

### Consent Form

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Signed

Mack Balen  
interviewee

Signed

K M Baldwin  
interviewer

Date 3/28/79

KM Baldwin master tape number:  
Wales home, Richmond 3/28/79 interviewed Mark Balin

Tape footage Subject headings

#### 4 Background

1 married

18

2 stepdaughter

19

3 warehouse Sherbrook 10 years

4 started "42"

28

5 before worked at a hardware store \$200 month

6 suffered heart attack

56

7 lived in Branelon

63

8 Brother in law went over seas

80

9 living conditions good - owned first warehouse in Sherbrook

10 victory garden

#### B World War II

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1 rationing no problem

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2 national unity

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3 conscription crises

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4 end of war

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5 furniture warehouse - added furniture for soldiers

134

6 leisure time - walked, golf.

140

7 army camp located near university

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8 unemployment a lot

9 received a cut in pay because things got better in War time.

Interviewee- Mr. K. M. Baldwin

Interviewer- Mark Babin

Were you in the Eastern Townships during W.W. II?

Yes.

Would you like to state your name?

... Baldwin

The date is the third month twentieth day '79 and my name is

Mark Babin. Could you state the date of your birth please?

1901. And the place. Coaticook.

Would you have any photos or objects from W.W. II that would  
be around here?

Well, yes probably. I have a step-daughter and my son-in-law  
was in it too.

But here you don't have anything?

No.

What was your marital status during that time?

I was married.

And your family background? Did you have children?

Well, my first wife. I was married in 1930 and she died in '53  
and then I was married again. Now I have a step-daughter from  
my first wife. I have no children at all.

O.K. What was your occupation at the time?

At the time of the war I was running a warehouse in Sherbrooke.

O.K. And how long had you had this?

Well, I can't remember now. Probably about ten years.

And you had it all during W.W. II?

No. Well, the war started in '39. Well, it would be after you see because I started in the warehouse in about '42.

And before that what were you doing?

I worked at a merchant company in a hardware store up in Sherbrooke.

What was your salary at the time?

Well, I guess what I had left was about \$200 a month.

Now was that considered a good salary at the time?

Well, that was the average salary, but they were paying new boys coming in and I'd worked there at least 25 years and I had to give up on a count of a heart condition then ... stores business one-man business.

When W.W. II began had the Great Depression ended in your area?

I would think to me as I remember yes.

Had you recovered from it completely?

Yes.

In what way did W.W. II affect you most?

Well, I can't say that the that I joined the Reserve Army and that's all I could say. I was in the Reserve Army for a while.

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

Well, I was in bed just about that time of the war because I had had a heart attack and I was so then I was still working for ... I had a year off. I was in bed for about eight months.

O.K. So we'll go on to the next question. How did you learn of the war's outbreak?

Well, you see I think the war started then just came along and we were very busy and I worked very hard and I had this heart attack and I was put to bed. I followed the war cuz I lived outdoors on my veranda in Lennoxville. At that time I was living there and I followed the war and of course my son-in-law now he was in the Air Force and my daughter of course was doing her kind of work.

Hum did family members or relatives volunteer for...

Yes, I my brother-in-law my sister's husband he went overseas cuz he was English born. He went with the Canadian army and he was transferred to the English army over there. It was very interesting.

Now you said that your daughter what was she doing?

Step-daughter yeah. She just worked in the bank.

Oh she was working. O.K. Hum What were living conditions like at the time?

Well, I thought they were fairly good during the war.

Your source of income was aye

Well, it was little and then when I got this warehouse at that time there were no warehouses in Sherbrooke to speak of.

... dropped the stuff to me and I stored it.

So you were the only warehouse?

Yeah. Then they begin building their own warehouse then I retired.

I see O.K. So you didn't have any trouble providing for your children or wife?

NO.

Did you have a victory garden?

Oh yes. I had ... for a he was really sick. That was during the war too of course.

How about rationing?

Didn't seem to. I don't remember it affecting us.

How about what kind of things were rationed?

Well, I don't I can't just remember that.

Do you remember if rationing posed any kind of problem for you?

No. Like I know we had a garden of fruit, corn, and peas like a garden an ordinary flower garden cuz I was the only one home at that time.

Was there a black market?

I seemed to have recollect there was, but I can't bring that back to my mind.

Did the change male female ratio affect social life?

I think there were women working course I couldn't say.

Did you, your family and friends have a sense of national unity or pulling together for a common cause?

Well, I think so yes.

...

Oh yes.

Do you remember either of the conscription crises?

Oh yes.

Did anybody you know get affected by it?

Yes I remember some of the boys that were conscripted. Some resented it others didn't. That's all I remember.

Do you remember the end of the war?

I'm getting kind of mixed up with the first and the last the second war. Yes, it was I think everybody was very glad that it had stopped cuz I know I tried to get in the army and they just asume not take me. Not that I was too old, but I was old enough.

How did the end of the war affect you?

Well as I said me at the time while the war was on I was I finally left the job I was on because I couldn't keep it up. And that is when I bought the warehouse and I owned the warehouse and had it practically full with all these boys who and the men who none of them had gone overseas and left their funiture there. Married people.

Do you remember the zombies?

Not very much.

Did you have any feeling for them at all?

No.

How about bounty hunting? The people that were going against the conscription crises.

Very little.

Does Dieppe bring any memories to you?

Oh yeah I remember following that very closely. News and radio and etc.

What did you do during your leisure time?

Well, I played golf. I loved to walk in those days in order to get my strength back.

Were there any military installations in the area?

I can't remember oh yes there was in Sherbrooke a camp. Well an army camp I suppose.

How about where was it?

Up near where the university is a little bit further out.

How about prisoner camps were there any in the area?

I think there was, but I can't just place it.

Were there any security measures against espionage or sabotage?

That I can't say.

How about French English relations were they good?

Well, I think they were better than they are now. At least I feel that way. I always got along with French Canadians and I had lots of friends that are

How about unemployment ...?

Well, I think there was.

Did it affect many people that you know?

Well, I know ... there was a time I think just before the war it was tough I think and of course when the war brought unemployment things were better cuz I knew they would cut plenty.

I guess that's about it. Thank you very much.