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NAME OF INTERVIEWEE: Sal Pantalone

NAME OF INTERVIEWER: Francesca L'Orfano

NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER: Travis Tomchuk

TRANSCRIBED BY: Krystle Copeland

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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.

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ABSTRACT

Salvatore Pantalone was born in 1924; the fourth child in a family of three other boys and one girl. His parents, Rocco (Fred) and Antoinetta Pantalone were born in Abruzzi and Lazio, Italy but met and were married in Ottawa, Canada. Sal's father, Fred, was an Ottawa firefighter, and worked to help contain the fire of 1916 at the Canadian Parliament buildings. He was extremely passionate about his career and was promoted twice to reach his position as Lieutenant Fred Pantalone, which created some jealousy and discrimination—resulting in his car being scratched with a large nail while at an evening event for the fire department. Sal

explains that his father was demoralized and embarrassed when arrested and handcuffed in front of his men and in uniform in June of 1940. His father was interned at camp Petawawa for approximately seven months before returning home to find that his career with the fire department was gone. He was heartbroken to discover that the union had voted 100% against having him return to his job, and both the Ottawa Mayor and the Chief of the Fire Department were unable to restore his position, providing explanations such as: "Well Fred, we can't take you back, you might bomb the police station." Sal adds that the most traumatizing event for the children was seeing their father return home after his release with hair that had changed from black to whitish-grey, and immediately sat in a chair and began to sob. The family faced financial difficulty with the loss of their father's job, so Sal joined the Canadian Navy at 16 in order to help provide support. Fred Pantalone was soon given a position with the navy as well, which led to a career after the war with the Canadian Joint Staff in Washington where he spent many happy years with his wife. Sal believes that his father was not a victim of the actions of the Canadian government, but rather "a victim of Italy declaring war against us." His father did receive a letter of apology from Justice Hyndman, saying that he was an innocent man and that he never should have been interned.

INTERVIEW

SP: Sal Pantalone, interviewee

FL: Francesca L'Orfano, interviewer

TT: Travis Tomchuk, videographer

[Title screen]

[Fades in at 00:00:10]

FL: Um, well thank you very much for agreeing to uh meet with us and to uh be interviewed and tell us about uh your family history in relation to the internment. We'll start with, if you could tell me your name or tell us your name um, and uh [your birth perhaps]—

SP: Well, yeah I was Christian Salvatore Giuseppe Pantalone. Never heard the name after that. [says with a laugh] Uh, was always Sam, and that's— in those days that was the case. No one used the Italian names, they were Christian. My brother [Giulielmo] became Bill. [Goritsio] became Gordon. [Eledia] became Lee. [laughs] And so forth. Anyway, so it was, uh Sam until I began my career in singing and then it...I saw it on the program the first time it just didn't look right. So I used my real name Salvatore. Okay.

FL: And your uh, if you could tell me um, who your parents were uh, and how they came to live in Canada?

SP: Well, my father came I believe it was about 1903. Uh, he was very young. Then he went back with his father and came back again when he was about a teenager. On his own and uh, and he was from Abruzzi, [unclear] my mother was from Lazio which at that time was *Provincia de Roma*. Roman Province. And uh, they met in Canada, in Ottawa. And uh, they were married in the chapel on Murray Street. It was a Capuchin Priest. They didn't have their own church yet. And from there, the family. [says with arms out and a smile]

FL: Your parent's names?

SP: My father was Rocco Pantalone but I...uh, never heard him ever use that. It was always Fred, Frederick. When he was in his career as a fireman and oh in the navy he was Fred. And uh, well I have no doubt he was Rocco also. But whether, I, I never discussed it. It just was always Fred. People would call, Fred Pantalone, Lieutenant Fred Pantalone, so it was always that. So I

don't know. So let's assume it was Fred Rocco, Frederick Rocco. And my mother was Antoinetta uh, [Conchetta] I think. Yes, [Locatelli]. And they met in Ottawa. And uh—

FL: Do you remember the year they got married?

SP: [Breathes in] hmmm....about 1912.

FL: And how old were they?

SP: Mother was 16. [smiles] In those days. She didn't know my father...well, you know, came to the house a couple of times. I said, "How'd you [unclear]?" He says, he had a bicycle and he'd ride by ringing the bell. [pretends to hold the handlebars and looks up smiling.] You know [quick] on his bicycle. [laughs] And, anyway that's the very brief romantic beginning of their life.

FL: And they had how many children?

SP: Uh, five. Four boys and one girl. The eldest is Bill. Died a few years ago. Gordy, Gordon, died a year ago January. And uh, Lee died about 10 years ago. I'm left. And there's one younger brother who's in the States.

FL: And what is his name?

SP: Edward.

FL: Edward.

SP: Which he was Christened Edward and became Edward and stayed Edward. And I, I, I know it was after because at the time Edward, Prince of Wales was quite popular. Who became Edward the VIIIth. So my father was quite into these things. So he was going to name him Edward. [nods and laughs] There's a popular singer, I'm, I'm deviating a bit, but I'm reminiscing [says looking up]. I said, "Why don't you call him Jack?" Because he was a famous singer on the radio, little Jack little. "Call him Jack." But that didn't go over anyway. Ended up with Edward John Anthony.

FL: And were you the fourth then?

SP: The fourth. [nods] There was three close, and then me, which the space before and a space after.

FL: Of how many years?

SP: Uh...about eight years. And then it was another eight years before the other one. [laughs] My parents went on a holiday to, to Boston so that's where he was conceived and that's where he lives in the States. [says with a laugh] It was destined to be that way I guess. [laughs]

FL: Tell me about your, your childhood—

SP: About who?

FL: Your childhood.— [with your siblings]

SP: Well it was a good childhood, we had a nice home. I don't think— it wasn't a mansion but we had a nice home. I have fond memories of it and we lived uh, we weren't in the village, what

we called the village, uh, that was on Preston. Very, very defined region from Carling Avenue to the railway bridge. Which is now the Queensway. Outside of that you were not a villager, but all my friends were there so [unclear] they'd kid, "oh get back you're not from the village, you're from the other side." [laughs] But there's no Italian, well there's a few, my uncle [Bocatelli] he was on the other side but very, very few, they were all in there. But we were on Gladstone, why I don't know. I, I know when they were married and they had their first two or three children, they lived on Norfolk, which is right in the heart of the village. Well, just off— funny a very British name, Norfolk. But uh, and you're in the village. A little small street, where the streetcar turned and then when I came along...I don't remember anything other than Gladstone Avenue, but it was half a block from St. Anthony's Church. So very fond memories of that. And uh, next door— hmm?

FL: What year were you born?

