

Interview with Lucien Desjardins

Aleutian World War II National Historic Area Oral History Program

January 27, 2011, Quebec, Canada

Interviewed by Janet Clemens, National Park Service
Transcribed by Professional Transcripts

This interview is part of the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area Oral History Project. The interview with Lucien Desjardins was recorded with his permission on a digital recorder. Copies of the audio file are preserved in mp3, wav and wma formats and are on file at the offices of the National Park Service in Anchorage, Alaska.

The transcript has been lightly edited.

(The dictation starts out with attempts to successfully record the phone conversation and with a brief dialogue with Mr. Desjardin's son before the interview starts.)

Lucien Desjardins: Hello? [0:01:25.0]

Janet Clemens: Hi! Good morning. How are you?

Lucien Desjardins: Oh, I'm fine so far.

Janet Clemens: Excellent. So we're calling from opposite ends of the continent so to speak.

Lucien Desjardins: Just a minute. I think you're speaking a little too loud.

Janet Clemens: Ah. Umm. Okay. Is this, maybe better?

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, that's better.

Janet Clemens: Better? Okay. All right. Well I'm very happy that you were interested in sharing some of your stories of coming to the Aleutians and being in Kiska, whatever they are (laughter) so I have – I'm taping right now, if that is all right with you.

Lucien Desjardins: What?

Janet Clemens: I am taping the interview on a digital recorder, if that is okay with you.

Lucien Desjardins: All right. Okay that's all right. [0:02:07.8]

Janet Clemens: Okay, wonderful. So let me just start off a little bit by – would you please say your name and spell that for us.

Lucien Desjardins: My name is Lucien, that's my first name, Desjardins, is the second name.

Janet Clemens: Okay and what – when were you born?

Lucien Desjardins: I was born the 4th of February, 1920. [0:02:30.7]

Janet Clemens: Oh, your birthday is right around the corner.

Lucien Desjardins: That's right, next week.

Janet Clemens: Well happy – Happy Early Birthday. (Laughs)

Lucien Desjardins: I'll be 91.

Janet Clemens: Oh my gosh. You sound great! You sound wonderful.

Lucien Desjardins: Oh, well not too bad. My hands are all right. The rest is no good.

Janet Clemens: Oh (laughter). You must have been having a full life.

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yes, yes, it was indeed.

Janet Clemens: Oh. I guess I just need to say on the tape, this is Janet Clemens. I'm a historian with the National Park Service, the Alaska Regional Office and today is January 27, 2011 and conducting the interview from Anchorage to – you guys are in Montreal?

Lucien Desjardins: I beg your pardon?

Janet Clemens: Uh, where am I calling to? Are you guys in Montreal?

Lucien Desjardins: Yes, I'm in Montreal, well a suburb of Montreal. [0:03:19.1]

Janet Clemens: Verdun?

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, Verdun, that's right.

Janet Clemens: Excellent. Alrighty, well let's get to – and then your son was very helpful in getting this pulled together and I want to make sure he is mentioned and that is – your son's name is Jacques Desjardins?

Lucien Desjardins: No, there is a problem. I think you speak a little too fast.

Janet Clemens: Oh, okay. I.....

Lucien Desjardins: A little slower please.

Janet Clemens: You – yep, I will slow down. And I shouldn't have had that second cup of coffee. (Laughter) Okay, what was your – tell me about when you went into the Canadian Army and what branch of the service you were in.

Lucien Desjardins: I was in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals. And first there was some small training down at the base in Joliette and after that I went to Kingston in the Royal Canadian Corps Service – service of – Signals. **[0:04:22.2]**

Janet Clemens: And did you voluntarily join the army?

Lucien Desjardins: Did I voluntarily went in the army?

Janet Clemens: Yes.

Lucien Desjardins: No, they volunteered me to work in the army.

Janet Clemens: Okay (laughter). And – okay, And so then you were from Kingston where did you go?

