

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;31;04

Mary Tremblay

Yeah. I've been interviewing for the last year with war veterans and their wives all across Canada. Okay, so I'll start is today is Monday, February 5th. And I'm interviewing Kay Fairclough in her home in Dundas. And can I call you Kay?

00;00;31;05 - 00;00;31;22

Kay Fairclough

Yes.

00;00;31;25 - 00;00;32;20

Mary Tremblay

Please call me Mary.

00;00;32;25 - 00;00;33;19

Kay Fairclough

Okay, Mary.

00;00;33;26 - 00;00;40;00

Mary Tremblay

And to begin with, Kay, can you tell me just a bit about your early life, where you were born, where you grew up?

00;00;40;02 - 00;00;50;13

Kay Fairclough

I was born in Dundas and grew up in Dundas, lived here all my life and wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

00;00;50;15 - 00;00;51;22

Mary Tremblay

And what year were you were born?

00;00;51;24 - 00;01;02;29

Kay Fairclough

I was born in 1927. I'm 68 years old. And um do you want to know now where I met my husband?

00;01;03;01 - 00;01;05;13

Mary Tremblay

Or just tell me a little bit about going to school.

00;01;05;15 - 00;01;25;19

Kay Fairclough

Well, I went to school in Dundas Public School and then the Dundas High School there. There are only one of each at that time. And I went to work at 16, like most of us did in those days. I worked during the war and then I went into an office.

00;01;25;20 - 00;01;28;00

Mary Tremblay

And what kind of work would you do?

00;01;28;02 - 00;01;32;17

Kay Fairclough

Mainly helped to make landing barges for the troops that were landing. In those big ugly things...

00;01;32;19 - 00;01;35;29

Mary Tremblay

Where did you do that?

00;01;35;29 - 00;02;10;00

Kay Fairclough

And a place called Jones Brothers in Dundas, used to be a big woodworking place. And the before the war, of course, they mostly furniture and stuff like that, but. And I guess they outfit labs and that type of thing. A lot of carpentry work and a lot of cabinet making and then during the war, they posted the woodwork. And that's where I and I did work at Westinghouse for a while to I worked on radar sites for planes.

00;02;10;02 - 00;02;11;10

Mary Tremblay

Would that have been heavy work?

00;02;11;10 - 00;02;11;25

Kay Fairclough

No.

00;02;12;02 - 00;02;14;28

Mary Tremblay

Work?

00;02;15;00 - 00;02;23;01

Kay Fairclough

The Westinghouse was fine work, the actual working on the barges. I actually made glue.

00;02;23;03 - 00;02;23;20

Mary Tremblay

okay.

00;02;23;22 - 00;02;42;19

Kay Fairclough

So. And it was them, believe it or not, it was really hard stuff. And it my overalls used to stand up by themselves. And it was interesting and I enjoyed it. And I was only a kid anyway treated with a lot of respect by the men in those days that you worked with, they were all much older.

00;02;42;21 - 00;02;45;09

Mary Tremblay

Would most of the people you work with be women?

00;02;45;11 - 00;02;58;14

Kay Fairclough

No, I only worked with one other woman and they were nearly all men in that section. There were women working in other parts of the factory, but it was I enjoyed it. It was great and they were good to me.

00;02;58;17 - 00;03;18;22

Mary Tremblay

You can stop this just for a minute. Okay, I'll try. So you were doing woodworking? You were about 16? And what happened next?

00;03;18;25 - 00;03;46;13

Kay Fairclough

Well, I went into work as an office work after the war and then worked there. Underwear manufacturing town, I worked in the office there for about four years. And I got married the first time, and I had a daughter, and I'm unfortunate my marriage didn't last very long. And so I had to work, of course, to support my daughter.

00;03;46;16 - 00;03;57;24

Kay Fairclough

And I met Jess through work, really. We both worked at the same place and I really liked him- fine gentlemen.

00;03;57;26 - 00;04;03;04

Mary Tremblay

When you met him, what year would that be?

00;04;03;06 - 00;04;12;07

Kay Fairclough

my goodness, my daughters 45, 40 years ago. So that would be what 1956?

00;04;12;07 - 00;04;16;28

Mary Tremblay

Like living in 56, 56. Okay.

00;04;17;01 - 00;04;24;23

Kay Fairclough

And we went together and and eventually got married.

00;04;24;25 - 00;04;26;12

Mary Tremblay

And he was a war veteran?

00;04;26;17 - 00;04;52;16

Kay Fairclough

He was a war veteran- he was an English war veteran. And he had come to Canada just and I guess his mum died shortly after the war. And so he decided to come over here with a friend of his and his friend was a bricklayer. So the only stayed the one year because of seasonal work and he went back to England but Jess stayed on and really liked Canada.

00;04;52;18 - 00;04;53;22

Mary Tremblay

His name was Jess, Jessie?

00;04;53;28 - 00;04;56;24

Kay Fairclough

Or Jessie, but everybody called him Jess.

00;04;56;24 - 00;05;05;03

Mary Tremblay

Just with the J? And when you met him, what what did he tell you about his war experience?

00;05;05;05 - 00;05;32;29

Kay Fairclough

He very seldom talked. I can hear. I hardly ever heard anything and talk about his experiences. I know that he had his arm blown off during a raid. I believe it was in Belgium, and I guess when they first amputated, it didn't heal. And he was sent to another hospital and re amputated and then it healed up. But they don't talk about that type of thing.

