

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

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**NAME OF INTERVIEWEE:** Antoinette McDermott

**NAME OF INTERVIEWER:** Stephanie Petrilli

**NAME OF VIDEOGRAPHER:** Scott Pollock

**TRANSCRIBED BY:** Scott Pollock

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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**

Antoinette [Toni] Olivieri was born in Hamilton, ON. Her grandfather, Anthony [Antonio] Olivieri, owned a grocery store on Sherman Avenue in Hamilton. She describes both the

commercial and social activities that took place there. Antonio and his wife migrated from Italy in the 1920s to Canada and pursued many entrepreneurial activities - family business affairs - upon arrival. She describes the family's involvement with St. Anthony's Church and the role the Church played in the Italian community in Hamilton. Throughout the interview, Antoinette reads from her mother's journal, citing passages that describe the sense of fear growing throughout the Italian community as the war progressed. She suggests her grandfather was interned on the grounds of his involvement with the Sons of Italy in Hamilton, but repeatedly emphasizes his pride of being Canadian and holding no grudges despite his nearly two-month long internment. The journal entries describe how her grandfather changed as a result of the interment, acknowledging how reticent he was about talking about the event at home and to family members. As time passes, she describes how her father quickly returned to his former self, being a warm, open and joyful man – who love music and family - that helped numerous Italian immigrants out and remained active in the Italian-Canadian community. She does comment on discrimination her family felt later on during the post-war period when their family moved to a new neighborhood in Hamilton. The interview concludes with a short description of the handcarved wooden objects her grandfather made in camp, a wooden spoon and letter opener, as well as descriptions of select family photographs – some of which are included in the exhibition. Antoinette also describes the impact and importance this project has had on her personally.

#### **INTERVIEW**

**AM: Antoinette McDermott, interviewee**

**SP: Stefanie Petrilli, interviewer**

**SP: Scott Pollock, videographer**

**[Others present]:**

**AK: Alison Kenzie, curator**

SP: So today is August 30th, 2001. We are here at the Columbus Centre in Toronto. I'm Stephanie Petrilli and I'm talking with Toni McDermott about the family experience during..during, World War II. So Toni, can you first...ah...tell me your full birth name.

AM: My name was..ah..Antoinette Cura.. Currado.

SP: Okay, and ah, when were you born and where?

AM: Ah, Hamilton, ah, Ontario 1944, October 28th.

SP: And how do, um, how does your family related to the project with the internment?

AM: They're quite excited about it because they, um, a lot of them didn't know about it. We all knew about it, but it was never talked about at home.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: But we all knew about it but it was never revealed. We never knew anything detailed until we're more open with these books...

SP: Okay

AM: ...and information.

SP: And for this project we are talking about your grandfather?

AM:[Nodding in agreement] My grandfather, Tony Olivieri.

SP: And his full name was?

AM: His name was Anthony [Antonio] Olivieri. No, no second names in those days.

SP: And his wife's name?

AM: Anna. Anna lola [?]

SP: And were they both from Italy?

AM: They were both from Italy. They were both married over there. Had one child over there. Came over here and had three more. Yeah.

SP: Did you happen to know where they were from in Italy?

AM: In um...Gagliano Ata, Aterno [?]. Gagliano in it's ah in L'Aquila [?].

SP: Okay.

AM: Mhmm.

SP: And do you know when they were born by chance?

AM: When they were born?

SP: Yeah.

AM: My grandfather was born in um, Octo, ah, February 28th, ah, 1883. I don't remember when my grandmother was born.

SP: Okay. And do you know what year they migrated to Canada?

AM: Ah, no, it would be in the 20s.

SP: In the 20s?

AM: I think.

SP: Ah, so ah, so was it just the two of them that came or?

AM: Ah, the two of them came with Aunt Nellie. The first child. She was, she was about 7 or 8 I think. She was a big kid.

SP: Do you know anything about their early life in Italy, what your grandfather would have done there?

AM: I have no idea of what he did over there. No, I don't know what he did. He might have been a grocer over there too.

SP: Do you know the reasons for perhaps why they decided to emigrate?

AM: Emigrate?

SP: Yeah.

AM: Ah, they emigrated probably for a better life for their families...probably.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: I don't know.

SP: And did they come directly to Hamilton or where was the first place they settled?

AM: I think so. I think they did. Yea.

SP: Did they settle right in Hamilton?

AM: Right in Hamilton. The area in Hamilton where they all settled was Sherman Avenue North.

Where all the Italians settled. And, it was not just Italian but all kinds of ethnic people...

SP: Okay.

AM: ...a lot of them.

SP: Do you know anything about your grandparents schooling, did they go to school, or...?

AM: I would say they went to school probably for grade, till grade six, if they did.

SP: Okay.

AM: Yea.

SP: Okay. And so you mentioned that your grandfather was a grocer?

AM: Was a grocer [nodding in agreement].

SP: Would you want to talk a little about his store and his life in Hamilton. What that was like?

AM: He had a great grocery store called Olivieri and Sons. It was owned by, I think the three brothers owned it, then they had, um, different people own it, just you know work together.

All the cousins worked there. My mother worked there. It was a butcher shop. I remember so vividly seeing the butcher shop with all the sawdust on the floor. And the big butcher closet with the fridge. And then the candy counter, the pies and everything was just fantastic. People coming and going all the time.

SP: Okay.

AM: Like a, like a gathering point, yea [smiling].

SP: And you mention his other brothers. What were his brothers like?

AM: His brothers were, ah, his brothers were Paul and Donald.

SP: Okay.

AM: Donato.

SP: Donato.

AM: Yea.

SP: And did they all migrate to Canada at the same time?

AM: They all came, yeah, I don't know what time though.

SP: Okay.

AM: Yea.

SP: And so they all settled in the Hamilton area.

AM: They all did in the same area. Yea.

SP: Did they all run the sa [unclear]?

AM: One of them had a hotel across the road. And then they had the store simultaneously different ones had different projects, yea. Three of them. That was in the same neighborhood.

SP: And do you remember the name of the hotel that your uncle owned?

AM: Empire Hotel.

SP: Empire Hotel.

AM: Yea.

SP: So you say your grandmother helped out at the store?

AM: No my grandmother didn't.

SP: Oh, she didn't.

AM: But my grandmother stayed upstairs. The apartment was above the store.

SP: Okay.

