

Transcription
Lawrence Sayese
(Roderick Bear)
Tape 1

- Interviewed March 9, 1993 -

Dave: Okay. It is March 9, 1993. I'm here with Lawrence, how do I pronounce your last name properly?

Lawrence: S-A-Y-E-S-E.

Dave: Okay, how do I say it? Sayese

Lawrence: Sayese (Size)

Dave: And Roderick Bear and Lawrence and Roderick are both Métis veterans. Does that fit the description?

Roderick: That's the truth.

Dave: Okay, good. First what I'll do is just talk to Lawrence a bit and get his experiences down pack. Feel free though to talk to one another because you may be able to jog one another's memories and that's no problem. Lawrence, when were you born?

Lawrence: I was born 7th of September 1914 in a family. I had 3 sisters and 4 brothers beside myself. I'm the oldest.

Dave: 3 sisters and 4 brothers. Any

Lawrence: I'm the oldest.

Dave: You're the oldest. And where any of your brothers and sisters in active service at all at any time?

Lawrence: No, no.

Dave: You were the only one?

Lawrence: I was the only. My brother did go to Dundurn a couple of times, but he couldn't pass. He had poor eyesight and he had infantile problems. One year when he was just a young kid it effected his leg, so that effected him. I think that fixed him. He died last June.

Dave: What was his name?

Lawrence: Horrace.

Dave: So where were you born?

Lawrence: I was born in Glenmary. District just north, about 14-15 miles north of Kenistino. Kind of a Métis settlement. There was a lot of Métis there.

Dave: I just interviewed somebody who was from Glenmary, but I forget the name though.

Roderick: Charlie Umpherville maybe?

Dave: That's where I've heard that name, yeah.

Roderick: Charlie.

Lawrence: Oh yeah. We were brought up in the same place, same district. So was Mac, Lucy and Ben. I went to school with those guys to tell you the honest truth.

Dave: Okay. Glenmary. So you were talking about where you first enlisted. Where was that again?

Lawrence: First of all, Mac and Ben we went to military, it was exercises with the Prince Albert and North Battleford volunteers they called them. And it just 1939. So we went to camp Dundurn and the following year, 1940 we went back to camp again in July, the whole for of us. Horrace, my brother, Ben and Mac. While we were taking training in Dundurn, I joined the active service there. On the 17th of August 1940 I joined the Saskatchewan Regiment, 1622nd. 1940. So, we went, I went right across Canada on the 7th of November and on the 25 of October we went to Weyburn. We were stationed there until the 7th of January. From there we moved right through to Vancouver. We stayed in the old Vancouver hotel. And in March, they shipped us over to Nanaimo, military camp there. It was a new camp. On the 22nd we left Nanaimo, went east on the train. We went right through to what they call Canop_____, just 10 miles out of Ottawa, the largest rifle ranges at that time in Canada. Well we were there the whole summer stayed in tents, the whole regiment. And the following October we were moved to, we spent _____ and went through Niagara Falls and we were kept, we were guarding the Parliament buildings. I have pictures of that.

Dave: Oh really.

Lawrence: Yeah. And in October we were shipped to Quebec. Sherbrooke. It was another camp. French there. Had quite a time to talk to the girls. (laughs) From there we were shipped, in 1942 then we were shipped to the big army camp north of Toronto, Borden. It was all mostly armoured there. So they wanted volunteers. Of course you know volunteers just step out, you and you and you (laughs). So we were sent, we joined another regiment there from New Brunswick. They were called the New Brunswick Rangers. They sent us to Labrador.

Dave: Labrador?

Lawrence: Labrador. That was in July, I kind of forget the dates now you see. It was in July. We went over and caught, they loaded us up there in Quebec City. And a ship by the name of Lady Rodneik, I think I got pictures of that too. So we went right up the straits of Belheil right up to Labrador. So we spent 13 months there. We were all doing guard duty on the big airport there, _____ Bay. That's where we spent 13 months there.

Dave: Guard duty. Is that when they shipped prisoners of war over, is that what you mean, or what do you mean by guard duty?

