

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

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- **ICEA2010.0008.0021.a**

Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] April 23 1941 [triple forward slash] / The Editor The Globe and the Mail, / Toronto, Ont.
/ Dear Sir: / I read with great interest your editorial "Aftermath may be Serious" / in the issue of
The Globe and Mail of Tuesday, April 22. It is certainly undeniable / that the responsibility of
the sad occurrence at Schreiber rests with the Government. / The governmental authorities
should carefully look into the character of Officers and / men to whom they assign to take care
of the prisoners. I am submitting to you the / following facts which I feel you should know. / I
was a prisoner of war myself and I was 45 days at Lansdowne Barracks / under the care of
Major Lindsey and his men – the same Major Lindsey who in now in / charge of the Schreiber
Camp -. This gentleman and most of his subordinate Officers and / men are almost always
drunk. / The cruelty of Major Lindsey is beyond what the average Canadian would / imagine
[second m crossed out]. Before I was arrested – Sept. 7, 1940 – I had heard of his cruel
treatment / of the prisoners and their wives who went to see them at the Exhibition [sic]
Grounds; and my / experience as a prisoner proved that what I had heard of him was sadly true.
/ As soon as a prisoner entered the Barracks he, or one of his Officers, / would make sure to
give him such a reception of terror that he will never forget. We / had to [handwritten in ink] do
all kinds of work, I, Minister of the Gospel, among other things had to carry / cases of beer on
my shoulders and pick up cigarettes [s crossed out] but[sic] before drunken men and women,
/ but we did not mind that, as matter of fact we welcomed work because it helped us / "to
forget", but to be called monkeys, rats, bastards and some other names which are / not proper
to repeat, for no cause whatever, did not help us much to keep up our morale / high. However,
we tried our best to bear the lot and be happy. But being [g handwritten in ink] happy or /
showing the semblance of happiness did not help us much because if Sergeant Major Mack /
ever saw us happy, besides hard military training he would impose on us in the 30 / minutes of
the supposed relaxation outside every evening to which we were entitled, he / would call
Captain Davidson to address us who, besides the usual threats [h handwritten in ink], would

spare / no words of terrible insults. At one time our bread was rationed, then we, prisoners, / were sent in a military truck to dump in the City incinerator [sic] plant six cases of / untouched bread. / Not long after we were put in the Barracks, one evening, when in the / dining room there was some kind of entertainment, we prisoners, working in the kitchen, / had to come forward before a crowd of soldier's relatives and friends and compelled / by Major Lindsey to tell our names aloud and be made the laughing stock of everybody.

- **ICEA2010.0008.0021.b**

Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] 2 / Another night, about 3. A.M., Captain Davidson, drunk, entered the / prisoners' compound and woke us up and took great pleasure in inflicting moral torture / on Leonard Franceschini. Lieutenant Polson, being dead drunk, one evening compelled / us to march the goose – step. My own wife because she [handwritten in ink] complained for two pairs of underwear / she brought me and never given me was subjected to insults from Captain Davidson and / Lieutenant Boswell. Many a time we were wakened in the middle [one d handwritten in ink] of the night and ordered / to go up in the dining room where entertainments were held and compelled to clean up / all kinds of dirt [h crossed out] left by the entertained. In fairness, I must [u handwritten in ink] say that [ha handwritten in ink] one Officer / and one only, Lieutenant Chapple, when on duty kept sound discipline and great consid- / eration. All in all it was 45 days of moral torture and it was a great relief to us / when on October 24 we were brought up to Petawawa where we found a Commandant, Lieut- / Colonel Pense, who, by administering with true discipline, is loved and respected by / everybody. / The damage to the good name of the Canadian people that Major Lindsey / has done cannot be easily estimated. Hundreds of prisoners have come under his evil / influence. Most of these people will think that all the British are like Major Lindsey. / As for myself, I have been fortunate that through my Ministry I have known the average / Canadian of British origin and I can appreciate their high moral qualities, but those / who unfortunately had had no other contact than that with Major Lindsey will think / altogether different. / I have no grudge against the Government for my arrest because I believe / in time of war the safety of the State comes first and therefore it shall take precaut- / ionary measures, but I would find fault with the Government when they blindly appoint / Officers such as Major Lindsey to take care of a delicate and serious situation. / I have given you this information because I feel that your



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knowledge / of these facts will assist you in your fight for the right which is always so difficult /
in times of war. None of these statements is exaggerated. I feel it my duty to do / what I can or
at least, to tell what I know, and trust that efforts in this respect / will have beneficial results
both for the safety and honour of Canada. / Yours respectfully,