Lucien Desjardins: From Kingston we left to – we went to Vancouver and from there I got a promotion and they sent me to Prince Rupert which is a base where I was and the soldiers were working on the railroad around Terrace near Prince Rupert.

Janet Clemens: Uh-huh.

Lucien Desjardins: They were getting ready for the Japanese I guess. They were waiting for them in case they came here.

Janet Clemens: Right. Were you surprised to be okay from – so then from Price Rupert when did you find out they were shipping you to the Aleutians?

Lucien Desjardins: They called me from Vancouver. They brought me back to Vancouver and I said, "I don't know what's going on." And I said "I was supposed to go and get married."

Janet Clemens: Oh.

Lucien Desjardins: And so I went to Vancouver and the first thing I knew – we went to Nanaimo on Victoria Island and then we had hard, very hard training.

Janet Clemens: Oh.

Lucien Desjardins: And from there we took a boat and the next morning we're on the sea in the same boat and they told us where we were going to the Aleutians. **[0:05:51.3]**

Janet Clemens: Hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: I wasn't please because I was supposed to be going home to get married.

Janet Clemens: I bet.

Lucien Desjardins: So, I say – I stayed on the boat and they kept our mail. They didn't send my mail to my wife.

Janet Clemens: Wow.

Lucien Desjardins: I know. Anyway we went to Adak on the Aleutian Islands. That was the place where we stopped first. [0:06:19.2]

Janet Clemens: Right. Did you do more training on Adak?

Lucien Desjardins: Yes we did. And we – we made a practice of an invasion at Great Sitkin near Adak.

Janet Clemens: Um-hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: And from Great Sitkin we came back and went to – we were going to Kiska to invade Kiska.

Janet Clemens: And you heard about the results of Attu?

Lucien Desjardins: The result of what?

Janet Clemens: Of the Battle at Attu. Did you hear much about what went on there?

Lucien Desjardins: No. Anyway, we didn't get off the boat right a way – the others came down first, because I was with the headquarters. I was a lineman working in establishing communications between the regiments and the headquarters so we went on the island and we expected a lot of fire with the – with the enemy.

Janet Clemens: Right. So you were on the headquarter ship?

Lucien Desjardins: Yes. With the Canadian Army- the Canadian Army, yeah.

Janet Clemens: Okay. And when you guys arrived at the island, what was the first thing you did?

Lucien Desjardins: Uh, the first thing – first they sent us to establish communications between the sea and the base on the – the village of Kiska.

Janet Clemens: Uh-huh. Over by Kiska Harbor?

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, that's right. And the first night there – we expected a lot of fireworks but we didn't get any.

Janet Clemens: Hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: But we were alone – a little noise and we didn't – we stayed quiet because we.....

Janet Clemens: Um-hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: And there were a few battles like that between the different people but they were on our side.

Janet Clemens: Oh, okay. So the friendly fire?

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah.

Janet Clemens: Yeah.

Lucien Desjardins: And sometimes you go killed too. There were no Japanese. We didn't know that. Finally, -- we finally got to the village near the sea there, the Japanese village. [0:08:19.7]

Janet Clemens: Right.

Lucien Desjardins: And we were surprised. We didn't find any Germans (meant to say Japanese). We only found dogs. They had their police dogs in the place.

Janet Clemens: Right.

Lucien Desjardins: So we stayed in the place where the Japanese had built some place to live, you know?

Janet Clemens: Right.

Lucien Desjardins: It had a cellar dug in the dirt way down and.....

Janet Clemens: Protected you from the wind.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, that's right. Funny – funny we went back a little up there and we built sort of a little house with something to sleep in and.....

Janet Clemens: So your unit went right over to Kiska Harbor and you were at the Japanese Navy Base.....

Lucien Desjardins: That's right.

Janet Clemens: And then did you.....

Lucien Desjardins: We were there first and after that we went a little inside and built us a little place there to – to where their headquarters were.

Janet Clemens: Oh, okay.

Lucien Desjardins: I was always with the headquarters because we were doing jobs from the headquarters to the different places.

