

The Value of Oral History: Investigating the History of
Canadian Cold War Military Families

By:

Alexie Glover

V00743493

For:

Dr. Timothy Balzer

History 426A

Due: March 31st, 2015

The families of Canadian military members are not often the focus of historical analysis. The scholarship that exists on the topic does not extend past World War II. While the historical record of military dependents is slim, there is extremely valuable information that exists in the recollections of their real life experiences. The military dependents I interviewed experienced constraints and freedoms specific to the Cold War era, which are extremely important and relevant to Canada's social history. Moreover, these individuals have a unique perspective on Canadian society—many of my interviewees referred to the military community as a separate community within larger society. It is my hope that by focusing on military dependents, this project will illuminate topics of historical interest that have previously gone unexplored. For the purpose of this essay, I briefly discuss the existing historiography on the topic of military dependents and explore the benefits of oral history interviews as an ideal primary source, ripe for investigation. Ultimately, I use my own interviews to demonstrate how many topics of interest, such as gender divisions, discontent with the military system, living overseas, and military family life, live in the memories of military dependents and are available for further historical investigation.

A literature review of military dependents in Canada exemplified a significant focus on the moral control of military wives. Specifically, many scholars have focused their attentions on the policy of social policing associated with the distribution of Dependents' Allowance in World War I and World War II. Scholar Magda Fahrni identifies how the Canadian government controlled the distribution of Dependents' Allowance in order to socially control deviant behaviour in women.

Fahrni's main argument is with regard to sexual infidelity in military wives. World War I created a unique social environment—that was sustained by the quick succession of World War II—in which many couples were hastily married and then generally separated for extended periods of time. When neighbours suspected married women of having an adulterous relationship with another man, the suspicious neighbour would report the wife to the Allowance Board, resulting in the suspension or loss of their income.¹ This resulted in a unique social environment, in which the government was empowered to punish deviant behaviour in women directly, usually without significant proof. Throughout my expansive literature review, this was the only article that explicitly explored Canadian social history by looking at the experience of military dependents.

Some Canadian historians have attempted to explain why military families are missing from the historical record. Scholars Amy Shaw and Desmond Morton suggest that the deficient representation is a documentary issue. Shaw contends that the limited scholarship can be associated with the “postwar desire to forget, or at least to forget the more disruptive and contradictory aspects of the conflict.”² Shaw touches on a significant point—many families did not go to lengths to discuss or memorialize the difficulties of the home front in comparison to the war front. Morton furthers this argument by recognizing that many soldiers were unable to preserve the letters they received from home because of the nomadic reality of

¹ Magda Fahrni, “The Romance of Reunion: Montreal War Veterans Return to Family Life, 1944-1949,” *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 9, no.1 (1998): 192.

² Amy Shaw, “Expanding the Narrative: A First World War with Women, Children, and Grief,” *The Canadian Historical Review* 95, no. 3 (2014): 400.

being a soldier, who needed to keep all possessions on one's person at all times.³ Morton explicitly recognizes that many soldiers were physically unable to preserve the letters they received from home. Both scholars discuss the issues of source preservation as a major barrier to writing the history of what happens at home during periods of war.

By acknowledging the previous scholarship that exists on the topic of military families in history, I have attempted to highlight a gap in the written record that I anticipate oral interviews will be able to fill. It is my experience that this gap can be filled with information gleaned from oral interviews. In the case of the wives I interviewed, for example, they were both unsure that they had anything of interest to contribute. This is a popular issue with interviewees, oral historian and sociologist Paul Thompson acknowledges this problem, noting, "Many people will protest that they have nothing useful to tell you."⁴ While this was also my experience at first, when it came time to conduct the actual interviews, all of my interviewees were exceedingly informative and forthcoming about their experiences and ideologies.

For this project I interviewed three individuals: Mrs. Betsy Thériault (83), the widow of General Gérard Thériault, previous Chief of Defence Staff for Canada; Mrs. Elizabeth Del Villano (80), the wife of Major Gary Del Villano; and Captain Kevin Carlé (60) who spent his adult life in the Canadian Navy after a childhood moving around the world as the son of a Royal Canadian Air Force flight instructor. Carlé did

³ Desmond Morton, "Supporting Soldiers' Wives and Families in the Great War: What Was Transformed?" in *A Sisterhood of Suffering and Service: Women and Girls of Canada and Newfoundland During the First World War*, ed. Sarah Glassford and Amy Shaw, (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2012): 195.