Lawrence: We're guarding the airport. That was kind of a dropping off place for the planes going over to England so we were on guard duty over there all the time. On the 23rd of, around the first part of I think it was the following August, we come back. I got leave right from. They shipped us right to Sussex, New Brunswick. We got 2 weeks, 15 days. I come home and I went back. We were shipped to Debert. Another big military camp. We were there a whole summer. Just before Christmas we got another leave. Gee, I come home. We spent most of our time on the train. It took us 3 days to go out and 3 days back again. Anyways, we had our holidays. They shipped us overseas. We went over on the Queen Elizabeth. That's a big ship. I think most of the 2nd division went over at that same time. We landed up in Greenwich, it took us 4 and a half days. From there I was shipped to Fleet, a little town they call Fleet in England. So our request was to go to a Western regiment. See they were all Eastern in regiments. So I said okay. They come along one day and they said you're going to a Western regiment, holding you. That was a big holding unit in England.

Roderick: Where was that?

Lawrence: In England. Whitley, not Whitley either. The big holding unit there.

Dave: Not Aldershot?

Lawrence: No, I landed there too. Oh boy, I met some of the boys there too. Anyways, we spent some more time there. So they asked for more volunteers there. So we stepped out. I was with a guy by the name of Robinson, William Robinson. He's from P.A. here. I was with him right through. By gully we landed another ship. We hit, we didn't know where we were going. We thought we were going to North Africa. We were on, it must have been 12 days on ship. We were torpedoed once or twice. I think we lost some of our ships, some tanks. We landed in Italy. We land at Naples. That's why I took that picture I think. Anyways, we done some more training, done some more training. All at once I was called up. They asked me what regiment I'd like to join now. I had the choice of Princes Pat, C4ths from Vancouvers, and Edmontons from Alberta. I took the Edmontons. By God it wasn't long and they come and pick me up and away I went to the front. In the meantime I met Robby. He just come back from the front. He was with the Princes Pat. I said how is it up there Robby. Oh he says, not very good. He was slaphappy we called it. He was coming back kind of nuts (laughing). So that was okay. I went up with Ortuna. He was mad, it was rough up there. The town was flattened out. I think we left there in April. A division from India, 8 Indian divisions come and relieve us. Now we come back and its getting summer there. We come back to a rest camp, a big rest camp again, all Canadians. I met a few of my friends there, Robert Umpherville, I met him there. _____ . Now they were going to make a big push now. They were trying to get through to Ortuna, not Ortuna, but that, oh boy, went up the Larry valley and they were trying to take that town there, this, bombed the hell out of it. Well, they come to Gustofline, they call it Gustofline. We went through there. On the next play was Hitlerline they called it. And we went up in the first part in May. By God 24th of May I was wounded in a little town by the name of Montycorva. So I come back and went to the hospital. Come back with the ambulance. I land in the hospital, and I spent 2 months there, around 2 months. They said we're going to send you back. So they put us on a hospital ship, Oringi, Dutch. I still got that picture too, all marked out with red crosses. By God we landed back in England. I went to the 15th Canadian General Hospital, Canadian hospital there. I spent 4 months there. They kicked me the hell out of there, so they said well, you're going over to France now. So they,

that was just before the war ended, they said you go on leave. I was with Fred Umpherville. Went on leave. By God while we're on leave the war ended. (laughing) Well, that was it. So we come back to camp and they said there's nothing for you to do around here, go back another leave. So fine, I think it was 3 or 4 times that they said go back on leave. Finally we ran short of money (laughing), so I think the last time they let us out we stayed in camp. But we couldn't go no place. I met a lot of the boys there from here. You know, drinking beer, going to the bar, drinking beer. You know how it is.

Dave: Oh absolutely.