00;05;33;01 - 00;05;35;05

Mary Tremblay

And he had lost his right arm?

00;05;35;05 - 00;06;05;01

Kay Fairclough

Yes. So and he had been right handed and I don't I don't ever remember any complaining or the odd time he would get phantom pains. Apparently- this, a lot of them do. And he would get a terrible itch in his hands sometime that wasn't there. And that was hard to control, but he could manage to do everything himself except do up his one shirt sleeve.

00;06;05;01 - 00;06;10;22

Mary Tremblay

That was the right one? And his left and his left one.

00;06;10;26 - 00;06;11;06

Kay Fairclough

Right?

00;06;11;12 - 00;06;12;28

Mary Tremblay

Yeah.

00;06;13;00 - 00;06;38;22

Kay Fairclough

So we solved that by moving all the buttons on his shirt sleeves over a bit so that he could just wiggle his hand through it. Or he used to kid my daughter and I that he'd give us a dollar to do up his button. It was thousand and used to fascinate me to watch and tie up his shoelaces with one hand, did a beautiful job, and no problem. In fact nothing really stymied him.

00;06;38;22 - 00;06;46;28

Kay Fairclough

And most of the work in this house he did himself. This was a normal farm type house when we moved in. And and.

00;06;47;00 - 00;06;51;04

Mary Tremblay

And when you met him, he had been here for almost ten years then, or?

00;06;51;06 - 00;06;56;03

Kay Fairclough

Um, no, not quite that long, about three or four and three or four.

00;06;56;05 - 00;07;00;07

Mary Tremblay

And then why did he come to Canada? Did he say anything?

00;07;00;09 - 00;07;15;16

Kay Fairclough

I guess it was just chance he they had been to all these different countries Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada and Canada appealed to them. I guess.

00;07;15;19 - 00;07;16;22

Mary Tremblay

You do.

00;07;16;24 - 00;07;18;24

Kay Fairclough

And that he really loved it here.

00;07;18;26 - 00;07;23;10

Mary Tremblay

And then he lost his arm below the elbow or about the elbow?

00;07;23;15 - 00;07;25;27

Kay Fairclough

Just below the elbow.

00;07;26;00 - 00;07;33;07

Mary Tremblay

And did he ever talk to you? You said he didn't talk much, but did he ever talk about his time in rehabilitation and hospital?

00;07;33;10 - 00;07;35;29

Kay Fairclough

Yes, But mostly it was the funny things that happened.

00;07;36;00 - 00;07;37;22

Mary Tremblay

00;07;37;25 - 00;07;48;16

Kay Fairclough

Like. He didn't dare feel sorry for yourself because everybody was in the same boat or a lot worse. And so that just the funny things really.

00;07;48;23 - 00;07;52;04

Mary Tremblay

Can you give me an example?

00;07;52;07 - 00;08;18;22

Kay Fairclough

I think they sneaked out in their hospital blues one day and went pub crawling and that I can't really remember. I just know that it was all humorous because they didn't they didn't dare dwell on that because, well, there were so many of them and you just didn't feel sorry for yourself or I guess nobody bothered with you at all if you felt sorry for yourself.

00;08;18;24 - 00;08;28;23

Kay Fairclough

And he used to kid about the nurses and how they'd give them a rough time, and um. But just always fun. Kidding, that type of thing.

00;08;28;25 - 00;08;34;20

Mary Tremblay

He was in a British hospital? Yes, he was. When he was in the army, what was he doing?

00;08;34;22 - 00;08;44;20

Kay Fairclough

He was a royal engineer. He's building bridges, that type of thing. And could I say, I dont...

00;08;44;22 - 00;08;47;12

Mary Tremblay

And how old was he when he was hurt?

00;08;47;14 - 00;08;53;06

Kay Fairclough

I would think about 23. Around that, I would think.

00;08;53;08 - 00;08;56;26

Mary Tremblay

And before the war, had he had any plans for his life?

00;08;56;29 - 00;09;11;11

Kay Fairclough

Yes. He had apprenticed as a plumber. Of course, he had to give that up and did clerical work after the war. And when he moved to Canada, that's what he did, too, for the rest of his life. Clerical work.

00;09;11;13 - 00;09;19;22

Mary Tremblay

And before he came to Canada, did he talk about what it was like to be a war veteran, a disabled war veteran in England after the war?

00;09;19;25 - 00;09;39;02

Kay Fairclough

Not really. There were so many of them too. He belonged to the I think he joined the British Amps and I guess it was very awkward and hard at first, but I don't think they were there were so many them.

00;09;40;07 - 00;10;02;10

Kay Fairclough

That there was always somebody to talk to. And I don't think there was ever any fun made or like today that they were like, but like all of his buddies- a lot of them had been killed. And the ones that did get back um I think they were just so grateful to be around and alive and see each other again.

00;10;03;14 - 00;10;08;04

Kay Fairclough

But you didnt hear any of the sad stuff that that was just not the way they did things.

00;10;08;04 - 00;10;14;09

Mary Tremblay

They just didn't talk about that?

No.

And when he came to Canada, did he come with another war veteran?

00;10;14;11 - 00;10;26;06

Kay Fairclough

Yes. Yes. He came with another war veteran- not an amp but he was I think he had been in South Africa during the war. They'd been friends all their lives.

00;10;26;08 - 00;10;27;27

Mary Tremblay

And did he leave his family behind in England?