⁴ Paul Thompson, *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 236.

not think it was appropriate to use his rank because in this project the interview primarily focused on his life as a military dependent. All three individuals provided unique information about the experiences of military families. Interestingly, all three individuals have had shared experiences that tended to span over their generational gap—such as memories of specific historical events. I will explore some of these shared experiences in an attempt to illustrate topics that I believe should be considered important to the historical record, in both military and social history.

Since this project is dealing so pervasively with family, I chose to use a biographical interview approach—one not usually taken for military interviews. As a result, the background information that I was provided from all three individuals was vital to understanding their unique experiences as members of a military family. Thériault is an immigrant from New Zealand who came from a family of pioneers—they sent all of their daughters to private girls' colleges, which resulted in Thériault and her sisters being highly educated for the standards of the era. Thériault herself is trained as a nurse, midwife, and specialized in operating room technique.⁵ This education is precisely what enabled her to get a job at the RCAF Base Hospital in Grostenquin, France (known as 2 Wing). Comparatively, Del Villano grew up in Glasgow during World War II. Her father served in World War I and suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result.⁶ Witnessing the strength her mother demonstrated at the time, she followed in her footsteps and became a teacher, specializing in deaf education, which allowed her to take a teaching

⁵ Betsy Thériault, Interviewed by Author, Victoria B.C., 6th March 2015, 3:15.

⁶ Elizabeth Del Villano, Interviewed by Author, Victoria B.C., 16th March 2015, 1:20.

exchange to Canada.⁷ Similarly, the long history of military service in Carlé's family encouraged him to maintain military interests all through childhood into adulthood. Joining the Navy was a way for Carlé to stay connected to his family history.⁸ Furthermore, the majority of Carlé's naval career was spent as a Public Affairs Officer—offering an interesting perspective to this project. Carlé's biases and background actually lend to permitting outside factors to better understand the complex structures and social mores of the military.

Carlé began his interview with an interesting discussion about the term 'military dependents,' arguing that in some ways it is no longer considered politically correct. Carlé breaks down the creation of the term 'military dependents,' to better illustrate why the term is out dated:

Well you know, this is that whole thing about ... spouses not being able to work because either there weren't the opportunities or they just didn't have the time in a certain geographical base ... so they were dependent on the service member, and invariably the service members back then were mostly men. I think it's just become less politically correct than it used to be. There's no real shame in using the term ... but I think military families is a better term ... The idea was to avoid a term that might be exclusive and make it something a little more inclusive.⁹

Carlé indicates that this is the modern dominant discourse, so in keeping with this usage, I will default to "military families" unless referencing something specifically in an historical context where the term 'dependents' feels more appropriate. This segment of Carlé's interview indicates the political nature of discussing the military. The individuals interviewed in this paper are all educated and highly political

⁷ Del Villano, 12:20.

⁸ Kevin Carlé, Interviewed by Author, Victoria B.C., 10th March 2015, 38:40.

⁹ Ibid, 7:37.

individuals themselves. Furthermore, the women interviewed for this project are in fact not strictly 'military dependents' because throughout their lives as wives of military personnel, they each maintained their own careers.

Unlike the scholarship that has been written on the subject of military families, my analysis only focuses on the Cold War era and the unique social landscape of the 1950s and 1960s. Thériault acknowledges this unique era when she describes the other women living on the RCAF Base in Grostenquin:

A lot of the fellows married local girls, especially the French Canadians, they married girls from France ... I'd met a lot of Swedish and Danish and Dutch girls. It was just wonderful! They all came and they were all learning English. It was very special! And of course, I was delivering their babies and I got to know all these girls quite well.¹⁰

The social landscape described by the women was exciting—both women I interviewed thrived in situations where they were able to meet new people.