[6:10.6]

SP: Me? [pause] 1924. [smiles and laughs]

FL: And just to go back before we continue with the uh, family history uh...do you know why you dad uh came to Canada? You mentioned that he—

SP: Oh, I'm sure it was like most immigrants at that time, it was, it was uh...economic reasons of course, work, and so forth. Everyone was going to *L'America*. And I'm sure that was the only reason. [says with a shrug]

FL: Okay, now that you bring up work, so tell me about your father's— how he supported the family and how your parents supported the family?

SP: Well...the early days I don't remember. I only remember when my father always being on the fire department. And uh, but before that I know— I have a picture here that's quite interesting out in the bush and he's with a couple of his cousins. And uh, he is, they are, one's got a gun [uses hand to motion a gun pointing towards himself] the other's got a knife, and someone else is doing something else. A keg of beer and my father's all dressed up...shirt and tie [straightens his own tie] in the bush, with a notebook. Here's the reporter of this crime [pretends to take notes on his palm and laughs]. I guess that's the play they were playing. And so, all I remember my father— but I know he worked delivering bread. With an old [slattery] bakers in from the market. Don't think he liked that too much. [shakes his head no] But he did all...I don't remember what he did. Probably worked like all the others, but how he got in the fire department when Italians in those days, you either opened— had a fruit store or...you worked with a pick and shovel. And you brought your own pick and your own shovel and it had to be big enough to warrant you having the job and then you had, and you had to be able to wheel uh...and I know a lot of them who worked uh, [Mr. Delfalco] he, was killed in a cave-in you know. I really, I remember the story; I don't think I remember the incident. But, that's so how he ended up in the fire department, he did. [smiles]

FL: And your mother, did she work outside the home?

SP: No, no, no. She never did. No.

FL: So um, now we can move to uh, the reason we're here in terms of the [issue of the]—

SP: Uh hmm, my mother was raised differently from the rest. She was very fortunate her mother had 13 children, and uh—

FL: 13?

SP: 13. And one girl. And she had an uncle and an aunt who lived in, nearby and Roccagorga. They wanted her, and so they raised her for several years. So she never worked and she was schooled at home, with a governess, so she was very fortunate. She always told me she had somebody combing her hair and all that sort of thing. So she was very fortunate. She didn't have a high education, but she was well educated. She could read English papers and Italian of course, but not highly educated.

[camera fades out at 9:17.2]

FL: You mentioned that your father, as far as you could remember was always a firefighter?

SP: Uh hmm.

FL: You—could you um, tell us some experiences that he had um, that you recall today about his [unclear]—

SP: Oh yes. I um, I don't remember all of them of course...one was in 1916. I don't remember that, but I know it. Uh the uh...when the parliament buildings burned down my father was a fireman. He fought the fire at the parliament buildings. He was already a citizen of Canada before then. And he fought the fire there. And I know there's a big fire uh, in Lower Town. It was the French theatre, The Français. And uh, he suffered smoke inhalation. In those days they didn't have the gas masks or whatever they call them. Oxygen...whatever. Quite bad, and then once this, I don't—I remember that, but I don't remember the next story, that there were, it was a false alarm and they were going down Somerset from Rochester to [unclear], that was the area. And they had horses. And uh, he fell off or somehow and they didn't have nomadic

tires, it was solid rubber tires and it ran over his chest. I don't know how much it weighs but, so, he had a strip about this wide on his chest. Now, my mother said it was that wide [holds fingers about 6 or 8 inches apart] and I'm sure it was, that's how much of a trip...how dark it was and for how long. My mother remembers the oranges in Italy were this big [makes the shape and size of a volleyball between his hands] and they weren't when I went there as a student, but how wide, but it was there mother told me and it lasted some time. And I'll offer some hyperbole. Yeah. [laughs]

[11:02.6]

FL: Um, so um, how did he feel about this job, your dad?

SP: My father loved it! He was, it was his life. He was uh, promoted twice to lieutenant. To the chagrin...I'm sure to many, many people on the fire department—he was the only Italian, well there was another Italian but he quit I could never understand why...Jack De Falco. And he opened in Britannia you know where uh, there's a beach there. He opened a pavilion. Dancing and motels and so forth. And he liked racing....racing uh huskies for racing on his sleds. But he quit so my father's the only one, and there was a lot of jealousy. Uh...why should an Italian be there when the other people are out of work? I know that, and why should he be an officer giving other people orders? I know that. Because they'd come away from some banquet at the Chateau Laurier in those days, my father wearing a tuxedo and all that sort of stuff. My mother in a gown because it was a formal dinner they had. And uh, he'd come out and he always had a new car every couple of years. Much to my mother's anger... [giggles] anyways, a big scratch with a nail across the car. [shrugs] Uh...another fireman. So. He was happy. He loved his job, he was a, from what I understand, a disciplinarian though. He didn't like them hanging around, smoking in front of the station when there was things to be done in the station. I know that.

These are facts, the things und—I know. And uh, that's not too popular sometimes you know.

[smiles]

FL: And in the time proceeding—

SP: In the which?

FL: In, in the days or in the years proceeding 1940...uh when uh your dad was picked up....uh where was he picked up?

SP: In...

FL: When—

SP: He was picked up in Ottawa. Which was the, the demoralizing and embarrassing part of it, picked up in his uniform in front of his platoon. Handcuffed before his men, which is demoralizing—degrading. And uh, I wasn't there, so...but I knew about it. [says with a serious half laugh]

FL: How old were you at the time?

SP: I was um...14—15 going on 16 shortly because I was 16 in June. Well it could have been around the same time. 16 perhaps I was.

FL: Okay, and in the days before he was picked up, was there...uh any information? Did your dad worry about—

SP: No...not at all, not at all...farthest from our mind. I remember the occasion so clearly, it's like a photograph. I..we were in Fort William, which is now Thunder Bay, where my sister lives with her husband who was uh chief work [auditor] at, at Canada Car Foundry. Who was then, who made street cars and buses for America and maybe worldwide. Very old company. They transferred from that to making hurricanes, which hurricanes played a very important part in the Second World War as fighters. Uh, we were there, and I remember this so clearly as I said, I was sitting at the dining room table. And it was only my dad and I in the house, the others were wherever, they weren't at home and I remember him passing by from the kitchen—pass me there, into the— it was a bungalow, into the bathroom. He was shaving...he was always very meticulous. And he said, "Damn fools, they expect to win a war with guitars." Uh, that's when he heard that Italy had entered the war. Uh...I always remembered that. And funny, well...it doesn't matter. But I was drawing a little picture of because Stalin was the bad guy then, and that's why I've never believed too much in pol— no I believe it but you know, you're, you're told, you're asked to believe what they want you to believe. So, but Stalin was a bad guy and I was drawing a picture of him being hanged and Stalin [laughs] and then later he was a good guy. After that I said [waving hands in a cancelling out motion] I don't know, you believe what you're told to believe and I don't believe now. Anymore. [laughs] I, I believe...I make up my own mind. Anyway, that's when I first heard of it. Then he came home to Ottawa, I'm sorry I'm digressing a bit here, but you're asking me...things come into my mind. He came home to Ottawa because his holidays were over and he was picked up then. I was still in Fort William with my older brother. Two older brothers, one William, Bill— who was working there. Along with my brother in law and my brother Gordy who's recently passed away. And uh, but dad left earlier and he drove home with his car and my mother. And younger brother. And then we heard this, dad was picked up.

