


<p>Project: Pennylands Camp 22 - WW2 POW Camp. Respondent: Gib Cowan. Year of Birth: 1940. Age: 76. Connection to project: Family hospitality. Date of Interview: 15th May 2017. Interviewer: Anne Griffiths (the older sister of Gib Cowan). Recording Agreement: Yes. Information & Content: Yes. Photographic Images: Yes (Number of: 1). Length of Interview: 5:26. Location of Interview: Cumnock, Ayrshire. Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n Pro.</p>	
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Time (from: mins/secs)	Time Coded Full Transcript	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0:00	Introduction, welcome and information about respondent.	0:0-0:26
	Q1. What is your connection to Pennylands Camp?	
	A1. The connection is through family, listening to stories that my mother told. Other than that, not a lot, as I'd be too young.	0:30-0:40
	Q2. I understand that you had an encounter in London which you would like to tell us about.	
	A2. Right, the encounter was in 1961, August to be precise. Margaret [respondent's wife] and I went to London on holiday. Walking through the streets of London, I saw a lovely wee, old fashioned barber's and I thought, suit me, I'm needing a neck shave and tidy up. The chap was very, very talkative and standing behind me looking in the mirror, as they do, talking to you. One of his first questions was, "Where do you come from?" and I said, "Scotland." " Oh my God," he said, "We'll start again. Where do you come from?" and I said, "All right, Ayrshire." " Oh, my God, what have I got to do to find out where you come from?" I said, "Right, I come from Cumnock." He said, "I thought that." I said, "What do you mean, I thought that?" " Well." he says, "during the war I was stationed at Pennylands Camp with the ..." I think, it was the London Irish Fusiliers he was with. He told me his name was Bill Chapman. We got on	0:49-4:40

	<p>the talk, cutting away at my hair and he happened to say, "Many, many a great night we had in Cumnock. We used to go to the dance on a Saturday night and the women that organised it would invite some, one or two soldiers back to the house for tea. Wait a minute and I'll try and cast my mind back ... It was a big main hall, the town hall, yes, that's it. We went out the door and turned right, and walked a short distance and there was a bus station." I said, "That's right, the old bus garage." "Same distance again we turned in left, and then right," and in my mind, I'm saying that's Herdston, McCall Avenue, "went a bit further and went down a small street that met up between the two main ones." I said, "Michie Street!" "That's right, aye, you're right there. In fact, I can always remember the house we went to, the lady, lovely big lady, tall, red-headed and hubby a wee black-headed man." [He is describing the respondent's parents and their house.] And he said, "the hospitality was second to none," he says and at that he stopped and he started to stare at me in the mirror. "Wait a minute" and he looked at me and I said, "Is there something wrong?" "No, I'm trying to think of something. See that scar you've got on your bottom lip? I could tell you how you got that." I thought, come on mister. "I can tell you how you got that" and at that he turned me round. He said, "You were the wean or the baby that was in the swing between the living room and the hall," he said. "Is that correct?" I said, "Eh, uh huh." "And" he says, "every time we went past we swung you and someone swung you too hard and you bit your lip right through. Calamity!" It was eerie but it was nice the way it happened. We just talked in general after that and he gave us his name and address, and addresses which I passed on to my mother. Unfortunately, I was too young to remember. I heard the odd thing, my mum shouting to Dave or Jim, "Have you two been down that estate again?" But other than that, I don't really remember a great deal, very, very vague and that was really it.</p>	
	<p>Q3. Did mum remember him when you related the story when you came back from London?</p>	
	<p>A3. She did, the name rang a bell because he gave me Irish addresses and he gave me some others but they didn't mean a thing to me at the time, I passed them to my mum and she said, "Oh, I remember him" and but other than that it didn't mean a great lot to me at the time with me being as small.</p>	<p>4:49-5:15</p>

Closing statement and end of interview.

5:26



Le taic bhon
Chrannchur Nàiseanta
tro Mhaoin-Dualchais a' Chrannchuir