00;10;27;27 - 00;10;48;20

Kay Fairclough

And he had a sister, two sisters and a brother. And but he was like a sailor after his mother died, because I think most of my English friends, they never left until her mum's died at all. It seemed to be a real closeness with their mothers, which. Which is nice.

00;10;48;22 - 00;10;56;21

Mary Tremblay

Yeah. Yeah. So were in when he was in England, did he talk at all about the kind of benefits he got in England?

00;10;56;23 - 00;11;23;29

Kay Fairclough

Benefits or the pension. There was nothing like it is here, a very small pension. And then but I would imagine any time you needed anything, we get anything like this prosthesis, prosthesis or whatever. Yeah. And but you never really talked much about that. But, you know, when he came to Canada that his pension would be nowhere near the Canadian pension.

00;11;26;01 - 00;11;31;04

Kay Fairclough

That and in England it went a lot further. That actually paid his board.

00;11;31;06 - 00;11;32;24

Mary Tremblay

But then when he came to Canada, of course, the.

00;11;32;27 - 00;11;34;04

Kay Fairclough

Difference in the living.

00;11;34;06 - 00;11;36;28

Mary Tremblay

English pension was lower and the Canadian pension was higher.

00;11;36;28 - 00;11;39;00

Kay Fairclough

Yes.

00;11;39;02 - 00;11;43;21

Mary Tremblay

Then what happened when he came to Canada?

00;11;43;23 - 00;11;59;15

Kay Fairclough

Well, he went to work for one of the government agencies and then they realized it was like a veteran's agency. And they realized because he was British and not Canadian, he couldn't stay there.

00;12;00;24 - 00;12;15;06

Kay Fairclough

So he went to work for [Gillies?] Sky, a fuel company. And he was there and until he was about 63 years old. He was there all those years, that's where I met him.

00;12;15;08 - 00;12;18;08

Mary Tremblay

And you're saying he did a clerical job? What kind of job?

00;12;18;10 - 00;12;43;11

Kay Fairclough

Actually was sort of a liaison between the people needing help with their furnaces and then the serviceman, a dispatcher, I guess, is what he would- and he had such a nice way with them on the phone, prevented a lot of screaming and hollering and, Yes, he was good at his job and used to come home frustrated as things. But other than that.

00;12;48;11 - 00;12;53;23

Mary Tremblay

And you had said earlier that he had been right handed. So he had to switch to write with his left hand?

00;12;53;26 - 00;12;54;29

Kay Fairclough

Yes, he had to.

00;12;54;29 - 00;12;55;12

Mary Tremblay

00;12;55;14 - 00;13;19;10

Kay Fairclough

And he printed everything and then any writing in the house, I always did that. He would go sign checks and that type of thing, but I got so good at forging his pen scratch that I used to do it all anyway. And um, because he never signed it the same way twice.

00;13;19;13 - 00;13;22;27

Mary Tremblay

But any writing he would need to do at work, he would print that out.

00;13;22;27 - 00;13;27;03

Kay Fairclough

He would do that.

00;13;27;06 - 00;13;29;24

Mary Tremblay

And in wore a prosthesis?

00;13;29;27 - 00;13;30;24

Kay Fairclough

Yes, he did.

00;13;30;26 - 00;13;33;08

Mary Tremblay

Did he wear that all the time or?

00;13;33;10 - 00;13;52;06

Kay Fairclough

At work he did and working around the house. He didn't wear the hand. He found it was too heavy. He just wore the arm. At work he had a type of hook. He used to put those rubber fingers, used to put that on and so he could sort through papers and stuff.

00;13;52;10 - 00;13;53;21

Mary Tremblay

The papers and stuff.

00;13;53;23 - 00;14;10;13

Kay Fairclough

Things like that. And at home if he had to hammer nails he would use the arm to start the hammer, to start the nails and...but he didn't wear a harness or that type of thing.

00;14;10;15 - 00;14;17;18



Mary Tremblay

So he didn't he didn't need to wear a harness?

00;14;17;21 - 00;14;19;23

Kay Fairclough

Well, maybe if he wore a hand it might have helped. Never wore the hand anyway. So it didn't.

00;14;19;23 - 00;14;27;23

Mary Tremblay

Matter in the throughout his life video did he always wear the prosthesis or did he change types of prosthesis?.

00;14;27;26 - 00;14;39;01

Kay Fairclough

Years later he did, but it wasn't successful. He went back to the old one. It was one that sort of just pushed, but it was a new one. But it really irritated his stump.

00;14;39;04 - 00;14;43;20

Mary Tremblay

And then he ever tried the ones that had the myoelectric controls?

00;14;43;22 - 00;14;44;12

Kay Fairclough

No, no. Never tried.

00;14;44;14 - 00;14;49;10

Mary Tremblay

They had a new type of socket and that but but it was irritating.

00;14;49;12 - 00;14;59;01

Kay Fairclough

Yeah but it was just like the artificial arm was nothing special. It just the, you know that I know they've done marvelous things since then.

00;14;59;03 - 00;15;01;28

Mary Tremblay

And when he first came, did he join the War Amps?

00;15;02;01 - 00;15;17;28

Kay Fairclough

Yes. He was advised in England by the British or Limbless or whatever it was called to get in touch with a chap in Hamilton and I guess maybe they got in touch with that chap before because he met Jess.

00;15;18;00 - 00;15;19;04

Mary Tremblay

When he came?