However, they also recognized that there were some negative impacts of the social landscape, especially when it came to travelling around Cold War Europe. Thériault hints at these dangers when recounting her and Gerry's close call with paralytic poliovirus while in Spain:

[Gerry had come down with poliovirus and] was only speaking French, he was quite delirious. So, I had to phone the base. Well I didn't speak Spanish or French or German or Italian and I had to find this Canadian Air Force base in France. I got through eventually and they had to send a plane down to pick us up. We were with NATO forces, you see, and they couldn't land in Spain, because Spain was neutral.¹¹

¹⁰ Thériault, 26:00.

¹¹ Ibid, 10:07.

Thériault and her husband were lucky enough to be able to get back to the base in time to be treated for the poliovirus, but their experience outlines the difficulties being a part of such a polarizing organization, such as NATO, and trying to travel around Cold War Europe. Therefore, the creation of a unique Canadian society abroad actually permitted a lenient social landscape when it came to mixing with the 'right' countries while also limiting mobility between the 'wrong' or 'neutral' ones.

Thériault and Del Villano were both swept up in the military lifestyle immediately following their marriages (which happened quite quickly—Thériault after only three months and Del Villano after about six months). In fact, both women recall military regulations affecting them almost immediately. Thériault, without prompting offered:

We were called 'dependent wives,' we didn't like that term, but that's what they called us. I used to say: "We're not dependent wives, we're dependable wives."¹²

However, Thériault managed to subvert the connotation of the term, as a result of her specialized medical training, she recalls her exemption from some base policies:

Officer's wives weren't allowed to work. When we got married, I went to the senior Medical Officer and I said "I guess I have to resign ... I know officers wives aren't allowed to work on the base" ... but he said "You're our midwife, you have to stay on." So I stayed on working for another year and a half until we came to Canada.¹³

Throughout the remainder of her husband's career, Thériault managed to avoid the status of 'dependent wife' by maintaining as much of her career as possible. As a

¹² Thériault, 13:45.

¹³ Ibid, 14:05.

result of the travel demands, she mainly worked part time positions at hospitals in the areas they were living. However, this was not always the case—especially when her family was moved to Germany. When asked if there was anything she would have done differently in her life, her regrets were all related to her own career.¹⁴

While Del Villano was a workingwoman when she met her husband, the demands of his job proved too much for her career. She was able to work while they remained in Nova Scotia, but once they moved, she sacrificed her career. However, unlike Thériault, this was not a point of resentment for Del Villano. All of her resentment seems to have been focused on the classist sentiments she witnessed in the military. She recalls the requirement of officers, like her husband, to need approval from their commanding officers for their marriage:

The CO actually had the ability to say: “No, this wife is not a suitable person.” Which to me is unbelievable. It was unbelievable then and still is unbelievable now.¹⁵

She was one of the last wives to be approved for her husband’s regiment because he was one of the last to be married. She imagines what an ‘unsuitable wife’ would have been:

I think if you had had perhaps a terribly strong accent, or I don’t know, really bad table manners? Or perhaps if you had come from a country that was in Eastern Europe? But I was from an Ally, so I was okay.¹⁶

As a woman who came from a strongly socialist background, she was continually shocked by the unequal and conservative politics of the Canadian military.

¹⁴ Thériault, 1:01:00.

¹⁵ Del Villano, 28:10.

¹⁶ Ibid, 28:40.

Del Villano's criticism of classist sentiments in the military continues into her present day feelings. As a result, it is a point she continued to come back to in her interview. She describes in more detail her direct issues with the rank system and associated politics; her most explicit explanation of the rank system came from her story of giving birth in Germany:

The hospital had had more babies than expected; so one of the other ranks' wives had been put in an Officer's wife's bed. This poor woman was taken out of the bed [after giving birth] and put some place else so that the sheets could be changed for me, and I would be put in her bed. Now I didn't realize this at the time, I found out from her afterwards.¹⁷

Not only were the beds reserved based on a rank system, but the way that new mothers interacted with their newborns and hospital staff was also determined by their husbands' rank:

The babies were brought to the Officers' wives for feeding, the other ranks' wives had to walk to the nursery to get the child. My meals were brought to me; they had to go to the dining room.¹⁸

When Del Villano was informed of the rank method in the hospital, she was appalled. The way that she continues to tell this same anecdote highlights her uneasiness about the situation.

