italian Canadians like myself who, who went into the service. Uh...in fact the government authorities and the Mounted Police were, were quite surprised that there were so many uh Canadians of Italian origin that had volunteered for active service. Uh, my mother had three brothers. They were all in the service. Uh, two of them were overseas. Uh, uh, one, one of the brothers we spent time with in Holland. Uh, so, they were, they were spread about and there was no hostility and that, that I can recall.

JP: Okay. Alright let's move on now to the issue of uh, the enemy alien issue. Especially as it applied to your father.

RA: Yeah.

JP: Let's move onto uh that uh section and [pause] you mention in a previous interview that your father had to uh report to the RCMP.

RA: Yeah.

JP: Can you tell me a little bit about that?

RA: Uh...I just rem—I just recall that uh yeah he had to go and because he was an enemy alien and when Italy entered the war, he had to go and register.

JP: Uh hmm.

RA: But I don't remember uh him going after that. And uh, I think whether, whether it was because we were in the service that they uh, they didn't pressure him or, or he said you know, I'm not going to bother, I don't really know. But uh, no he never, he never had any uh, any pressure from [them] at all.

[25:25.2]

JP: Did your father ever talk about this issue in the family, or...

RA: Oh, my, my dad was uh, confirmed fascist. [Laughs] Oh he loved Mussolini. In fact all Italians of you know, of my dad's generation they thought highly, highly of Mussolini.

JP: Yes.

RA: Because in the er—in the early days, Mussolini uh he was making news. And he was putting Italy on the map sort of thing. Good or bad. A lot— and before that uh, uh, you know, the Italians uh generally weren't taken too seriously politically I think but uh when he came to power, uh there are I would say most of the Italians of my dad's generation were quite happy with the fact. And uh, and that, that he was in power. But then after the war started you had to be a little careful, careful to of not, of not broadcasting it too loudly. No, because uh like papa [Gian's] case, uh...

JP: You're referring to Mr. [Maltese]?

RA: Yeah, yeah. [Nods]

JP: I believe he was interned.

RA: Yeah. He was interned yeah.

JP: And why do you think he was interned?

RA: He was a little too vocal I think. He was telling people in Port Arthur that Mussolini was going to make him uh, Mayor, well no— when he took over. [Says with a laugh]

JP: I see.

RA: And uh, I don't know if anybody took him seriously, but uh well...when Italy entered the war, he had to give the Mounties an excuse you know to earn their, earn their dollar sort of thing. So they, they, interned him. Because he was [unclear]. Uh, they didn't bother anybody

else that I know of. Uh...my, my dad was uh he was uh of, uh, a fascist sympathizer but he didn't, he didn't go shouting around town about it. And so they never bothered him.

JP: So overall your father's experience as an enemy alien was not too unpleasant then?

RA: No.

JP: That's what I gather.

RA: Yeah. [Nods] Uh, my dad did have uh, uh, an early experience in the just before, in the First World War. He came over in 1911. And uh, in 1917, I think it was 1917 or no—yeah, somewhere around there. Uh he was, he was arrested by the...uh, what they call then the Dominion Police. I think...I don't know what they were, they were uh...uh [pause] I guess they were something like Mounties. Rounding up enemy aliens and this sort of thing. But uh, uh my mother said they took him to the arm—armoury. And they put him in confinement. And uh, pressured them, pressured them to uh, to, to join the army. This was the First World War. Uh, and some of them did. But he wouldn't and he, he held out and uh so, uh I guess they kept him in there int—trying to intimidate him to—the British are awfully good at intimidation. Uh, uh to enlist, but uh he wouldn't budge. So they had to eventually let him go.

[30:02.6]

JP: Okay. Now uh, did your father ever speak to you about experiences of Italian during the war? Italians in the Thunder Bay community I'm talking about. Was there any turmoil in the community that he was aware of? Did he ever talk to the family about their experience?

RA: Uh...if there was uh, he never mentioned it. He was not a very good mixer. Uh my dad was uh, uh was closest thing to a hermit I guess you could— he didn't mix. Not even with well, he wasn't a church goer ever in the first place, uh, and he didn't belong to any of the Italian clubs uh, uh...and he just wasn't a mixer.

JP: Okay.

RA: Period.

JP: Now let's go back to your own, your own personal experiences during the war years.

RA: Okay.

JP: And um, can you tell me why uh you volunteered in the Canadian army? What were your reasons at the time?

