

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

DATE OF INTERVIEW: August 17, 2011

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Ottawa, ON

NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Doug Brombal

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Travis Tomchuk

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Stefanie Petrilli

TRANSCRIBED BY: Louanne Aspillaga

DATE TRANSCRIBED: November 5, 2011

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ABSTRACT

In his second interview Douglas Nereo Brombal talks about the plaque that he received from the City of Windsor Police Department in 1990. This plaque is meant to recognize his father Nereo Brombal's many years of service with the Windsor Police Department. It also symbolizes an apology on behalf of the City of Windsor Police Department for their wrongful dismissal of Nereo in the 1940s due to his Italian heritage.

INTERVIEW

DB: Doug Brombal, interviewee

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:09]

DB: Okay, the plaque was, uh, given to me in 1990 by the Windsor Police Commission, um, as a recognition of what I felt and they I guess had recognized was a, was a wrong that had been committed in 1940 when they dismissed my father from the City Windsor Police Department because of his Italian birth. Um, I think it was, uh, uh...more or less generated once the Prime

Minister, uh, Brian Mulroney, uh, apologized to the Italian Community. I'm not quite sure exactly what year that was, but I think it was around 1990. And, uh, shortly after that then it was the City of Windsor that, uh, the chair of the police commission, the mayor, and, uh, several councilors, uh, invited my family—myself and my daughter actually—um, to the City of Windsor Council Chambers and made the presentation of this plaque, uh...sort of as a-an apology for what had been done by the Windsor Police Department. And, um...it, uh, meant quite a lot to me and to my family really, uh, to have some recognition [camera goes out of focus for a moment] of what had been a pretty rough time in the 1940s. Um, having worked all that time for the Police Department to be dismissed so abruptly for nothing other than having been born in Italy. And, um...so, um, I keep it and hang it proudly. [Smiles]

[Fades out at 00:01:47]

[End of interview]