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[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

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Résumé de l'article

Citizenship, rather than ethnicity, determined the treatment of immigrants during Canada's first national internment operations (1914–20). Italians were concurrently treated as friends and enemies. Those born in Italy were "friendly" aliens. Those born in Austria (Trentino, Tyrol, and Trieste) were declared "enemy" aliens and subjected to monitoring, arrest, and internment. Personal narratives are constructed for most of the fifty-one interned Italians. Many of them rebuilt their lives in Canada. The goals of this article are to (1) establish the identities and narratives of internees, (2) determine why and where they were interned, (3) relate their experiences during and after internment, and (4) determine whether any organizations intervened on their behalf. Thematic headings include (1) pre-1914 immigration and settlement of Italians from Austria, (2) wartime predicament of Italians, (3) initiatives of diplomats and ethnic organizations, (4) internee narratives, and (5) aftermath of internment.

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# ICH BIN ITALIANO: THE INTERNMENT OF TRENTINI, TIROLESII, AND TRIESTINI IN CANADA DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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*Summary:* Citizenship, rather than ethnicity, determined the treatment of immigrants during Canada's first national internment operations (1914–20). Italians were concurrently treated as friends and enemies. Those born in Italy were “friendly” aliens. Those born in Austria (Trentino, Tyrol, and Trieste) were declared “enemy” aliens and subjected to monitoring, arrest, and internment. Personal narratives are constructed for most of the fifty-one interned Italians. Many of them rebuilt their lives in Canada. The goals of this article are to (1) establish the identities and narratives of internees, (2) determine why and where they were interned, (3) relate their experiences during and after internment, and (4) determine whether any organizations intervened on their behalf. Thematic headings include (1) pre-1914 immigration and settlement of Italians from Austria, (2) wartime predicament of Italians, (3) initiatives of diplomats and ethnic organizations, (4) internee narratives, and (5) aftermath of internment.

## *Introduction*

During the First World War, citizenship, rather than ethnicity, determined which immigrants were involved in Canada's first national internment operations (1914–20). This legal technicality, in conjunction with erroneous assumptions about patriotic sentiments and disregard for a British directive recognizing selected ethnic groups as friendly aliens, led to the registration, arrest, detention, and internment of enemy aliens who, despite being born in, citizens of, and emigrants from Austria-Hungary, were loyal to Canada.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Citizens of Germany, Turkey, and Bulgaria were also interned.

The extensive research and publication on Italian immigration, settlement, and integration neither acknowledge nor discuss the internment of ethnic Italians from former Austrian territories in Canada during the First World War. Their treatment as enemy aliens was a foretaste of experiences during the Second World War. The latter episode overshadows the precedential experiences of a nearly forgotten past.<sup>3</sup>This article establishes the identities and narratives of interned Italians; determines why, where, and how long they were interned; relates their experiences during and after internment; and verifies whether organizations intervened or advocated on their behalf.

### *Pre-1914 Immigration*

Austria-Hungary's census of 1910 registered 765,117 Italians (3% of the population). They resided in the borderland regions of Trentino, Alto Adige, and the Austrian Littoral (Great Britain, Foreign Office 1920a, 1920b).<sup>4</sup>Italians constituted the majority in Trentino (96%) and the Littoral (43%), especially Trieste and its surroundings (62%). They ranked second in Istria (38%), Gorizia-Gradisca (36%), and Alto Adige (9%).

The pre-1914 emigration rate of Italians from Austria was low compared to that from Italy. Emigration from the Austrian Littoral was meager since it was a primary destination of internal migration and of immigration from Italy (Foerster 1919; Dorsi 2002). Italians from Trentino and Alto Adige initially engaged in temporary labour migration within Austria and to nearby countries and eventually engaged in permanent overseas emigration, especially to the United States (US) (Pedrotti 1918). In the 1870–87 period, 5,068 Italians left Trentino for the US (Guetti 1888). This number rose to nearly 18,000 during the 1900–14 exodus, which included areas of Gorizia-Gradisca and Istria experiencing agrarian poverty (Bolognani 1981; Grandi 1987). A few went to Canada. This was partly attributed to warnings, issued by local newspapers, of economic difficulties, limited employment prospects,

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<sup>3</sup> Internment is examined by Luciuk (1980, 1994, 2000, 2001, 2006), Kordan and Melnycky (1991), and Kordan (2002, 2015, 2016, 2020). Most government records were destroyed (Melnycky 1983). There are no surviving records for the three-week period of British Columbia's responsibility for internment in June 1915.

<sup>4</sup> Trentino was known as Italian Tyrol (Welschtirol) and Alto Adige as South Tyrol (Südtirol). They are now areas of the Trentino-Alto Adige region. The Austrian Littoral included the districts of Gorizia-Gradisca, Trieste, and Istria. Gorizia-Gradisca and Trieste are now provinces within the Friuli Venezia Giulia region while Istria is partly in Slovenia and Croatia.

and wage exploitation (Grosselli 1998). Major causes of emigration from Trentino were diseases that reduced wine and silk production (since the 1850s) and an economic depression (since the 1870s) – which both peaked in 1882 (Guetti 1888; Grofer 1978; Gubert 1978; Rossi 1990; Grandi 1990; Grosselli 1998). Natural disasters, especially flooding which damaged workshops and factories, were the primary cause of emigration from Alto Adige (Rossi 1990; Grosselli 1998). Distrust of Austrian rule affected all regions. Compulsory military service deprived families of manual labour while exorbitant property taxes and forced real estate auctions resulted in an increase of landless peasants.

Although a small number of Trentini and Tirolesi immigrated to Canada, they constituted the majority of interned Italians. Settlement began in the 1860s and focused on British Columbia (BC) (Patenande 1995; Grosselli 1998). Immigrants often arrived via the US, engaged in chain migration, and gravitated to the coal mining towns of Vancouver Island (Cumberland and Extension) and the Kootenay region (Rossland, Trail, Nelson, Michel, Fernie, and Coal Creek). Cumberland's Italian pioneers came from Trentino (Barr 1997; Bowen 2011). By late 1897, a substantial proportion of BC's Austrian subjects came from Italian-speaking areas (Agstner 2003, 2005). In Alberta, they settled in the coal mining communities of Hillcrest, Coalhurst, Lethbridge, and Taber ("Dal Trentino al Canada" 1916; Scaltritti 1916). By 1915, Lethbridge's Italians predominantly originated from Tyrol ("Italians Here" 1915). A number of knife grinders from Trentino arrived in Toronto, Montreal, and Quebec City around 1900 (Bolognani 1978; Massarotto Raouik 1991; Grosselli 2000).

Early arrivals were single young males with itinerant lives, often engaging in seasonal labour migration.<sup>5</sup> Many intended to return after saving money to buy property in their homeland and thereby revive and/or reconstitute family farms. A notable exception was the influx of families from Trentino to Toronto in 1910–13 (Briani 1980).