Thériault and Carlé also recalled vivid memories of when rank influenced their experiences either in Canada or abroad. For Carlé, growing up, he recalls that young boys in the PMQ (Private Married Quarters) or economy (living within the community) would wear their fathers' ranks as a way of asserting playground dominance:

¹⁷ Del Villano, 45:00.

¹⁸ Ibid, 45:30.

I recall a few times when friends of mine or other youngsters would be ... wearing their dad's rank on their sleeve. I never really thought too much of that, I just thought that was kind of silly. Maybe because I didn't feel threatened or concerned? My dad was a more senior officer, so that's something that I remember sometimes, just basically trying to ignore it and encourage others to ignore it too.¹⁹

Thériault recalls a similar underlying assumption of rank affecting her relationships with the other wives on the PMQ. She recalls a phone call she received following her husband being awarded a promotion:

My husband was promoted, and this wife ... called me and said "Now your husband's promoted, are you going to give up work?" And I thought "Oh my god, where does she come from?" I said, "No, no, I work because I love to work. I enjoy it. That's my career and I love it!"²⁰

All three individuals actually recalled the knowledge that some military wives lived through their husband's promotions. The importance of 'class' or rank in the military actually appears to be more concentrated than within the greater society because these individuals are always together in constructed base communities.

Carlé recalls understanding the 'neighbourhood politics' of the base from an early age:

[The base] is like a fishbowl too, there's a lot of neighbourhood politics that would go on. You know, if your car was in the driveway on a Sunday you might be asked "how come you didn't go to church that day?" People knew where you were, and so there were always some differences.²¹

However, the closeness that created neighbourhood problems at times also helped to foster a unique social environment that has previously gone unexplored: the life on a military base and the affects that lifestyle has on the nuclear family.

¹⁹ Carlé, 17:57.

²⁰ Thériault, 55:00.

²¹ Carlé, 17:00.

All three interviewees recalled the closeness that their families experienced as a result of the demanding military lifestyle. Carlé repeatedly commented on how close his family would become during large moves:

We were a close-knit, loving family. I think that was important because when we did relocate, we sort of turned inward a bit. We were all together in the same boat and we provided some support [to one and other]. I don't recall having problems moving [as a result].²²

Similarly, Thériault reflected very sentimentally on her family's move from Montreal. When I asked about her feelings regarding the large relocations, this is the only memory she had that was particularly bittersweet:

We were there for two postings, at Collège Militaire Royal out of Montreal ... after four years he was transferred to Begotville as a Base Commander ... we were driving out of the base ... everyone was waving us goodbye ... and I turned around and the boys were in the back of the car and they were crying. I said, "Why are you crying boys? What's the problem?" [They responded:] "Well we're leaving all of our friends." ... I said "Oh, so you are ... and I am too." So we all started crying and my husband said, "Will you three stop that? I've got to go where my job is." He thought it was great because he was being promoted.²³

Moreover, Del Villano's main regret was that her family was unable to take more postings. All three interviews worked to subvert a prominent misconception of military life—that military families dislike moving with every posting.

Investigating the experiences of military women became one of the main components of my interviews. Both Thériault and Del Villano offered interesting anecdotal insight into the experiences of military wives during the Cold War era. Both women talked a lot about the female camaraderie they experienced when

²² Carlé, 6:05.