FL: How did you hear?

[16:15.6]

FL: How did you find out that he was picked up?

SP: I don't remember, probably mailed...phone in those days wasn't— long distance phone calling wasn't that popular it was expensive. I guess we got a letter and said dad's been picked up and...I didn't think much of it. I just didn't understand it. I was too young to— I was just 15 yet. Turning 16. There's no excuse but that's the way it was. I heard of it and knew of it. And...it was later on [as] it sunk in.

FL: And how did—so then you came back to Ottawa?

SP: We came back home.

FL: And how did, how did your mother uh deal with the absence of your dad?

SP: Well it was very difficult. You can imagine. From a steady income. Suddenly no income. And uh, there was things, mortgages, living expenses and so forth. So uh, I don't know what the other brothers did. I really don't know. But I joined the navy. I was 16. So, I was getting 40 dollars a month. I was in Halifax at sea. Uh so...then I was on a ship. So I'd send home 30 and I kept ten. Ten for me at that time was enough, you know. You didn't need any. And then, then when I was transferred to Ottawa, that's when I was a bigger help. Because I was transferred here, taken off the ship because of my eyesight. I didn't complain about it—somehow I [lost 'em] I was out of the dance at the YMCA on Barrington in Halifax, and uh...uh, someone pinched my coat or we all looked alike, they were all blue and navy coats. So my glasses were in there. So when I was aboard ship I said I need a new pair of glasses, so when they tested me— because I lied about it before, I said all the numbers, I said I could see them but I couldn't. And I

told the medical doctor, "well let me in anyway. As far as Halifax and then we'll see what happens later." I didn't expect this to happen. [laughs] So then he put the drops in my eyes and he looks and he "what the hell?" Cause his exact words were... [makes a frowning face] he was salty old guy. "What the hell are you doing in the navy? You're half blind." [laughs] So...anyway, so they kicked me off the ship. So I worked in Halifax for quite some— maybe a year and a half. Fingerprinting all of the sailors. Who'd come into port and we'd fingerprint them. And that's an interesting story too...some were reluctant for whatever reason, [holds hands up and laughs] and then, then they sent me to Ottawa, and when that happened uh, I was not on aboard a ship, so I was giving, given...I think it was 90 dollars or 70 dollars a month. It might have been 90. And I gave my mother 70, because I was living at home. So that was a help. Now, I, I don't know what my other brothers did and I'm not...I really don't know. But you asked me how we subsisted with [something]—

FL: Do you remember any stories about what your mom did to—

SP: Well, she never worked but she was, she was really...I have a video here of my mother crocheting, just like this [moves fingers very quickly] it was like a machine. And my sister's beside her [moves fingers slowly and carefully]. So she'd make— oh it's not there, we had one. We do have one. [points to the side of the room.] And I'd see them in [unclear], no comparison, well yes a comparison they sell very high, at a high price. So mother took this to the exhibition. Um, uh at the time, excuse me [takes a drink of water] and uh if they could sell it in there. They had, not a hobby thing, but they had something else uh [husbandry] and all these kinds of things, but they also had something for uh...whatever it was. So, they offered her 25 dollars for it. Well the materials probably cost her in those days 10 [laughs] but uh, now you would buy them for three, or four, or five hundred dollars. But, she was very, came home disheartened....25 dollars. And all this, but 25 dollars you know. Which we rented the upstairs of our house then for 25 a month. So it was 25 dollars. [smiles] That, that, there...

[20:27.8]

FL: And how long was your dad away for? Do you know how long he was interned?

SP: Well he was picked up in June. I think he came home in February.

FL: Okay.

SP: So, six, seven months.

FL: And what were you told? You were told he was picked up, were you told why he was picked up?

SP: [Look of confusion on his face] No. No we never, well I never asked. I knew why, I mean, they were all picked up so...what are you going to ask. They were picked up because the, Italy entered the war. Against Canada, so we...I guess sort of understood that governments take precautions. They did in England, they did in Italy, they did in Germany— they did it everywhere. So uh, but what did dishearten my father very much was that...and hurt him, was that the fireman voted 100 percent in their union against having him back. Well, some of them told him, "Fred, sorry you're [unclear]." Fred...uh "sorry you know but we've got to vote with the union. If you don't vote then you [‘ve got to be] with the rest of them", and some of them that's what they said. We don't know, we don't know but that's what some of them said. So there was the only rub. As far as the government, well the government didn't take his job from him; it was the Ottawa fire department. My father went to the mayor and the controller, Geldart, I'll never forget his name, Dr. Geldart, he started the first radio station called the CKOY. They're independent that is. And uh, he said, "Fred we can't..." and dad was as much into

politics in that way he was well known, and being a person of [laughs] I hate to say it, but you got to go back to 1940, being a lieutenant of the fire department is nothing today, but in those days, and an Italian was a big thing. So a person of that stature, the politicians would come to them for their votes. And he'd speak to the Italians, and okay they'd come to my father too if they could help them to get a job. And he had some friends in politics...that they helped him to get jobs. So uh...when he went to this Geldart and he said "well Fred, we can't take you back, you might bomb the police station." Well my father said, and I remember this clearly, he said, "that place should of been bombed years ago." It was right where the art centre is now, and you'd drive in off of Elgin, down below the water line of the, and there were rats. It was damp, it was terrible, the cells—I've been down there, I've seen it. It was a terrible place. It should never have been, so but that didn't help him or, or, or hurt him. That was just a fact what he said to them. And the mayor said "I'm sorry Fred. What can I do?" Stanley, he was, but they knew what to do when they wanted the votes. That still exists, doesn't it? [Ever will be.]
[laughs]

FL: Going back to uh, while your dad was in the camp, you this is when you joined the navy...and you say you don't remember what your brothers did—

SP: Well they joined the army...

FL: Oh.

SP: But I said, I don't know what...

FL: In terms of supporting [unclear]—

SP: Yeah, no. I don't know. I mean I did what I did and I don't know.

FL: Do you know if you're, if your—

SP: I'm sure they did. You know.