Lawrence: Anyways, they sent out us and said you'll be on draft for Canada. That was okay. Waited, waited, waited. Finally, by gully, one morning, a bunch of us called out on parade. They told us that we were heading for Canada. So the next morning we got into a train, no we got into a convoy. Hit for Liverpool. We got on a ship there, the Maritania, there was 5000 on that ship, it was a lot smaller. By gully, the first day out I was so damn sick. Everybody was sick. We were laying all over the place. So it took us 11 days. We land in Halifax. Oh boy, everything was good. God had gave us everything we wanted so to speak. White sheets, lots to eat on the _____ train. And we'd stop every so often and they'd come and give us oranges, bananas, anything, you know. Finally we landed in Regina on the 16th of December, 1945. So I stayed right on the train there, it was coming right through to P.A. I got to P.A. here on the 16th of December, and I got off the train and I met a woman that I knew. It was 37 degrees below zero. _____. Yes it's 37 below. And he said, Horrace is in the hospital. That's my brother. He said he got his eye out. So that was the first place I went. I went up to the hospital and saw him, that was okay. And I went home. I was home for 30 days. It didn't cost us nothing. I stayed home and then on the 22nd of January 46, I went back to Regina. Well they gave me my walking ticket. They wanted all of my army clothes that I had. I said no, in fact I kept one uniform and turned the rest in. I came with, that was on the 21st of January 1946. I got my walking ticket. So I came home I didn't know, kind of change your life a bit. Been use to this and that and come back to civilian life is a little bit different. But I, well it didn't take me long to get accustomed back to civilian life again, but now I got a farm. I farmed for how don't know how many years, 5,6,7 years. I turned around and sold it. So I went up way up to Hare River, AB. I was looking for a job then. I went up all alone then. I went up further north, through Peace River and up through it. I came

back and by gully they wanted men for the department of natural resources. So I got on there. I was with them for about 20 years, and they were asking for guys for jails, to guard jails. So I put in my application. I didn't think nothing. By gully it wasn't long and they come and call me. They say your application went through for the jail. So I quit the department of natural resources. In the meantime I met my wife. Alice here, and you know how it is, we got pretty close. (laughing) In fact too close. So we decided to get hooked up. She was divorced and I was divorced too. So we got married on the 14th of September, 1979. Is that right Alice?

Alice: Yeah.

Lawrence: So we got along. You got your ins and outs, you know how it is. Sometimes up and sometimes kind of down a bit, but you know, you got to live with it. We're lucky, we've been lucky. Well, I was at the jail for 10 years. When I told 65 I told Alice, this is it. I'm going to quit. By God, the jail, I told them about a month before I resumed that I was quitting and they said okay. By gully the last day I was in, the cook comes out with a big cake. He had 2 _____ and they put a red cherry on each one. They gave me that and I brought it home. That's about the recognition I got. (laughing)

Dave: That's a little different then most guys.

Lawrence: Pardon me.

Dave: That's a little different then what most guys get, but that's good. You were recognized anyways.

Lawrence: Oh absolutely. I took it. I get along pretty near with anybody. Sometimes you get annoyed but you got to live with it. Another thing we're like church people sort of speak. I believe in religion. I was brought up that way. I was brought up an Anglican religion. I'll die that way. Now we got along very good. We had our own place. I bought my own place down here. So in 1985 or so they come and ask me, they say what are you going to do with your property. They say you got your names in here for the old peoples home. This was in August. Oh I said, we talked it over with the wife. Well, we're both working and we said we'd wait for awhile. And that's what we done. In 1988 now they come down again. They said, they phoned from the office and said there's a suite empty they said do you still want the suite. The suite, this one here. So we talked it over again, and well, we'd try it. So, in 1988 first of

December, we moved in. But we had no problems. I get an old age pension, I get a Canada pension. I get a war pension and I get Saskatchewan Income they call it. I'm a veteran independent program, I'm on that. So, we live comfortable. And my wife now she'll be entitled to spouse's allowance to another 10 days or so. So she's kind of looking forward to that, and I hope she gets it. Well, she will get it. Now today, I'd say we're happy. I'm fairly good health. The only thing about me is a little bit arthritis. I'm maybe a little bit deaf, but outside of that I'd say I'm 100%. I feel good. So here I am. Stuck in this place here.

Dave: Just to go back a bit, when you were wounded, do you mind telling me how that happened. What happened?