### *Curious Predicament*

Austrian-born Italians suffered the same sanctions as other enemy aliens under the *War Measures Act* (1914), *Alien Enemy Registration Ordinance* (1914),

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<sup>5</sup> Transient workers moved among mining camps in Alberta and BC, chiefly the Crowsnest Pass area.

and *Wartime Elections Act* (1917).<sup>6</sup> Non-naturalized residents were placed under restrictions, issued identity cards, and compelled to register as enemy aliens – or face fines, arrest, and internment. Approximately 80,000 military-aged men reported their whereabouts monthly. They were subjected to surveillance, prohibited from being near critical infrastructure, and forbidden from gathering. Enemy aliens were detained and/or interned for attempting to leave Canada, suspicious conduct, and being of undesirable character.<sup>7</sup> For example, Domenico Rossi and Luigi Croziano were charged on 13 March 1915 in Brandon, Manitoba, with loitering and acting suspiciously outside a building where internees were confined (“Warning Given” 1915). Their gestures were presumed to be coded signals. They were accused of smuggling letters dropped by internees. In Montreal, Domenico Dalgongi [*sic*, Domenico De’Longhi] and Nazano Washovairio [*sic*, Nazario Mastovalerio] were arrested on 31 July 1915 for loitering under suspicious circumstances near a reservoir (“Found Loitering” 1915). In both cases, the men were released. A few enemy aliens were charged with espionage and sabotage. No subversive acts were ever proven (Morton 1983).

Deprived of property and civil liberties, prisoners were exiled to remote internment camps.<sup>8</sup> These camps were traumatic environments: inhospitable surroundings, confined quarters, substandard housing, harsh working conditions, meager food rations, and inadequate winter clothing. Despondence was compounded by isolation. Letters and reading materials were censored. Families were separated; women fended for themselves and their children. While visits were forbidden, members of Fernie’s Italian community brought food to Italians held at Morrissey, passing it through the barbed-wire fence (Giuliano 2014). Some internees endured verbal and physical abuse. Such conditions resulted in shattered nerves, deteriorated health, death (from injuries, sickness, suicides), and escapes. None of the 107 deceased internees were Italian. One Italian, Richard Moar, successfully escaped from Morrissey in 1918.

Canadians obsessed over the “enemy within” in an atmosphere of fear accentuated by antagonism and hysteria. Austrian-born Italians asserted their identity as ethnic Italians rather than as Austrian subjects.<sup>9</sup> Italians from

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<sup>6</sup> The *War Measures Act* disrupted civil rights of those naturalized after 1911. The *Wartime Elections Act* disenfranchised enemy aliens naturalized after 1902.

<sup>7</sup> Undesirable individuals included unemployed ethnics.

<sup>8</sup> Money and personal belongings were confiscated.

<sup>9</sup> Local, regional, and national affiliations prevailed among Italian Canadians.

Trentino and Trieste were classified by Britain as “friendly aliens” on 1 February 1915 (Kordan 2002). This directive was communicated to Canadian authorities who ignored it. A letter to the editor, signed Amico, asked that a distinction be made for Italians from Austria as they were not Austrians but Italians who were friends of the Allies (“Their View Point” 1915). Nonetheless, Canadians suspected their loyalty to Austria, as its citizens, was stronger than their ethno-linguistic affiliations with Italy.

Italians from Italy were treated with slight suspicion until their homeland entered the war on the Allied side on 23 May 1915. As a demonstration of patriotism, Italian-born miners refused to work with enemy aliens and wanted them dismissed. On 8 June 1915, 200 Italian miners initiated a two-day strike at Coal Creek to protest the employment of enemy aliens (LAC RG 27; LAC RG 18-A-1; “Miners Refuse” 1915; “Dimostrazione” 1915). The ensuing round-up in Fernie (9–13 June) netted 321 men, including nine Austrian-born Italians: Mike Avasulo, Frank Beraso, Joe Berhotti, Joe Berlanda, Andrew Bosti, Joseph Chingella, Joe Oberta, Andrew Raschotti, and John Sesaro. All were among the 157 men freed on 18 July 1915 (“Discharge 157” 1915).<sup>10</sup>

The sweeping arrest and internment of enemy aliens in the mining districts of Vancouver Island began 25 May 1915 (“Aliens for Western Coal” 1915; “Internment of Aliens” 1915). The following day, 115 men were sent to Victoria Provincial Jail pending transfer to the Vernon internment camp. Among those from Cumberland was Henry Bonora. On 25 September 1915, seven Italians were among the twenty-six Austrians at the Canadian Collieries’ Mine No. 7 in Cumberland interned for “irresponsible utterances” after protesting their replacement by Chinese workers (“Chinese Substituted” 1915; “Irresponsible Utterances” 1915). They were D. Ferrero, Girolomo Martinello, Domenico Morello, Angelo Tamasi, Leone Tamasi, S. Tobacco, and Pietro Zanoni. The men were held at Victoria Provincial Jail since the Nanaimo and Vernon camps were full (“Takes Enemy Aliens” 1915). On 16 March 1916, they applied for release on grounds that they were Italians sympathetic to the Allied cause. They admitted being Austrian subjects but said

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<sup>10</sup> On 15 June 1915, the federal government instructed provincial authorities to release the miners (“Fernie Austrians” 1915; “Interned Miners” 1915). Two days later, the miners initiated legal proceedings to challenge their unjustified internment (“Aliens at Fernie” 1915; “To Test Validity” 1915). The rest were eventually released.

they came from Trentino, the Austrian territory for which Italy was battling (“Subjects” 1916). All were released by 10 April 1916.

Enemy aliens had no standing before the law courts. Those who were interned, paroled to work, and became disabled, could not sue for financial compensation. Angelo Viola, who moved to Montreal from Cavedago (Trentino) in 1913, sued his employer for personal injuries after appealing the denial of his right to sue as an enemy alien (“Enemy Alien Case” 1914; “Alien Enemy” 1915). Viola challenged the definitions of “enemy” and “alien” in a court which determined that demonstrating hostility towards Canada was necessary to be considered an enemy while permanent residency was grounds for no longer regarding someone as an alien (“Alien May Sue” 1915). This case established a precedent.

### *Diplomatic Initiatives*

During the war, Italy maintained a Consulate-General in Montreal, a Vice-Consulate in Toronto, and fourteen Consular Agencies throughout Canada. This network was in a position to protect and intervene on behalf of Austrian-born Italians. In order not to violate Italy’s neutrality, consular assistance was offered to non-citizens after Italy entered the war. There are indications that Consular Agencies in Vancouver and Fernie looked after the interests of Austrian-born Italians since they were generally exempt from reporting as enemy aliens (“Serbs Claimed Men” 1917).<sup>11</sup>

The *Alien Registration Act*, introduced on 13 May 1918, required foreigners to prove their identity with a passport. Two months later, Italian consular agencies issued nationality certificates as proof of identity, citizenship, and loyalty (“Issuing Certificates” 1918). These documents provided consular protection to Austrian-born Italians (“Notice” 1918). In 1920, the Consulate-General advocated for ex-internees to obtain unclaimed balances for paid work and financial reparation for personal injury.<sup>12</sup> Notices were published in newspapers and official bulletins instructing repatriated ex-internees to empower the Consulate-General to act on their behalf (“Internati ex Monarchia” 1921; “Die Ehemals” 1921; “Für Österrung“ 1921).

