

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

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 25, 2011

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Sudbury, ON

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Beatrice (Galardo) Ladyk

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Christine Sansalone

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Julian Colilli

TRANSCRIBED BY: Lisa Kadey

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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 has not edited this transcript for errors.

KEYWORDS/TAGS

Sudbury, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, BeatriceGalardo, BeatriceLadyk, EmilioGalardo, RichardLadyk, GloriaMiron, Miron, Galardo, Ladyk, WWII, WW2, CopperCliff, Petawawa, CampPetawawa, AirForce, Internee, Internees, Interned, Internment, Internments, InternmentCamp, Internment Camps, Camp, Camps, WorldWarTwo, SecondWorldWar, ItalianCanadian, ItalianCanadians

ABSTRACT

During the Second World War, Beatrice Galardo's father, Emilio Galardo, and her brother, Pasquale Galardo, were arrested at the family photography studio in Sudbury, Ontario. Pasquale was released from jail, but Emilio was taken to Camp Petawawa where he was interned for nearly three years. Subsequent to Emilio's arrest, police arrived at the family home

and searched through his belongings. The reason given for Emilio's detention was his membership in an Italian club. Beatrice's mother and brother tried to visit Emilio twice, but were turned away both times. In order to sustain the family during Emilio's absence, Pasquale worked at the photography studio, while Emilio's wife took in boarders. Beatrice describes her father as a different, much quieter man after his release from Petawawa.

INTERVIEW

BL: Beatrice (Galardo) Ladyk, interviewee

GM: Gloria Miron, niece of Beatrice (Galardo) Ladyk

RL: Richard Ladyk, son of Beatrice (Galardo) Ladyk

CS: Christine Sansalone, interviewer

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 0:00:12]

CS: So, uh, we're here at, uh, Mrs. Gloria Miron's house in Sudbury. And, uh, today is, uh, May 25th, 2011. And we are interviewing, um, Mrs., um, uh, Beatrice Galardo, the daughter of, uh, Emilio Galardo, who was an internee in, uh—at Camp Petawawa during the Second World War. Um, Mrs. Galardo, when were you born and where?

BL: I was born in Copper Cliff in 1925.

CS: Okay, very good. Um, tell me about your family, your parents, grandparents, siblings.

BL: My parents?

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: Well...we lived in Copper Cliff, and he had a business there.

CS: Okay.

BL: And we were all born there...the siblings.

CS: How many siblings did you have?

BL: Five.

CS: Five, okay. Very good. And, um, did you go to school?

BL: No, not in Copper Cliff, because we moved to Sudbury after.

CS: Okay, so—

BL: We came—went to Sudbury, 'cause my dad started a business in Sudbury.

CS: Okay.

BL: So, he sold everything there and we moved to Sudbury.

CS: Okay, so how was your school experience?

BL: Well, it was good.

CS: Yup.

BL: We had—we went to St. Aloysius. And, uh, school was very good.

CS: Okay. Uh, what can you tell me about your neighbourhood?

BL: Our neighbourhood was a good neighbourhood. There was a lot of French people around, our neighbours and, uh, churches, and St. Anne's Church and Christ the King Church.

CS: Okay. And, um, um, what kinds of social activities were you involved in?

BL: When we were young? [Laughs]

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: Well, not too many.

CS: No?

BL: No.

CS: Okay. Uh, did you attend church services?

BL: Oh, yes.

CS: Yeah?

BL: We went to, uh, Christ the King Church. And we went to St. [unclear]. We sang in the choir and...

CS: Okay.

BL: ...did the things you usually do when you go to church. [Laughs]

CS: Okay. Um, did you belong any sporting club or...

BL: No.

CS: No?

BL: No.

CS: Okay. Um, and what did you do for fun?

BL: Oh, we'd go, uh, skating in the winter, and in the summer we'd go biking [sound of rustling paper in the background], swimming.

CS: Okay...um, very good. And, um, how did the Italians get along with the non-Italians in your neighbourhood?

BL: Very good, 'cause I think we were the only Italian family on that street.

CS: Okay. Very good, okay.

[Audio fades out at 00:03:16]

[Audio fades in at 00:03:17]

GM: I'm going to sit down.

CS: Okay, so, now I'm going to [coughing in background], um, ask you questions more about, uh, your father's experience, uh, during the war. So, uh, could you describe when the police came for your father and, uh, where were you and who was there with you when, uh, when the police came for your father?

BL: Well, actually, they took him from his, his photograph studio.

CS: Okay.

BL: I was at home, but we didn't know until after...

CS: Okay.

BL: ...that he—they had taken him and my, uh, old—my older brother, Pasquale...

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: ...to jail.

CS: Oh, both of them?

BL: Yes, both of them.

CS: Okay.

BL: And he was Canadian, so they let him go.