RA: Well uh, uh...when you're you know, you're 18 and all your friends are joining up. [Clears throat] Joining the air force, the army, the navy, [the rest of it] uh you begin to think that maybe you should be doing the same thing. Uh, uh...we never, we never felt that, I never felt that that I was uh overly zealous towards uh uh, uh, being in the service. But I figured my brother [and] I figured well we're going, we're going, we're going to have to go anyway one of these days. So we volunteered for active service overseas. And in those days you got your call to report for military service. And when you reported you could, you could either volunteer for active service or not volunteer. If you didn't volunteer for active service they kept you in Canada. Or uh, or else in British [possessions] uh bordering the Atlantic coast like Bermuda...uh a lot of the, a lot of the Canadians that didn't volunteer for active service, they sent to Bermuda. 'Cause it was a British colony, eh? And uh, uh, they put them there. Or Bermuda,

maybe a few other places. I can't remember but uh, well, uh...so [shrugs] we did what everybody else seemed to be doing. And we, we volunteered.

JP: How did your father ever feel about that? Did you ever discuss it with him?

RA: Oh, I don't think he was too happy with it. But he never, he never said anything. Uh directly, but I don't think...I guess he felt it was in-inevitable that it was, that this would happen. And my mother already had three brothers in the service, so she was I guess she was sort of immune to the idea you know that we'd have to go sometime too.

JP: Can you describe to us a few of the highlights of your experiences while you served in the Canadian armed forces?

RA: Uh...well what uh, what uh, struck me uh when I first joined, uh when we first uh went overseas is uh 9,000 of us being packed into a troop ship. and uh, you know, you just, you just couldn't move. [Laughs] With 9,000 service men uh, they had, they had three tiers [motions vertical levels with hand] of bunks, of— they were like aluminum frames. That could fold up on aluminum posts. And when they were folded down at night and there might have been one bathroom in that corner there, and if you were in this corner you had to crawl over [points from one corner of the room to the opposite corner] all your mates, to get to the bathroom. But that wasn't very healthy, so you had to make sure that, if you had to use the facilities, you used them before you turned into your bunks. [Nods] They uh as I say, they're not a bunk, they're just an aluminum frame with canvas and they swung up on a post, three tiers high and that was your bunk. Of course it didn't matter in the day time. 'Cause you're out on deck. They wouldn't allow you below deck during the daytime. And you had to have this uh, life preserver on you. 24 hours a day. And uh, that uh, we, that was that— we went over unescorted. Uh, because the troop ships were at that time uh, could outrun a submarine and uh, uh, the, the uh experts

amongst us uh, well they saw, when they saw the ship leaving the wake you know [motions a ship moving around with hand] zig-zag wake. They said that that was because uh, every six minutes a ship changed course because, because it took that long for a submarine to line up a torpedo. [Laughs] Which was a lot of boloney. The reason why it changed course every six minutes is because you're going, you're going on a curved surface to the destination and you can't go straight to a curved surface like you can on a road. You have to zig zag your way to stay on course. And uh, yeah that was uh, that was quite an experience. They served, they served meals almost 24 hours a day . Uh, when you got, when you boarded the troop ship they give you a pass, that told you when your meals were. Uh you might have your breakfast at uh, at uh five o'clock in the morning. You might have your supper at 11 o'clock at night. Depended oh, what the meal ticket said. But uh, the meals they weren't worth going. [Laughs] Going to anyway. But uh, oh yeah, that was uh...it was a nice, good experience anyway [unclear] to us young uh guys that had never been away from home.

JP: Rino did you ever consider that you might have to uh...you were sent to Europe that you could utterly be in Italy and fight Italians? [Unclear]—

RA: Uh—

JP: Did that ever enter your mind?

RA: Uh, oh yeah, yeah. [Nods] That was a possibility. But just after we got to uh, not long after we got to England...uh, I saw the last bunch of reinforcements that were going to send to Italy. Uh...this was after the invasion of France. Uh, uh, after that all reinforce—reinforcements were going to go to Eur— to, to uh France and Germany not, not to Italy.

JP: Okay. Let's uh move on to the last uh section of these questions and uh can you tell me first of all about your parents and grandparents and life generally following the war?

RA: Uh, no it's pretty uh following in the war was pretty...things began to stabilize there was uh still a lot of work. There was no, there was no unemployment that I could think of. And uh um, people got uh, uh, the government was busy, was building...was busy building uh wartime housing all across the country. Uh...servicemen were, were building or buying homes with, with the uh, discharged funds they got from the army. And things were beginning to boom.

[40:22.9]

JP: Okay. Um, Rino are you familiar with the current debate uh in Canada about internment issue declaration of enemy aliens, of Italians as enemy aliens? Have you read or thought about this issue and do you have feelings about it?

RA: Uh...[sighs] no I don't uh...uh, I have, I have more feelings towards uh, people of Japanese descent. I figured they got it—a dirty deal. Uh, when they were interned. Uh, uh, because it wasn't— to me it wasn't a selective internship for them. It was just everybody. And uh, they had a big internment camp not far from here. I think there was an article in the paper about it not long ago. At Neys uh, it was a German prison camp during the war. And uh, before that it was a Japanese internment, where they...people from uh the Japanese people from the west coast, they moved inland. And uh, they called it uh relocation—

JP: Right.