²³ Thériault, 28:50.

living on the PMQ. Del Villano references this camaraderie as something that was a unique construction of the military community:

As wives, I don't think I knew people in Borden [Ontario] very much, but I had friends in this little community. They were all doing the same as me, having babies and so on. We were all learning how to do without husbands because they were away on training a lot. And it seemed that every time the husbands left, all the cars broke down. That was somehow the worst thing for women then.²⁴

Even with these sentiments so clear in her mind, Del Villano tended to focus on the fact that the emergence of female camaraderie in the military community was amazing. She has many memories in which military wives banded together to help one and other, such as moving on short notice:

Gary drove me up, with the two children, to [Hemer] and dumped me with the wife of a friend of his. Poor woman, she had her own child and she was looking after another child and then I arrived with the two of mine and imminently about to produce another one. She was marvellous, she was just so accepting of this household with squawking children, all with dirty diapers. All I could do to help, really, was to put all of them in a big, high, old-fashioned pram and walk them.²⁵

She really made a point of describing the ways in which military women help one another out. In a more modern context, there are resources for military families that assist military wives today, such as the Military Family Resource Centre. Today, there are Resource Centres located all across Canada—specifically in regions that have a large concentration of military personnel, such as Esquimalt. They offer a wide variety of sources such as personal development and community integration,

²⁴ Del Villano, 33:00.

²⁵ Ibid, 41:10.

assistance with deployments or reunions, childcare and parenting assistance, and crisis intervention.²⁶

In conjunction with the positive experience of the military community, there is an underlying reality of isolation. Del Villano touches on this a bit when describing her experiences going into labour in Germany:

When I went into labour, we had no telephones in our houses, so if you wanted a telephone, you had to go to an office, the military office. I remember walking down the hill [alone], because we also didn't have a car, leaving [the other military wife] with my other two and walking down the road. Talking to the sergeant there and him saying "sit down, don't worry, the ambulance will be here in a minute."²⁷

Del Villano remained alone for the rest of her youngest son's birth. Once she arrived at the hospital, she recalls exactly how lonely the experience was for her:

I was taken down to the hospital ... Gary was on exercise and I don't think I've ever felt so alone in all my life as when I walked into that hospital. [The driver] helped me out of the ambulance, but he didn't wait around, he took off.²⁸

These experiences stood out to me as extremely unique to military wives. The vast majority of Canadian women do not give birth alone. As a result of the military lifestyle, both Thériault and Del Villano described points in their interviews in which they had to either reach out to other women or find ways to work without their husbands.

Recollections of times without their husbands were particularly highlighted in regards to parenting. Thériault's experience was unique because of her husband's

²⁶ Military Family Resource Centre: Esquimalt. <http://www.esquimaltmfrc.com/> (accessed 28th March 2015).

²⁷ Del Villano, 42:15.

²⁸ Ibid, 43:30.

position, which meant that he was hardly away from the family. She recalls her family's experience with the military lifestyle:

A lot of the time we had to live on the base because of my husband's job ... When he was a base commander, of course, we were living on the base ... When we were in Europe, he was a one- and a two-star General then so we had special housing for the Generals.²⁹

While Thériault's experience was different than many military wives, she still witnessed the difficulties of the military lifestyle in terms of parenting. She discusses her suspicions for why her children left home early:

The boys had both left home quite early... My husband was quite a disciplinarian, which is not hard to understand. I think the children—well they were normal teenagers—they wanted to do what they wanted and their dad wouldn't allow them to... so actually they both left home quite early, but then they both came back again.³⁰

Del Villano recognized these difficulties in her parenting experience as well.

However, her recollection is from earlier in her children's lives, when the family was living in Canada:

There was the problem that you had to be in charge of the children so much. It was your house, your rules. And then daddy would come home and things would change.³¹

For Del Villano, and most military wives in this era, the parenting fell solely on their shoulders. However, Thériault's scenario is interesting as a point of contrast—for women who were married to high ranking officials, their husbands appear to have had more of a hand in parenting the children—this is perhaps a reflection on the amount of time that the higher ranking officials had at home.

²⁹ Thériault, 38:50.

³⁰ Ibid, 48:15.

³¹ Del Villano, 33:30.