Janet Clemens: Oh, so you got – you got the finer accommodations it sounds like.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah. Anyway, I was a lineman. Establishing lines between the headquarters and the different regiments and Americans and all those guys. [0:09:45.0]

Janet Clemens: Did you walk everywhere or did you – did you have vehicles that you were driving?

Lucien Desjardins: Oh, no, no, no. Nothing to drive in.

Janet Clemens: Okay, so you had to walk everywhere to.....

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yes, oh yeah. That's right, yeah.

Janet Clemens: Okay, and was the actual Canadian camp that was closer to the invasion site of the beach?

Lucien Desjardins: Is what? The Canadian, where?

Janet Clemens: Yeah, the Canadian camp where most of the tents were set up.

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yeah. Oh yeah, sure.

Janet Clemens: So did you actually stay with the whole – with the group of Canadians or did you – were you separate or kind of intermixed with where the Americans were? [0:10:24.0]

Lucien Desjardins: No. I wasn't mixed with the Americans but we were the Canadians and we had the headquarters of Canadians and I stayed there because from there we established communications from the headquarters to the different places – to the Americans, the Canadians, a regiment of all of the coalitions.

Janet Clemens: Okay, and I'm just curious. Did you work closely with the Americans or were you guys always, you know, separately doing.....?

Lucien Desjardins: No, no. We didn't have much meetings with the Americans.

Janet Clemens: Really, okay. They kept everybody separate it seems like or you were – I should say, you were more efficient to be kept with your own groups. (Laughs)

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, I guess so. Sometimes we wanted some things which we didn't have here, we went to see the Americans to get – like some food, some good food.

Janet Clemens: Oh yeah.

Lucien Desjardins: Compared to the Canadian food.

Janet Clemens: Oh – oh what – what – do you remember what did you have to eat?

Lucien Desjardins: [0:11:16.8] Oh, sometimes we had something that wasn't very good.

Janet Clemens: Like.....

Lucien Desjardins: The Americans always had different – they had cigarettes, they had.....

Janet Clemens: Oh.

Lucien Desjardins:_beer.

Janet Clemens: Okay, well I was doing a little bit of reading about the Canadian's time and it sounds like the Canadians got rum though.

Lucien Desjardins: (Laughs)

Janet Clemens: But the Americans didn't so I guess you had something over on them.

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yeah, oh yeah. Sure. (Laughter)

Janet Clemens: So you were living and you – okay so tell me how long were you there and.....

Lucien Desjardins: I was there six months. [0:11:50.5]

Janet Clemens: Oh, you were six months.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, we – we invaded around June or early July, I think.

Janet Clemens: Mid – mid August.

Lucien Desjardins: Uh.....

Janet Clemens: Yeah.

Lucien Desjardins: Not mid August. I think it was July.

Janet Clemens: Yeah mid – yeah, the invasion was in mid August.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, something like that. Around that.

Janet Clemens: Okay, and so you didn't – did you make it home in time for Christmas?

Lucien Desjardins: No, on Christmas – I left the island of Kiska on a boat in the Bering Sea on which we had a heck of a storm. [0:12:22.4]

Janet Clemens: Oh.

Lucien Desjardins: And I was seasick (laughs).

Janet Clemens: Oh.

Lucien Desjardins: And we landed at – what was the name of that -- Dutch Harbor.

Janet Clemens: Oh, okay.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah. We had – on Christmas Day we landed at Dutch Harbor and we had turkey for dinner. (Laughs)

Janet Clemens: Oh man. Very memorable, huh?

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yeah, yeah it is. And I – then from Dutch Harbor we left to go back to Victoria in Canada.

Janet Clemens: Oh wow. So they just barely got you out of Kiska on Christmas – by Christmas. That was sort of.....