AM: She cooked for all these people. For all these families. The farm across the road. She cooked for all these people. My mother and her sisters worked in the store. Yea. My grandmother just cooked and cooked all day long [smiling].

SP: [laughing] And so it was, was it, ah, a building they built specifically or did they move in.

AM: They lived up, in the store, ah, the store was below the big apartment upstairs. It was, ah, two floors above. They had, they had two floors above, the, ah, store was apartment. Lots and lots of rooms.

SP: Did his brothers live, and their families live in the..

AM: They lived in the hotel across the, ah, yea. Different places.

SP: And do you remember anything, like do you remember any stories like about any social gatherings or social interactions with the Italian community at that time?

AM: They, they had a lot of um, gatherings. I think they joined the Italian Club. I..I don't know if it's Sons of Italy they did join a much or if it was around when he was younger but they, they had a lot of gatherings at the church and they played a lot of instruments. They were always playing music and having gatherings in his backyard which was quite large. They had uh, a, every night they'd have people playing guitars and having Coca-Cola and watermelon. It was always that constantly gathering. And in the store, in the back of the store they played cards.

SP: Uh ha.

AM: Yea, they had a lot of rooms.

SP: So it was all the Italian men who would, ah, would join in the store.

AM: Well they would all join in and even the Polish and the Ukrainians in the neighborhood were all good friends. They were wonderful people.

[5:13]

SP: And that was I guess my next question, was what was the ethnic makeup of that neighborhood?

AM: Yea.

SP: Was it mixed or was it just Italian, or?

AM: It was mixed. It was mixed Polish, Italian, Ukrainian, ah, I don't know what else but I know they were all mixed and they were all friendly.

SP: There was no problems between the various communities?

AM: Not that I know of. Not that I know of [laughs]...no

AM: Because I lived in the same neighborhood for five years.

SP: And you mention that your family, ah, your grandfather, would often attend church. Ah what was the local church...?

AM: The first church was Unitarian which they, when they, when they moved to the count, ah, the city, they, they kind of in the neighborhood, the, then non-Catholic church would be very good to you. And they got him into that church for a while. And then they, ah, St. Anthony's [St. Anthony of Padua Church] was built. And they got involved with the Catholic church again. Yea.

SP: So he was Catholic when he was in Italy.

AM: Yea.

SP: And then he sort a...

AM: And a lot of Italian men don't go to church anyway so, the women would do the church thing and the men would not. But this is how he got involved and they helped him out. So, yea.

SP: Do you remember any of the names of any of the priests that were...?

AM: Um, well, the, the priest, the Catholic priest was Father [Charles] Mascari. Yea and Father Bonomi. I think his name was. But Father Mascari was the famous family member, family friend. Yea. Started at St. Anthony's.

SP: Okay, so we were talking about ah, religious life in Hamilton during that time, the various groups and the social aspects that your family was partaking. Um, one other thing that you did mention was that your grandfather was part of a social clubs. Do you know anything more about the...

AM: Not really. They just played a lot of cards and had a lot of fun. Um, probably late nights, but I don't know the details about social clubs, no.

SP: Yea.

AM: No, I don't.

SP: Do you know anything more about the, um, like the Order Sons of Italy in Hamilton?

AM: It's still going on but when it started it was just a simple club for gathering.

SP: Yea.

AM: Mostly the men. Yea. I don't know anything about it.

SP: You don't know about your grandfather's involvement?

AM: No, not really.

SP: No?

AM: No, not the serious involvement, just.



SP: And what about your, um, I know you talked about what the men did, you said they were playing cards. But what about the women? Was there any social aspects. What did your grandmother do [laughs]?

AM: My grandmother was always cooking, she was like, she had a heart condition but she was always cooking and being a wonderful person. Just at wonderful huge meals in a little tiny kitchen. Tiny kitchen, tiny sink. Uh, fantastic meals. We had Sunday dinners every Sunday as just like later on in my life we had Sunday dinner every Sunday with six course lunches. Um, social life was, I know that my mother had a good, had a good time the young people. I didn't realize that they had a lot of movies and play, plays and they went to long walks with each other. They went to the beach together. They had a good time as, in their age. That was seventy years ago.

SP: And now you mentioned your mother and you mentioned that, um, she was not, she didn't migrate from Italy she was born in...

AM: No, she was born in Hamilton.

SP: Um, what was her full name?

AM: Nida [?]

SP: Nida [?]

AM: Nida [?], yea.

SP: And when was she born?

AM: August 7, uh, August 2nd 1921.

SP: Uh huh. Okay.

AM: So my mother, my grandfather must have come in the 18, in 19, between 19, before 1921. Yea.

SP: And so it was just the two daughters that they had?

AM: They had, uh, no they had two daughters. They had the older daughter, mom, and then Aunt Rose who was born in 1923.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: And then her son, her son Dr. 'Red' Olivieri Fernando [Fernando Anthony Olivieri] was born in 1925.

SP: Okay.

AM: Yea.

SP: So did your mom tell you any other stories about going to the beach? What life was like prior to the war?

AM: Just had a good time. She was young, um. They just had a good time. They seemed to have a good life. She read a lot of books.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: She worked in the store. That was the job. They didn't go to work an, anywhere but they worked it the store for the father.

SP: Yea.

AM: And then the son went to medical school.

SP: Oh wow.

AM: Yea.

SP: And your mother, did she go to school in Hamilton?

AM: She went to Central, yea. She went to St. Anne's. And then Central Collegiate and she got some scholarships and things, yea. The she finished high school.

SP: And did she go on to do any work afterward?

AM: She wanted to be a journalist.

SP: Oh.

AM: But she couldn't. Um, the education went to the son.

SP: Wow.

AM: Oh, that' s too [gestures at camera].

SP: [laughing]

AM: The son. I mean, it's just simple acceptance. The son got the, uh, he became a doctor. He was the first pediatrician in Hamilton, Italian. Very, very well-known. Very wonderful person. Yea.

SP: Um, is there any other, ah, stories you want to share with us about your grandparents, maybe you know how they met or anything about their marriage?

AM: I don't know how they met, but the marriage was very nice. I don't know details, but it was, from what I, like, when she died I was ten when he died I was twelve.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: Buy I spent a lot of time with them. But she didn't speak English very well. He did. He lived with us too. But she didn't, she didn't speak English so. But when my mother took her shopping every week, and I went with her. And, ah, she would give me all the change from the store. I'd always hang around for the change from the purchases. Um, she was a wonderful person but mom, um, looked after her parents and the other aunts, one aunt moved away so they were always around but visiting and they were really good to their parents.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: Yea.