00;15;19;07 - 00;15;38;24

Kay Fairclough

And, uh... he really loved the Amps. He really did. He spent hours there and worked very hard for them and most of our friends were amps. This, this they find, they stick together and, and has some great times with them.

00;15;38;24 - 00;15;44;04

Mary Tremblay

What branch would it have been the Hamilton Branch? So would you have gone up to the mountain brow, to the?

00;15;44;10 - 00;15;58;17

Kay Fairclough

Yes. Was up there for a long time and then the new club they built and then now they have everything at the Air Force, [garbled].

00;15;58;19 - 00;16;07;14

Mary Tremblay

So when he first came out, it was a bridge to come into Canada for him. It was a bridge like they helped him. yes. Yeah, but they helped him find a job?

00;16;07;16 - 00;16;16;17

Kay Fairclough

Oh no, they didn't help him come to Canada. They just were there to help him when he got here. More for companionship and company. Nothing financially.

00;16;16;19 - 00;16;20;09

Mary Tremblay

Nothing financial or? In finding a job, would he have done that himself?

00;16;20;11 - 00;16;22;07

Kay Fairclough

They did that himself.

00;16;22;10 - 00;16;36;19

Mary Tremblay

And when you met, you were saying you met at work and was did you have any reaction about him having any amputation? Because, you know, we we were just talking about when you first met him, if you had any reaction to him having an artificial arm.

00;16;36;24 - 00;16;37;26

Kay Fairclough

Not at all.

00;16;37;28 - 00;16;39;21

Mary Tremblay

And why was that?

00;16;39;24 - 00;16;51;08

Kay Fairclough

I think he just had so much personality and he was such a nice person, and that didn't bother me at all. I had somebody say to me, Why on earth are you going out with a guy with one arm?

00;16;51;08 - 00;16;53;04

Mary Tremblay

00;16;53;07 - 00;16;56;04

Kay Fairclough

And I said, Because I thought he was more of a man with one arm than most of them were with two.

00;16;58;03 - 00;17;09;29

Kay Fairclough

No, it didn't never really entered my head. I noticed his arm was gone, but it didn't bother me. And actually we worked with another chap who had a leg missing.

00;17;10;01 - 00;17;11;08

Mary Tremblay

With me and he was.

00;17;11;08 - 00;17;16;25

Kay Fairclough

Yeah with the War Amps you know, and just never thought about it.

00;17;16;27 - 00;17;31;15

Mary Tremblay

And before that had you ever known anybody who didn't have an arm?

No.

Wasn't something you had grown up with or and when the person who said that to you, you know, why would you do that? Was that just one person or?

00;17;31;15 - 00;17;36;21

Kay Fairclough

Yes, really? And it was a man who was an office manager at another place I worked in.

00;17;36;21 - 00;17;37;21

Mary Tremblay

00;17;37;23 - 00;17;42;14

Kay Fairclough

That was trying to make passes at most of the girls in the office.

00;17;42;15 - 00;17;43;27

Mary Tremblay

So it was just an inappropriate?

00;17;44;04 - 00;18;05;12

Kay Fairclough

Yeah.

From somebody to, you know.

No, I'm sure there were a lot of people maybe wondered at first, but they never, never voiced it out loud. But it just never entered my head. And I liked him and I didn't worry about his arm.

00;18;05;15 - 00;18;10;22

Mary Tremblay

And how did you get involved with the War Amps? What was that like for you?

00;18;10;25 - 00;18;45;14

Kay Fairclough

It was wonderful. It really was a marvelous bunch of people and they all made you so welcome. And they were they were funny because those fellows were really cards. And of course, they most of them drank and but they were, I don't know, they. And you felt comfortable with them. I really enjoyed them. They were nice people but they [laughter] were characters and a lot of fun.

00;18;45;16 - 00;18;47;29

Mary Tremblay

It was sort of a it sounds like a lot of camaraderie.

00;18;48;01 - 00;19;14;11

Kay Fairclough

Oh, there was, and I guess it's best explained because they all had something in common. They were all limbless in one way or another, and yet when they were out together, it didn't matter because they were all the same. If they went swimming at the pool. Well, who cared? Nobody stared at them. They were all together and so they all had that in common.

00;19;14;13 - 00;19;22;18

Mary Tremblay

And that club I only heard a little bit about the club on the mountain brow. That was the house and, and a pool, an area that was quite a place.

00;19;22;20 - 00;19;38;08

Kay Fairclough

it was beautiful. And a good friend of ours, he operated the club. He was a leg amp too and his wife and I were very good friends and I used to spend a lot of time there when they were having their meetings. I would go upstairs and visit with her.

00;19;38;18 - 00;19;54;02

Kay Fairclough

Itâ€™s a beautiful house, just gorgeous. And then the, and the pool. That used to be Dr. McGregor's home, I believe, at one time, but it was in the location was just gorgeous. Look out the windows right over city lights. Pretty.

00;19;54;04 - 00;19;55;13

Mary Tremblay

Mhmm.

00;19;55;16 - 00;20;02;13

Kay Fairclough

But they had a good time, a very a nice grounds and have picnics and and all the wives and kids went to the pool.

00;20;02;17 - 00;20;14;09

Mary Tremblay

And when you talked about the pool, was that some sort of a bridge or a way people could start to get out, you know, like go swimming and stuff with people, go swimming there and then go swimming at the beach or?