Lawrence: This is right in Montycorva. The Hitlerline, that's what they call it. We were a bunch of us watching around the corner you know, standing of course. All at once, bang, I got my ankle, right ankle. You know standing around the corner, kind of a bunch of us watching. There I look down, and it looked like I got a heck of a bang. It didn't really hurt, but just like you got a hot, something hot touching you. So I looked at it and they said you're hit. So they tore the boots off of me. Sergeant Major comes along and we're in some kind of a barn there. Quite a few of us in there wounded. So they said, by gully the doctor. First we went back a little ways, and the doctor said, by gully, you guys got to go back, ambulance. In fact we took one German prisoner with us. He was wounded in the neck. That's where we went, we landed in the 15th Canadian General hospital. The 14th. That's where I landed. That's where I spent 2 months. One day I was laying on my bed and _____ a broad and guy on a stretcher. By gully, there's one of my friends. Stanley. By God, his uncle.

Roderick: Oh, Stanley Bear.

Lawrence: Yeah, he was with the S-ALIVE. He was hit in the arm someplace.

Roderick: Yeah, right here.

Lawrence: Something like on the arm.

Roderick: Just like a _____, the bullet grazed him.

Lawrence: So there we were, but I couldn't walk. They put me in a cast. It wasn't long and he was around, going all over the

place. Then I was there around 2 months and they said you're going back to England. That's when they put me on the hospital ship. That's as far as I got. That's on the 24th of May, 1944. And there was a heck of a bunch of us went back at the same time. I don't know how many there were in that ambulance. Some of the guys were pretty well suffering so to speak. But that didn't bother me too much at the time, but afterward. I went right in the hospital and Doctor Smith was his name. They put me to sleep and I come out. I was sick as a dog. My foot was sore. They put this cast right to my knee. That's when I say we got that ship there. Dutch hospital ship. We landed in England. It took us quite a few days to get to England. I was 4 months there in the hospital. So I got over there in fact they sent us to a rest camp they call them. Oh gosh, I don't know how long I was in there. I met a guy there, George Munroe. I knew him very well.

Dave: Where was he from?

Lawrence: He was from the reserve here. Muscanay. He had won the military medal. He was with the Queens Own Camera Highlander's I think.

Roderick: He's living in Saskatoon now.

Lawrence: He lives in Saskatoon now. He got one of his fingers shot off. (laughing)

Roderick: When he use to order beer he use to order 3 only. He wants 4.

Lawrence: He's doing okay. I see him occasionally. A lot of guys over there I knew.

Roderick: He's about your age, eh. George Munroe.

Lawrence: Same age. Oh yeah. Army life was not good I think.

Dave: Was not good?

Lawrence: It was. At least not in wartime. Wartime a lot of risk. But you were young. You were able and you didn't give a damn. But at peacetime I think it was pretty good. You get your medical, you get everything. Clothes. I would like to make, if I was there now, I would like to make that my career. I was made a corporal you know and I didn't want it. No, I didn't want it. You took too much shit. If anything goes wrong

there, if you're a corporal you got shit right away. And you couldn't say nothing. I only had one what do you call it on my record.

Dave: Sort of bad mark or whatever?

Lawrence: Yeah. From Weyburn, this is on the end of October. Two of us wanted a weekend leave, put in a request. I still got the receipt yet. It was refused. So Robby, his name was Robinson. He said let's go AWOL. I said, I don't give a shit. We caught the bus in Regina or Weyburn. We change in Regina and we come to Melfort. From there I phoned my aunt in Kenistino, come and pick us up. So she took us right home. (end of side 1)

Lawrence: Now I was home for 17 days. I remember we left home the same my aunt's husband now again. He was a war veteran from the first war. He come and pick me up the 10th of November. We just got back in to Weyburn in time to go on parade the 11th of November, Remembrance Day, and well we went to court right after. Right up in front of the Colonel from Glenallan, Maple Creek. And he says 17 days in the brig, 17 days without pay, and hard labour. (laughing) There we were. We spent 17 days in the brig. Robby that poor guy he's burnt up now. He got drunk apparently in town and he put some stuff on the stove, I don't know what happened and it burnt the house down and him with it. So that was the end of Robby.

