

Consent Form

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Signed

Dorothy Howard  
interviewee

Date May 11, 1979

Signed

Dolores Sheltus  
interviewer

Margaret Bailes

Interviewee- Mrs. Dorothy Howard. She is a retired teacher.

Interviewer- Margaret Bailes and Dolores Sheltus

Were you in the Townships during World War II?

Yes.

Were you married during that time?

Yes, I was.

Number of children?

No children then.

No children aye. Were you born in Sherbrooke or in this area?

No no I was born down in Prince Edward Island.

And when the war began had the Great Depression ended in your area?

I really don't remember.

You don't remember. Well, in what way did the war affect you personally?

Well, although my husband didn't get overseas he was stationed at Farnham and I was left without him so I suppose that's how it affected me the most.

Were you working at the time?

No no no.

And do you remember what you were doing when you heard that the war had begun?

No, I don't remember. Not exactly no just the general after, but everybody knew but I can't tell you right...

And how did you learn of the outbreak of the war?

That I don't know either. I don't remember that either.

And did you know anybody or any of your family that volunteered or that went over?

Oh yes, oh yes. Numbers a lot of them.

Did any of your family go over?

Well, as I say, my husband he didn't get overseas, but he was in well he stayed in Farnham most of the war. But his brother was in the Navy and he saw active duty. On a corvette or a mine sweeper or one of those things.

Oh heavens dangerous. And what were the living conditions like during that time? Did you have like a victory garden or ...?

I didn't no no I don't remember anything. I remember we always saved paper and I remember saving glass and I remember if I'd break a dish or glass or anything I would very carefully sweep it up and put it with bottles and glass. Yeah broken glass I can't remember what they did with it, but we were told to save it.

Then you would give it to somebody for something?

Yes. That's a funny one, I can't remember what the glass was used for.

Do you remember anything about the rationing and how it affected you?

Oh yes the sugar. I remember the sugar rationing and that's the one mostly I remember.

Do you remember how much you got?

No, no I don't. I think I saved the last ration book, but I don't

know where it is. It's around somewhere. I thought that might be interesting. It would be if I knew where I had put it.

Did you know anything about the Black market at the time?

No, I'd heard of it, but I had no it I don't remember being really short of anything. I can't remember.

Meat was rationed too?

Was it?

Well, someone mentioned it. I hadn't heard of it before.

It probably was. It probably was. But I was alone you see and then I went down to my home a lot in Prince Edward Island. I seemed to survive you know I shouldn't say that I really had a hardship I couldn't say it.

But if you just had one ration book is that what they called it it's not as though there were three or four people and it was spread out...

No, but I ate out a lot with different relatives. Things you know living alone you know so they would say oh come and have dinner you know.

And did the male female change ratio or affect social life during that time?

What's that question mean?

Well, with so many men overseas you know.

Well, naturally course but I did a lot of work I was connected with the IODE and the YWCA and we were always working in canteens or going down to Windsor Mills. There was an air force camp down there we'd go down there. We seemed to be always arranging

and doing things and of course the everlasing knitting everybody was knitting...

Did you and your family or friends have a sense of national unity in that time people were brought together closer together you know working for a special effort?

Well, we certainly were working for a special effort. But if you mean the French English do you mean that.

No no doing your bit at home.

Oh well definitely we were I thought we were.

Do you remember either of the conscription crises?

I don't know whether I remember or remember reading about it. I guess I remember the last one. Was that was there was one during the last war aye?

There were suppose to be two I think in '42 and '44.

Well, then maybe I don't know, but I do remember something vaguely about it but...

It was quite an issue in Quebec so it was you know.

Yeah well don't forget I moved with the English. My friends were practically all English and the great many of the husbands were in service of some kind or other and I don't remember anything that I could tell you especially.

Was there any chance that your husband might go overseas?

Oh yes anytime he might have been called to go over there.

Do you remember anything about military installations around this area?

