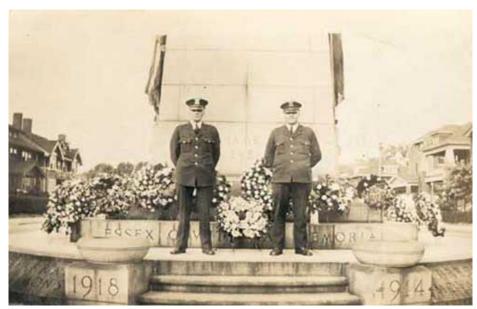




Nereo Brombal on the beat, circa 1938
Courtesy of Douglas Brombal.



Nereo Brombal (on right) at War Memorial in Windsor, 1930. Courtesy of Douglas Brombal.

Nereo Brombal early 1930s

Courtesy of Douglas Brombal.

Police Constable Nereo Brombal, who was dismissed from the police force in 1940 after twelve years of service. Although he had done nothing wrong, his Italian Heritage was enough to make him suspect during the Second World War. In 1990 the Police Commission and the City of Windsor apologized to his Douglas, for this and presented him with a plaque commemorating the apology. The plaque is now in the library at the Caboto Club.



STAR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1990-



DOUGLAS BROMBAL'S father (far left in photo) was fired by police because of his Italian ancestry

Police apologize to Italian fired in 1940 war hysteria

Story and photo by Ian Timberlake Star Police Reporter

The only time Douglas Brombal saw his father cry was the day the Windsor Police Force fired him.

After 12 years of service, Const. Nervo Brembal was dismissed in 1940. He had done nothing wrong, but as wor hysteria gripped the country his Italian ancestry was enough to make him suspect.

Tuesday right the Windsor Police Commission admitted the decision was a mistake and apologized to Brembai's son Douglas and his granddaughter, Karen Brombai.

John Whiteside, chairman of the commission, presented them win a framed black-and-white photograph of Nerco Brombal. It shows him standing in his police uniform with some colleagues in a movestorm.

Whiteside also presented a pluque honoring Brombul to Ron More, the Italian vice-consul in Windsor.

More called the apology "a very forward step" and said

he hopes it encourages other city departments to take similar action.

"It's never too late to apologice and I'm glad somebody finally has," Douglas Brombal said.

Const. Brombol, who died in 1974, was a proud policeman, he said.

"It was really his life." When the police fired him at age

43, his life changed forever.

While the war continued, he could not get a job, forcing

young Douglas to quit school and start working at 14. His lather later did a variety of jobs such as plumbing and maintenance.

Last mosth, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney apologized to Italian-Casadians for the "abosive, urfair and Hegal" trearesent the community suffered during the war. Abost 700 Canodians of Italian successive were interned without charge.

The plaque in Brombal's honor will be displayed at the Caboto Clob for the sext several weeks. Strong returns



July 4, 1940.

To whom It May Concern;

Re: Nero Brombal.

WINDSON, ONTARIO

This is to certify that I have known the above-maned for the past 12 years, he being a member of this Department, which he has served faithfully.

The reason that he is not a member of this peparament now is on account of him being of Italian birth.

Anything that you can do to assist this man will be appreciated by me.

yours truly,

C. Renaud, Chief Constable.

CR/WM