RA: Camp for the Japanese but it was, it was basically it was an internment camp. And some people were saying that uh, there was some complicity in this they felt that the government

and, and some people were uh, some people were, were...were uh active in seeing this thing happen because they wanted the Jap—they wanted the Japanese out of BC because they had, they had the fishing industry cornered, eh? At that time. And uh, they wanted to get the Japanese out so they could take over the fishing industry. And uh, it's no, there's no doubt that they were very, very efficient in uh, in the fishing industry. They had, they had the nicest, uh best managed fleets, ships. Well organized. Uh...um, my brother lived in uh, in just out of Vancouver, a place called Steven—Stevenson. That's where a lot of the, the Japanese lived. That were involved in uh the fishing industry. No, I think, I think they were, I think they were a little too hard on the, on the Japanese.

JP: So by comparison you're saying that Italians didn't suffer as much? [Is that what you're—]

RA: I uh, I don't think they suffered at all period. Except for a few people that uh, uh were sufferers in uh, uh, what uh, uh, what the fascists were doing. And uh, so, I think the government just, just uh liked to put these people away just to let, let them know who's, who's running affairs. Running the affairs...who's running the government. Uh, that uh, they you know they had...the government had the files saying things...[nods] not, not people.

JP: So the um, have you given any thought to the internment of Italians at Petawawa there were a few hundred.

RA: Uh, from what uh, from what I heard uh, [clears throat] uh, as I mentioned uh Mr. [Maltese] uh, my brother and I were quite friendly with his son, Teddy. Teddy was our age and he was a wonderful artist. He was a natural artist. Uh, but uh, I remember when he [laughs] when he told his dad that he was going to join the navy. [Laughs] His dad just about went through the roof. [Laughs] Yeah, but uh Teddy joined the navy and uh, after the war he uh, he decided to go down to the, to the States and take an art course. And uh, uh, and then he stayed there. And

his, he's been back uh to visit family but uh, no he's still, he's still there as far as I know. Very talented.

[45:49.6]

JP: Rino do you know anyone else who was effected by the internment issue or the declaration of enemy alien issue?

RA: I don't know of any. [Shakes head no] Uh, [Papa Gian Maltese] was uh, was the— was about the only thing that uh, that was talked about. If it, if it was talked about at all. Uh, no, no, nothing else seemed to uh matter as much.

JP: Okay Rino is there any other issue that you think we should be discussing any questions that I haven't asked that you would like to perhaps talk about? Or any issues that you would like to expand on?

RA: Uh...I can't think of anything at the moment. No I can't think of anything [about it.] Uh...
[Pause]

JP: Okay, that, that's fine. Well, thank you very much Rino—

[Camera fades out quickly and back in at 47:13.5 to a photo of young men in uniform.]

ME: If you want to tell us about the pictures.

RA: Oh, oh, well that was taken in—I'm not in that picture but my twin brother's in that picture. [Points to young man on the left] I guess, I guess I was the photographer at the time. That's

taken along a Dutch canal. Uh, there's a Dutch boy there, and one [over] our friends. [Points to very young boys in the background] Uh, an this is another, another one of our friends from Thunder Bay. [Points to young man on the right]

JP: Okay, that's [good].

[Camera fades out and back in at 47:46.6]

RA: ...Montgomery and our, and our divisional commander in Germany.

JP: Montgomery would be which one Rino?

RA: Montgomery's the middle one. [Points to middle uniformed figure in a group of three in the foreground]

[Camera fades out at 48:02.4]

RA: ...A training photograph of some of our friends. [Shows photo of large group of young men in military hats and short sleeved shirts.]

ME: Just a training photograph?

RA: Yeah.

ME: And where was that located?

RA: In Petawawa.

[Camera fades out and back in at 48:17.7]

RA: Taken in uh, oh, oh, oh, oh...taken in Holland. Uh these, these are our friends from the Royal Regina Rifles. And uh, they're part of our brigade.

[Camera fades out and back at 48:39.5]

RA: That's my twin brother and myself and another fellow in uh, in Germany.

[Camera fades out and back at 48:52.1]

RA: That's my brother and myself, that's that was taken in—when training in Canada. [Shows twins standing over railroad tracks in uniform with bags]

[Camera fades out and back at 49:03.1]

RA: That's uh a training picture in Canada. [Shows group of young men sitting in uniforms.]

[Camera fades out and back in at 49:13.3]

RA: And this is training in uh in Petawawa again. [Image of twin boys with rifles and uniforms against backdrop of Petawawa woods]

[Camera fades out and back in 49:23.9]

RA: ...Barracks in uh, in Germany. [Shows image of five buildings or houses] There were three regiments of uh, in our brigade that were stationed there. With us. [Lifts photo away and places

new one down] That's taken uh, at Eaton College in uh, in England. [Shows group of four young men in a soccer field.]

JP: Okay. That's good—

[Camera fades out at 49:53.6]

[End of Interview]