FL: Did your mother try to consult a lawyer to try to see if your dad you know could get out or how they could help him in or what you know you mentioned he was—

SP: No, no because we never had a lawyer. We were never involved with lawyers. I know that Mr. [Cosentini], his son was my best friend. Eddie, we were, we did everything together. Sneak into cinemas together, played hockey together, we did everything together. And a lot of other things I won't mention we did together as young boys. [laughs] Uh, his [dad] always had a lawyer because he was in business a lot. So his lawyer worked for him and helped him. Not to Mr. [Cosentini's] advantage unfortunately but he did work for him. And Ed would say, "When's your father getting out?" "I don't know, how about your dad?" "I don't know..." and kids [laughs] with the hockey sticks, I don't know. And then, "my father's coming out Monday." Oh, "my father's not." But he'd come out a few days, a week later, whatever it was. No, we didn't have, we never visited him— I don't know. My older brothers should have done something; well they were older than I was. They were 18, 19, or something. I'm not saying they should have but we didn't. For whatever reason, I don't know. I'm not blaming—

[25:06.9]

FL: You didn't visit him? You mentioned you didn't—

SP: No, no. We never knew we could. It never came up. Uh—

FL: And this, was he at Petawawa for the entire—

SP: Petawawa, uh hmm. And I, I, I shouldn't be speaking on behalf of the [Cosentini's] or...I lived there practically, I really did. We'd go in and out and never knock. We were just there. The Cosentini's were a very nice family. Mr. Cosentini and Mrs. Cosentini well she was dead by this time, uh, but they tolerated—not tolerated, they welcomed us you know. We were always at a meeting place. But uh, I, I've forgotten what I was going to say about them. I, I shouldn't be speaking for them, but, but I, I think because they had a lawyer and they knew these, and they probably arranged for a visit. Because I know that [Kay Pavia] Cosentini, visited and Mrs. Tiezzi visited, so they must have. We never did, never told—I know we could have got up there, because at some point they returned my father's car...we had a new; dad always had a new car every two years. Not that we could afford it, but that was my father. [says with a smile] And we could have got there.

FL: And what did you, you said they returned the car so—

SP: Eventually sometime later—

FL: So they confiscated it?

SP: Oh yes. Hmm.

FL: Okay, do you know why? Or...

SP: Who knows...you don't ask. They come out of the house; they look in the coal bin...empty the coal. [Looking] for radios. I was in— in Thunder Bay...Fort William at the time, but this mother told me. And they looked under mattresses looking for radios. We had a radio [Filco] it

was there. [laughs] Standing in the corner...in the living room. [says with a laugh] And uh, uh nothing. [shrugs] I don't know any more about that.

FL: Okay. When your father got out, were you home the day he got out?

SP: Oh yes...I never forget it. It was very...it becomes more traumatic as you get—it's strange as you get older and uh, when you're young you take a lot. You don't realize how could I do that, I couldn't do today what I did. You know, you're young, but when you're young you just do things. You jump and you can't do it now. But you do things, and the trauma— it wasn't as traumatic. No matter what people say, it's not as traumatic as it is when you get older and you think back, how could that be? How could I, how could I...you just do. You're a youngster and you can tolerate a lot. That's why we're young. So, but I remember him coming home, it was late at night. Gordy picked him up somewhere. Railway station I guess and he came in the front door. It was a cold night and it was January. About 11 or midnight something like that. And this man came in with his overcoat on. [hunches over in his chair and pretends to pull his coat down over his shoulders] Sat down and hardly saw his face. Because he just came in a few steps, we have the vestibule and then the hallway. And then you come in the first chair he came in he sat down. And I saw a bit of his face. And all I saw was the white head. [touches his hair] And he didn't have a white head when he went in you know. Well, grey hair not white. But it was black. And I remember that. And his shoulders shuddering a bit a guess. Sobbing. That, that I remember, and I remember that at the time, obviously it must have impressed me because I remember it very clearly but not with the same emotion it does now. As you get older you get more sentimental. More feeling for other people's feelings, other animals, whatever. As you get older you become— I hope more sensitive.

FL: And so you, and from that time on, and your dad came home and he was quite upset—

SP: Yes, and then he went to, to uh, these various politicians. The Chief of Fire Department, Chief O’Kelly. These were all friends of my father’s— they’d been to our house. Entertained at our house. And uh, couldn’t do anything for him. Couldn’t, wouldn’t or whatever. I uh...in retrospect I think it’s because some other people were taking on ...they’re going to let these guys go. Somebody was promoted...if that’s possible. I don’t know. It’s uh...but anyway he wasn’t taken back. But apropos to that...very interesting story. When he got out of the navy...oh, then he was hired and went down to Washington with anyway, Canadian [joined] the staff. But, when he died, there wasn’t much money coming in pension wise because he lost his pension from the fire department. I don’t think he lost [anything] they paid him off after 25 years they gave him a couple of thousand dollars. And uh, I don’t think he ever should have accepted it, but at that time it was dire need. And he accepted it. Uh, but there was, well, anyway there’s no pension and uh...he was, I’ve lost my thread here...what were you saying?

FL: Just asking about after, after that time that your dad came home?

[30:16.9]

SP: Oh yes! So when he come out of the navy, my older brother uh, I was home, of course I was out of the navy the war was over but they were older, and the Italians older. The older ones, you know they go over. And [he] went to the Canadian legion they were shocked why; when he comes out of the navy didn’t he come to us? Of course then the war was freshly over. He was uh, uh Fire Marshal in the navy and all this sort of...we would have got his job back and probably would have got a promotion which probably would have come due anyway, but we didn’t. [says with a shrug.]

FL: Uh, before we leave that time in terms of talking a little bit more about how, which, just maybe a little bit more about the history before your dad went. Since the fire department

didn't take him back, but did your dad tell you any stories about what he did in that time in the internment camp?

SP: In the camp? No, not much. Not much. I, I know some stories he said. One was that uh, he was working alongside everyone knows Franceschini, the millionaire at the time...builder in Toronto. Working beside him with a shovel. And one of the guards [goated] him a bit, not my father, Mr. Franceschini "the millionaire and now you're shoveling." And he, I remember what he said, Mr. Franceschini replied to the guards said, "I made my fortune this way I had my hands and bloodied hands, it doesn't hurt me, I can still do it." That, I remember that. That's and you know you remember a little segment here, and over and a little segment here. [says with a smile]

FL: Now, what about these, I you have a drawing or you have a copy of the drawing.

SP: Uh hmm. [nods]

FL: So, did your dad talk about how that came to be, [this] drawing?

SP: Well no, except that the, this artist in the camp did them. He made the frame, the wooden frame.

FL: Your dad made the frame?

SP: Yes. The frame in this next room. It's a plain frame and it's varnished you know.

FL: Your dad did some carving.

SP: No, it wasn't carved, it was just cut, four pieces of wood cut at an angle, 45 degrees and put together. And nothing special -- just the frame.