00;20;14;16 - 00;20;34;02

Kay Fairclough

Yes, we went to the beach, too. But very often it was, you know, especially children, they don't know. And I don't think Jess ever felt comfortable. At the beach, so. But they did. I mean, all the kids grew up with amps and it was different kind of a setting. Different feeling.

00;20;34;05 - 00;20;41;20

Mary Tremblay

And how big was the club, I mean roughly how many people?

My goodness.

No, not exactly. But.

00;20;41;20 - 00;21;09;08

Kay Fairclough

Gosh, I can't remember. There were quite a few in those days. A lot. And, and I wish he was here, he could tell you

everything. And I can't remember. I know there were must have been a couple of hundred members anyway at that time from like Covered Niagara too and that area, there could have been more I'm not sure.

00;21;09;11 - 00;21;10;11

Mary Tremblay

But it was a large group?

00;21;10;15 - 00;21;12;22

Kay Fairclough

It was a large group.

00;21;12;25 - 00;21;19;19

Mary Tremblay

And when you got married, what was your daughter's reaction?

00;21;19;21 - 00;21;45;06

Kay Fairclough

Oh, she loved him. It was funny. She was just five when I met Jess and I explained to her that he only had one arm and to not say anything when he came to the house, the first time so we walked in the house and she says, Hi, what happened to your arm? Typical kids? But they got along fine. And like mother, like daughter and father for years.

00;21;46;10 - 00;22;04;11

Kay Fairclough

They were Loggerheads two teenagers and just very normal. He was good to her. She never lied. She always told everybody that that was her father because she never did see her father much. Her real father. And she always just figured he was her dad.

00;22;04;13 - 00;22;11;09

Mary Tremblay

And growing up, would she have had any reaction from kids that her father had one arm?

00;22;11;12 - 00;22;30;17

Kay Fairclough

I don't know. Most of the like, I think the kids maybe would notice the first time they met him and he was good to the kids. And I don't think anybody ever said anything. I can't recall. Course, in those days things were different, too. They weren't so cruel.

00;22;30;19 - 00;22;32;13

Mary Tremblay

You know, when you say cruel, what do you mean?

00;22;32;15 - 00;22;39;18

Kay Fairclough

Well, nowadays it seems that children pick on every little thing. I find that with my grandson. You know, because he's a little different. It's hard.

00;22;39;18 - 00;22;44;00

Mary Tremblay

In that you don't remember that from that era?

00;22;44;03 - 00;22;50;22

Kay Fairclough

No, I don't remember anybody ever teasing. Or saying anything nasty.

00;22;50;24 - 00;23;00;28

Mary Tremblay

Now you were saying where after you're married, you moved here to this house and you did a lot of work on this house. Was that a hobby of your husband's like a hobby or you had to do it too.

00;23;01;02 - 00;23;21;13

Kay Fairclough

Yeah, but he enjoyed working with his hands. He didn't like clerical work. He liked to be busy and of course, it seemed he was most of the buildings in those days. You couldn't. There were no windows close to you. So you're, you know, it was hard. So when he come home from work heâ€™d just sit looking outside, he just loved to see the daylight.

00;23;21;16 - 00;23;30;27

Kay Fairclough

But no he loved to pottery. We to have a big garden at the top there and we loved to garden and do all that type of thing.

00;23;30;29 - 00;23;41;01

Mary Tremblay

And you said when he came earlier you said he had like a British pension and would those benefits have stayed British or would he eventually get Canadian benefits?

00;23;41;06 - 00;23;49;24

Kay Fairclough

No, they would stay British. And then when he died, that stopped.

00;23;49;26 - 00;23;53;01

Mary Tremblay

And would that be different if he was a Canadian war vet?

00;23;53;03 - 00;23;54;04

Kay Fairclough

Yes.

00;23;54;07 - 00;23;55;21

Mary Tremblay

What are the differences?

00;23;55;23 - 00;24;16;27

Kay Fairclough

Well, in Britain, you had he had to die of war wounds, the death had to be caused by his war wounds. And in Canada, they get a widow's pension. I believe, regardless that Canada is one of the finest countries. I believe for that type of thing.

00;24;16;29 - 00;24;21;27

Mary Tremblay

So though he had immigrated to Canada, the benefits don't change and he would still get his British...

00;24;21;27 - 00;24;23;07

Kay Fairclough

He was still a British.

00;24;23;09 - 00;24;28;11

Mary Tremblay

Okay. And in terms of his artificial arm, would that be paid for through Britain?

00;24;28;13 - 00;24;30;17

Kay Fairclough

No, the Canadian government did that.

00;24;30;23 - 00;24;32;07

Mary Tremblay

So you get those?

00;24;32;10 - 00;24;34;14

Kay Fairclough

Yes. That kind of treatment.

00;24;34;16 - 00;24;44;23

Mary Tremblay

What about as you got older, what was the impact of growing old on him?

00;24;44;25 - 00;24;55;09

Kay Fairclough

As far as his arm goes? I think he got a little arthritis in the shoulder because he wasn't using it as much.

00;24;55;09 - 00;24;56;10

Mary Tremblay

And this would be his right shoulder?

00;24;56;12 - 00;25;36;14

Kay Fairclough

His right shoulder. And that gave him discomfort to rub it and...but other than that, never seemed to really bother him. Just the aching didn't stop him from doing things. I think an arm amp is much different than a leg amp in order as they get older too a... lot harder for the leg amp, I believe, because a lot of my friends were married to men with a leg off.