[10:02.0]

SP: And what about your mother, did um, she obviously married and had her own family.

AM: Yea.

SP: Do you want to talk a little bit about your mom?

AM: My mom? Yea, she, um, her older sister Nellie [?] married a, a fella that was a tailor, Alpidio [?]. So he, uh, brought home a, a fellow tailor one day, it was my dad. He brought him home from Coffee Noise [?] in Hamilton. And he was about twenty-nine or so. And my mother met him. And, uh, my mother was about twenty. And they fell in love and got married about a few months later, a year later in 1942.

SP: '42

AM: Yea. And then she had six children. Mom [smiles]. And she didn't work outside the home because she had all these kids.

SP: [laughing] Okay, so ah...I don't know if you know anything about the sort of political organizations or any of the political vibe in Hamilton prior to the war, um, you know there a few organizations that could have had fascists. Do you know anything about them?

AM: I don't know anything about them, except what I've read.

SP: Okay.

AM: Just what I've read. And I know there was different divisions like there was the Racalmututo [Racalmutese] group. There's the other groups. Different groups. I'm not sure if they were friendly with each other.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: But I know that they were all, ah, had their own little clubs. And they are still going on today, I think.

SP: Yea.

AM: Yea.

SP: Okay. And, ah, what about leading right up to the June 10th. Do you know if there was any indication in the neighborhood about something that was going to happen?

AM: Yes, I think so. The, um, down, um, they lived on Sherman Avenue near Burlington street so the barracks, they used all the barracks, were all across the road. Tons and tons of barracks. And they were always having soldiers back and forth, wandering around, into the store...for food. And they got to talking. And then eventually it became very subdued and they could sense something was happening. And then when Hitler and Mussolini allied then they sensed something was going to happen, they were afraid according to the [mother's] diary entries. They became afraid in anticipation of something serious to come. But they couldn't really pinpoint what would happen. They were just afraid.

SP: Yea. Did they notice any change between the relationship between the Italian community and the non-Italian community at that point?

AM: Yea.

SP: Or was it just, um...

AM: From what I read in the diary, um, it said, ah, they were not include, the mayor would not come to their functions after. They had festivals every summer and he refused to come towards that time. So I guess he sensed something and they sensed something, yea. So that's the only thing I read that's, how I found out.

SP: So a little bit of discrimination.

AM: Yea. A little bit starting.

SP: So to move onto ah, the internment period. So it was your grandfather that was arrested and interned?

AM: Yes.

SP: Do you know the story behind his arrest?

AM: Just that my mother answered the door. I remember reading, ah, an entry in some book that said a blue-eyed, pretty young girl answered the door [laughs and gestures] She's the only one with blue eyes. And, um, answered the door at the house. And he was, he might have been in the store downstairs. And they went down and took him away. And that's the only thing I remember reading was Papa's arrested. Ah, and they took him to, they couldn't find him for a while. They took him to, I think, the CNE grounds. And they found out other people were arrested in the city at the same time.

SP: Do you know the names of the other people?

AM: The other people?

SP: Were the family friends?

AM: Family friend, Donato Olivieri, the brother. Ah, Berlino Colangelo was arres...was interned and, um, there was a, a list, a whole list of them. Tons of them.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: All kinds of people.

SP: And families were never given any indication.

AM: Not any, no. Not any indication that it was going to happen. Or they had to find them, they went around. Apparently, in the entries it said, ah, mom wrote, um, 'went looking all day, all these days, looking to see where Papa had gone. Couldn't find him.' Couldn't find anyone to tell them anything. Yea.

[13:39]

SP: And um, what's...do you know what the reaction of your grandmother was?

AM: Fear, total fear. Because she was alienated. I mean she wasn't alienated by the people, by her family, but she couldn't speak English. She was frightened. She wasn't out much. She got to church a lot. But, she wasn't, she was just fear. And the rest of the family had fear also. The whole neighborhood had fear.

SP: But, but did you find that the, um, the community came together at that point?

AM: I think they might have. They might have come together to start searching. The Italians got together to start searching. But nobody was, there was still afraid of maybe who snitched because it was the, uh, uh, the arrests, the arrests were due to becoming, being a member of these groups, these memberships, these clubs. And nobody knew who to trust.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: That's what I remember hearing.

SP: Okay, and um, what about the police, the do you remember them coming or do you know anything about them coming into the house or into the store to search for documents that they may have taken away?

AM: They might have done that but I don't remember hearing about it. They might have done that.

SP: And did you family attempt to go, once they found out where your grandfather was, did they attempt to go to, um, see him [unclear]?

AM: Yea. They weren't allowed to visit apparently. Yea, they t... probably tried to but it was Petawawa and they probably didn't have access but they probably tried to visit. And he couldn't write, didn't write letters home. I don't know how they found out things.

SP: So he didn't write anything...

AM: I don't think he wrote, maybe he did but I don't remember hearing about it.

SP: Okay. So do you know the first time they found out that he was interned, how that happened?

AM: Just, by, by, um...him coming and taking her away.

SP: Okay.

AM: And then finding out he was put into a camp. I think they found out but I don't know how.

SP: Okay.

AM: Yea.

SP: And do you know much about your grandfather's internment [unclear]?

AM: He hated it. He hated it. Apparently he tried to get out so hard. He hated it, but he made music. They made music together. They had times, they entertained each other with the music. Yea.

SP: And when he talked about his camp experience, did he ever talk about to you about friends that he might have made in camp and names of people?

AM: He didn't mention those things but he probably knew the ones that he was with and if they were with the ones from Hamilton which was quite a few they would have hung around together, trying to get out.

SP: Do you know if he did any work while he was in camp? I know you said he played music.

AM: He played a lot music with his guitar, I think, I hope he brought his guitar. I don't know if he had it. They made the utensils and things. They made things from, you know, they crafted things, I guess it's handcrafting. To keep busy.

SP: Did your grandfather do any of that sort of handwork prior to..."

AM: I think he used to carve things at home but I don't remember what. I think he always had a knife. Every Italian man I know had a little carving knife in their pocket. They did [laughing], they folded them up and they pulled them out at the table. And slice an apple. It's comical, but it's true. I don't know how clean that knife was [laughs].