Yes, they I remember they had a prisoner of war camp just outside

of Sherbrooke here well I guess it was in Sherbrooke over in East Sherbrooke and I guess it was through the IODE I remember going over there to dances and we'd dance with the officers not the prisoners. But I remember the prisoners it was their orchestra they provided the dance music.

Poor guys.

Oh they were having a great time and I suppose they were musically Yeah I remember that.

Did they speak English to you?

Who?

The prisoners.

Oh I don't know. I didn't speak to them.

Oh no one spoke to them.

Oh I don't know whether some people may but I don't remember ever speaking to them. But I do remember they were the orchestra was composed of the prisoners of war.

Do you remember anything about security measures against espionage and you know...?

No no I don't remember anything.

Do you remember anything about like the bridges being guarded and...?

No no. I remember more about that thing we had just a few years ago here when all the places were guarded... You girls are going back quite a way even for an old gal like myself.

Do you remember anything about the end of the war?

Oh, just thank God it's over you know.

Was your husband back home at that time?

No no he was still...

He was still in Farnham?

Oh yes yes he was there until the end. I told you I wouldn't be very helpful I don't remember very much. I do remember a funny thing though that did happen. Do you want to hear it?

Sure.

As I told you I lived my home was in Prince Edward Island and so I went down there being free here so I could go down and visit quite often. Of course the trains were always crowded with soldiers going to Halifax I suppose to take the boat over. I remember getting on I had my reservation and I got on the train here and it went on and the conductor came and looked at it and he said oh there has a mix up. This reservation is gone, and I said well I've got it right here in my hand what am I going to do? Well, he said just come here sit down and wait a minute and something and I'll find something for you cuz it was an overnight trip you see. So a little while he came back and he said I've got a lower bërth for you here. So he took me to the cabin and it was full of mostly all soldiers few civilians so I got into bed and went to sleep and in the morning I got up and was going to have something to eat and then a soldier up in the upper bërth and he looked at me and he said what happen to the captain that was in the lower bërth? And I said well I don't know. Well, he said that was his bërth. So I though gee that's funny so when I had a chance to speak to the conductor after I said tell me

what happened to the captain that was suppose to be in the berth I had. Oh he laughed he said well he said you know there was a party going on in the back one of the drawing rooms and he said I knew he was there for the night and you'd be safe and I thought thanks very much. It was alright. That was kind of a funny thing.

Oh my.

Are you running out of questions?

Well, I asked you about the volunteer efforts to the war the knitting and all the ...

And the IODE and the...

What did the IODE do?

Oh well they arranged parties and dances and we'd go down to this I don't know what it was called in Windsor Mills. It was an air force.

They were training pilots.

Yeah they were training them down there and oh just things like that.

Made any packages for soldiers?

Oh yes, they were shipped overseas of course or whatever. But it all seeme§ like a dream now and when you ask me these things it just doesn't seem possible that it all took place. I should have kept a diary. You must be able to find someone who kept a diary with more interesting things in it.

Well, we interviewed one man who had all kinds of information.

Well, he belonged the Historical Society so he had all kinds of



information.

Yes. Something like that.

But you know it's hard to think back.

Well, it certainly is for me. Nothing at all exciting you know.

Was there any trouble at that time between the English and French?

I don't remember anything. Did anybody tell you there was?

No.

No, I don't remember anything. I knew some French wives whose husbands were in the army and ...

Everybody was in the same situation.

Yes, I don't remember anything.

Well it's been very nice.

Well, I just wish I had a better memory. After you go I'll probably think of all sorts of exciting things. But I don't know what they are. But there was another army place out Collin Collinsville. Yes out there somewheres. I remember being up there to a party once. Now I don't know what that was out there. It was some kind of a camp.

Did you ever hear of anybody being shot?

In Sherbrooke? No no. Were there any?

I don't know.

No no I never heard of any. You mean trying to escape?

Yes.

Oh, I doubt it. I imagine they were so glad to be there and safe.

They really had quite a good time?

I think so. I think so.