00;25;36;17 - 00;25;38;14

Mary Tremblay

What used to happen to them?

00;25;38;17 - 00;26;04;02

Kay Fairclough

Well, they, I think, like you do things automatically. You know. But I think they did a lot more running around for their husbands, like and to save them having to go or having to walk, they would try and do things more for them. A lot of them, I guess, wouldn't let their wives do too much and were very independent.

00;26;04;05 - 00;26;10;24

Kay Fairclough

But I think it must have been harder for leg amp.

00;26;10;26 - 00;26;16;09

Mary Tremblay

And when you talk about what wives were doing, what kind of things would you do for your husband?

00;26;16;12 - 00;26;53;06

Kay Fairclough

I have been racking my brain since you phoned and I, you know, you do things so automatically. And I guess cutting his meat like you just don't think, and buttering his bread, which he could have done. But it was just something I did. And sometimes it was hard for him to get his coat on and off so you that you do these things automatically and then racking my brain, what did I have to do that was so different than anybody else?

00;26;53;08 - 00;27;09;00

Kay Fairclough

You see he was doing most everything himself, even the shoelaces. And aside from the, sometimes I would button his shirt buttons because it's kind of hard with one hand.

00;27;09;02 - 00;27;10;01

Mary Tremblay

They get kind of small sometimes.

00;27;10;01 - 00;27;24;20

Kay Fairclough

Sometimes, you know, that type of thing. But you do that so automatically that you don't think about it, you know, and helping him sometimes get his back washed because it was hard for him to reach.

00;27;34;16 - 00;27;39;07

Kay Fairclough

I just can't think of that much. But, you know, it's.

00;27;39;10 - 00;27;46;15

Mary Tremblay

And what about, um, has he, well first of all thinking back, what kind of hobbies did he have?

00;27;46;17 - 00;28;15;29

Kay Fairclough

Well, he loved to garden and to putter around the house. And other than that, he didn't really- he collected coins for a long time. He used to enjoy that. But he kept busy like he was, like I say, with the war amps and that type of thing. But he didn't have much like didn't have anything really like a hobby, just kept puttering and that type of thing.

And gardening?

00;28;16;07 - 00;28;18;14

Mary Tremblay

You say there's quite a large garden?

00;28;18;14 - 00;28;19;21

Kay Fairclough

At the top there. Yes.

00;28;19;27 - 00;28;22;04

Mary Tremblay

And how would he handle gardening?

00;28;22;06 - 00;28;27;21

Kay Fairclough

Well, when he was younger no effort at all, he just did it.

00;28;27;23 - 00;28;30;04

Mary Tremblay

Yeah. Maybe like a vegetable garden or a flower garden and all that?

00;28;32;00 - 00;28;32;28

Kay Fairclough

Yeah, vegetables, mostly.



00;28;35;09 - 00;28;39;18

Mary Tremblay

And as you got older, were there more things you had to help him with?

00;28;39;21 - 00;29;02;28

Kay Fairclough

Well, the gardening had to gardening that had to be sod over and then we had to get help with the lawn and the snow shovel and we just couldn't. But that wasn't his arm. It was getting older, that was old and, and getting tired I guess because and then of course, he was sick for two years with cancer before he died.

00;29;03;00 - 00;29;10;25

Kay Fairclough

And then aside from those, that type of thing.

00;29;10;27 - 00;29;16;23

Mary Tremblay

And when you were needing to get help, did you get any assistance then from Veterans Affairs or from England?

00;29;16;23 - 00;29;25;25

Kay Fairclough

Well, we didn't ask and the children next door did the front lawn and the snow shovelling. We didn't ask for it.

00;29;26;02 - 00;29;30;13

Mary Tremblay

So you worked out things as you could?

00;29;30;16 - 00;30;00;24

Kay Fairclough

Well, we did fine. I'm sorry. When he was sick and I took him out every day for a ride and because he couldn't drive, but we - he hated to sit in, so we would go every day. And I think it was only two or three times we had to have somebody to help us at the cancer clinic.

00;30;00;27 - 00;30;03;16

Mary Tremblay

So what kind of cancer did he have?

00;30;03;18 - 00;30;11;27

Kay Fairclough

He had a tumor on the lung and it spread to the brain.

00;30;11;29 - 00;30;18;12

Mary Tremblay

But And would you have gotten any nursing help or anything like that?

00;30;18;15 - 00;30;21;05

Kay Fairclough

If-if I had needed it.

00;30;21;07 - 00;30;22;05

Mary Tremblay

But you were okay?

00;30;22;05 - 00;30;44;21

Kay Fairclough

I was fine. Right till the very end. And then both things happened at once. I just wore out before he passed away. But no, the Cancer Society too was very good and any help like that you needed. And the war amps were wonderful. The Ottawa...

00;30;44;24 - 00;30;46;01

Mary Tremblay

The people in Ottawa?

00;30;46;03 - 00;30;49;06

Kay Fairclough

They were just super.

00;30;49;09 - 00;30;51;29

Mary Tremblay

What kind of things were they able to do for him?

00;30;52;01 - 00;31;19;08

Kay Fairclough

Well I'm not talking financial or that type of thing. I'm sure if we needed anything, but just the the caring and, you know, they would call if there was even if I just wanted somebody to talk to to call them and they're just wonderful people up there. They really are very, very good. It feels like you know them all personally and they are all really nice.