SP: Did he ever talk about where they stayed in the camp? Where they slept?

AM: No. No, but it probably wasn't very comfortable but apparently, I might have read something where he was, they were treated okay after, they were treated okay. As far as I remember reading.

SP: And what about his religion? Did he have any conflicts with the non-Italian interns that were in camp?

AM: I don't know about that. No.

[16:55]

SP: And, um, you mention that he didn't have, um, access to when he received any letters or anything like that?

AM: Not that I know of. I never seen any indication of letters, but, it could be in another families member's house.

SP: Did your family try to send him, like, care packages?

AM: Probably. They probably sent food. Yeah, they might have. No doubt.

SP: Uh, life at home for your grandmother and mother. What was that like?

AM: It was stressful. They, they ran the store. The girls ran the store. Ah, my grandmother must have kept on cooking but it was probably no sleep. They were probably worried about what would happen thinking the worst because nobody knew much. And, it's a surprise of the whole thing...allying with Mussolini, er, Hitler was a shock. So that's what it was, it was an impending thing. They just didn't expect it to happen to them.

SP: Do you ever recall any, um, conversations, uh, you know that your mother shared with you or that perhaps you had with your grandfather afterwards about Mussolini? Do you know any of their feelings about fascism or..."

AM: No never.

SP: Never.

AM: Never. I always tried to think if he was a fascist but apparently he wasn't. But then secretly, he might, I don't know.



SP: It was never spoken about.

AM: It never, never spoken about. I don't think he was but I don't think it was ever spoken about.

SP: Sorry, to get back to the family store. So, uh, during the period of time that your grandfather was away, the government didn't take away...

AM: They didn't take away anything, no.

SP: So they were able to run the store.

AM: They, yep, they kept running the store.

SP: So was your grandmother and your mother...

AM: My grandmother would be upstairs. She didn't come down. It was a lot of steps. She stayed upstairs probably looking after the people cooking for all these people. Um, people that lived in the house too. And, uh, my mother and sister would run the store. Yeah.

SP: Did they get any support from the church at all?

AM: I don't know. I don't know. Because there were so many in Hamilton that were interned that might have had no money.

SP: And what about your mom. Did she, she still in school during the period?

AM: Um, she was, no she was 20.

SP: Okay.

AM: She was [thinking] 1940, she was 20.

SP: So she was finish...

AM: She was finished school. She would have already graduated. Yeah.

SP: And did they face any sort of discrimination during that time?

AM: They did. They did. They were afraid to go outside. Uh, in some of the entries [in the journal] it said they were ah, afraid to go outside not knowing who to trust. I think that's part of the, ah, the whole system is, ah, you don't know who to trust. You look around your shoulder and you don't know who to trust. Probably continue going to church, continue during your thing, but wary of other people.

SP: Okay.

AM: Yea.

SP: Did they face any discrimination, or, um, vandalism at the school?

AM: I don't think or I've never heard of any. No.

SP: So, um, just the patrons of the, of the grocery store would still continue to shop there with no...

AM: Ah, some of the people stopped coming. The navy, the army people stopped coming. People in the army stopped coming. I'm not sure, it's the only store in the neighborhood I think that they could access too so they might have kept on going. But the, certain people stopped coming. Like the army.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: And they were quite regular.

[19:58]

SP: So did your family receive any Canadian[unclear] services while your grandfather was interned.

AM: No. Nobody.

SP: What about any alien designation? Was your grandmother, did she get designated an enemy alien and have to register?

AM: I don't think so. I don't know about that.

SP: And no one else in the family that you know of?

AM: No. Not that I know of. No.

SP: And what about other internments? I know that you mentioned your grandfather had a brother...

AM: Two brothers. One stayed longer than him. Uh, Paul wasn't arrested, interned. He might have been...I don't know where he was but all I saw was Donato Olivieri in the list. And he was in there longer.

SP: And were they both arrested the same date?

AM: Yea. I think so.

SP: [unclear]

AM: I think.

SP: [unclear]

AM: Donato. I think he was arrested, yea, and they kept looking for him. Yeah. He was a bit older. Yea.

SP: And in terms of, ah, the family, your family tried to contact lawyers or anyone that could help release your grandfather?

AM: They probably did. Not that I know of. But they probably did. To try to help get him out. He was desperate. Although I don't know how he knew, how they knew he was desperate to get out. But he was desperate to get out for some reason. Maybe he didn't like the bed. I don't know. He just [laughs, shrugs shoulders] you know, or the food.

SP: Um, how did it come about that your grandfather was released?

AM: I don't know how he got out. He got out after a month or two. He wasn't in long. Yeah. He got out.

SP: The family wasn't given any advance warning?

AM: No. He just showed up. Um, August...July 17th he came home. I guess he was sent home. Maybe he got out. Um, and he, um, came home and surprised them because they had no idea.

SP: He just showed up on the doorstep?

AM: Showed up.

SP: Did your mom recount anything more about that experience?

AM: Um, in the diary it just said, 'Pop came home. We are all surprised. He is very subdued.' And he didn't want to talk about it right away. But then eventually he told them stories of the camp. And it was quite, quite nice to hear stuff. Not nice, but that he was safe. He wasn't treated badly. So far as I know.

[22:02]

SP: Toni, do you know any specific stories about his camp life?

AM: No nothing was ever revealed. No, not that I can recall.

SP: And, um. So maybe now there, you can talk about the, ah, things that your grandfather had brought back with him. You mention he didn't really want to talk about it.

AM: He didn't want to talk about it.

SP: So that was his whole life.

AM: That was, um...I never heard him talk about it because it was always hush hush. Um, I knew about it but then was, we never questioned it. It was something we were told not to talk about as kids. Um, I remember reading in the diary that he didn't, he still felt afraid when he went out. And he looked around. And he still felt afraid, but he was, she said he became withdrawn for a while then he became okay after he was fine. Then he talked about it. But I never heard stories.

SP: [unclear muttering]

AM: They might know.

SP: For you, or...

AM: Never told us, he might have told their family, but they never told us.

SP: And you never asked?

AM: No. We never, no we never did. We should have.

SP: Yeah.

AM: Yeah [smiling].

SP: Um, was your grandfather able to go right back to the store right away?

