


<p>Project: Pennylands Camp 22 - WW2 POW Camp. Respondent: Jim Liddell. Year of Birth: 1937. Age: 79. Connection to project: Lived nearby and was delivery boy to the camp at times. Date of Interview: 31st May 2017. Interviewer: Kay McMeekin. Recording Agreement: Yes. Information & Content: Yes. Photographic Images: Yes/ (Number of: 1). Length of Interview: 16:26. Location of Interview: Auchinleck, 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.	0:00-0:29
	Q1. What is your connection to Pennylands Camp?	
	A1. I was born in 1937 and was aware of the camp getting built without seeing it, as a young boy I was aware of it and watched it developing as a preparation place for the soldiers to prepare for the war in Europe.	0:32-0:52
	Q2. Where was it you lived during wartime?	
	A2. Well I lived at the top of the Barony Road that is about half a mile from the camp.	0:55-1:02
	Q3. Did your house have a name?	
	A3. The house name was Hill Cottage.	1:02-1:06
	Q4. Is it still there?	
	A4. Yes, it's still there and looks very well.	1:07-1:09
	Q5. What about your family life at the time, parents, brothers and sisters?	
	A5. We were 3 in the family 2 boys and a girl. I was the youngest and we were letting the house from the woman next door who was Mrs Hall a very capable old widow but she had a small holding garden. The garden is still there yet which was quite a	1:13-1:49

	large garden and to have plenty of fruit and veg and lovely flowers about it. It was a pleasure to stay at.	
	Q6. What did your father do for a living?	
	A6. My father was a miner. And he was a training officer in the mines after the coal board took over.	1:51-2:00
	Q7. He had a role with the Red Cross. What was that?	
	A7. Yes, well during the war my father being a miner was not called up to go into the army. There were workgroups within Auchinleck to support the Auchinleck soldiers who were in the army so they had a great war effort in that respect of trying to entertain the personnel contained in the camp and the town of Auchinleck to raise money. And they raised money holding dances and trips and that type of thing and allowing the army preparation groups to attend them all. It was quite an active place. He was actually involved in the Barony Hall which is now demolished but the Barony Hall was the church hall and they held dances there and they had regular dances there which he was the MC and at that time it was very controlled dancing in the form of they had a set programme for each dance and my dad would call out the dance and the girls and the persons, the men attending the dance would go up and dance their quicksteps, country dancing. They really had a very enjoyable time. The friendships at that time was pretty high, because my dad would only be ... at that time his age would be about 40, I think. What he did was ... obviously with the soldiers going back to the camp bypassing my house, my father's house he would introduce them into the family. And we had a great friendship with the soldiers who were there at that time. They were only there for a short time; they were only there for about 6 months. And then it changed to another group of soldiers.	2:04-4:04
	Q8. Are we talking about British Army here?	
	A8. At that time, it started off with British as in The Tank Corps was the first group I can remember. It was either that or the Canadians. I don't remember much about the Canadians but I do remember the Tanks Corps because the tanks were very impressive to see them assembling down the Barony Road. Two of the boys that were involved in that preparation group was Len and Alec and the friendship was so much that they gave us their photograph... quite a large photograph of them was placed on the sideboard and I can see that photograph yet of Len and Alec with their Tank Corps beret on. It was quite a hero type of photograph to see. They were very friendly, they came in and they had their comforts in the house of tea and biscuits, that type of thing.	4:07-5:00

	Q9. Did you ever visit Pennylands?	
	<p>A9. Well as I got older. At that time of the Tanks Corps being there I'd be about 5, I think. So in fact I can remember at that time looking at the Clydebank Blitz. Now Clydebank is not visible from Auchinleck. But we could see the skyline from Hill Cottage and I can remember standing on top of the coal bing, coal bunker at that time at the back of the house and my mother and father and the whole family standing watching the glare of the Clydebank Blitz. So I really had no understanding of it. When you saw all the soldiers. It was quite a busy road. As there were no zebra crossing, no pelican crossings to allow people to cross. It was a busy road for soldiers moving up and down from the camp. But later on in my development my next-door neighbour was the carrier for the district as in he went to Glasgow and picked up parcels and that and brought them back into Auchinleck and delivered them. And being a boy, I was invited onto the back of the lorry to give them assistance. And I would only be about at that time when the camp was, later on in 1945 I think I would be in it as a delivery boy on the back of the lorry giving assistance to the lorry driver to unpack whatever it was they were having. And I got a wee look at the camp at that time. I can visualise it now, not taking in too much detail at the time. But I can remember it thinking back how the Nissen huts and the soldiers marching about and where all the military lorries were garaged and looking at the soldiers standing, sitting by and watching them playing football. There was actually a football game on at the time one of my visits was. It certainly wasn't a hard visit. It was a very nice visit to have. I'm only pleased I got the opportunity to do it.</p>	5:03-7:18
	Q10. Tell me about John Johnstone.	
	<p>A10. Johnny Johnstone was transferred from North Italy to Pennylands Camp to be a sergeant in charge of the camp. There must have been other sergeants as well as him. But he was a sergeant in charge of the camp. He had the duties of controlling the sentry boxes and keeping a check on the prisoners as in taking them out to, checking that they were all there and taking them out on working duties. They would go into a lorry and he would take them away somewhere to work groups and work in certain areas.</p>	7:20-8:03
	Q11. Are we talking about the time of the German prisoners of war?	
	<p>A11. German prisoners definitely. That must have been 1944, 1945 it would be.</p>	8:05-8:12
	Q12. Was Johnny Johnstone a local man originally?	