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<sup>11</sup> None of the fifteen Austrian-born Italians who reported as enemy subjects were interned.

<sup>12</sup> Eleven Italians had unclaimed balances for paid work ranging from \$85 to \$1,712 in current dollars (AJ 420).

Austrian diplomats were generally uninterested in interned subjects who were ethnic minorities. Austrian interests in Canada were entrusted to the US on 12 August 1914 and to Sweden on 2 April 1917 (Agstner 2000). American consuls visited internment camps and reported on their condition. Their dispatches confirm the presence of Italians. Milton Kirk, the consul at Orillia, visited Kapuskasing in March 1915. His report includes statements of American residents, carrying Austrian passports, removed from trains transiting Canada and interned on suspicion of returning to fight for Austria (NARA RG 59). Mentioned are two Italians from Ironwood, Michigan: Bartolo Martini and Marco Pederghana. Kirk's requested release of American residents was declined by the Foreign Office (TNA FO 383/7).<sup>13</sup> In 1917 and 1918, the Swiss Consul General inspected Morrissey while his Swedish colleague inspected Vernon in 1919. Neither was involved with Italians.

Numerous Italian social clubs and mutual benefit societies existed during the war. None advocated on behalf of enemy aliens and internees partly due to their formative stage. Lodges of the Order Sons of Italy of America existed in Rossland, Extension, Michel, Trail, Vancouver, Sault Ste. Marie, Thorold, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Lethbridge, Montreal, and Hamilton. These lodges, including "Tirolese Italiana" in Lethbridge, had a small membership base and were largely inactive. Their records contain no files related to enemy aliens and/or internment. Meeting minutes of the "Cristoforo Colombo" lodge of the Società Italiana di Mutuo Soccorso in Trail make no mention of aliens or internees (LAC MG 28-V31).

### *Captive Lives*

Enemy aliens were interned at twenty-four camps scattered across Canada. Fifty-one Italians, considered Austrian reservists, were primarily held in BC between 1915 and 1916.<sup>14</sup> Many came from Trentino (see Table 1) and were interned following strikes against the employment of Austrians at coal mines. Various databases were examined to verify the identity of Italian-sounding names listed by Luciuk (1999) and Fink (2009).<sup>15</sup> Narratives were constructed using information extracted from archival records, census files, immigration

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<sup>13</sup> American consuls could only intervene on behalf of naturalized citizens.

<sup>14</sup> The term "reservist" obscured the contrast between "military" and "civilian" (Kordan 2020).

<sup>15</sup> Careless handwriting altered certain Romanian and Slavic surnames to appear Italian.



and border crossing records, marriage and death registers, and newspaper articles. Each of the following entries contains the internee's name, citizenship, hometown, along with the places and dates of arrest, internment, and release. Correct names are in parentheses. The reason for internment is given whenever possible.

1. *Avasulo, Mike [Michele Amasulo]* – Austrian citizen, interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, and released 18 July 1915. Amasulo resided in Michel or Natal (NARA RG 59). He arrived in New York on 9 May 1879. His name, year of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Michele Amasulo, 1863, Italian, and New York.

2. *Beraso, Frank [Francesco Berasi]* – Austrian citizen from Tione (Trentino), interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, and released 18 July 1915. Beraso resided in Michel or Natal (NARA RG 59). He arrived in New York on 20 February 1909. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Francesco Berasi, 1879, Tione, Italian, and Weadville, Pennsylvania. He is listed in the 1911 Census as Frank Berisa [*sic*] who was born in 1878, immigrated in 1910, of Italian origin, and resided in Nanaimo.

3. *Berhotti, Joe [Giuseppe Berteotti]* – Austrian citizen from Cavédine (Trentino), interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915 at age 32, and released 18 July 1915 (ICRC). Berteotti arrived in Quebec City on 12 November 1910. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Giuseppe Berteste [*sic*], 1883, Austria, Italian, and Lethbridge. Berteotti entered the US on 9 August 1923. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Joe Berteotti, 1883, Cavédine, Italian, 1908, Montreal, Glacier, and Seattle. The 1940 Census lists him as Joe Berteotti who was born in 1883 in Austria, lived in Mazama, Washington, with his wife, Mary. Berteotti died on 10 June 1964 in Burlington, Washington.

4. *Berlanda, Joe [Giuseppe]* – Austrian citizen from Cavédine (Trentino), interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, and released 18 July 1915. Berlanda lived in Coal Creek where he registered as an enemy alien between September 1915 and February 1917. He came to BC in 1907, was naturalized in 1909, and worked as a miner (BCA GR-0057). Berlanda arrived in Halifax on 6 December 1907. His name, year and place of birth, and destination are documented

as Giuseppe Berlanda, 1876, Austria, and Lethbridge. In 1918, Berlanda moved to Alberta's Drumheller Valley where he operated two coal mines in the 1920s (Stirling 1922; Alberta Energy Regulator 2015). The 1921 and 1926 censuses enumerate him as Joseph Berlanda, a miner who was born in 1876 in Italy, immigrated in 1907, Italian, and resided at Carbon. His wife and sons are Teresa, Tullio, Aurelio, and Silvio. Tullio and Aurelio immigrated in 1920 while Teresa and Silvio arrived in 1921. Berlanda was killed in a car accident on 17 June 1928 in Drumheller.

5. *Bertolini [Bertolidi], Candido* – Austrian citizen from Fondo (Trentino), interned at Banff (POW #484) on 10 March 1916 at age 26 as Candido Bertoldi [*sic*], transferred to Castle Mountain, and released 18 August 1916 as Candido Bertolidi (AJ 420; ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1; GA M-1953). The Certificate of Release was issued to Candide Bertelidi [*sic*]. Bertolidi arrived in New York on 27 January 1913. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Candido Bertoldi [*sic*], 1890, Austria, Italian, and Fernie. He appears in the 1916 Census as Candido Bertolidi, an Austrian citizen interned at Castle Mountain who was born in 1883 and immigrated in 1913. The 1921 Census identifies him as Crandido Bertoloh [*sic*], a miner residing in Cumberland. Bertolidi entered the US on 12 February 1922. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Condido Bertoldi [*sic*], 1890, Trento, Italian, 1913, New York, Cumberland, and Latuda, Utah. He was naturalized on 11 February 1952 in Windsor, California where he died on 1 September 1958.