Dave: What was his name, his full name again?

Lawrence: Robinson. I even know his regimental number. See I was a corporal there and I knew all there numbers. I still got the book with all there numbers down on it.

Dave: Was he Métis?

Lawrence: Yeah, oh yeah. Willy Robinson. He was one of my best friends in the army.

Dave: And he was with your regiment the same regiment?

Lawrence: No, he was with the Princes Pats. He was wounded 3 times. On the last time I guess he got (laughing). I said Robby how is it up there. See he went up there at night and you see them damn big flashes you know. Oh not very good he says. I said why what's the matter with you. He said they sent back slaphappy. (laughing). But I seen him a few times after that again. He was telling me that they went on a patrol, I think

they were after German prisoners. He said they were sitting on the rock, they were sitting on the rock. So then he sees these gall damn tracers. But he thought maybe it was a firefly at first. He said they recognized them gall damn tracers coming and they hit the ditch. (laughing) But I think he got hit in the neck that time. He was, I think he got wounded in the hand here too. But anyways he made it home. I seen him here afterwards. Poor guy burnt himself up. But I met a lot of guys over there. A lot of guys that I knew. Some never come back. We were in rest camp in Italy, I met a friend of mine, a neighbour of mine his name was Robert Umpherville. That's the last I saw him. He got hit at the Hitlerline too. He never come back. He was just a young guy, I imagine he'd be 18 years old.

Dave: Do you remember his regiment?

Lawrence: Hasting and Prince Edward regiment. They were from Ontario.

Dave: Hasting?

Lawrence: Hase-T-P's. Hasting and Prince Edward. I still see them in what you call them. And I was with these guys too, Ben. I met them overseas. They're my friends here yet today. This young fellow he was about 18. He got killed in Belgium. I think he was with the engineers. No, Blackwatch. He was with the Blackwatch. Just a young guy. He couldn't be more than 18.

Dave: I was just talking with Max last week and he remembered this newspaper article and he couldn't remember what it was and it's nice to see that you have a copy of it here. That's great.

Lawrence: That's right. I went to school with him. But I didn't see, he was a little younger. I and Max are the same age. We were brought up almost in the same yard so to speak. We worked together. I don't know, we worked hard to for \$1 a day, stooking, haying, oh gosh. It was the dirty 30's. We were just growing up, nicely growing up in the 30's. And wages were piss poor. Hell I worked for, oh we worked for \$1 a day numerous times. Till after the war opened up, things kind of picked up then. The wages picked up. Like I say we joined the what you call it, peacetime _____. Militia they called it. Prince Albert and North Battleford volunteers. That's what they called it. So they use to go in the evenings and so drillings. Oh there was quite a few guys that I knew there.

Roderick: Well you got a little pay too didn't you?

Lawrence: \$1.10 a day. Well when we got to Labrador we got a bonus. \$2 a month. After we got overseas we got another one. It was \$1.60 then. For a private. Little more for a corporal. Wages went up. We started out with a \$1.10 a day. Plus board and room. (laughing) And clothes, there was only 2 sizes you know. Small and large. You take this and you take that, that was it. There was bad times and there was good times. Now I'm you know. I look back and kind of laugh to myself, have a chuckle to myself. Especially when I meet some other veterans and start bullshitting you know.

Dave: What made you go in the first place, what made you join up, why did you join up?

Lawrence: Well, I don't know. I guess maybe to fight for my country the biggest. I figured Hitler was running over everything you know. So we decided by gully, and the times were hard anyways, and we thought.

Roderick: I think most of the guys were hard up, that's why they joined up a lot of them.

Lawrence: But we thought that was about the best next thing to do. So we joined up. And that's just what we thought we'd defend our country. You know this is a wonderful country. I'd say one of the best there is on this earth. We don't know how lucky we are, really. The other countries people are starving, everything. Diseases and Canada, you're free to go wherever you wish, lots to eat. Half of the world today is living nice. Nice lots to eat, lots to wear, and the other half is starving. That's the way I look at it. I don't think I'm too far out.