FL: Okay, and did he make anything else while he was in there?

SP: Well he made uh...yes, uh he made a suitcase which he brought home it was wood and uh, it was well made had the top on it and click with a little lock. I'm not sure there was a lock but the little snap things that you close with...we still have them today you know. And uh, varnished and uh natural coloured pine. And uh, unfort—well, you keep these things around for years and I always was the one, things ended up in my house because the others...I don't know why but they ended up here, and uh, and it was here for the longest years, many years and then it got sort of tattered and then broken up and uh and probably through misuse and lack of care or whatever. Finally I said to my wife, "What am I going to do with this?" And nobody wants it well...you can't keep it forever. And that was the only thing that I know of that he made.

FL: Do you know if your parents wrote letters back and forth?

SP: Oh yeah! They did indeed, yes. Unfortunately my sister took it upon herself when my mother died to destroy all these. Because they were very personal--there were love letters. I'm sure they weren't uh in Shakespearean poetic form. They were very personal love letters. [laughs] You can use your imagination. And she thought, well they were very personal.

FL: Now were these letters from their courtship or were these letters from when he was in the camp?

SP: Oh yes, we're speaking about the camp.

FL: Yes, okay.

SP: Yes. Yes, from the camp of course.

FL: They were very personal letters.

SP: Oh yes, about—

FL: [unclear]—

SP: Sexual I suppose and my sister decided...I said well "Lee it doesn't matter" but anyway, they're gone.

FL: Okay.

SP: Along with many pictures.

FL: Okay.

SP: That's the way she handled things, so we all handled things differently.

FL: Okay, so you mentioned uh, that eventually your dad went to work in Washington but can you just elaborate in detail...he didn't get his job back at the fire uh, station, and so what did he do in those—I know he had...

SP: Oh! When he came out, yes when he came out, he worked for [Gallows] Bakery at night they gave him his job so whatever he was doing. I mean I worked there myself before the war

as a 15 year old slicing the bread in the machine, and I guess my father's doing much the same thing cause he wasn't the baker. So whatever had to be done...put it though the machines or they would wrap it or whatever, that's...but it was all [unclear] type of job. Then, then he worked as a taxi cab driver that was very demoralizing and embarrassing for him. But he was very strict; we never talked...uh used dirty language around the house or uh sexual language. And uh, and he was being the driver and in the rear view mirror the goings on in the back seat...[frowns] he was very disgusted and, but would never tell us, but I can imagine people— children of his own age. Passengers the age of his own children you know. And but...then out of the blue, well it couldn't have been out of the blue but for as far as my memory...I was away I was in Toronto by then, studying at the conservatory and uh, he was hired by the Canadian government in the Naval Service to work in Washington with the Canadian Joint Staff, Naval Services. So they...that was very, very happy years for them. They lived on Pennsylvania Avenue in a nice little apartment. As a matter of fact I think that's the White House is on Pennsylvania Avenue anyway, I'd been there to visit them you know. Anyway they were happy and he was happy.

[36:25.3]

FL: How many years after would that be? [That they]...

SP: Hmm...I, I'm only guessing, I'd say he came out in '46, in the Navy— no he came out in, whatever.

FL: [41?]

SP: Yes. [Frowning and waving hands to confirm that he doesn't know what year exactly].

FL: [Of the internment?]

SP: Yeah, yes. And then the war was over and he was out of the navy in say '40, '46. End of '45, so [counting silently on fingers] about 1950. Somewhere there. I'm guessing pretty close I think. And uh, then they went to Washington—yes, it was before then, it was actually I remember it was 1949. Because he had gone already down there and mum was up here. And her father, well...we're digressing [it's like an old story.] Well I know it was 1920 or—because her aunt Mary had a red cherry dress on and she only wore that dress on Sundays so you know. [laughs] So I don't want to go that route, but I'm saying it's more or less that [day.] [says with a laugh] I remember my grandf—her father died and it was in '49. And he wasn't here for it. He was already down there settling up, and so my mother went down. So it was before, so it was in '48, '49 he went down and my younger brother then finished his uh schooling. He graduated St. Pat's and then went to university in Washington. [smiles] That's it. And that uh—

FL: And just going back to um, you know your dad...the experiences of the internment and he, he definitely showed some trauma when he came home. Uh, sounds like he didn't really talk a lot about it afterwards, uh other—

SP: [sighs and shakes his head] No.

FL: other than [getting his job back].

SP: No, never talked about it.

FL: No okay, so...

SP: He was uh...he was very active in the Italian community. He was a leader; he was that type of person. That's why the band and you know...many, many things. The bazaars, [the Sundays] at St. Anthony's Church, very involved in gathering food. The, the lady next door, old granny Murphy, she was...uh she supported that church she'd go all, so my dad would drive her around to Clark's [Dairy], to get food or get— free so they can use them for the bazaar so he was always involved in things with the church and with the uh community. Italian community. But when he came out, he wanted no more to do with the Italian community. I don't want to have...that time to clear your memory and I don't want to have anything to do with them. [says with hands up in the air]. There were certain elements in the community which I won't—can't, I won't mention, but certain elements in the community who he felt— my older brothers felt, and I have reason to believe too, who...hmmm, were instrumental in putting, in naming names. [says with a shrug] They were the certain Italians...they, they belonged to uh, well, not my father but there was a see at the church I was a [unclear] what the hell did I know? Pardon my language but it was, it was a great thing, we used to have fun. We used to go to summer camp. We'd have a band, play the [bugle], we went to all kinds of things, we didn't have boy scouts, so we did this and it was great fun. Uh, so my father uh and many people thought Mussolini was great. Uh, just finished reading Conrad Black's uh Franklin D. Roosevelt. It was, you know, you don't measure that by the pages, you measure that by the weight. It was several pounds, and he quotes many letters that he had written to my dear Duce...my dear Mussolini. And he thought he was a great man, a lot of people did. But I don't think Roosevelt was a fascist. Neither was my father, but he thought well, they're doing good things, they're going to school, they're doing the railways, they're doing many good things. So that's in as far— I know, I know he definitely he never, never had a *tessera*. Which is, you're a-what do you call it? Membership card of the fascist party.

[40:39.2]

FL: Was he a member of the Sons of Italy?

SP: Oh yeah, he was president. Yeah.

FL: Okay.

SP: Yeah, yeah.

FL: So this is one of the—

SP: Well so was Mr. [Cosentini].

FL: Uh hm.

SP: You know I like Mr. Cosentini but between the two of them... [laughs and motions fingers back and forth.] He... [laughs], so back and forth type of thing yeah.

FL: So this is one of the reasons he probably got rounded up?