AM: I think so. Back to his business. He was a businessman with several entrepreneurial things. He was like, you know, he did all kinds of things with his job with his business. But he was a butcher and all these things. And he still held court at the store with all the people coming in and talking. He might have told them about it.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: Yeah.

SP: But there was no change in [unclear]...

AM: No changes, no.

SP: And you mention at the same time he didn't want to talk about it. Was he different with the mom and the children? Did they notice the change?

AM: Apparently they said he was, yeah. Apparently they said he was subdued, but didn't talk. And eventually he did. And I don't know how long that took? To reveal anything. Because this was a time where, while he was still work, working through it.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: Yeah.

SP: And what about his brother, did he ever try to contact his brother while he was...

AM: Probably yeah, they probably got him out too, but I don't know how. Yeah.

SP: And do you know if the brother spoke about the experience after?

AM: He could have spoke about it. But I don't know who to? Probably his own family. But he was just a lovely person, Donald. He was a lovely man. He just didn't, he just looked like a lovely, happy man. But they just didn't talk about it. Might have been, it's in the past. Let it go, but I'd love to know about it.

[24:19]

SP: So when did you learn about your grandfather's internment. Or how did you learn about it?

AM: Um, probably in the 50s. Probably in the 50s we heard about it. Probably in the family it was talked about. But it wasn't impacted in our minds as being a serious event. We didn't think about it because we weren't aware of the war. How serious it was until you go to the high school. Then you learn about the war. Then you think, wow, that happened, but it was put in the back of your mind. It wasn't really impacted as a serious event in anyone's' life. Till now.

SP: Was your grandfather treated any differently? Or was he treated any differently because your grandfather was interned? Was there any..

AM: Um.

SP: ...sort of discrimination after the fact?

AM: Um, when he was interned, we weren't born yet. But when we moved from that end of town, we lived it that end of the town for, till I was a 5. And in 1949 we moved to this neighborhood in Hamilton that was quite, um, no Italians. And we were treated badly.

[25:11]

We were treated with discrimination. In fact a petition went out to the neighbors...to the real estate man...to all the neighbors signed it. They didn't want us in the neighborhood.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: Yeah, I forgot that, yeah they did. A real estate man brought it to the house, uh, he brought it to our house one night. 1949. And said the neighbors don't want you there. And mom and dad didn't know what to do. They already bought the house. Lovely neighborhood. Um, they had three girls at the time. And, uh, the next day a lady came to the old house. Lady and her husband and a little child. And she said, "I am Sady [?] this is Harriet [?] and I'm a, a native from the Six Nations and Harriet is from Scotland and we want you in the neighborhood. And they welcomed us with open arms [raises arm]. [Laughing] They were the only ones and we moved anyway and they have been best friends to this day, to this day.

SP: Did the relationship with the other neighbors ever change though?

AM: Um, the neighbors on the corner were very religious and they liked us. But the other ones on the other side were very nice. But the ones around the corner would yell at us as we walked by. Call us D.P.'s.' They called us every name...the ah, people in the neighborhood. But other ones were just, and eventually the ethnics started moving in it, the beautiful place. And they just started...we were just nice casual people. We just were nice but we didn't make any waves. But gradually they moved into the neighborhood and everybody moved in and everybody was happy. But eventually, but for about five years we were called names. Called D.P.'s Didn't even know what it meant.

[26:39]

SP: So do you want to talk about your grandfather after the war? Um, you mention that you know there was [indication] that he was scared to go outside and get involved with the community, community again. But did he eventually join groups and...

AM: Yeah.

SP: What was like afterward?

AM: I think, I think he was fine afterwards. He became very, um, back inte- integrated, back into the community with his music, his welcoming, immigrants. He welcomed a lot of immigrants to the city. He sponsored many, many people. They were always at the house for dinner. They were always at our house for dinner. They were always, very, very, um appreciative of him. He was known as the mayor of Sherman Avenue apparently, as a little [hand-gestures quotes] sideline. Um, this is what they thought in Italy. They know him as the mayor Sherman Avenue because he was always very kind, very happy man. Yeah. Uh, and then he, I think he went back to his old life. In the background it was always there. Of why.

SP: Was he ever given a reason why?

AM: I don't think so. Just that, I think he was probably a member of the Sons of Italy group. And he wasn't a fascist. I really don't think he was. But I think this is what they, uh, thought. So they arrested anybody that had an Italian affiliation or a name. Yeah.

SP: Did he keep in touch with any of the other men that he was interned with?

AM: Probably. They were probably a lot of neighbors and friends. I think they did. I think they did, yeah.

SP: And do you know if there was any restrictions on him after his release from the internment camp? Did he have to go register every three months?

AM: I think he had to go to the R.C.M.P. and register, from what I've read.

SP: You don't know how long that would have gone on for?

AM: No. It might have been a year. I don't know. I didn't hear. I just read that he had to register at the R.C.M.P. Yeah. And they were down, they were downtown on Lister Block. You had to go down and register their, ah, presence in the city.

SP: Okay. And what about your grandmother? How did her life, did it change at all after your grandfather returned?

AM: I don't think it did. This was 1940. Um, she always had a heart condition so she was, I think she was okay with it. The family looked after her very well. She was a wonderful person. But, I don't know how it impacted her. It must have made her worry still, because she died of a heart attack so, she was young.

SP: And when did she die?

AM: 1954. She would have been sixty-three...sixty-four, so I don't know what year before that she was born. I can't remember.

SP: And what about your grandfather? How long did your...

AM: He died, he died in 1956. November from cancer. And he lived up till then.

SP: How old..

AM: After she died, he lived with us off and on.

SP: And what was life like living with them?

AM: It was great! He, oh, he, he used to um, um Papa Tony we called him [moving in chair, bumps microphone]. He always taught us music. Always had to sing. We always had a band. He always had like this [waving arms in the air]. But he always taught us Italian too. I should have brought the book. He brought, he, he um he gave us, um, notebooks from his store. And they had little women on the cover. Little notebooks that we had to write in. And I had this pulled out. I meant to bring. It's ah, every page is filled with words in Italian. We had to recite every day and each day he would give us a dollar. I got, I got a book with the dollar. I think a dollar for the, I don't know I made about ten bucks. But each page had to be recited everyday perfectly. Or he wouldn't give you a dollar. Because he sat at our kitchen table and you had to recite. And then when he went into the hospital. He was very, very ill with cancer. But he still had to have his six granddaughters, three from my, three from....my aunt...singing around his bed. And all the nurses, in Italian...all the nurses would come in and listen to this concert. I remember no songs now. I wish I did. It was really cute.