00;31;19;11 - 00;31;21;23

Mary Tremblay

So that was a real help for you?

00;31;21;24 - 00;31;22;10

Kay Fairclough

It really is.

00;31;22;10 - 00;31;25;12

Mary Tremblay

Is it still a help for you now?

00;31;25;14 - 00;31;47;26

Kay Fairclough

Yeah, well, I know they're there if I need them. And they're wonderful people and and like, the widows are still invited to the seminars every two years. And if you have any problems, they're willing to help you with them. Very, very good.

00;31;47;28 - 00;31;55;10

Mary Tremblay

And do you think if you look back, you think your life was different because your husband had a disability?

00;31;55;12 - 00;32;22;00

Kay Fairclough

It might have been in some ways, but I, I really can't figure out how I know. People have asked me that before, and I don't know what we would have done any differently, really. I know we had a lot of good friends through the amps and that he was very personable. I'm sure we had friends, made a lot of friends besides the amps too.

00;32;22;00 - 00;32;34;09

Kay Fairclough

But, um, no I really, I know I wouldn't have changed anything. Like I would still do it again.

00:32:34;11 - 00:32:35;29

Mary Tremblay

Do you think it was any different because he was a veteran?

00:32:38;14 - 00:32:39;19

Kay Fairclough

You mean because of his arm?

00:32:39;19 - 00:32:40;06

Mary Tremblay

Mhmm.

00:32:40;08 - 00:32:46;17

Kay Fairclough

I don't think so. I think it was the man like that's what you fall in love with.

00:32:46;20 - 00:32:47;18

Mary Tremblay

Yeah.

00:32:47;20 - 00:33:07;25

Kay Fairclough

And it might turn some people off. I don't know. But it didn't. Didn't bother me. It must have been hard on some of the girls that sent a whole husband overseas and they came back with parts missing. I never knew Jess without an arm.

00:33:07;27 - 00:33:08;19

Mary Tremblay

No, so then?

00:33:08;22 - 00:33:22;06

Kay Fairclough

That that didn't you know, I wasn't missing anything that way. But I know a lot of the girls that it must have been awfully hard to see them come back like that.

00:33:22;09 - 00:33:23;22

Mary Tremblay

That you think would be a different kind of experience?

00:33:24;10 - 00:33:29;03

Kay Fairclough

I think I think that would be much harder, oh I know it would.

00:33:29;06 - 00:33:47;09

Mary Tremblay

And what was it you mentioned earlier that you had known one of the women quite well, like when they had the meetings, you would go and visit a friend. What was what was it like to be a wife? Were there things that the wives did together or?

00:33:47;12 - 00:34:19;13

Kay Fairclough

Well, we we socialized at the dances and we all got along great and had a good time and each other in the summer at the pool and that type of thing. And I believe there were card games I didn't attend them, but there were card games and everybody seemed to get along really well. Of course you had certain ones that you were closer to and because too your husbands were close to these people and you got to know them a little better.

00;34;19;13 - 00;34;26;01

Kay Fairclough

And there were there was quite a group that went to the dances on a Saturday night, but we sort of all sat together.

00;34;26;04 - 00;34;35;26

Mary Tremblay

Would you help each out? The women like, would you talk things out if there were problems?

00;34;35;28 - 00;34;52;23

Kay Fairclough

I'm sure we would have. But I don't recall anybody having any problem. Not with that. Maybe with their drinking and acting up and that type of thing. But that was their war wound. I don't recall ever hearing a woman complain about it.

00;34;52;25 - 00;35;01;15

Mary Tremblay

So that wasn't something you would talk about? The woman never talked about that.

Yeah, no.

And did the women ever have an organization themselves or?

00;35;01;17 - 00;35;06;05

Kay Fairclough

I believe they did. I never was into that. But I believe at one time there was.

00;35;06;08 - 00;35;10;04

Mary Tremblay

And were you working at this time too? So you had a pretty full life.

00;35;10;17 - 00;35;11;13

Kay Fairclough

Yes.

00;35;11;15 - 00;35;14;00

Mary Tremblay

At the same time.

00;35;14;02 - 00;35;14;14

Kay Fairclough

Yes.

00;35;14;15 - 00;35;33;20

Mary Tremblay

If you husband was here, and I was to ask him what impact being a war vet had on his life, I know were speculating, but what do you think he would have said?

00;35;33;22 - 00;36;05;22

Kay Fairclough

Well, he couldn't go on with his plumbing. With his plumbing, had to do it, had to change his whole life that way. And I think they all thought for the same reason that I'm sure if it had happened again, he would have been the same. And and he did meet some wonderful people in the same boat. But I think I think the biggest impact would have been his livelihood and the paper work he liked to do.

00;36;05;24 - 00;36;17;18

Kay Fairclough

And other than that, I can't. And I'm sure there are many things that he would like to have done with two hands.

00:36:17;21 - 00:36:24;04

Unknown

You know, I didn't imagine that.

00:36:24;06 - 00:36:41;15

Mary Tremblay

Earlier we talked about the differences in the English and the Canadian system. Would he have been over time financially better off if he had stayed with the English?

00:36:41;17 - 00:37:09;10

Kay Fairclough

I guess it depends on where you live and that type of thing too. I know the British pension was not very big, but then I guess it's a different system, too. And they have millions of people on that little island right? That's what I tried to tell myself. I mean, how could they possibly afford to.