Dave: So you felt that it was worthwhile to have done what you did, to go and fight?

Lawrence: Yeah, I think so. The only regret I have is for my comrades that's gone. Some are friends, are gone. We use to go to school with, brought up, work with. In the army with. Now today, they're all gone. Not all of them, but some of them. And that kind of strikes me once and awhile. I sit and think to myself. Oh many times I can sit right there in that chair there and think. Some guys I'd like to know where they are. Some of the guys I don't know where they are. In fact I'd like to get in touch with them. But I was in the army, but a lot of the guys from Kamsack, do you know where Kamsack is?

Dave: Oh yeah.

Lawrence: I was with a bunch of guys from there, I think about 20 guys, and I think they're all gone except one that I know of. And I meet him at Batoche every year. His name is Mike Bryant. One of my best friends. The rest of them, he was with the South Saskatchewan regiment.

Dave: Now is he Métis?

Lawrence: Métis. In fact he's Indian.

Dave: Is he status?

Lawrence: Yeah, he's a status.

Dave: Yeah I understand that there was actually an all sort of aboriginal regiment from the Kamsack area. Ed King I think was telling me that. There was a regiment that was all Indian from that area.

Lawrence: Yeah, there was a lot of them. A lot of them Coties. I think there was 8 brothers. Archie was the oldest guy but some didn't go overseas. Some was killed overseas. Another guy up north here, he's my friend too, Abby Morastey. He was with the South Saskatchewan too. I think he was wounded, I believe he was wounded on, maybe I'm making a mistake there. But he was wounded over in France.

Dave: Morastey is in Meadow Lake. Is he from that area?

Lawrence: No, he's from north, Little Red I think.

Roderick: There's quite a few from LaRonge too you know.

Lawrence: Yeah. There was another 2 guys from Cumberland House that I was with. They were both killed on D-day. They were South Saskatchewan.

Dave: Do you remember who they were?

Lawrence: One was George Bud, and the other one was Nap Morin. They were both killed overseas. I was just _____ for about 4 years.

Dave: This is something that either of you might be able to answer. What about World War I veterans, aboriginal veterans.

Do you remember any or do you know of any in your families or those who you've learned about?

Lawrence: Well, my uncle was one, but he passed on quite awhile ago.

Dave: Oh yeah, most of them are not living. But either living or not living if you have any names, that would be.

Lawrence: Yeah my uncle, his name was, oh 2 of them hell. Bill Sayese from Cumberland House.

Roderick: And my dad Douglas Bear, he was overseas.

Lawrence: Yeah. And

Roderick: And there was Charlie there.

Lawrence: Edward Sayese. He was a first War veteran.

Roderick: Are you going to Charlie Umpherville, Horrace Umpherville.

Lawrence: Maybe you can get him. Your relative.

Roderick: That's my uncle there.

Dave: Who is that?

Roderick: Charlie's dad. Charlie Umpherville. Did you interview him yet.

Dave: No.

Roderick: Horrace Umpherville is his dad, the first World War.

Lawrence: There's quite a few more. _____ Umpherville.

Dave: What was that name again?

Lawrence: Andrew Umpherville. They're first war veterans. Howard Campbell. Joe Turner. They're all first War veterans. That's about all I can remember off hand.

Dave: That's great. I know we have some of these names but we certainly don't have all of them. That's one of the things, when I came on we had 168 names altogether. Veterans from World War I, World War II, and Korea. Now we have about 240. And by

the time I'm done there will be about 300. So there were a lot of Indian and Métis, but we're looking at Métis only, which is too bad. But there were a lot of aboriginal veterans, that I don't think a lot of people understand just how many.

Lawrence: Yeah, that's true.

Dave: Who were in active service.

Lawrence: There's a lot of them even from Kinistino. John Fiddler, he's a Métis. He was with the Remy. But he was in Korea. Do you got him. Arthur Fiddler. He was from the airforce, retired from the airforce.