SP: Did he perform live or was it just within the house that you..

AM: In the house. He went to a lot of weddings and played at weddings and things like that. But not as a band. Just as a...spontaneous music. His big guitar. He had a mandolin. He had all kinds of things. Very versatile. And then, but with, with the grandchildren. He loved us. And he took us...every Sunday he showed up at the front door with a big, big black car. So tiny behind the wheel. And he would bring us chewing gum. He had Wrigley's from the store. He'd pull out of his pocket. Just to make a visit every Sunday to his grandchildren. Yeah. Very old.

SP: Was it important for him to, uh, keep his Italian-ess and his roots...

AM: I think so.

SP: ...the connection?

AM: Yes it was. He was very, very pro-Canadian. He was very, loved Canada. I know that. And he loved being a Canadian. But he loved being an Italian in the background. He wanted us to maintain our roots. Which is why we were taught Italian by him. And specifically every day we had to learn but none of us ever remember it. Um, yeah, he was, he was always trying to maintain with the grandchildren.

SP: So even after the internment, he didn't hold any sort of animosity?

AM: No. He didn't...

SP: He didn't want to, you know, to change any...

AM: No. He didn't alienate himself at all. He was very, very pro-Italian right to the end. Yeah.

SP: And did he hold any animosity towards Canada for interning him?

AM: He might have but I don't remember hearing it. He might have secretly. Cause he might never have found out why? Yeah.

SP: And what about your other family members. Your grandmother, your mother. Did they ever express any sort of...

AM: Never said.

SP: ...regret?

AM: Never said a word. My grandmother didn't speak much English but my mother never said about the impact on the family cause I didn't hear anything negative about anything. They wanted to go positive in case anybody was listening. You know.

SP: So when issues of the redress came up, you know, in the 80s and the apology. Did your family have any sort of opinion on that or did you have an opinion on that?

AM: Probably. That's probably when I heard most of it. Probably we all had an opinion that it's about time. But it's too little, too late because it made people think of us back then [gesturing with her hands] as bad people. Or, they were tainted people. But it wasn't that way. But this is how it should have been cleared up years ago when it happened. But never is.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: You know.

SP: What are your general feelings on the internment when you found out that your grandfather was interned and, um I guess your great-uncle was interned?

AM: Yeah.

[32:33}

SP: What were your feelings?

AM: I guess, when I heard about it, I guess we thought, uh, it's a fact of life. It's what happens when you ally with a horrible situation. But, no feelings. I guess we just thought we know he's safe now so it's in the past. You kind of block it out. But in reality he's safe now, so it's in the past. You kind of block it out. But when in reality it happened and it shouldn't have happened.

SP: Mhmm.

AM: Yeah.

SP: And I know you've had a lot of involvement in our project...

AM: Yeah.

SP: ...and you've been involved so you've learned a lot about the experience through your involvement with us. I mean, have your ideas about the internment changed at that point?

AM: Well yeah, it's um, there's more to it than I thought. This is the most fantastic project I've ever been involved with because it's, ah, it's ah revealing so much from all over the country. And all kinds of people are remembering things that they have hidden in the past. All the grandchildren are coming forward. Some of the internees are still alive, coming forward with their stories. And they are still maintaining their pride in Canada. And not, um, holding any grudges hopefully. But I'm thinking that it's this project is just, just out of this world, um, important part of history.

SP: Does it open up any, um, former relationships with other, did you reconnect with people...

AM: Yeah.

SP: ...and share stories about the internment?

AM: We have. Because we had a function in Hamilton two years ago at All Souls Church. They had a..a 70th anniversary which was just a little tiny note in the paper about it. So we got a note to go to the ceremony at the Liuna station. One of the grandchildren..ah, was there. A son or grandson of the internee spoke..ah, the fella that wrote the book was there, ah Canadazie [?]. And ah, it was a wonderful evening of people relating and getting back in touch with what, they related back then. A lot of them sat together and chatted. I didn't know what was going on. I wasn't involved as much as I am now and learning more about it.

SP: Okay.

AM: By reading the books people had related. Amazing books.

[34:31]

SP: And what about your grandfather's store. Whatever happened to that?

AM: It, um, when he died in 1956 I think they had to close the store. And, um, they closed the store. As of today I've been down...it's still there. It's the only building on the whole neighborhood. The Hamilton Steel Company has taken over the whole neighborhood. I've gone down just to take pictures of it because it's still there with the apartment above and I remember, it's just, I don't know what it is used for but it's the only building in the whole neighborhood that's still there. And uh, it looks really desolate and horrible. But, we lived, we

lived five houses down the street. We lived in, it's a wonderful neighborhood. The bakery. The farm across the road. The grocery store. The little, um, ice cream shop across the road. Ah, fantastic neighborhood until I was five. I remember. I remember going down there all the time to watch TV. Because they got a TV earlier than anybody. So. It was fun. The neighborhood was great. It's all gone now.

SP: So that was what I was going to ask about in my next question. What about, ah...what is the Italian community life like in Hamilton now, or..?

AM: Um, it's scattered. It's scattered all over. Hamilton. Ancaster. Dundas. It's everywhere. I'm not sure if it's still as involved with each other or just spreading out in their all little ways. St. Anthony's Church is still on Barton Street. It still has a wonderful community. But I don't know, except for going to funerals there how involved they are with the people together. No idea.

SP: Is there any difference, ah, after the war you mentioned your grandfather was influential in helping new immigrants come to the country. Was there any difference between the immigrants that had been here prior to the war and the ones that came afterward? Did you notice any?

AM: I think there was a difference. The ones that come earlier were more, um, maybe, needy, more needy, more humble to be here. So happy to be here. The ones that came later were very happy to be here, very, very wonderful people. But they made successful, were determined to be successful quickly. And I think they have been. They were very, very, proud. And very determined to be very, um, successful and do it in a hurry to show people back home how successful they were. Some people take pictures in front of a hotel. They would tell people back home that was their house.

SP: And what about the ones that had been here already. Was there any difference between the way they acted prior to the war and afterwards?

AM: I don't know if there was any difference much. There might have been a more wariness, but because they've been involved in all this stuff. But they probably were just so happy to be

alive and happy to be still here that they were the same. I think they just stayed the same. I

think

[37:18]

SP: And now, um, to move on to the objects, you did mention that when your grandfather was in the camp, he did carve a lot. And so, um, you have shared with the project three wooden objects, um, that your grandfather made. Do you know anything about how they came home?