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: And, uh...they kept my father.

CS: Okay. So, the two of them were present at the same time?

BL: They were at the studio, that's where they took 'em from.

CS: Okay, very good. Um, now, did he ever mention how he was treated by the police at the time, when he was taken into custody?

BL: Well, they were very rough at times. They weren't too nice...but, uh...

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: ...you know.

CS: Okay. And what was said to, to your father? Um, how did the police explain their presence there when they went to, to the studio?

BL: I couldn't tell you that because I wasn't there and I was young and—

CS: Okay.

BL: —I don't remember.

CS: Well, that's fine. Um, so how did your father react to this situation?

BL: Well, he reacted, uh—he was very, um—how do you say that? [Laughs] Very, um, scared, I guess.

CS: Mm hmm, mm hmm.

BL: You know?

CS: Yeah, obviously, yeah.

BL: Yeah.

CS: Very scared. Okay. Um...

BL: Well, they came to the house and, uh, they searched all his belongings.

CS: Oh, okay.

BL: And, uh, his trunk and all—everything he had in his trunk. I don't know what happened there because, uh, we, we were out.

CS: Okay, so no, no one was home when that happened?

BL: Well, my mother was home and—

CS: Okay.

BL: —uh, I don't know who else. My brother, I guess.

[00:05:41]

CS: Okay. Um, so what evidence did authorities provide to justify, uh, your father's detention?
Did they provide any evidence?

BL: They said he belonged to some kind of Italian club.

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: But I don't know which one.

CS: Okay. So, that's the only evidence that they—

BL: Yes.

CS: —that they gave him. Okay. Um...um, where was he interned?

BL: In Petawawa.

CS: In Petawawa. And for how long was he interned?

BL: Well, like you say, three years? [Pause] Did you say three years, Gloria?

GM: Three years short of three months.

BL: Short of three months.

CS: Okay, so—

GL: Three months short of, three months short of three years.

CS: Three months short of three years, okay. Um, now, did, uh, did your father ever describe, uh, his thoughts on the camp? Uh, or how much information did he share about the whole internment experience, um, that he went through? Did he ever talk about it?

BL: Well, when he went in he was very proud man, but when he came out, he was very, very, um...how do you say that?

RL: His spirit.

GM: Broke—broken.

BL: Broken.

RL: His spirit's broken.

CS: Wow.

BL: You know, and he was quiet.

RL: His pride was gone.

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: Yeah.

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: Yeah.

CS: Um, and, uh, did he, did he, um, describe what—how life was in the camp? At the—

BL: Not to me.

CS: No?

BL: But he may have done it to his son or my mother, I don't know.

CS: Okay. Or how he was treated, or—no?

BL: No.

CS: Okay. Um [long pause]...did, um...did he tell you ever, um, for example, what kind of accommodations they had in the camp or, um, what kind of food they ate there, or any tre— kind of treatment received there?

[Whispering in background]

BL: Not that I know of.

CS: No?

BL: He never—

CS: Okay.

BL: Like, he used to write to my, uh, brother mostly and, uh, my mother. But, uh, he...

CS: Okay.

BL: ...never wrote to us.

CS: Okay, and did he tell you what he—what his daily activities were at the camp, if he had any?

BL: No. Not to me, anyway.

CS: No? No, okay. Well, okay.

[Whispering in background]

CS: Um...um, so—just one second here. [Long pause, whispering in background] Now, where—
was he allowed, then—he was allowed to write to his family, to...

BL: I guess so. I wo—I never got any letters, but maybe...

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: ...you know, somebody else did.

CS: Okay, so, um, but he wrote to your, to your mother and to your brothers. Okay, very good.
Um...so what kind of access to the outside world, uh, was your father allowed? Just the letters?

BL: I don't know.

CS: Okay. Uh, how often do you think he was in contact with the family?

BL: Uh, I don't know that, either.

CS: Okay. Uh, did you ever—were you ever, ever able to go visit him in the camp?

BL: No, uh—

CS: No?

BL: My brother, uh, went and my mother went.

CS: Okay.

BL: And his wife, eh? [Unclear]

CS: Do you know how many times they were allowed to go visit him?

BL: No.

GM: They weren't.

BL: Not really.

CS: No?

GM: Well, they got there and were turned around both times.

CS: Oh, okay, okay.

GM: He wasn't allowed to see him.

CS: Okay, so, very good. Um, now was your father the main breadwinner of the family?

BL: [Long pause] Yes, he was.

CS: Yup, okay. And how does—how did his absence affect the family?

BL: Well, my brother worked with him in the studio, so he took over the studio and...worked there.

CS: Okay.

BL: And then, uh, my mother...had rented out some rooms...to help pay the—

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: —you know...the taxes and things for the house.

CS: Okay, very good. So, the business went on?

BL: Yeah. Oh, yes.