SP: Sure. And he was a man of influence. And uh...nice home, and knew these politicians and all that. And, and uh his son and daughter had [been to] Italy with the fascists. Gordy was the first one to go in 1934, or six, they went over in a [tramp steamer]. The only reason he went, my older brothers...was he didn't want to go, Bill. So Gordy went. And uh, they came back on the [wreck] so, but my sister went over in 30... [pause] '37, yes. With a few others, but [shrugs] I, I would have gone but I was too young. Anyone, well most of the kids went. I think it was 60 dollars you paid and had a trip to Italy. And you had fun. [smiles] We didn't have any boy scouts to do that. [laughs] No, it was really, it was really I can honestly say from the bottom of my

heart it was completely, completely innocent. Completely. [says sincerely with hands folded together in front of him and then coughs] Completely. No, undoubtedly.

FL: And so when your father was though in the camp, he wrote letters to your mother. Do you know if he appealed his, his incarceration or...

SP: Not that I'm aware of. [shakes head no] No. I remember seeing this, unfortunately this my sister destroyed also. A letter from Judge Hyndman saying, and I remember reading this as a— foolscap [measures length of paper with hands] and it was only about this much of the page [holds hands about 30 cm apart] that's how clearly I remember it. Used, and the rest was the signature. And you know the size of foolscap. Saying this man should never have been interned. And his daughter was a [normal] Canadian girl, she was married to this man who was in a high position and in the [war] industry, and uh, anyway there was no, anyway I can't expand on that except that's the way it was.

FL: And were you, you said you joined the navy at the time. Did you lie about your age?

SP: Oh yeah. Uh huh. That was a very good story. I said I was 22 but to get rum on board a ship if you're in the navy, you're allowed to get in at 17 or 18. But you didn't get rum until your were 21. So I said I was 22. So I was getting my [laughs] my rum. At, I said this is going to be— wow it was like molasses. Like overboard you know...until some of the guys were like, what are you doing? Give it to me. [laughs] So I was giving it away.

FL: And did you, you said your brothers as well?

SP: My brothers joined the army. [nods] I was first I think. Yeah.

FL: So the three brothers, or the older brothers...

SP: Yeah, uh hmm. Uh hmm. [In the army]—

FL: At the same time as your father was interned?

SP: No, well when he got out.

FL: Oh so this is when he got out. But you joined when your father...

SP: No, when he got out.

FL: Oh, it was after the internment, after...

SP: Yeah, well because uh—

FL: Oh, okay.

SP: Yeah well because, yeah, because I don't— yeah the war really it was 1940, but a lot of people joined then. But it wasn't the big thing yet. You know.

FL: So you, when you talked about sending money home, that was in the time period after your dad lost his job?

SP: Oh yeah.

FL: Couldn't go back to the good paying job that he had.

SP: Uh hmmm. [nods]

FL: So [he] helped, you helped them, okay.

SP: Uh hmm.

FL: Um, and how do you— how you mentioned that your dad didn't talk about that experience of being interned. Other than, you know you talked a little bit about his physical description. He now had grey hair where he didn't nine months before let's say.

SP: Uh, six, seven.

FL: Seven months before. Um...how— do you know how your dad felt about...I mean you mention you accepted the situation?

SP: Yeah—

FL: Do you know how he felt about, having had to—

SP: Heartbroken more than bitter. Now, I'm, I'm saying that now I'm assuming. I think that was at, 'cause I got the feeling he was hurt, heartbroken. But he never felt bitter. Against Italy did, some of the Italians...not Italy—yeah Italy too. He never had been back to Italy, ever. I sent my mother in 50 something. I was 30 at that time, making money so I sent her to visit. And she found out the oranges weren't that big. [smiles and laughs] But my father had never been back. Uh... [shrugs and holds hands apart]

[45:21.7]

FL: How old was your dad when he passed away?

SP: 73. So my oldest brother said, "I'm going to die the same as my dad. At 73." And he did. I never said that, neither did my brother. So, [laughs]...

FL: Probably good. [laughs]

SP: I, I outlived uh Gordy, who died he was 94...uh, and uh, we'll see.

FL: So when you say your dad was heartbroken, was he heartbroken—

SP: I think so.—

FL: At the fact that he didn't get his job back. Or was he heartbroken that the government felt that—

SP: No. He was heartbroken because he didn't get his, he wasn't back...he had a great pride. It was a great pride to him to be an officer and...and I seem to be, I don't mean to dwell on that, but you got to go back to 1940 and the '30s when I was a kid. Even [unclear] I was called [looks up and shrugs] some unpleasant names too, uh Mussolini and all that, I'm in uniform with the other guys and I pounced but, but it was different you didn't get jobs either. I remember a great, great friend of mine [Rudy Capagraco] running for [alderman] we sort of, I didn't joke about it. A great— he was a school mate of mine, at Dante Academy, which is now St. Anthony's. Uh, tried and tried, eventually he got in. But some people [joking about it] [unclear]

you know, being Italian you never, but, but it's not that way now. As you know. So, but you don't know how...how we were—

FL: So the experience—

SP: We, we, we were [rubbing his head and looking for the words]

FL: The experience of discrimination, so was that before your dad was interned, as well as after?

SP: Oh, discrimination was before. That's why when I said I don't...dwell on the thing that he was a fireman and an officer; it just was so... anachronistic it just didn't happen. What was he doing on there? Why wasn't he with a pick and shovel? Why didn't he have a fruit store?

FL: Uh hmm. [quietly agrees]

SP: And but when I was a kid I never thought of it...my dad's a fireman. [shrugs] But I never thought anything out of it. I remember the nurse, the separate school nurse, Ms. Stewart would visit us once a while and I'd...some years later I looked at what she'd written. And Sam, that's what they called me, Pantalone. Father, labourer [pretends to fill out the form] didn't ask us. Assumed he was a labourer. And that's what they were. They essentially assumed probably...incorrectly but probably, in all probability and didn't think of asking. It was...

FL: Okay.

SP: And I think I was probably the only one at school— no, Minister [Capagreco] had a [tailor in cleaning?], Mr. uh Mr. [Capagreco] I meant. Mr. [unclear] had a shoe shop. Another one, but mainly they all were labourers. Yeah.

FL: And during the time that your dad was interned, uh you mentioned you were friends with the [Cosentini's]—

SP: [Cosentini's] [nods in agreement]

FL: Tiezzi's...do you remember any stories or any experiences of how they uh Italian community treated your family? At that time. Were they supportive, not supportive?

SP: You mean before the war?

FL: Your dad, well, no just when your dad—

SP: When he was taken away?

FL: Yes, when he was taken away.

SP: Well not that, not directly to me. I didn't ever hear anything. Uh, good, [you've got you're come up and]...I didn't hear any of that. No. Whether it happened or not I don't know. But certainly not to my, not directly to me. Because I still went to the village. [unclear]

FL: Uh hmm.