	<p>A12. Johnny Johnstone was a Catrine man. Very local. I think that would be why he was posted to Pennylands. After his duties in the camp were finished he would walk from Pennylands Camp to Catrine for his overnight stay and then come back to the camp in the morning. I did ask him why he didn't take any transport, but being an infantryman who did all the walking in Italy, he said, "That was just a short trip for me going from Pennylands to Catrine, just a short walk across the road."</p>	8:15-8:51
	<p>Q13. I was going to ask you a bit about life in Auchinleck at the time. You touched on the dances but I think there was a cinema as well?</p>	
	<p>A13. Well, just across from the Barony Hall was the Auchinleck cinema which was the entertainment centre of Auchinleck, I would say. There was no community centres or internet at that time. So all the entertainment was cinema. And the cinema and Barony Hall was working at the same time. That was the dancing and the cinema on the go which was a focus, a focal point of entertainment there. Not the Town Hall. The Town Hall didn't have the same pull as the Barony Hall, I've got to say. The Town Hall was at the bottom of the town next to Allardyce's. But the Barony Hall having all the dances and the cinema having two houses every day; one house started at half past 5 / 6 o'clock I think it was and the second house started about half past 7 / 8 o'clock. Gone with The Wind seems to ring a bell where they used to queue up to get access to it, for both houses. And the pubs were quite busy because all the mines were just next door to the halls and the cinema. There were 3 pubs. So that particular part of the town was a very exciting part. It was never quiet.</p>	9:03-10:27
	<p>Q14. Was there any friction do you think between local men and soldiers at the dances?</p>	
	<p>A14. Being only about 5 to 9, the only information you got was stories what happened the night before on the playground. The British troops didn't cause much stir in the town but the ones that caused the biggest stir was the Free French. And the Free French were renowned for having fights in the middle of the street during the latter part of the evening. There was a big fight in the main street and big Jock Conker knocked one of the boys through McDougall's bakery window. Whether that's true or not I don't know!</p>	10:38-11:21
	<p>Q15. Tell me about the Drumhead Service.</p>	
	<p>A15. The drumhead service was something that I was... not aware of what Drumhead was involved in it because at that time Life Boys, Boys' Brigade, Scouts and part of the army was still in Auchinleck I think and the Home Guard. And to commemorate a ceremony of remembrance they chose to select a field in front of the Manse and the Manse was down on the east side of the</p>	11:22-13:18

	<p>Pennylands Camp just about a quarter of a mile out of the camp. And there was a parade from the middle of Auchinleck with all the soldiers and the young Brigade, the Lifeboys weren't allowed in for some reason, I don't think I got into the parade for some but I was there. We paraded as a full attachment going down the main street all the way down behind a military band. I don't think the pipe band was on the go at that time. I can remember walking all the way down and assembling in that field and there were so many military notaries, not high level like Churchill or anything like that, but there were some military commanders there to take control of the ceremony. And there was a particularly impressive drumhead structure of drums and flags in front of the ceremony and it was a church ceremony that actually just stuck out in my memory as being a very important part of the Pennylands Camp.</p>	
	<p>Q16. You reckon this was post-war?</p>	
	<p>A16. This was post-war.</p>	13:20-13:22
	<p>Q17. Were still troops at Pennylands?</p>	
	<p>A17. I don't know whether it was troops or the residue of the Polish Army. So I would only be 10 in the Lifeboys and I didn't get to march.</p>	13:23-13:35
	<p>Q18. Were you ever friends with any of the people who lived in the camp?</p>	
	<p>A18. My heroes lived in the camp. How they got on to the camp is very hard to say. This was young married couples moving down. Living next door to Highhouse Rows, there was a very good group of men there that was involved in football. So much so that they played for the Scottish cup final with Auchinleck Talbot in 1949 and won the cup. These young men were practising their football skills, not in Beechwood Park, but in this park here where this Barony Universal is, that was the playpark. The young boys used to stand back and watch them, how they enjoyed their selves running about playing. It was unbelievable for me to realise that these boys, 3 of them anyway were playing for the Scottish Cup Final in 1949. The names were Len Loneski, Willie McFadzean, Hughie Goldie, Jimmy Galloway was a Catrine man, Paddy Burns was very much a Highhouse man. He was the goalkeeper. 10 years older than me or maybe 15 years older than me.</p>	13:40-15:00
	<p>Q19. They lived in Pennylands Camp at that time?</p>	
	<p>A19. Well what happened because they were that age, just married, there were no accommodation, it was pre prefab time. There were no schemes. They stayed with their parents. So after 1947 Pennylands Camp seemed to become available to these</p>	15:03-15:29

	men or women at that time and a lot of people that you knew instead of moving in with their parents, just they moved into the camp.	
	Q20. That's all my questions. Would you like to add anything?	
	A20. While the Germans were there the prisoners were very eh skilful at doing hobbies. They weren't hard to control they were very easy going people. But anyway they started to do some handcrafting work, as in making toys for the boys and the girls. Lovely things to look at. I never did get any of the artefacts that they made. But Johnny Johnstone raves about the walking stick. The walking stick was made by one of the German prisoners. This was carved out by a penknife. A lot of the children's toys were made by the Germans because you couldn't get toys at that time.	15:34-16:20
	Closing statement and end of interview.	16:26
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