AM: How the projects...?

SP: How they...

AM: They probably came home with him. They probably came home with him [picking up a wooden spoon] the ah, soup scoop. I don't know. Imagine. [reaches for other wooden objects - letter openers] They probably came home with him in his, in his bag. Because there's probably more, there might be more in the basement. We don't know. But this, because they had to make their own utensils to eat with. These would be letter openers. And I guess it took a lot of time. They're even shiny and polished. The soup scoop. There must have been a fork and knife at some point, but I don't know.

SP: Do you remember the first time that you saw them?

AM: I just saw them when my sister had them at home. They were just buried in some box [sets the objects down].

SP: So your grandfather never took them out.

AM: No. I never saw them. They came from somebody's artifacts.

SP: So, I don't know if you want to hold up the objects...

AM: Oh, the objects.

SP: ...and show them to the camera.

AM: [picks up objects] this is the scooper, the soup scooper. Ah, for a big soup. Very nicely carved [caressing the curved handle]. And then the letter openers. And that's very nicely done [examining the letter openers]. It looks like its got a hollow insert. I don't know what they made them with [setting objects back down]. They are very polished and shiny.

SP: So these are the objects that your sister found?

AM: Yeah. That's what my sister had. No, she had them.

SP: Um, why are the, so you found these objects and you and your sister decided to loan them to the project so we can have them on display. Why were these objects important to you to share with the project? Why were they important for you to keep? And what do they remind you of?

AM: Well. We, we can take pictures of them but thing is they are more important for the public to know. To have them as objects. I think they are on loan. Yeah. Yeah. We like the public to know exactly what went on over there. And also to share with the rest of the country. People that want to know, want to know what's going, what went on in the camp. That they had something to do but it wasn't as really constructive as it could have been but they [hand gestures] for the short time that he was in this is what they did.

SP: Do they hold any sort of personal memory for you?

AM: Probably. The fact that he had them in his hand. He was a very special person. Yeah. Yeah.  
[39:42]

SP: And the other item that you have, a journal, the diary. Can you tell us about that?

AM: Well, I found [laughs, picking up the diary]. It's my mothers. Um, when we sold her house, this was there. She, she always...we used to sneak and read it anyway when we were kids. But in the entry, in uh, in 19...the first entry that impacted in my mind was, was uh, June the 10th 1940. [reading from journal in hand] 'Italy was, Italy joins Germany in war. Police were here this aft and took Papa away for investigation. He's to stay the night. Three lieutenants were in today. One came. One as...on Thursday also. Steel plant men were rejected.' I don't know what that meant. But um, and then, June the 11th next day. 'What a day. We ran around all day long ah, looking for our men. Ah, Mountie soldiers what a bunch. Yesterday...' [looking up] she's got some shorthand here I can't make out. But it's all about, 'they wen...taken up North to a concentration camp. I now realize what this was meant and for the first time I know real sorrow.' In short hand again. Yeah.

SP: Is there other pages you want to read from there?

AM: Pardon?

SP: Is there other entries you want to read?

AM: Oh, and also, first, uh, I can read the first part which was in, before this all started it said, 'May 22nd 1940. [reading from book] Italy might join Germany. I hope she doesn't. It will go bad with us. Mayor refused invitation to Italian banquet.' That was an indication probably a month earlier that things were starting to change. Because they were always welcome at every function going on. And, uh, that was May 22nd, May 26th 1940. Um, [reading from book again] 'everyone is afraid.' Uh, it's hard to read here. 'Everyone is afraid. Not too hot. Everyone is afraid to go out.' Maybe it's just something simple [paging through book]. Um. This, July 17th 1940. 'Papa came home today. We were out and what a surprise we got. He is so tanned and hard looking but not the same. His spirit seems broken somehow.' [looking up] That was an entry I was surprised at. And then, July 22nd 1940. 'Papa is afraid to go outdoors. He is afraid still, outside in public. He's afraid still.' And that's the last entry that was, was regarding the internment that I could find in the book. So, that was revealing because it kept on going for a couple of months. It might have gone on for a year or so but I don't know.

SP: You mentioned when you were children, ah, you would often go through your mom's diary. Did you read those entries as a child?

AM: I probably did and didn't pay attention. Didn't think. Yeah.

SP: So when did the diary take on a new form of importance for you?

AM: When I saw that entry, ah, three years ago we sold mom's house. I had the diary in a box and I found it. And I realized this is really...it just hit me that date. You know, and I...that was three years ago. And a year later we had this 70th anniversary celebration so I remembered. Put the diary away, forgot about it couldn't find it until about two months ago. So it really impacted in my mind. Yeah it did.

SP: Did you talk to your mom afterwards.

AM: I did. [rubbing shirt, bumping microphone] My mother was interviewed in Hamilton. But she had a stroke and had limited speech. So I'm not sure but she was very, very open to speak. She was really open to speak about it. She never kept secrets. She was ninety when she died. She was, she spoke about a year ago at, at the interviewer. And she revealed everything. She just said, you know. He ah, was in there. I don't know how, what she said. I don't understand what she said. But it might be on interview but hard to understand. Yeah.

SP: So what does it mean for you to have this diary now?

AM: It means a lot. I'm going to treasure it forever. Yeah. Cause it's got history in there.

SP: And uh, is it yours to keep?

AM: Pardon?

SP: You mention that it, you know, the other objects are from your sister but the diary is yours. Like you felt it's important to keep that diary.

AM: Yeah, I think so. Yeah. I'd like to keep it. I keep, um, I keep all her albums because we can always pass out the albums to the rest of the family but we're scanning all the photographs from them. To keep in, in the computer. We want...my husband does all that. Um, so he's doing all that. That's why all her albums have a lot of pictures of wartime and I just didn't have access to a lot except these ones.

SP: Is there anything else that you wanted to share with us today?

AM: I can't remember, uh, if there are more questions. I, my grandfather was very, um [pages through notes]. These are just quotations. This is just some things I had written about him that, um, [pause] he, he was a small man. Wasn't a big man. But he was the life of the party but he was a lovely man, very happy. Um, he was always smoked little cigars. Little horrible cigars [gestures to show the size of them]. Um, he was just, ah, he lived with us for a while but the fact is that when he died, he, he was, um very frail, but he lived with us for a quite a while and still maintained his teaching us Italian and teaching us the life, but still maintaining his love of Canada. So I don't think he ever really, uh, ah, begrudged in the later years...Canada. But he was a happy, entertaining man. That's all I can think of. He was a wonderful person.