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah. The day before Christmas we were on the sea in the big storm. (Laughs)

Janet Clemens: Oh, okay. So they kind of kept their promise to you guys to get you home, okay. (Laughs) So what were your impressions of coming to the Aleutian Islands? The, you know, walking on the tundra? [0:13:16.0]

Lucien Desjardins: It was very strange because there were not trees there. It was like in the Arctic. They don't have trees, they have – what do they call that – the kind of grass they have there?

Janet Clemens: Sure. It's tundra.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah.....

Janet Clemens: Muskeg – Muskeg.

Lucien Desjardins: Well I was surprised that there was a volcano too.....

Janet Clemens: Oh yeah.

Lucien Desjardins:on the island and which had the smoke coming out of it and I was impressed by that.

Janet Clemens: Well.

Lucien Desjardins: That place, I was very impressed because some kind of country I've never ever went too. I never went there.

Janet Clemens: It's beautiful. I went out there in 2009.

Lucien Desjardins: It was beautiful. When it's beautiful.

Janet Clemens: Right.

Lucien Desjardins: And when it is bad weather, it's terrible.

Janet Clemens: Oh yeah, yeah. So yeah – I guess what are some of your memories? I was going to say fondest memories but just your memories of your time there and your service.

Lucien Desjardins: I beg your pardon.

Janet Clemens: Um, your son wrote that you had gone into one of those structures and found some boxes of tea and condensed milk. Could you talk about that? You went underground into the tunnels maybe or caves?

Lucien Desjardins: I went in the caves where they had this Japanese food and from there I took some of the canned vegetables which were very good.

Janet Clemens: Oh, oh, hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: Even the condensed milk.

Janet Clemens: Right.

Lucien Desjardins: They brought in condensed milk, made in Japan.

Janet Clemens: Isn't that something.

Lucien Desjardins: We had that and different kinds of food were found there but afterwards after a few weeks there they closed that up. They didn't let anybody go there. By the way, we took a lot of food from there.

Janet Clemens: Right.

Lucien Desjardins: Extra food.

Janet Clemens: Right. Well it was – that was some concern – I talked to another veteran and he talked about a soldier, you know, he wasn't supposed to pick up an explosive device which went off and killed the soldiers around him so I imagine people were a bit concerned about what you were picking up and where you were going.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, apparently so, I don't remember that.

Janet Clemens: Oh, okay. And did you – we've been doing reading about soldiers that were souvenir-ing, you know, picking up whatever was available – what was around and it looks like you found that Japanese fan and the wooden bullets and.....

Lucien Desjardins: [0:15:50.0] Oh yeah, yeah. I did – I brought back some different things. I brought a Japanese flag and I got some little things there. We're going to send you the copies.

Janet Clemens: Oh yeah, yeah your – your son did. Sent us pictures. That's great.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, my son is going to take care of that and he'll send you anything that he thinks – it will be useful to you.

Janet Clemens: Right, thank you. And I was – I was just trying to get a sense of was that pretty typical? Every soldier was picking up stuff and you know, to send it on home?

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yeah. I – we picked up everything we could.

Janet Clemens: Yeah.

Lucien Desjardins: But there were no place to put it. (Laughs)

Janet Clemens: Oh. Huh.

Lucien Desjardins: Anyway, I got a few things I brought along, but my son has got them in front of him there.

Janet Clemens: Right.

Lucien Desjardins: So – so did you feel like you were in a really – really a strange place.

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yes, very strange. It was – I was on like – on some other planet. I don't know. It wasn't like Earth where I lived.

Janet Clemens: No, and then.....

Lucien Desjardins: There were no trees, no wood at all there.

Janet Clemens: Right. And then you didn't get you – you didn't get your mail for several weeks it sounds like.

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yes. My wife didn't hear about me – her mother told her, she said you see what a soldier – what soldiers are like, he'll never come back!

Janet Clemens: Ah! Yeah, wow.

Lucien Desjardins: But, I loved my wife. I was married 62 years to the same girl.

Janet Clemens: Oh my gosh. Gosh congratulations.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, and I still love her.