CS: Okay, very good.

BL: My brother looked after that.

CS: Okay. Um...how did, uh, your mother respond to the internment of her husband? How did she react to it?

BL: Well, that's another thing I can't tell you. I know she was disappointed. And...they used to, uh—

CS: Okay.

BL: —but I'll wait till you ask me some questions.

CS: Okay. What kind of pressure was placed on her?

[00:10:56]

BL: Well, she...just went along. Like, she had neighbours and friends, and...

CS: Okay.

BL: ...they all came to visit her, of course, and...

CS: Okay.

BL: ...everyday life.

CS: Okay, so, how did the neighbours react to, uh, your father's internment?

BL: Our neighbours were very good.

CS: Yeah?

BL: Yes.

CS: Okay, very good. Um, was there any, uh, material or emotional support that you received from the neighbours?

BL: No, not really.

CS: No? Okay. Um, how about from the local community, from the churches? No?

BL: Not that I know of.

CS: Okay. Or the—uh, the Italian community?

BL: Well, you—there was some of the good friends would come and visit, and...

CS: Okay. Um...uh, where—were you in school during the war?

BL: Yes.

CS: Yeah? Okay. And, uh, how were you treated by teachers and other students during that time?

BL: We were treated as always, you know. So, we never had any problems at school.

CS: Okay. So, you didn't feel any kind of discrimination or—

BL: No.

CS: Okay, very good. Uh, did you have any relatives, uh, serving in the Canadian Forces...during the war?

BL: My brother, uh, Mimmo...

GM: Yeah.

CS: Okay.

BL: ...was a, uh, the...

GM: Air Force.

BL: ...mechanic in the Air Force.

GM: Yeah.

CS: Oh, okay, very good. And, uh, how did they react to your father's internment? How did he react to your father's internment?

BL: Well, he was deeply hurt, too, but, uh, life goes on. He was married and had a family and...

CS: Mm hmm. Okay. Um, did he try to intervene on his father's behalf?

BL: Well, I don't...I don't think so.

CS: No? Okay. Fine. Um, when was your father released from the camp?

BL: I don't know that either.

CS: So, probably he was in, uh, in—

BL: In almost three years.

CS: In probably '43?

GM: In '42.

CS: Forty-two. In '42, okay.

BL: He was released?

GM: In '42.

CS: In '42, okay. Uh, was any advance notice given to the family that he would be released?

GM: Uh, yes.

BL: Yes.

CS: Yeah? Okay.

BL: She knows more about it, because her dad had all that written down, eh.

CS: Okay. So, we'll maybe ask—I'll ask the question again, uh, uh, to Mrs., uh, Miron.

GM: Yes, that's fine.

CS: Okay. Can you describe the effects that being in the camp had on your father when he came back?

BL: Yes, he was very, uh...

GM: Destroyed.

BL: [Long pause] A different man, of course. He was very, uh, quiet, where he used to be more bossy before. [Laughs]

CS: [Laughs]

[Laughter in room]

BL: You know?

GM: [Unclear] a little girl.

CS: Okay. So did your relationship with your father change after his release?

BL: Yes. Oh, no. Never changed.

CS: No?

BL: Well, it got better.

CS: It got better, okay.

BL: Yeah.

CS: Okay. Uh, ca—uh, and ca—how how did it get better, in which ways?

BL: Well, he was more lenient, you know, and—

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: —not so severe.

CS: Okay.

BL: [Laughs]

CS: [Laughs] Um, it—can you explain how he was treated by the, uh, wider Italian community once he returned home?

BL: [Long pause] Mm, I don't know.

CS: No? Was he, was he, was he welcomed home by the wider community, or...

BL: I thought he was welcomed home, I guess.

CS: Okay. And, uh, do you know how he was treated by the non-Italian community once he got back home?

BL: No.

CS: No?

BL: I don't.

[00:15:19]

CS: Okay. Um...ca-can you tell me anything about his life after—in Sudbury after he was released? Um, he was already married and he had chil—did he have any other children after he was released?

BL: Oh, no—

CS: No?

BL: —he was...

CS: Okay.

BL: ...too old.

CS: Did he return to his previous job?

BL: Yes.

CS: Yes?

BL: He went back to work, to the studio.

CS: Okay. Um, very good. Uh, did he share his thoughts on the internment, and, uh, the—and its justification?

BL: No, he didn't talk too much about it to me.

CS: Okay. Um, are you familiar with the debate surrounding the internment of Italian-Canadians...lately?

BL: Uh...all I know is they went and took all the businessmen...

CS: Mm hmm.

BL: ...and interned them.

CS: Mm hmm. Okay. But, uh, the, the debates that are going on right now about what happened back then. No? Okay, very good. So, I think we can end this part of the interview here.

[Fades out at 00:16:34]

[End of interview]