6. *Bignotti, Vittorio* – Austrian citizen from Cologne (Trentino), interned at Banff (POW #483) on 10 March 1916 at age 27, and released 19 July 1916 to work for the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company in Michel (AJ 420; ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1; GA M-1953; BCA GR-0057). Bignotti arrived in New York on 5 November 1910. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Vittorio Bignotti, 1885, Cologne, Italian, and Lethbridge. He appears in the 1916 Census as Vitorio [*sic*] Bignotti, an Austrian citizen interned at Castle Mountain who was born in 1883 and immigrated in 1909. Bignotti died on 24 August 1962 in Drumheller.

7. *Bonora, Henry [Enrico Antonio]* – Austrian citizen from Cologne (Trentino), arrested in Cumberland in May 1915, interned at Victoria Provincial Jail, and released in 1915. Bonora reported as an enemy alien in Victoria in May and June 1915 (NARA RG 59; “Alien Enemies” 1915). He arrived in New York on 9 July 1904. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Enrico Bonora, 1878, Cologne, Italian, and Listle, Pennsylvania. Bonora was accompanied by his wife, Maria. He entered Canada via White Rock on 22 October 1910. His name, year and place of birth, citizenship, and last residence are documented as Henry Bonora, 1878, Austria, Austrian, and Pennsylvania. His wife and their American-born children, Emma, Americo, and Negus, joined him. He appears in the 1911 Census as Henri Bonora who was born in 1878 in Austria, immigrated in 1910, and resided in Cumberland. Bonora attempted to enter the US on 22 January 1915. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Enrico Bonora, 1878, Feltre, Italian, 1904, New York, Cumberland, and Seattle. He was deported for misrepresenting his citizenship. In 1918, Bonora moved his family to San Francisco where he died on 14 October 1975.

8. *Bonora, Joe [Giosuè]* – Austrian citizen from Cologne (Trentino), interned in Edgewood (POW #462) on 5 June 1915 at age 24, and released 1 April 1916 (AJ 420; ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1). Bonora was naturalized as Giosue Bonora on 21 July 1928 in Blakeburn (miner) with his wife Emma. His naturalization application states he was born in 1891 at Cologne, arrived in New York on 26 November 1909, and resided at Lethbridge at the time of internment (BCA GR-2166). Their Canadian-born children were Gilda, Marguerite, and Clyde. Bonora died on 29 December 1965 in Vancouver (BCA GR-2951).

9. *Borri, Frank [Fortunato]* – Austrian citizen from Montes (Trentino), interned at Mara Lake in 1915 at age 43, and released 13 September 1916 (LAC RG 6-H-1). Borri was held at Cranbrook Provincial Jail on 2 November 1914 as Frank Brovie [*sic*] and registered at Kimberly in August 1918 as F. Borre [*sic*] (BCA GR-0057). He arrived in New York on 11 July 1903. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Fortunato Borri, 1861, Montes, Italian, and Toluca, Illinois. The 1921 Census lists him as Frank Borri, an iron sorter residing at Kimberly who was born in 1871 in Italy and immigrated in 1903.

10. *Bosti, Andrew [Annibale Bosetti]* – Austrian citizen from Andogno (Trentino), interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, transferred to Vernon, and released 18 July 1915. Bosetti resided in Fernie (NARA RG 59). He was arrested and charged with carrying concealed weapons at Natal on 21 October 1916 and released two days later after paying a fine (BCA GR-0057). Bosetti arrived in New York on 7 March 1909. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Annibale Bosetti, 1890, Andogno, Italian, and Dubois, Pennsylvania. In 1919, he married Chiara Lozza in Fernie. The marriage certificate states he was born in 1891 at Morango (Lombardy) and lived in Hillcrest (BCA GR-2962). Their daughters are Enis and Cora. He was naturalized as Annibale Bosetti on 16 July 1923 at Hillcrest (miner) where he died in 1985.

11. *Burgando, Anton [Antonio Bonguardo]* – Austrian citizen from Curzola (Dalmatia), interned in Halifax (POW #108) before 7 December 1914 at age 27, transferred to Amherst, and released 17 February 1915 (ICRC; LAC RG 24-C-8). Bonguardo, a sailor, was detained en route to the US. On 10 March 1915, he moved to the US and applied for citizenship five months later. The application gives his name, year and place of birth, year and place of immigration, and previous and current residences as Antonio Bonguardo, 1888, Curzola [Korčula], 1915, Ponce, Halifax, and Arundel Cove, Maryland. Bonguardo's ethnicity is listed as Italian in the 1920 Census. He married Martina Sarasis in 1924 in Manhattan and died on 18 July 1944 in Woodside, New York.

12. *Chingella, Joseph [Giuseppe]* – Austrian citizen, interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, and released 18 July 1915. Chingella resided in Michel or Natal (NARA RG 59).

13. *Corell, John [Giovanni Corelli]* – Austrian citizen from Trieste, interned at Amherst (POW #1011) on 29 May 1916 at age 46, and released 14 August 1916 (ICRC). Corelli arrived in New York on 11 April 1904. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Giovanni Corelli, 1869, Cassegliano [near Trieste], Italian, and Austin, New York.

14. *Coslop, Raffaele [Raffaele]* – Austrian citizen from Verla (Trentino), interned at Edgewood on 1 July 1915 at age 58, and released 23 May 1916 (ICRC). Coslop, an unemployed miner, first registered on 25 May 1915 in

Ladysmith (BCA GR-0057). He arrived in New York on 25 August 1906. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Raffaele Coslopi [*sic*], 1865, Valle Jron [*sic*, Ville di Giovo, near Verla], Italian, and Hazelton, Pennsylvania. The 1911 Census lists him as Raffaele Coslop, a miner who was born in 1886 in Austria, immigrated in 1906, and resided in Ladysmith. He was naturalized as Raffaele Coslop on 9 November 1929 in Lantzville (miner) and died on 18 January 1940 in Nanaimo. His death certificate states he was born in 1865, of Italian ethnicity, immigrated in 1910, and lived at Lantzville (BCA GR-2951).

15. *Coslyz/Goslop, Rudolph [Rodolfo Coslop]* – Austrian citizen from Bozzana (Trentino), interned at Edgewood (POW #562) on 1 July 1915 at age 50, and released 13 June 1916 (AJ 420; Kordan 2002). Coslop arrived in New York on 30 January 1907. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Rudolph Coslwri [*sic*], 1872, Male, Italian, and Philadelphia.

16. *De Casati, Hans* – Austrian citizen from Graz (Styria), interned at Montreal on 25 February 1915 at age 29, and released 24 March 1915 (ICRC). De Casati tied to enter the US on 16 October 1914 with his wife, Thea. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Hans Casati, 1886, Graz, German, 1913, Quebec, Montreal, and New York. They were deported to Canada. He was interned for leaving without permission. De Casati entered the US on 25 October 1915 with his wife. His surname and ethnicity were given as Casati and Italian. They settled in New York.