Janet Clemens: Oh, that's nice. So when did you get married when.....?

Lucien Desjardins: I got married when I came back from Kiska. [0:17:24.2] We – when we came back we got a leave and I went home and I got married.

Janet Clemens: Oh.

Lucien Desjardins: But I was supposed to get married six months before that in June.

Janet Clemens: So it delayed your marriage by six months.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, it was late six months but anyway, I got married. That's the only thing that was beautiful.

Janet Clemens: Oh. So – and after you left Kiska where did – did you serve or had your time.....?

Lucien Desjardins: [0:17:52.0] I came back to Canada. We had different jobs there at Prince George and Wainwright and all those places. And – finally I say, well I came back to Montreal at the base there and I worked in the office typing when the soldiers were going out of the army.

Janet Clemens: Um-hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: They were examined by doctors.

Janet Clemens: Um-hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: We had to type that on a sheet.

Janet Clemens: Sure.

Lucien Desjardins: Instead of writing – the doctors' writing.

Janet Clemens: Right. Their....

Lucien Desjardins: So we typed that. I worked there until it was my turn to leave.

Janet Clemens: Hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: So I left with pleasure (laughter).

Janet Clemens: Yeah – you did – did you duty. Right?

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah. I was in nearly four and a half years. **[0:18:42.7]**

Janet Clemens: Four and a half years, ok, okay.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, so. I said, I got married and became a fireman. I was a fireman for 35 years and, anyway, I had a good life. A very good life.

Janet Clemens: It sounds like it. And then Jacques had written that he and his brother, I think, both went in to the communications field.

Lucien Desjardins: Uh-huh.

Janet Clemens: So did that have any – your experience, do you think, being a linesman or in communication did that somehow influence them?

Lucien Desjardins: Oh, I can't understand what you say.

Janet Clemens: Oh, I'm sorry. Your sons went in to the communications careers.

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yes, they did, yeah, yeah.

Janet Clemens: Um, do you think that's because of your experience?

Lucien Desjardins: No, I don't think so. I don't think so. I went in as a fireman because I liked being a fireman. **[0:19:34.9]**

Janet Clemens: Hmm.

Lucien Desjardins: I never did anything else.

Janet Clemens: Yeah, did you.....

Lucien Desjardins: I had a hard time but I liked to be a fireman.

Janet Clemens: Yeah.

Lucien Desjardins: I was used – I was used to, I don't know, not war but hard times.

Janet Clemens: Well, yeah.

Lucien Desjardins: When you get to a fire, it's quite – it's quite a job.

Janet Clemens: Oh it certainly is very important at the time.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, yeah.

Janet Clemens: When you were in the army did you – did they just tap you to be the linesman or did you have a, you know, much of a choice?

Lucien Desjardins: A choice?

Janet Clemens: Right. For what you did in the army?

Lucien Desjardins: Oh yeah, I had a choice, yeah. I took the – I decided to go with the Signals part of the army in the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals because I thought they always – things there I liked very much. **[0:20:31.4]**

Janet Clemens: Okay. Do you remember – I guess I have a list here. I'm not that familiar with the Canadian, you know, regiment or do you remember what group you were with by chance?

Lucien Desjardins: Oh, I was with the – I think it's on one of our letters there. Is it 13th?

Janet Clemens: Yeah, there – yeah, it has the big 13th Canadian Infantry Brigade Group.

Lucien Desjardins: Yeah, that's right.

Janet Clemens: And then, okay below that I guess it's broken down to field regiments and Canadian Fusiliers and Winnipeg.

Lucien Desjardins: That's right.

Janet Clemens: Yeah, okay.

Lucien Desjardins: Want to speak to my son now?

Janet Clemens: Um, is that – you have anything else you'd like to – for us to know about or from the Canadian perspective that you know, what you – we heard you guys were very, you know, always well dressed and did the parades and were very, you know, kept yourselves, you know, well presented. Is that your opinion?

Lucien Desjardins: Anyway, I've gotta give you back to my son because I.....

