

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

TRANSCRIBED BY: Grant Karcich

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- **ICEA2010.0008.0012.a**

Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] IN THE MATTER OF THE WAR MEASURES ACT, R.S.C. / 206 and / IN THE MATTER of application of Libero Sauro, / of the City of Toronto, in the County of York, / Minister. / [line] / I, CLEMENTINA SAURO, of the City of Toronto, in the / County of York, Married Woman, make oath and say as follows:- / 1. I am the wife of Rev. Libero Sauro, to whom I was / married in Toronto on June 29, 1928. / 2. At the time of my marriage my husband was in charge of / the Italian Mission of The United Church of Canada [sic] at Niagara / Falls and I was a public school teacher in the Town of Welland. / 3. I have been well acquainted with my husband since about / the year 1924, although I, as a small child, had known him in / Montreal, as I attended with my parents at the same church at which / he attended in that City. / 4. My said husband was previously married and there were / five children by his first marriage, the youngest of whom is now / 16 years of age. All of the said family reside at Toronto in / our home. / 5. My husband and I have four children, the eldest of whom / is 11 years of age and the youngest 4 years of age. / 6. My husband lived in the City of Montreal from the year / 1907 to the end of 1920. In 1920 he went to Sault Ste. Marie, / Ontario, where he was in charge of the Mission of the Presbyterian / Church in Canada. He remained there until the fall of 1927. / He then attended Emmanuel College, a theological college of / The United Church of Canada, in Toronto, and on the completion / of his course he was in charge of the Mission / of The United Church of Canada at Niagara Falls, Ontario from the / year 1928 to 1934. In the year 1934 we came to Toronto where my / husband has been in charge of the Italian Mission of The United

- **ICEA2010.0008.0012.b**

Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] -2- / Church of Canada on College Street. / 7. I believe that my husband first became a member of The / Sons of Italy while in Sault Ste. Marie. I became a member / of that Order in 1924 at Sault Ste. Marie. I did not continue / my membership as I was teaching in centres where there were no / lodges of the Order but I became a member again in the year 1934 / on coming to Toronto. I believe that my husband first became / a member of the Order when in Sault Ste. Marie and he has been / associated with it since that time and for the past four or five / years has been secretary of the Grand Lodge. I have assisted / him in his work since he became administrative secretary and have / knowledge of his activities in the Order. I have been on two / occasions a delegate to the meeting of the Grand Lodge. / 8. Now shown to me and marked Exhibit "A" to this my / affidavit is a printed copy of the constitution of the Order. / 9. Now shown to me and marked Exhibit "B" to this my / affidavit is a number of clippings from various newspapers, the / names of papers and dates of publications being shown on the said / clippings, relating to various gatherings of The Sons of Italy / and of Clubs at which my husband has given addresses. / 10. My husband's duties were chiefly concerned with the / sick and funeral benefits of the Order. Many members of the / Order became members through his influence and he felt that it / was an obligation upon him to protect their interests. There / appeared to be no outside influence with the Order until July, / 1934, when the chief officer of the Order, who is described as / Grand Venerable, and another officer described as the Grand Orator, / were elected, neither of whom had, so far as I am aware, any close / connection with the Grand Lodge and my belief is that they were / nominees of the Italian Consul General, who did not, however, / appear actively in the election. I believe that these two / men have placed the Order in a wrong light and I know that they / were not representative of the rank and file of the Order. My / husband was opposed to their action on a number of occasions and / would have given up his post in the Order had it not been for his

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Recto [t-b, l-r]:

[typed] -3- / feeling of responsibility to the membership, many of whom, as I / stated above, had become members through his efforts. As it was / he did present his resignation on at least one occasion but no / action was taken with regard to it. / 11. The constitution of the Order provides that it shall / have no political or religious connections but does not provide / for expulsion in case of an infraction of these provisions. / My husband and I drafted provisions

with the hope of being able / to expel these two members of the Order who in our opinion
were / committing a breach of the rules of the Order, but the provisions / we drafted were not
acceptable to the Ontario Department of / Insurance. Early in 1940 I am told by my husband
and believe / that he had a conversation with Tommaso Mari, the Grand Orator, / in which the
latter stated to my husband that the Italian Consul / in Toronto had told him that my husband
must be put out of his / position in the Order so that he would have no place of influence. / 12.
From my knowledge of my husband's activities and my / close association with him in the work
of the Order I know that / he has been guilty of no disloyalty towards Canada or Great / Britain
and that the position he has always taken is as outlined / in the clippings above referred to. /
SWORN before me at the City / of Toronto, in the County of / York, this 5th day of December, /
A.D. 1940.

[signature in ink] Clementina Sauro

[typed] A Commissioner, etc.