17. *Derozy, Antoine [Antonio Derossi]* – Austrian citizen from Trieste, interned in Montreal on 18 December 1914 at age 25, and released 25 December 1914 (ICRC). Derossi posed as a destitute Austrian seeking internment as means of securing free room and board (“Italian Wanted” 1914). Although Derossi spoke German to an interpreter, the registrar of enemy aliens suspected he was an Italian subject based upon his surname without realizing he was an Austrian-born Italian. Upon release, Derossi was imprisoned for two weeks at Bordeaux Provincial Prison (“Bogus Austrian” 1914).

18. *Desriefo, Fred [Lazzaro DiSraffo]* – Austrian citizen from Ischiazza (Trentino), arrested in Vancouver, interned at Nanaimo in April 1915, and released in 1915 (NARA RG 59). He arrived in New York 16 February 1911. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Lazzaro DiSraffo, 1893, Ischiazza, Italian, and Vancouver Island.

19. *Ferrero, D. [Domenico?]* – Austrian citizen, arrested in Cumberland on 25 September 1915, interned at Victoria Provincial Jail, and released 1 April 1916 (“Irresponsible Utterances” 1915).

20. *Galazzini [Gallazini], Linus* – Austrian citizen from Villa Rendena (Trentino), interned at Vernon (POW #512) on 18 June 1915 at age 32, and released from Edgewood (POW #512) on 3 June 1916 (ICRC). This internee’s surname is also registered as Gallazzin [*sic*] (ICRC) and Galazin [*sic*] (Kordan 2002). The Certificate of Release issued to Linus Galazzini [*sic*] was signed “Linus Gallazzini” (LAC RG 6-H-1). Gallazini arrived in New York on 16 July 1912. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Lino Lallazzini [*sic*], 1882, Villa Rendena, Italian, and New York. He is listed as L. Galazin [*sic*], a grinder living in Vancouver (“Telephone Data” 1917). Gallazini married Roselina Scaia on 3 December 1921 in Vancouver. The marriage certificate states he was born in 1884 at Villa Rendena and lived in Vancouver (BCA GR-2962). The couple had two children: Leonard and Beatrice. Gallazini was naturalized as Linus Galazin [*sic*] on 2 October 1922 in Vancouver (locksmith) where he died on 10 February 1963. The death certificate for Linus Gallazin [*sic*] states he was born in 1884 in Tyrol and immigrated in 1913 (BCA GR-2951).

21. *Grossteiner, Ambrogio* – Austrian citizen from Bolzano (Alto Adige), detained upon arrival in Quebec City on 26 September 1914 at age 23, interned at Montreal, and released a few days later (ICRC). Grossteiner arrived in Quebec City on 26 September 1914. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Ambrose Grossteiner, 1891, Austria, Austrian, and Montreal.

22. *Jori [Yori], Enrico* – Austrian citizen from Celentino (Trentino), interned at Edgewood on 1 July 1915 at age 28, and released 23 May 1916 (ICRC List 28). The Certificate of Release issued to Enrico Yori was signed “Henry Yori” (LAC RG 6-H-1). Yori arrived in New York on 29 April 1906. His name, year

and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination documented as Eurico Jori [*sic*], 1887, Brez, Italian, and Ladysmith. He is listed in the 1911 Census as Enrico Yori, a miner living in Ladysmith who was born in 1887 in Tyrol, and immigrated in 1906. The 1921 Census entry is identical except for his birthplace, ethnicity, and residence: Trento, Italian, and Extension. He was naturalized as Enrico Yori on 30 July 1931 in Ladysmith (miner) where died on 9 August 1946. The death certificate states he was born in 1887 in Austria, of Italian ethnicity, and immigrated in 1906 (BCA GR-2951). He was survived by his wife Louisa and their children: Edward, Harry, and Rita.

23. *Lucas, Artur [Arturo]* – Austrian citizen from Trieste, interned in Montreal (POW #14) on 20 January 1915 at age 35, transferred to Spirit Lake (POW #725), and released 24 March 1915 (ICRC; LAC RG 117). Lucas unsuccessfully enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces on 4 April 1916 at La Tuque, Quebec (LAC RG 150). He failed again on 26 January 1917 in North Bay, Ontario. Both times, he misrepresented his birthplace as “Luca” [*sic*, probably for Lucca], Italy and was deemed medically unfit.

24. *Marachi/Marochi, Victor [Vittorio Marocchi]* – Austrian citizen from Villa del Monte (Trentino), detained in Vancouver on 7 October 1914 at age 21, interned at Vernon (POW #698), released 8 September 1916 to work for the Canadian Collieries at Ladysmith, reinterned, and released 16 August 1917 (ICRC; BCA GR-0057). The Certificate of Release issued to Victor Marochi [*sic*] was signed “Victor Marocchi” (LAC RG 6-H-1). Marocchi arrived in Boston on 22 November 1911. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Vittorio Marocchi, 1895, Canale, Italian, and Cumberland.<sup>16</sup> Marocchi returned to Italy in 1920, 1922, and 1926. Immigration records for these voyages identify his birthplace as Villa del Monte. On the last return via Quebec City on 7 August 1926, he was accompanied by his wife, Aldina, and daughter, Norma. The couple also had a son named Edward. Marocchi was killed on 24 October 1932 by roof-fall at the Coalmont Collieries’ No. 3 Mine in Blakeburn (BCA GR-1415; “Three Killed” 1932; “Four Killed” 1932). The death certificate states he was born in 1894 in Italy and immigrated in 1911 (BCA GR-2951).

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<sup>16</sup> Villa del Monte is a hamlet situated near the town of Canale.

25. *Marochi, Rudolph [Rodolfo Marocchi]* – Austrian citizen from Villa del Monte (Trentino), interned at Edgewood on 5 June 1915 at age 27, and released 10 April 1916 (ICRC). The Certificate of Release was issued to Rudolph Marochi [*sic*] (LAC RG 6-H-1). Marocchi first registered on 5 October 1914 at Cumberland. His abode, occupation, and age are given as Bevan, miner, and 27 (BCA GR-0057). Marocchi arrived in New York on 28 December 1907. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Rodolfo Marocchi, 1887, Villa del Monte, Italian, and Lethbridge. He survived two accidents at the Canadian Collieries' No. 4 Mine on 2 February and 7 September 1911 in Cumberland (McBride 1912). He was naturalized on 24 April 1925 in Vancouver (miner) and married Ida Antonietta Guella on 17 September 1927 in Princeton. The marriage certificate states he was born in 1888 in Pranzo and resided in Blakeburn (BCA GR-2962). Their daughters are Gloria and Anna. Marocchi was killed on 24 October 1932 after the speeding car in which he was a passenger plunged over a cliff ("Three Killed" 1932; "Four Killed" 1932). The driver also died while two passengers were injured. The men were rushing to assist Rudolph's brother, Victor, who died in a mining accident.