Del Villano and Carlé both comment in their interviews on the 'boys club' environment that existed amongst men in the military. For Del Villano this was sometimes a point of contention in her relationship:

I sometimes was a bit resentful. The guys at that time, the military men, had such camaraderie. Most of them had known each other for quite a while. They trained together, they lived together in barracks and so on and they also had ... a big boys club. They had a lot of fun and games going on. There was a great deal of drinking ... it was recognized Friday night at the Mess, the men got drunk.³²

This is a point in her narrative that indicates major gender divisions amongst married couples. According to Del Villano, "there were a lot of events for women too, but formal dinners and things."³³ Carlé commented on the 'boys club' in a different regard, suggesting that military men had a strong idea of what a 'gentleman' was, which comes out in his description of his father:

He was very much a man of principle, very ethical, well mannered, a gentleman. Those are the things that I guess I picked up on a little bit. The terms 'officer' and 'gentleman' are often just tossed around and it's important, I think, to pursue that.³⁴

Here in Carlé's comment is another strong indication towards gender roles. Carlé's admiration for his father is obvious throughout the entire interview. However, the parts of his father that he admires are also traits that he attempts to reciprocate in his own life, military or otherwise. I think it's quite clear that the traits he associates with his father are traits he also associates with highly distinguished military men.

All three interviewees discussed their experiences with major political events they had either witnessed or lived through because of their connection to the

³² Del Villano, 34:45.

³³ Ibid, 35:35.

³⁴ Carlé, 5:25.

Canadian military. For Thériault, the major event that stuck in her mind was not one that she had witnessed personally, but felt the aftershock of. During Christmas of 1956 the RCAF base in Grostenquin experienced a mid-air collision—something that was common in this era because of the rudimentary flying equipment and the number of planes flying. Thériault recollects her experience hearing of the crash:

Before I arrived there was a mid-air collision on the base—Christmas of '56. Everyone was talking about this mid-air collision—in the air, all of these pilots.³⁵

Carlé also touched on the air collisions in his interview, when referring to his father's absences:

In the fifties and sixties, the Royal Canadian Air Force experienced a lot of flying fatalities. You know, the jets were high performance and in many cases the guys were from the Second World War. There wasn't the same sort of technology in terms of radar or things like that. So I remember my dad going off quite often to funerals or flying someone to ... a funeral.³⁶

The discovery of these cross-generational experiences and memories uncovered an interesting historical reality, which is that the military experience actually fosters these shared recollections because of the closeness of the organization. This is something that has gone entirely unexplored by scholars and could easily create a new narrative of shared experience across generational lines in the history of the Canadian military.

Carlé goes to lengths in his interview to describe his recollections of major Cold War events both in Canada and abroad. He refers to them in an historical context but remembers that because of his military background these events always

³⁵ Thériault, 8:55.

³⁶ Carlé, 25:20.

had larger political repercussions, even when he recollects experiences as a young boy:

When we were in Germany, the Cuban Missile Crisis hit, and of course the military went on pretty high alert. Instead of taking the bus from the school, we had to walk, as students, all back to our homes. And we had these big apartment blocks with these big air raid cellars in the bottom of them. I can remember not being frightened, but just kind of wondering what was going on.³⁷

His remembered experience provides an interesting basis for historical analysis. As an adult, Carlé learned all about the politics behind the Cold War events such as the Missile Crisis, which comes through in his recollection. However, his logical understanding of the event is marred by his recollection as a young schoolboy living in Europe at the time of a major North American historical event. This recollection also highlights the complications of being a part of a military family. Carlé's early childhood was touched by Cold War conflict that was always not fully understood at the time. However, his induction into a military career resulted in the recollection of major events including this confusing time in his life.

The conflict between understanding the political and historical impact of major Cold War events versus reconciling remembered experience pops up again in Carlé's interview:

In Calgary, I remember—because again a lot of my fellow students, their dad's were in the Army—I remember the first real, really big peacekeeping mission that was to Cyprus. A lot of the youngsters had their dad's gone for six months, eight months, and that was something that was brand new to me. I can remember being empathetic towards them and thinking about what it would be like.³⁸

³⁷ Carlé, 26:56.

³⁸ Ibid, 27:40.

Carlé's interview actually works in conjunction with parts of Del Villano's interview regarding Cyprus. She recalls her understanding of her husband's role in Cyprus:

It was keeping the Turks and the Greeks apart ... it was not without danger at all, the situation was nasty there. I don't ever think that it worried me all that much; I just assumed of course that he would be back safely.³⁹

An interesting detail that is obviously not cohesive between the two recollections is the fact that Del Villano travelled with her husband to Germany, to live there, while her husband was in Cyprus. According to Carlé, however, many of the men deployed to Cyprus actually left their families at home in Canada—a military convention that is viewed as more popular with modern conflicts such as Afghanistan and Iraq. However, this may also be because Canadian bases in Germany were beginning to shut down.