00:37:09;12 - 00:37:12;21

Mary Tremblay

That size when they're so small? Did you ever go back to England?

00:37:12;23 - 00:37:43;20

Kay Fairclough

Yes, we were back. I think we had ten trips together, really. And I went back I promised him I'd go back and see his family after he died. And we had some great times. His family was a lot older than him. And so we would go on seniors bus trips with them. at the beginning of the season and at the end of the season, there's a week where they give seniors a really good deal.

00:37:43;22 - 00:38:01;01

Kay Fairclough

You know, you have these bus trips down to the south of England and it was beautiful. We had a such a good time, too. And then another time when you retired from [Gillies?] sky, there was money in the fund and they said that would be enough if we wanted to go. So he didn't want to go south.

00:38:04;11 - 00:38:08;14

Kay Fairclough

So so we checked our things and we took that London show tour.

00:38:10;02 - 00:38:29;14

Kay Fairclough

For a week and we had to add to that, of course, but that didn't bother us and we had a wonderful time. We couldn't get out to see his family that week because everything was on strike. But we talked to them every day. You know, his family was wonderful to me. He's lost his brother and his one sister since then.

00:38:29;16 - 00:38:35;15

Mary Tremblay

And when you go back, would he have friends there who were war veterans who were amps?

00:38:35;18 - 00:38:36;14

Kay Fairclough

Not amps.

00:38:36;14 - 00:38:41;27

Mary Tremblay

Not amps just war veterans? Any with a disability?

00;38;41;29 - 00;38;57;03

Kay Fairclough

Not the war vets. He had a good friend had been crippled from childhood. But no, I can't remember anybody with a disability.

00;38;57;06 - 00;39;02;06

Mary Tremblay

I was just wondering if you would compare what it was like to be in Canada, In England?

00;39;02;08 - 00;39;07;23

Kay Fairclough

No, I don't. We never ran across that. And of course, they never talked to any of us.

00;39;07;25 - 00;39;11;18

Mary Tremblay

The friend he had, who had been born with a disability...?

00;39;11;18 - 00;39;31;19

Kay Fairclough

Disability. Well, he had contracted it as a small child. He was a wonderful person. He had two leg braces, very badly crippled, beautiful artist. But they had been friends all their lives. And we always went to see him two or three times when they were older, in fact they still keep in touch with him.

00;39;31;22 - 00;39;34;18

Mary Tremblay

And he made his living as an artist?

00;39;34;21 - 00;39;44;12

Kay Fairclough

And so, like, mostly commercial, but he was. And you never heard him complain wither, they just did it.

00;39;44;14 - 00;39;48;13

Mary Tremblay

And was there any programs to provide him with any support or any help?

00;39;48;15 - 00;39;50;28

Kay Fairclough

I don't know. I never discussed it.

00;39;50;29 - 00;39;53;05

Mary Tremblay

It just wasn't anything he talked about.

00;39;53;08 - 00;39;58;14

Kay Fairclough

No, no, we never dwelled on anything like that.

00;39;58;16 - 00;40;08;19

Mary Tremblay

Okay, enough. Is there anything that I haven't asked you about being married to a war veteran that that you think is important?

00:40:08;21 - 00:40:38;20

Kay Fairclough

I can't think of anything. No, Mary. Maybe if I think of something, I could call you but um you just sort of figure your life is very normal. You don't. You don't think about things like that. Really. Except Remembrance Day, of course. That was always a big important day for them. And my dad was a veteran from the First World War and lived with us for four years.

00:40:38;20 - 00:40:45;10

Kay Fairclough

After Mr. Mother died. They used to have to pull them both home on Remembrance Day.

00:40:45;12 - 00:40:46;08

Mary Tremblay

They go to the Legion?

00:40:46;08 - 00:41;22;16

Kay Fairclough

Yeah, that then. Then you think, Well, why not after what they've been through? So I mean, you at the time I, I can't, I can't, I just can't figure how my life was any different really than anybody else's. We did the same thing. We did holidays and both worked.

00:41;22;19 - 00:41;27;13

Mary Tremblay

It was the film that came out after the war. The Best Years of Our Life? Did you ever see that?

00:41;27;13 - 00:41;28;07

Kay Fairclough

Yes, I did.

00:41;28;07 - 00:41;29;11

Mary Tremblay

What impact did that have on you?

00:41;29;14 - 00:42;06;13

Kay Fairclough

When I actually, I saw that long before I knew Jess, really. And then. I felt sad. Really sad for that chap with no hand. And I felt very sad for his girlfriend because there again, it didn't matter to her. I thought it was a beautifully done film, but I can remember feeling just so badly for them, but amazed at what he could do with this loss.

00:42;06;15 - 00:42;09;05

Kay Fairclough

Yeah.

00:42;09;08 - 00:42;21;17

Kay Fairclough

And then, like I say, that was before I met Jess, it never bothered me at all with Jess, just didn't think about it.

00:42;21;19 - 00:42;23;09

Mary Tremblay

Ok, well, is there anything else?

00:42;23;20 - 00:42;35;21

Kay Fairclough

I can't think of anything. If you can think of anything else you can give me a call? If I do, I'll call you. And sorry Iâ€™m all stuffed up.

00;42;35;24 - 00;42;42;14

Mary Tremblay

Well better then yesterday. Yeah. Okay. Well, then I guess we're just about at the end of the tape anyway. Iâ€™ll just close it off.