26. *Martinello, G. [Girolomo]* – Austrian citizen from Castelfranco Veneto (Treviso), arrested in Cumberland on 25 September 1915, interned at Victoria Provincial Jail, and released 1 April 1916 ("Irresponsible Utterances" 1915).<sup>17</sup> Martinello arrived in Quebec City on 9 May 1907. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Girolomo Martinelli [*sic*], 1887, Italy, Italian, and Sidney, BC. He survived an accident on 22 December 1916 at Comox No. 6 Mine of the Coast Collieries (Sloan 1917). Martinello married Adelia Terryberry on 24 October 1918 in Sandwich. The marriage certificate states he was born in 1887 in Italy and resided in Cumberland (BCA GR-2962). He was naturalized on 15 November 1920 in Cumberland (miner) and is listed in the 1921 Census as George Martinello along with his wife and daughter Viola. Martinello died on 8 February 1923 in Cumberland following a gas explosion at the Canadian Collieries' No. 4 Mine ("Cumberland Mine" 1923). The death certificate states he was born in 1887 at Castelfranco Veneto, of Italian ethnicity, immigrated in 1908, and lived at Union (BCA GR-2951).

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<sup>17</sup> Castelfranco Veneto was under Austrian rule from 1814 to 1866.



27. *Martini, Bortolo [Bartolo]* – Austrian citizen from Revò (Trentino), arrested in Sarnia, interned at Kingston (POW #222) on 2 October 1914 at age 21, transferred to Kapuskasing (POW #280), and released 24 November 1915 (ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1; LAC RG 117). According to a report submitted 27 March 1915 by the American consul in Orillia, Martini was removed from a train while travelling from Ironwood, Michigan to Hazelton, Pennsylvania (NARA RG 59). Canadian authorities suspected he was an Austrian reservist returning to fight. Martini arrived in New York on 29 May 1910. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Portolo [*sic*] Martini, 1892, Revó, Italian, and Bessemer, Michigan. Martini returned to Ironwood where he sued two railway companies for failure to disclose that his journey would cross into Canada where he was subject to the *War Measures Act* (“Circuit Court” 1916). The outcome of the legal action is unknown. Martini died in September 1958 in White Plains, New York.

28. *Mirelo, Stefan [Stefano Mirello/Morello?]* – Austrian citizen, interned at Spirit Lake in 1915 or 1916 at age 29, and released 13 June 1916 (LAC RG 6-H-1).

29. *Moar, Domenic [Domenico]* – Austrian citizen from Palù (Trentino), arrested 20 August 1915 at Quesnel Forks for firearms possession, interned at Vernon (POW #1717) on 18 September 1915 at age 27 as Dominik Moar [*sic*], transferred to Mara Lake (POW #717), Morrissey (POW #480) and Kapuskasing (POW #2925), and released 28 September 1919 (ICRC; LAC RG 117). Moar first registered in Clinton on 26 November 1914 as Nick Moar, a miner living at Quesnel Forks who was in BC since 1907 (BCA GR-0057). The Chief Constable at Clinton found him to be “very argumentative” and advised he be interned, with his brother Richard, “as a warning to others [for] having guns” (BCA GR-0057). On 17 April 1918, Rudolph Moar sought the release of his brothers Domenic and Richard, arguing that one was “in danger of losing his eyesight” while the other was “physically broken down” (LAC RG 13-A-2). The Internment Operations Office informed the Deputy Minister of Justice on 2 May 1918 that both men were in “good physical condition” and advised against their release since they were “not well behaved” (LAC RG 13-A-2). Rudolph unsuccessfully appealed to the Minister of Militia on 1 September for the release of his brothers from Morrissey. The Certificate of Release was issued to Palci Dominik Moar [*sic*] (LAC RG 6-H-1). Moar arrived in New York on 15 July 1907. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and

destination are documented as Domenico Moar, 1888, Palù di Pergine, German, and Ellensburg, Washington. He entered the US on 4 November 1910. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Domenico Moar, 1886, Trento, Italian, 1905, New York, Nelson, and Spokane. Moar was naturalized as Domenico Moar on 13 June 1944 in Jackson, California, where he died on 22 October 1965.

30. *Moar, Peter [Pietro]* – Austrian citizen from Palù (Trentino), arrested on 5 February 1916 at his cabin in Hartford Junction for failing to report and for possessing firearms and explosives, detained in Phoenix on 6 February 1916, incarcerated at Nelson Provincial Jail on 9 February 1916, interned at Vernon (POW #846) on 29 April 1916 at age 77, and released 7 August 1917 as Peter Moor [*sic*] (ICRC; BCA GR-0057; LAC RG 6-H-1; “Around Here” 1916). Moar is listed in the 1911 Census as a miner residing at Phoenix who was born in 1846 in Tyrol, immigrated in 1910 via the US, and spoke German. He also spoke Italian and first registered in Phoenix on 1 December 1915 (“Provincial Police” 1916; BCA GR-0057). According to a consular dispatch submitted 16 February 1917 by the American Vice-Consul in Vancouver, Moar was born in 1839 in Palù (NARA RG 59). Moar registered at Greenwood until 4 August 1918 and at Phoenix after 23 August 1918 (BCA BR-0057). He died on 7 September 1919 in Greenwood.

31. *Moar, Richard [Riccardo]* – Austrian citizen from Palù (Trentino), arrested 20 August 1915 at Quesnel Forks for firearms possession, interned at Mara Lake (POW #718) on 18 September 1916 at age 22, transferred to Morrissey (POW #481), and escaped on 23 August 1918 (ICRC; “Western Float” 1918). Moar, a miner, first registered on 24 November 1914 at Quesnel Forks. He was at Greenwood Jail on 1 May 1915 for unknown reasons (BCA GR-0057). Richard was interned with his brother Domenic. Their release was sought in 1918 by their brother Rudolph. Richard Moar arrived in New York on 28 June 1912. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Richard Moor, 1893, Palai [German version of Palù], German, and Nelson. Moar entered the US on 25 August 1918. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, residence, and destination are documented as Richard Moar, 1871, Palai, German, Morrissey, and Pine Grove, California. He was naturalized on 17 July 1926 at Pine Grove. The naturalization record states he escaped from Morrissey. Moar died in San Francisco on 10 March 1979.

32. *Morello, D. [Domenico Morelli?]* – Austrian citizen, arrested in Cumberland on 25 September 1915, interned at Victoria Provincial Jail, and released 1 April 1916 (“Irresponsible Utterances” 1915).

33. *Oberta, Joe [Giuseppe Oberto]* – Austrian citizen from Mezzolago (Trentino), interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, and released 18 July 1915. Oberto resided in Fernie (NARA RG 59). He arrived in Halifax on 20 February 1907. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Guiseppe [*sic*] Oberto, 1894, Austria, Italian, and Nelson. Oberto entered the US on 1 March 1908 and 21 April 1909. In both instances, his name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Guiseppe [*sic*] Oberto, 1883, Mezzolago, Italian, 1907, Halifax, Nelson, and Spokane. He returned from Europe via New York on 27 May 1913. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Giuseppe Oberto, 1893, Austria, Italian, and Coleman. Oberto tried to enter the US via Eastport, Idaho, on 19 November 1914. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Guiseppe [*sic*] Oberto, 1882, Locca [near Mezzolago], Italian, 1910, New York, Fernie, and Cle Elum. He was deported for misrepresenting his citizenship and immigration particulars.