Dave: Is he in Kinistino as well?

Lawrence: He's, no he was originally from Kinistino, but he's in Portage LePrairie, both him and his brother.

Roderick: That's second one, second World War.

Lawrence: Korea.

Roderick: Oh that's right too. You said Korea. Yeah.

Lawrence: There's a lot of veterans here from Musketey. That's where he comes from.

Roderick: My grandfather got out years ago, he went teaching instead. When he wanted to go back a couple of years later, they said he couldn't go back in there. So that's the reason why I was born in Glenmary, same place where he is.

Dave: When he got out of the war they wouldn't let him back on the reserve.

Roderick: Tom Bear he went teaching. He left the reserve and went teaching instead. I don't know whether he was in the war or not.

Lawrence: Where did you get a hold of Mac?

Dave: Luccier? We just had his phone number on file. He was also at the Gabriel Dumont Culture and Education Conference. And they had a meeting there between the provincial association and the national.

Lawrence: Yeah I know him pretty well.

Roderick: I got to phone this guy to see if my car is ready.

Dave: Go ahead.

Lawrence: Marion Fiddler. She was in the womans and her dad as well. There was 4 of them in one family. Alex, he was a first war veteran. Alex Fiddler.

Dave: Where does Marion live, do you know?

Lawrence: She's in Kinistino. Her last name is Wiggins. Her married name. And old Alex has passed on.

Dave: And he was from here?

Lawrence: No, he was from Kinistino. He was born and raised there.

Dave: I guess I can just talk to Marion and she can help me out.

Lawrence: Well his sons were John and Arthur. They're from Kinistino. That's all I can remember off hand.

Dave: That's a lot. No problem.

Lawrence: You'll have to put that together now.

Dave: Yes. Well it's interesting. I was over talking awhile ago, about 2-3 months ago with Wilfred Henry and his wife Theresa.

Lawrence: Who?

Dave: Wilfred Henry.

Lawrence: Oh yeah, I know him.

Dave: And she's a Fiddler as well and her father was, he was in active service in World War I, but he didn't go overseas. But the Fiddler family is huge. I didn't realize how big that family was.

Lawrence: There was a lot of Fiddler's.

Dave: Yes. They have quite a unique history too.

Lawrence: Even this Alex's Fiddler's family there was 4 of them in the forces. Old Alex has past on. Is your car ready?

Roderick: It will be ready by 10 to 12.

Lawrence: Well you're done with me anyways are you?

Dave: Well more or less. I want to, when we get done talking to Roderick, I'd like to check out your pictures and stuff. Aside from that I've gotten all the information I need on tape. That's what I need. I just want to get a little bit of information from Roderick.

Lawrence: Sit here.

Dave: Yeah, that would be a good idea. That way you're right by the microphone there. So when did you sort of enlist?

Roderick: I went to Sharegord during the war. When the war started in 1942. So I went to Sharegord, and my brother-in-law was working there in the mine. I was pretty young there, 16. But we got a job in the mine there in the service crew. They had no men. So we worked there until spring, around end of April and at that time the farmers helped too. And they wanted to send me back. I didn't want to go work for that farmer again. (laughing) So they sent me home May, 1st of May I guess. I was on my way home and I stopped in La Pas, and I stayed there till around 8. A couple of guys there wanted to join the army. I said gee maybe I should go if. They're both over 6 foot 1. I only weighed about 150. They said come on with us. So I went over there and went to the doctor and told him I wanted to join the army. Well he said, come back next week. I said why? He figured I wanted to get into the reserve army. No I said, I want to join active. Then he looked at me and said, I don't think you're old enough. Oh yeah, I said, I'm old enough. I'm 18. Anyways, he put me in. I went to see 3 guys, I went to Winnipeg and we enlisted there and May 10th I think it was 43. I was nervous and these big fellows were there with me then. Oh he said, don't worry about it. It went through. I got in and they never made it. (laughing) And I was more scared then ever. Then we stayed there for awhile. I forget how long I stayed in Winnipeg. Finally we went to North Bay. They wanted us to go over there and take our basic training. So we were there, that's where I met Ed King and them bunch. For some reason, they said we'll send you to North Bay, because there's a lot of them from Regina there, and you're from