Carlé, as a retired Public Affairs Officer, was really excited to talk about misconceptions about military families and the associated lifestyle—which is a topic I was eager to address as well. Reflecting on his childhood he comments:

I think there was a view that we were privileged ... I'm not so sure that I ever thought that we were, but I think there was that perception sometimes—often based on misunderstandings.⁴⁰

He continues on this line of thought, indicating that larger society perceived that they had “free this ... free that ... whereas that's not really the case at all.”⁴¹

Following the interviews with Thériault and Del Villano, I felt they had worked to subvert any misconceptions that may have been obvious from my line of questioning. Both women established that they did not agree with or fit the mould of

³⁹ Del Villano, 30:45.

⁴⁰ Carlé, 58:05.

⁴¹ Ibid, 58:20.

an extremely conservative military wife. Thériault comments on the difficulties of being a self-identified outspoken woman associated with “a square” institution, such as the Canadian military.⁴²

Oral history interviews have provided the opportunity to explore the lives of Canadian military families during the Cold War era. The three interviews I conducted allowed me to identify many areas of historical interest that have not previously been explored by Canadian military historians. Interviewing military wives identified the difficulties of a military lifestyle, including the relative isolation, child rearing while in foreign countries, the complications of the military’s rank system, as well as major areas of gender division. Furthermore, the interview with Carlé provided me the opportunity to explore the military lifestyle through the eyes of a child. He also displayed the value of a Public Relations career in describing the misconceptions of a military lifestyle that exist in larger society. Ultimately, this project has given me the opportunity to highlight areas of interest for further historical analysis and investigation.

Word Count: 5,526

⁴² Thériault, 58:40.

Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Carlé, Kevin. Interviewed by Alexie Glover. March 10th, 2015.

Del Villano, Elizabeth. Interviewed by Alexie Glover. March 16th, 2015.

Thériault, Betsy. Interviewed by Alexie Glover. March 6th, 2015.

Secondary Sources:

Alexander, Kristine. "An Honour and a Burden: Canadian Girls and the Great War." In *A Sisterhood of Suffering and Service: Women and Girls of Canada and Newfoundland During the First World War*, edited by Sarah Glassford and Amy Shaw, 173-194. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2012.

Fahrni, Magda. "The Romance of Reunion: Montreal War Veterans Return to Family Life, 1944-1949." In *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 9, no.1 (1998): 187-208.

Kelley, Michelle L. "The Effects of Deployment on Traditional and Nontraditional Military Families: Navy Mothers and Their Children." In *Military Brats and Other Global Nomads: Growing Up in Organization Families*, edited by Morten G. Ender, 3-23. Westport: Praeger Publishers, 2002.

Little, Margaret Jane Hillyard. *"No Car, No Radio, No Liquor Permit": The Moral Regulation of Single Mothers in Ontario, 1920-1997*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1998.

McElroy, Gil. *Cold Comfort: Growing up Cold War*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2012.

Military Family Resource Centre: Esquimalt. <http://www.esquimaltmfrc.com/> (Accessed March 28th, 2015).

Morton, Desmond. "Supporting Soldiers' Wives and Families in the Great War: What Was Transformed?" In *A Sisterhood of Suffering and Service: Women and Girls of Canada and Newfoundland During the First World War*, edited by Sarah Glassford and Amy Shaw, 173-194. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2012.

Rutherford, Robert. *Hometown Horizons: Local Responses to Canada's Great War*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004.

Shaw, Amy. "Expanding the Narrative: A First World War with Women, Children, and Grief" In *The Canadian Historical Review* 95, no. 3 (2014): 398-406.

Stacey, C.P. and Barbara M. Wilson. *The Half-Million: The Canadians in Britain, 1939-1946*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1987.

Thompson, Paul. *The Voice of the Past: Oral History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.