34. *Pedergnana, Marco* – Austrian citizen from Rabbi (Trentino), arrested in Sarnia, interned at Kingston (POW #223) on 2 October 1914 at age 27, transferred to Kapuskasing (POW #273) on 24 January 1915, and released 21 December 1915 with permission to leave Canada (ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1; LAC RG 117). According to a report submitted 27 March 1915 by the American consul in Orillia, Pedergnana was removed from a train while travelling from Ironwood, Michigan to Hazelton, Pennsylvania (NARA RG 59). Canadian authorities suspected he was an Austrian reservist returning to fight. A letter written by Pedergnana at Kapuskasing on 31 May 1915 to Stif [Steve] Pangrazzi of Ironwood was intercepted and translated by the camp censor. Pedergnana criticized camp conditions and complained that the visiting American consul did not keep his promise to secure the release of American residents (LAC RG 24-C-8). Pedergnana arrived in New York on 19 December 1910. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Marco Pedergnana, 1887, Trentino, Italian, and Hurley, Wisconsin. He entered the US on 12 January 1916. His name, year and place of

birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Marco Pedernana, 1887, Trentino, Italian, 1910, New York, Kapuskasing, and Ironwood. Pedernana also sued the railway companies for not disclosing that his journey would cross into Canada where he was subject to the *War Measures Act* ("Circuit Court" 1916). He was naturalized on 6 February 1922 in Butte, Montana, and died on 5 October 1934 in Seattle, Washington.

35. *Philigetti, John [Giovanni Philegette/Filigetti/Filicetti?]* – Austrian citizen, arrested and interned at Nanaimo in April 1915, and released in 1915 (NARA RG 59).

36. *Picle, John [Giovanni?]* – Austrian citizen, arrested in Cranbrook, interned at Vernon in April 1915, and released on an unspecified date (NARA RG 59).

37. *Piva, Augusta [Agostino]* – Austrian citizen from Trentino, interned at Niagara Falls on 20 September 1914 at age 25, and released 10 October 1914 (LAC RG 24-C-8). His place of origin and native language are listed as Tyrol and Italian.

38. *Raschotti, Andrew [Andrea Raschetti?]* – Austrian citizen from Rovereto (Trentino), interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, and released 18 July 1915. Raschetti resided in Michel or Natal (NARA RG 59).

39. *Ruaban [Ruaben], Enrico* – Austrian citizen from Cavédine (Trentino), detained in Cumberland, interned at Vernon on 5 July 1915 at age 23, transferred to Edgewood (POW #464), and released 1 April 1916 (ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1; AJ 420). The Certificate of Release issued to Eurico Ruaban [*sic*] was signed "E. Ruaben" (LAC RG 6-H-1). Ruaben arrived in New York on 28 November 1909. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Enrico Ruaben, 1892, Cavédine, Italian, and Lethbridge. Ruaben was naturalized on 10 February 1923 in Canmore, Alberta (miner).

40. *Santoni, Louis [Luigi]* – Austrian citizen from Clavola di Riva (Trentino), detained in Drumheller, interned at Lethbridge (POW #376) on 4 January 1916 at age 27 as Luis Santoni [*sic*], and released 12 April 1916 as Louis Santoni (ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1). Santoni, a miner living in Fernie, was born in Calvola di Riva ("Accidents at Fernie" 1905; "Ricerca di Persona" 1905). He

moved to Alberta where he operated coal mines before and after internment (“District News” 1916; “Bow Island Coal” 1923; Dragland 1964). Santoni was naturalized as Luigi Santoni on 23 January 1931 in Bow Island (miner).

41. *Scabbar [Scobba/Sgobba], Renato* – Austrian citizen from Trieste, detained in Montreal (POW #1889) on 1 November 1917 at age 23, transferred to Kapuskasing (POW #2462), released on 27 October 1919, and repatriated (ICRC; LAC RG 117). Scobba entered Canada via Highwater, Quebec, on 1 February 1917. His name, birth year, citizenship, and point of origin are documented as Renate Scobba, 1893, Italian, and Massachusetts.

42. *Sefferino, Gughihno [Guglielmo] (William)* – Austrian citizen from Trieste, interned at Kapuskasing (POW #3208) on 31 July 1919 at age 26, released on 24 February 1920, and repatriated (ICRC; LAC RG 117). Sefferino claimed to be ethnic Italian. He arrived in Liverpool on 7 March 1920 with a contingent of deported internees. His name, year of birth, and citizenship are documented as Gughihno [*sic*] Sefferino, 1895, and Austria.

43. *Sesaro, John [Giovanni Sessaro/Sasaro?]* – Austrian citizen, interned at Fernie on 9 June 1915, and released 18 July 1915. Sesaro resided in Michel or Natal (NARA RG 59).

44. *Smith, John [Giovanni]* – Austrian citizen from Trieste, arrested in Calgary, interned at Banff (POW #482) on 4 March 1916 at age 44, and released 26 April 1917 (AJ 420; ICRC). Smith entered Canada via Windsor on 2 December 1910. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are noted as John Smith, 1872, Austria, Italian, and Windsor. He is listed in the 1916 Census as John Smith, an Austrian citizen interned at Castle Mountain, who was born in 1872 and immigrated in 1910. He tried entering the US on 21 August 1920. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as John Smith, 1872, Trieste, Polish, 1905, New York, Grand Forks, and Spokane. Smith was refused entry for misrepresenting his citizenship as Jugo-Slovakia [*sic*].

45. *Sperandi, Joseph [Giuseppe]* – Austrian citizen, arrested in 1915 in Victoria, interned at Victoria Provincial Jail, and released in 1915. According to a report submitted 4 May 1915 by the American consul in Victoria, Sperandi registered as an enemy alien in Victoria (NARA RG 59). The following month,

he registered as Joseph Sperande [*sic*] (“Alien Enemies” 1915). Sperandi arrived in Vancouver on 4 July 1910. His name, year and place of birth, and destination are documented as Joseph Sperandi, 1868, Austria, and Vancouver.

46. *Strabella, William [Guglielmo Stradella?]* – Austrian citizen from Trieste, arrested and interned at Niagara Falls on 6 October 1915 for attempting to leave Canada, and released on an unspecified date (LAC RG 24-C-8).

47. *Tobacco, S. [Secondo?]* – Austrian citizen, arrested in Cumberland on 25 September 1915, interned at Victoria Provincial Jail, and released 1 April 1916 (“Irresponsible Utterances” 1915).