Janet Clemens: Okay.

Lucien Desjardins: I've gotta rest a little bit.

Janet Clemens: [0:21:39.2] Oh, you bet. Thank you so much! It's been wonderful hearing your – hearing from you.

Lucien Desjardins: Boy, it was a pleasure talking to you.

Janet Clemens: All right. And we will send you a copy of the transcript.

Lucien Desjardins: And my son is going to send you some copies of the things that I have here.

Janet Clemens: Okay.

Lucien Desjardins: The rest of it. I have some postcards of Japanese ships.

Janet Clemens: Uh-huh.

Lucien Desjardins: Taking British ships in Japanese.

Janet Clemens: Right. That's.....

Lucien Desjardins: So I'll send you copies of that.

Janet Clemens: Okay, excellent.

Lucien Desjardins: And my son will tell you what he's going to do.

Janet Clemens: Okay. Thank you so much.

Lucien Desjardins: It's been a pleasure talking to you.

Janet Clemens: Oh, it's been wonderful. Thank you.

Lucien Desjardins: Okay.

Janet Clemens: Alrighty, bye bye. [0:22:18.4]

(The dictation switches here to a interview between Janet Clemens and Mr. Desjardins' son, Jacques.)

Jacques Desjardins: Hello, Mrs. Clemens.

Janet Clemens: Hi.

Jacques Desjardins: Okay.

Janet Clemens: That went very well, thank you so much for.....

Jacques Desjardins: Very good.

Janet Clemens: Your dad sounds great.

Jacques Desjardins: Okay. I didn't know but he actually had some wartime postcards with Naval fights going on.

Janet Clemens: Huh.

Jacques Desjardins: He's got his Japanese flag, he's got his Soldier's Manual. I'll be able to scan it or photo everything in the – and send it into you if you want it.

Janet Clemens: Okay. Whatever you feel like doing and then we'll incorporate that as part of the copy of the transcript to send back to you so it's all together also.

Jacques Desjardins: Okay. I have a copy of the document. Unfortunately, it's not dated but it says "Canadian Edition." I don't know if it was Life Magazine or – it says "True Canadian Edition." And it says "Special Edition. Appears on Canadian Edition Only" and it's "War Against the Williwaws" which I think it means strong winds in the Aleutians. [0:23:21.4]

Janet Clemens: Right. Yeah Williwaws.

Jacques Desjardins: And it described the invasion from a Canadian perspective so I'll try and scan everything and send it in to you.

Janet Clemens: (Laughs) Okay. Or if you want to send me the citation I can look that up if it's, you know, I don't want to put you to too much trouble.

Jacques Desjardins: No, no. I'm retired so I got lots of time on my hands but.....

Janet Clemens: Oh, okay. Are you going to take up duck decoy carving too?

Jacques Desjardins: (Laughter) Unfortunately, I can't even draw a snowman so I don't have those skills.

Janet Clemens: You have other ways to occupy your time I'm sure.

Jacques Desjardins: Oh yeah, oh yeah.

Janet Clemens: (Laughs)

Jacques Desjardins: Lots of grass to cut and painting to do and that kind of stuff.

Janet Clemens: Oh okay. Well aren't you guys buried in snow like we are right now?

Jacques Desjardins: Actually, this is the second winter that we've had very little snow. We just missed two big ones that hit New York. New York today has got, I think it was about a foot and a half.

Janet Clemens: Oh yeah.

Jacques Desjardins: And not a drop here. Everything went south and missed Canada.

Janet Clemens: Wow. I.....

Jacques Desjardins: Which is great.

Janet Clemens: (Laughs) You don't miss it too much. And I'd heard, this was around Christmas or just after with they were actually rescuing stranded motorists in Ontario.

Jacques Desjardins: Oh yeah. That's near – up near Lake Superior. They had a lot of lake effect snow and they had a big dump there and everybody was stuck in the.....