SP: And ah, you have some photographs with you today...

AM: Yeah, I do.

SP: ...of your grandfather. Do you want to go through the ones that...

AM: I could.

SP: ...you have there.

AM: [picks up a stack of photographs] What I could show is this one is there was, there was a boat that went across Hamilton harbor. Oh, uh in the harbor somewhere. And they played in this, called the Hamilto, Hamiltonian. And my grandfather, Papa Toni would always play his guitar and Berlino Colangelo was here. And all the gang. I don't know the rest of the fellows. But they all used to play this, every Saturday night. I think they want on this little bus...this guitar...this boat trip. [reading from the back of the photograph] 'Ah, Hamilton Harbor to Port Dalhousie. Entertaining was always a fun time.' That was what they loved the most.

SP: That was after the war?

AM: Yeah, this is after. This is when I knew him. [looking closely at the photograph]. This is a, a heavy set. Sort of heavy set, a little bit. Always dressed in a shirt and tie and a vest. [looking at next photograph] This one is just how he looked [unclear]...my favorite recollection. He's turned an umbrella upside down but he's just sitting there at a party probably at a wedding or something. [sets photograph down, moves onto next photograph] This is the family store. This is the Olivieri Store. Um it says Olivieri and Sons. 358 [368?] Sherman Avenue North. The apartment is above the store, so it's, store's here [pointing to photograph], two big levels, huge apartment. I never saw an apartment that large. And, um, that was in the 40s. [sets photograph down, move to the next one] This is Papa Toni in the store. It's a very vague picture. But he had everything. He had cigarettes, cigars, food, candy, pies, cakes and, uh, he loved it.

SP: Did he import any items from Italy or was it all...

AM: It was all Canadian stuff, yeah. Unless there might have been chocolates or some kind of Italian candies. Yeah, I...I remember seeing always Wrigley's gum and notebooks. We used to go in and steel everything. We used to just take all these notepads and pencils and take them

home. Didn't...never thinking that it was stealing. [moves onto the next photograph]. Uh, my mother at her wedding, dancing with her father. 1942. Um, that was [looking at the back of the photograph] in Hamilton again. [sets photograph down, moves onto next photograph] This is... this is the family group. [points to individuals in photo] My grandfather. My cousin's grandfather. This is just family members. Um, my grandmother. My mother's in there and cousins. Berlino Colangelo is here. Very, very close family friend. [sets photograph down, moves onto next photograph]. This one is, I believe at my uncles wedding. Uncle Doctor Olivier...Doctor Red [?] Olivieri. It was his wedding in 1951. Grandparents. And um...son-in-law. That's all I have right now.

SP: Just, ah one more question. You mention Berlino Colangelo. Do you know anything about his relationship to Berlino was also...

AM: Very

SP: ...interned. Do you know anything about their relationship.

AM: Yeah. Fantastic friends. Too this day we're friends with his family.

[48:29 - Camera fades out, fades in]

AM: So anyway, Berlino was a family friend. Um, and his six kids and our six kids were best friends. And we all grew up together. And he eventually became my grandfather's driver when my grandfather couldn't drive anymore. He'd drive up every Sunday morning in this big black car and visit. But he was just a wonderful man. To this day his family's fantastic.

SP: And did the two men ever talk about their experiences...

AM: Probably to each other, but I'm not sure. Berlino was a lot younger. He was a lot younger than my grandfather. But just ah...my mother actually he was like my mother and her girlfriends and sisters. He would drive them around every Sunday in his big car. So he would, like they would pay him a nickel and go to the beach. So Berlino was like, was like a big brother. Fantastic man. Yeah. He was. He was...so ah. And then he, um, probably talked about it but not to...his wife was interviewed. Yeah. Yeah.

AM: Okay, great.

[49:23 - video fade out, fade in]

AM: This is a picture of my mother and myself...um 200 and ah, eight, 2008. Uh...she's entering her new residence where she just moved out of her house n' out of her hospital into this residence, The Meadowlands, in Ancaster. So she had just been sick in the hospital and now she's looking pretty good for 88. I think she's 88. And...uh...anyway. She's always maintained her pride in being an Olivieri. And...uh...a Corrado too. So, that's my mom. Now, I'll read the diary. I'll read you the entries start, shall I start at the May one?

SP: Yeah. Why don't you start at the first one before the war.

AM: The first one. Okay. 'May 22, 1940. Italy might join Germany. I hope she doesn't. It will go bad with us. Mayor refused invitation to Italian banquet.' So that was the indication of the start of the alienation of the Italians in Hamilton.'

[50:23] Um, I forgot this one. 'Rumors...rumors that soldiers will wreck Sherman Avenue before they leave on Monday. Everyone is afraid. Italian banquet cancelled.'

[50:33][pauses, looks up]

Uh, 'rainy day again. Soldiers leaving Monday for Camp Borden [?] Went to a movie.' [pages through journal]

'May 26,1940. Uh, not so hot. I realized my fears, my fears...' Cancel that. I can't read the writing. Can't read the writing. And then, June 10th, 1940. 'Italy joins Germany in war. Police where here this aft and took Papa away for investigation. He's to stay the night. Three lieutenants were in today. One came and one on Thursday. Steel plant men rejected.'

June 11, 1940. 'What a day. We ran around all day long looking for our men. Cops, Mounties, soldiers. What a bunch. Yesterday they were considering...ah...Papa a spy.' That's probably all I can make out of this, of this, ah, writing – the shorthand. And 'They were taken up north to a concentration camp. I realize what this was meant, I realized what this has meant, for the first time I had no real sorrow and afraid.' That's June the 11th. They were interned a day already.

July 17th, 1940. [looks up, speaks up enthusiastically]. 'Papa came home today.

We were out and what a surprise we got. He is so tanned and hard looking. But not the same.

His spirit seems broken somehow. ]

And then there's one last one regarding the internment [flipping pages]. 'Papa is afraid to go outside in public. He is afraid still.' July 23rd 1940. That would be the last one regarding the interment that I could find in this book [smiles] [52:03].