48. *Tomase [Tomasi], Angelo* – Austrian citizen from Varignano (Trentino), interned at Edgewood (POW #453) on 5 June 1915 at age 20, and released 1 April 1916 (ICRC; AJ 420; LAC RG 6-H-1; “Irresponsible Utterances” 1915). Tomasi arrived in New York on 2 June 1911. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Angelo Tomasi, 1895, Romarzollo [near Varignano], Italian, and Cumberland. The 1921 Census lists him as Angelo Tomas [*sic*], a coal miner who was born in 1895 in Italy, spoke Italian, immigrated in 1911, and resided in Cumberland. Tomasi entered the US on 12 February 1922. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, year and place of immigration, residence, and destination are documented as Angelo Tomasi, 1895, Varignano, Italian, 1911 New York, Cumberland, and Seattle. Tomasi was naturalized on 6 April 1931 in San Francisco and died on 27 August 1962 in Sacramento.

49. *Tomasi, Leone* – Austrian citizen from Varignano (Trentino), arrested in Cumberland on 25 September 1915, interned at Victoria Provincial Jail, and released 1 April 1916 (“Irresponsible Utterances” 1915). Tomasi arrived in New York on 9 October 1909. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Leone Tomasi, 1883, Austria, Italian, and Vancouver. Tomasi married Eduina Zanoni on 23 July 1911 in Cumberland. The marriage certificate states he was born in 1883 in Varignano (BCA GR-2962). Tomasi is listed in the 1921 Census as Louise [*sic*] Tomasi, a Cumberland resident who was born in 1883 in Trento, spoke Italian, and immigrated in 1909. Tomasi was naturalized on 12 December 1924 in Cumberland (miner) where he died on 16 September 1973 (BCA GR-2951).

50. *Valorez [Valorzi], Leone* – Austrian citizen from Rumo (Trentino), interned at Edgewood (POW #559) on 1 July 1915 at age 36, and released 26 May 1917 as *Leone Valorzi* (AJ 420; ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1). Valorzi first registered at Ladysmith in May 1915 as L. Valorz [*sic*], a miner who resided in Extension (BCA GR-0057). He arrived in New York on 14 September 1903. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Leone Valorzi, 1878, Rumo, Italian, and New York. He was naturalized as Leone Valorzi on 11 October 1927 in Coalmont (miner). The naturalization certificate states he was born in 1878 at Rumo and entered Canada in 1909 (BCA GR-2166). Valorzi died on 6 May 1964 in Vancouver. The death certificate states he was born in 1877 in Tyrol and immigrated in 1902 (BCA GR-2951).

51. *Zononi [Zanoni], Pietro* – Austrian citizen from Gavazzo (Trentino), arrested in Cumberland on 25 September 1915, interned at Edgewood (POW #450) on 5 June 1915 at age 31, released on 10 April 1916 (AJ 420; ICRC; LAC RG 6-H-1; “Irresponsible Utterances” 1915). His Certificate of Release was issued to Pietro Zanoni. A union activist, Zanoni, participated in the Vancouver Island coal mine strike (1912–14). In retribution, he was evicted from his abode at Mine No. 7 by the Canadian Collieries on 9 November 1912 (BCA GR-1946). Albert Goodwin of the Socialist Party of Canada appealed for Zanoni’s release to the Acting Premier of BC on 6 March 1916 (Norton 2017). Zanoni arrived in New York on 12 May 1907. His name, year and place of birth, ethnicity, and destination are documented as Pietro Zanini [*sic*], 1880, Pieve di Ledro [near Gavazzo], Italian, and Michel. Zanoni was in Seattle by 12 September 1918.

Aside from Canada, 202 Austrian-born Italians were interned elsewhere in the British Empire, including 102 within the United Kingdom (UK). Canada is the last permanent residence of some internees held in the UK. Among them was an Italian from Sydney, Nova Scotia. Thomas Perin of Trieste was interned at Hanforth, England, on 25 September 1915 at age 37, transferred to Knockaloe (Isle of Mann), released 28 June 1917, reinterned in London (POW #13987), and died on 29 October 1917 due to heart disease (ICRC).

### *Aftermath*

While all internees were physically freed, their experiences could not always escape memory. Disrupted lives, frayed reputations, and impaired futures occasionally yielded to resentment. Fears of reliving traumatic experiences drove some to relocate. Of the fifty-one internees, the lot of thirty is known: sixteen remained in Canada, eleven moved to the US, and two were deported (see Table 2). An exodus of foreigners, including Italians, started in February 1918. It peaked during the summer of 1919. A few ex-internees were among those who voluntarily returned to Italy and its newly acquired territory (“Western Float” 1919). Some of them returned to Canada with their wives and children. By early-1920, an editorial in Regina’s *Leader-Post* (“Naturalization of Enemy Aliens”) advocated for Italians from Tyrol to be exempt from residency requirements for naturalization imposed on enemy aliens. Legislative amendments were adopted in June 1920. This partly explains why numerous Italian ex-internees remained in Canada. Two ex-internees, Vittorio Marocchi and Girolomo Martinelli, died in mining accidents after their release while another, Rodolfo Marocchi, was injured in a mining accident before internment. They are not listed among the fallen Italian workers compiled by Breda and Topan (2019).

### *Conclusion*

The collective wartime experience of Italians in Canada involved the dichotomous treatment of those born in Austria as enemy aliens and of those born in Italy as friendly aliens. Members of both groups were subject to prejudice and suspicion albeit the image of the latter group improved after Italy sided with the Allies. As enemy aliens and internees, Austrian-born Italians presented no threats to public safety and national security. They were neither dangerous sympathizers nor destructive saboteurs. The captured lives of these friendly foes resulted from misunderstood identities by authority figures and the host society. Internment experiences remain largely unknown and untold. There are no memoirs of experiential knowledge or survivor testimonies. This research has reconstructed and recovered a nearly lost chapter of Italian-Canadian history. While these stories represent a specific ethnic experience, they are pieces of a larger and shared event which transcends cultural, economic, religious, and political affiliations.



Table 1. Internee Origins

<b>Region and Town/Village</b>	<b>Number</b>
<i>DALMATIA</i>	<b>1</b>
Curzola	1
<i>STYRIA</i>	<b>1</b>
Graz	1
<i>TRENTINO</i>	<b>31</b>
Andogno	1
Bozzana	1
Cavédine	3
Celentino	1
Cologna	3
Clavola di Riva	1
Fondo	1
Gavazzo	1
Ischiazza	1
Mezzolago	1
Montes	1
Palù	3
Rabbi	1
Revó	1
Rovereto	1
Rumo	1
Tione	1
Varignano	2
Verla	1
Villa del Monte	3
Villa Rendena	1
Unknown	1

<b>Region and Town/Village</b>	<b>Number</b>
<i>TREVISO</i>	<b>1</b>
Castelfranco Veneto	1
<i>TRIESTE</i>	<b>7</b>
Cassegliano	1
Trieste	6
<i>TYROL (ALTO ADIGE)</i>	<b>1</b>
Bolzano	1
<i>UNKNOWN</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

Table 2. Internee Fate

<b>Fate</b>	<b>Number</b>
Remained in Canada	16
Moved/Returned to the United States	11
Deported to Italy	2
Unknown	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>

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