SP: Uh, it was a bit of a thing that we lived up the hill. But I never thought anything of it, that's where I was born. And the Murphy's next door, the [unclear] across the street, the Mulligan's across the street. We were just, we were the [Cornwall's] you know, and we didn't live in the Italian community. Maybe by that...but we never spoke Italian at home. My mother did of course. But I never spoke a word in my life. To my father in Italian...neither did he to me.

FL: So how did these families, the Mulligan's and you mentioned—

SP: Well, they were our neighbours yeah.

FL: But during the time that your dad was—

SP: Oh, they were very supportive.

FL: Okay.

SP: Yeah, there's a letter from Mrs. Murphy saying what a gentleman Mr. Pantaloni-eh, Pantaloni whatever they pronounced in those days. I, we always said Pantaloni, except my wife [looks to her in the room] who's Anglo-Saxon says Pantaloni-eh. [pronounces the name Panaloni and laughs] Not Pantaloni-ey, Pantaloni-eh.

[50:02.8]

FL: So you remember a lot of support then, while your dad was interned?

SP: No, no, no support or no nothing negative or positive. Things just went along.

FL: Okay, so things were more or less normal? The fact that—

SP: Just yeah, just yes.

FL: The fact that your dad was—

SP: Except that we didn't, we didn't have a position, or my father didn't. But nothing changed for us.

FL: Did you lose the house? There was a threat of losing the house in terms of no income or...

SP: Well it could have...it could have. But within...we cut the house in half and rented the top part. That was, that was 25 dollars a month rent in those days. So the whole top of the house. But this is 1941 or whatever. So, 25...

FL: 25 [that's how...]

SP: 25 dollars. And—

FL: So, so, just today you said your dad was more heartbroken that he didn't get his job back, so the issue of compensation, if your dad was here today and um, this issue of the official apology...how would your dad feel about that? And I'm going to ask you how you feel about that but...

SP: No, no. Oh yeah, don't ask me because I have—

FL: Well [I will ask you.]

SP: Yeah, okay.

FL: [laughs]

SP: My father I don't know. I think he, gosh you know it's hard to read someone else [sighs]...my father had a rather vulgar saying. "Bury me upside down so they can all come and kiss..." [laughs and puts arms out to the side] So I don't think he'd—that's what he would say to them. Not now, it's too late. I think...they didn't—nothing happened. I don't—. They can't—you can't give him his life back. If they could give him his life back and time, he'd be grateful. And maybe I feel, well okay. You want my opinion?

FL: Yes. Your opinion. And how today, knowing—

SP: Well my father...you see I've got some clippings from my father's interview by the Ottawa Journal. At the time, and he said, "I'm not asking for much, just this is how we felt in our family." Asking for— "not Canadian, I'm just asking for British justice. For just plain British justice." That's how he felt. British justice, because we didn't have Canadian [unclear] it was British. So we felt that way, when in '39 when the King and Queen came here, uh, I was there when they unveiled the monument...I was [one in] the crowd sitting at the corner where the post office was, and I remember at that time, my father came home and he said, "yeah, the King passed right by me." He was in a guard at the Chateau Laurier, could almost have touched them you know. He was proud of that. He was very...but we that's the way it was in those days so I think everyone probably felt it. We were Canadians and being Canadian was part of that, that was our heritage. But it's not that way now, with all the young people now. Even, never mind Italian, any young people today, whether they be Irish or Polish whatever they don't feel

this— but at that time you have to look at it in that time, and we felt that way, at least my family did. [puts hands to chest]

FL: And did that change after the internment?

SP: No....no because my father then was just— joined the Royal Canadian Navy. He felt very [smart] about saluting and all that. He was back in uniform again. With a white hat too, being not, not a, I mean a peak hat not a [unclear] here. Of him in an officer's hat, you know what I mean? So he...I mean he never mentioned it again. He...it never came up. He was happy in Washington. He was demoralized driving a taxi and all those other things but when he was in Washington that compensated for a lot.

FL: Okay.

SP: And he was...I never, ever heard him say about the fireman who voted against him. I, I don't know why but he never. I've got the article here. And uh, I've got it downloaded and everything too on my computer. Uh...I think if had they voted for him he would have gone back.

FL: Were there...you said this article, was this just after the time period he was out?

SP: No, this was uh—

FL: How long after this interview?

SP: Oh, no it was after uh in the '40, after he came out. [clears throat]

FL: Just in those—

SP: When he was asking for British Justice that's all.

FL: In terms of getting his job back?

SP: Uh hmm.

FL: Okay, which he never did.

SP: Which he never did. No.

FL: And you never heard him talk negatively about the fact that the Canadian government interned him. Uh, it was mostly the heartbroken part of—

SP: No, he, we never ever...uh [coughs] I dig down deep in my mind [coughs] pardon me. But...excuse me. [takes a drink of water] I can't remember any, ever, ever knocking the Canadian government...never. Because you see he worked for the Canadian government when he was in Washington too. And that provided him with some very good, happy years too.

FL: Uh hmm.

[55:13.2]

SP: We never, I guess he never had the standard of living he had before. Although in Washington they lived well. Having cheap whiskey, cheap everything, tax and cheap you know, being uh, uh a foreign embassy. Yeah. So, that was kind of good, he felt good about that. [laughs] Bought a new car, loved that. Tax free. [laughs]

FL: Uh hmm. And how do you feel about the internment of your dad?

SP: Well I don't feel it was um, I don't feel it was unfair. I...I know I'm swimming against the stream but so do the salmon. Crazy, there must be a way to go around...that's what they do. But anyway...I, it was a necessary thing. I really believe...the Japanese too. I can't believe that if the Japanese had invaded the west coast. And there were a lot of Japanese there, and there was a possibility they could have, with submarines. I can't see the Japanese old mother's..."oh let's kill them." She'd see him as one of her own children. It's a normal, you've got to look at it that way, it's a normal thing. And uh, we were and as far as [us] I can't see any Italian woman...let's say an Italian prisoner escaped from Petawawa or wherever. Not we not the Canadian-Italians, but let's say they were captured in North Africa, which they were surrendering by the hundreds of thousands at a time. And most of them were in England, we had some here. I think. [nods] Any case, I can't see if they knock on the back doors [unclear] I can't say an Italian woman saying [unclear], call the police. [pretends to pick up the phone and then shrugs] I can't see it. Not that they were not good Canadians... [shrugs] You, you, people can't, that's how I feel. And I'm staunchly Canadian. But, if someone, if it happened to me now and if I was in that situation an Italian...I'd say yeah, "I'd help you but I'm sorry I'm going to have to hold you here and report you." I would. My, I don't think the older people would have. [shrugs] So...

FL: So compensation for you...for the, those, you know any financial compensation or apology is important [unclear]?