Saskatchewan. Maybe you'll all get together. There must have been about, there might have been a dozen of us that went from Winnipeg, but we all scattered when we got there to camp. I didn't know half of the guys either. I just knew one guy there, _____ . And I guess Ed King knows him too. So we went down, we took our basic training in North Bay with Ed King there. But then when you're young you don't think of guys names until that day I went down east and I got turned down, me and another guy. They left about 3:00 in the morning. So this, they said I had ear troubles and all that. I had holes in this one. Well he said, what do you want to do, do you want to stay in the army? No I said, if I can't go overseas, I want to get discharged. So they sent me back to Winnipeg. I stayed around there for awhile. They put me on guard duty for awhile, to guard prisoners there. I was there for the winter I guess, 43. Then they sent me to Brandon while I was waiting for my discharge, they sent me to Brandon and put me with engineers there. Working around, I was hauling, not Brandon, Camp Shallow, that's right. I did a little bit of training and then they put me with the engineers after. I was working on a rifle range there hauling targets there and all that. Then I got into a ball, in sports. They wanted all ball players. So I got into a hard ball team there and a soft ball team. I played all summer there, and we, I was there until the spring of 43. Then they sent me to Brandon. I got into a hard ball. I was in sports. We'd go in tournaments there. I got in. We played horseshoes there too. I played a lot of horseshoes. I'm really sports..

Dave: Sports oriented?

Roderick: Yeah. But I didn't, and finally it was in the spring, I was in the. You know how it is you work around the camp, Camp Shallow waiting for our discharge. Finally they gave me one in May. Finally sent me back to Winnipeg. I got out of the army that was in 46, May 46. I was in there exactly 4 years. From there I went home and then I met my friend, he was in the army too, he was in Camp Shallow, but he got past. Gordon Umpherville. But he didn't make it over either. Then we both went to Ontario and helped cut pulpwood there in 47. I come back in the spring and I got married in 48. So I hung around at home there for awhile. Meanwhile my brother-in-law worked in Flin Flon, MB there in the mines. He heard that I played ball quite a bit. So he phoned down there and he said, I was pitching. And the mine wanted a pitcher so I went down there and pitched. Well they took the championship that year. I played ball ever since. I played horseshoes and took a

horseshoe tournament over there. Curling, we took the _____ curling there. I did a lot of that. I worked there for 23 years in Flin Flon.

Dave: At the mine?

Roderick: Yeah. So I got 3 kids there. I got 2 boys and a girl. When they went on strike in 71 I wanted to get on underground and my brother-in-law found a job for me in Chaplin, Sodium Sulphate. So I went there. But I stayed there from 71-75. Wages weren't that good, but I wanted to get underground so I went there. But then in the meantime this uranium mine opened up at Rabbit Lake. So I went in Saskatoon and put my name there and I got on there. And I was there for 14 1/2 years. That's where I got my retirement there. But _____ pension there too. See I got a couple of pensions there from Flin Flon. He wanted me to apply for that pension there too, what do you call that pension you wanted me to apply for, for the veterans?

Lawrence: Independent program.

Roderick: Yeah, but I didn't apply for it. I thought well. But then King was looking for me for 8 years and then he found me. But he couldn't figure out my name, he had forgot about my name Rod. He said it took me 8 years to find. But I think a lot of guys like Lawrence, you think about them guys you were in the army with. But most of them guys are from Winnipeg that I was with. Around Dauphin and north of Winnipeg. But most of the guys I was with Ed King there. But like I said when I got to Winnipeg, you forget the guys. Once in awhile you kind of forget about them and you're wondering if they're still alive.

Dave: Did you hang around with Ed King at all when you were in basic training?

Roderick: Oh yeah, we were together there. But I was pretty young too, I didn't think that much either. I started drinking there too a little bit. I didn't smoke very much either, I just started smoking when I was 18 I guess.