Janet Clemens: Right. That was just astounding. A hundred and something people, you know, so, yeah, anyway.....

Jacques Desjardins: Yep. Well, until the lake freezes over. It's always touchy like Buffalo and Syracuse and.....

Janet Clemens: Oh yeah, the lake effect. I lived in Columbus, Ohio for two years.

Jacques Desjardins: There you go.

Janet Clemens: Yeah, I sent you an email today. The photograph of the Canadian Fusiliers holding up the Japanese flag on Kiska.

Jacques Desjardins: Uh. Let's see now. I know I had – okay I probably didn't see that one because I checked my mail – did you send that just a.....

Janet Clemens: A little while ago.

Jacques Desjardins: Yeah, it's probably sitting at home in the.....

Janet Clemens: Yeah.

Jacques Desjardins: The edition of the magazine that I have actually shows a soldier standing guard right next to what appears to be the two same flags that you sent me in the photograph. [0:25:43.6]

Janet Clemens: Oh really, Oh! The same location then.

Jacques Desjardins: It sure looks like it.

Janet Clemens: Huh, interesting.

Jacques Desjardins: Different time maybe but they look pretty well the same.

Janet Clemens: Right.

Jacques Desjardins: Same angle, same beach and everything so.

Janet Clemens: Right.

Jacques Desjardins: We'll send everything down to you.

Janet Clemens: Oh, that's kind of neat. That's, you know, helps fill in the picture so much better.

Jacques Desjardins: Yeah.

Janet Clemens: Oh, excellent.

Jacques Desjardins: So I hope you know – if it's a small contribution but hopefully it will add in to all the other stuff you have and.....

Janet Clemens: Definitely and having, -- obviously having the Canadian perspective bringing that in and a real person is always very valuable.

Jacques Desjardins: Yeah.

Janet Clemens: And we do – I don't – I don't – I can't give you a timeframe but we will – we do actually do transcribe the interviews and then, yeah, we will make sure you get them. I'm going to send you a calendar. We have an Aleutian World War II calendar your dad might enjoy seeing that.

Jacques Desjardins: Okay, well that's fine. When you transcribe everything you might want to watch out. I heard father talk about Germans on the island but he actually meant the Japanese. [0:26:45.5]

Janet Clemens: Yep. I understood that.

Jacques Desjardins: Okay.

Janet Clemens: Yeah, but you know everything else he seemed to be right on and I didn't pick up any really discrepancies other than that but, hey, we all do that.

Jacques Desjardins: Yeah well, that's good. He's allowed.

Janet Clemens: Yeah, he is.

Jacques Desjardins: To have a few. (Laughter)

Janet Clemens: Well, and if it's okay if I might have some follow up questions could I email them to you maybe and.....

Jacques Desjardins: Sure, anytime you want.

Janet Clemens: Okay. That's wonderful. Thank you. [0:27:10.8] And I'll also give you a – we have an explanation of how we use information for research or education and then also for, um, you know, we'll send you a permission form.....

Jacques Desjardins: Okay.

Janet Clemens:to have your dad sign to say, yes, I'd like that to be available, you know, whether we put it on our website like as a quote, you mean.....

Jacques Desjardins: Okay.

Janet Clemens: You know, that sort of a thing. So I'll have a little bit more follow up information for you.

Jacques Desjardins: Yeah, I don't think he was sworn to secrecy when he left the Army in 1945 but I think they'll forgive him if he said something.

Janet Clemens: (Laughs) Probably. And I've read a lot more detail of the Canadians and happiness, shall we say, with experience so your dad was very diplomatic. (Laughs)

Jacques Desjardins: (Laughs) He always has been.

Janet Clemens: Ah, ah, wonderful.

Jacques Desjardins: Good.

Janet Clemens: [0:28:01.4] Okay, well thank you so much Jacques to both you and your dad.

Jacques Desjardins: Okay. Thank you. Thanks for calling. Bye.

Janet Clemens: All right, uh-huh, bye.

End interview at 0:27:07.7