SP: [sighs] No...not important, not one iota. No. Politicians get...I've said this before and you've heard me say it before. And I'll say it again. As often as I have to...a politician will give you 100 apologies for your vote. That doesn't mean a thing. Just like they twist us, they make us believe

what they want and some politician for Laval or wherever he was put this forward an apology. What does he know about, he wasn't here. It, it, it, it, its self-aggrandizement as far as I'm concerned for him. He wasn't here; he doesn't know what it was about. And what's so good an apology...they're gone. [shrugs] You can't apologize to me. Although some of my father's grandchildren feel a little differently about it. They're the same thing...they don't know. There's war. War is on. And my older brother who just passed away he said, he told his children, "forget about it. It's in the past. It's gone." Many things happen in the past. You can't carry it around with you forever. Should Rome go back and take England? They did have it once right. [pause] Yeah.

TT: I was wondering how exactly did your father get hired with the Canadian navy? After being an internee?

SP: [laughs] You...isn't that a conundrum? How. [holds hands out] He was an enemy alien, he's in a prisoner of war camp, and then he's in a navy uniform.

FL: But how many years later?

SP: It was still during the war. How long could it be?

FL: Oh during the war.

SP: Oh during the war of course he joined. It was during the war.

FL: Oh, I understood it as after—

SP: No, no during the war. He joined during the war. And he came out in '41 and I think in '40, '43 he was back in uniform with the Canadian navy. During the war. Explain that to me. [says with a laugh] Then he should have gone and said give me my job back, I'm a veteran, I've just come back now. He had medals and so forth.

FL: But he didn't.

SP: But he didn't. He, none of us...we're all stupid. It didn't occur to us. "Well it's over it's done, they're not going to." But he could have, it's a good question though, but exactly. And...

TT: And what exactly was his position then with uh the navy?

SP: In the navy? He was a uh [Petty] Officer. Uh, commission I think would be just a bit too high...for an Italian. [laughs] During the war. But—

FL: But what was he doing in the States then eventually?

[1:00:06.8]

SP: Oh, he was uh, with the Canadian Joint Staff. He didn't have a high position. But you know, working there for them. I guess whatever they asked him to do...I don't know.

FL: Okay but—

SP: He didn't clean floors.

FL: That wasn't the navy though?

SP: No uh...the Canadian Joint Staff Naval attaché. Canadian.

FL: Okay. When was—

SP: That was after the war now—

FL: But when was it that he became a Fire Marshall, was that with the navy?

SP: Yeah, the Canadian navy.

FL: So that's how he was hired—

SP: I got pictures of him, yeah with the sailors and there...they've all got the sailor's uniform and he's got the [motions wearing a hat and points to buttons on uniform] the buttons, the brass buttons.

FL: So his fire fighters experience is where he [unclear]—

SP: Yes, yes, oh that's right. That's why they [did] accept him in the navy.

FL: Okay.

SP: And but it was an ammunition dump. Could have done a lot of damage. Why would you put an enemy alien there? [laughs]

FL: Okay. Alright, well thank you very much for your...

SP: Ahh, you're welcome. [says with a smile]

FL: For your time. Is there anything else that you would like to share, uh about your dad, not necessarily about the internment, but just uh this is an opportunity for you to share with the public, because as you know this video will be seen by others, um things that you want us to remember or...

SP: Oh, well I'm sure something will come to mind later. But, you know...I know he was a very proud person. This is probably why I think maybe he wouldn't accept any of this stuff. [motions hands in a small wave] Uh, you had your chance before type of thing— not a chance when you should have done it. And uh...but the Canadian see, what I don't like about this is to raise our, our...our position ours, children of the internees, to raise our position, we have to denigrate the Canadian government which I don't want to do. They did what they had to do. We were unfortunate victims as my older brother said, well they should have just [unclear] before he died. "Dad wasn't a hero." I'm surprised he'd say that, because he's a lovely man my brother, but he [wasn't a cerebral] person to think of that but he thought of that. And I thought, of course he wasn't. A victim. But not a victim of the Canadian government, a victim of Italy declaring war against us. That's how I feel. And I feel my father'd feel the same thing. That's why he said, "those damn fools, they expect to win a war with guitars." I'm sorry this comment I know goes against the grain, of everyone else, but I'm sorry that's how I honestly feel. And I'm, I'm very proud of my Italian heritage, everything the Italians have accomplished of course, I'm the very first to say "hey, the Italians they invented that." [sits up tall in chair and declares cheerfully] "they did this and that." But I'm first and foremost Canadian. When I first went to Italy to study, I said...I landed in Naples. And they said "*Americani*..." [unclear] American in that line up there. And at home, I'm a wop. Here I'm an Americano. What the heck? I said, "what am I?" So, I guess all these little things happen to you, you know where you belong. I don't belong

in Italy. I, I like it...we go there every year. Think of, we rent a villa. I was thinking of buying one, but everyone said you're stupid you've got to worry about the floods and the [unclear] [laughs] just rent one. I said, yeah. But my wife, she's Anglo-Saxon, but she feels so, and she's not very well but she feels so healthy there. I'm not sure why...the allergies, everything, she feels good. So, like, so we do love it...don't get me wrong. But it's not, I realize what I am. I'm not Italian. Italian heritage. [says with a half shrug] A lot of Italian experience. I speak Italian...so, so. I mean quite reasonably well. Not with uh, [Francesca] of course. But I'm not going to be [laughs] she speaks so well so. But I, with my friends in Italy I speak Italian of course. But I know where I belong and this is where I belong. And I'd still be over there Americano I'm sure. As you would be...you may not think so, but you are. When I was living in England, while I was working there too actually in the theatre, there's some French Canadians and they were all doing their PhDs and so forth. At the college. And they said "you know, we feel more at home here in England. Than we do in France." Because France is European, but in England it's where we got our her— whether we know it or not, whether we appreciate it or not, our heritage in American, Canada comes from England. Not from Italy or France. We've acquired some of the German, Italian and so forth here...makes it multicultural but multiculturalism doesn't mean a [unclear] to me from the first day Trudeau brought it in I say it's going to ruin— it's a big boarding house. Everyone's going to remain the way—bring their culture here. Bring it here! Share it! But don't [motions hanging on] live it to the exclusion of everything else. I'm sorry I'm giving a speech now. [laughs] That's the way I feel.

FL: Well I said if there's anything else you wanted to say.

SP: Well I didn't think of that really but... [laughs]

FL: Well thank you very much.



*Italian Canadians as Enemy Aliens:
Memories of World War II*
901 Lawrence Ave. West
Toronto, ON M6A 1C3
T: 416-789-7011 F: 416-789-3951

SP: Ah, well it's a pleasure.

[camera fades out]

[1:05:33.3]

[End of Interview]