

Project: Pennylands Camp 22 - WW2 POW Camp.
 Respondent: Johnny Stariski.
 Year of Birth: 1928.
 Age: 89.
 Connection to project: Lived near the camp.
 Date of Interview: 27th May 2017.
 Interviewer: Laura McMeekin.
 Recording Agreement: Yes.
 Information & Content: Yes.
 Photographic Images: Yes (Number of: 2).
 Length of Interview: 07:45.
 Location of Interview: Auchinleck, Ayrshire.
 Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n Pro.



Time (from: mins/secs)	Time Coded Full Transcript	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0:00	Introduction, welcome and information about respondent.	0:00-0:49
	Q1. What was your connection to Pennylands Camp?	
	A1. We just automatically made it our place.	0:53-0:56
	Q2. Did you grow up near the camp?	
	A2. house.	1:00-1:01
	Q3. Where was that?	
	A3. Straight up the road There's very little left of it, miner's rows. Just straight up the road making for Boswell pub you know to get to Cumnock. Well on your right-hand side the miners' rows is all the way down. It led you to the start of Pennylands Camp what we call the Runnels. That's the road down into Dumfries Estate.	1:03-1:31
	Q4. What age were you when Pennylands was built?	
	A4. I think I would still be at the school. Aye, I was.	1:36-1:40
	Q5. What happened there first?	
	A5. They all slept in tents. Hail rain or snow. Well, we were only boys. We weren't paying a great lot of attention. We were just enjoying ourselves, mischievous as usual.	1:44-2:00

	Q6. What kind of things did you get up?	
	A6. You tried to get as much military badges and one thing, as you could.	2:05-2:09
	Q7. Did you have to sneak in and get them?	
	A7. Some of them were left outside the tents, we could maybe pinch one or two! Don't put that down! I'll have the policemen after me!	2:15-2:28
	Q8. What were these regiments doing first?	
	A8. London Irish was the first crowd to come, military, and they were there just to get the place ready for the big boys coming.	2:33-2:43
	Q9. Who were the big boys?	
	A9. The army. These were army boys but they were young army boys, London Irish. Our time with the army was when we came out of the school after our dinner we'd go down to the camp to see what we could get!	2:46-3:04
	Q10. Did the camp switch use after that? Was it used for prisoners of war?	
	A10. After. Yes, it was was.	3:11-3:14
	Q11. Were the prisoners of war allowed much freedom? Could you speak to them?	
	A11. No. I can give you one instance - I was actually there at the time. A sergeant, I forget his name, Viktor. He was a Polish soldier and I could speak a little Polish. That's how I got... He was standing up the middle of the tree, heightwise and he was looking right, left and centre. The footpath, the road was this way he was here and there was another one there and they were both keeping an eye on the road that nobody comes down. The Germans were taken prisoner and left in there. Viktor was having trouble with one of the Germans. He was, come out, jump on to the road and making faces, jump back. That went on for long enough and we were there. And Viktor eventually lost the head and he shot him in front of us. He was a bit away like. But we were there.	3:23-4:43
	Q12. And you saw it happen?	
	A12. Aye.	0:45-0:46

	Q13. That must have been a terrible thing.	
	A13. Aye. I wouldn't like that to be put on paper. Because it's touching enough for me to....	4:50-4:54
	Q14. Of course. That was a hard story to tell. Thanks for telling it.	
	A14. To see it happening it... Very few people I would tell... And Viktor got 7 days' leave – for shooting, for killing a man.	5:00-5:17
	Q15. You must have been still a young lad at the time.	
	A15. I was a bit of a (incomprehensible)... just looking for souvenirs. ...	5:24-5:35
	Q16. Were the German POWs kept at the camp a long time?	
	A16. They were kept at the camp I don't know how long. They were kept at the top camp. They were not allowed outside the camp. They had patrols walking round the camp and also up in trees, looking that there was nobody... I think it was that Viktor we were with that day. Viktor and I, there were 4 or 5 of us there that day. We were very friendly with him.	5:42-6:12
	Q17. Did Sgt Viktor learn to speak English?	
	A17. He was very good. I was quite pleased cause my dad was Polish and I couldn't speak to him back.	6:17-6:24
	Q18. Did they (the Poles) stay after the war had finished?	
	A18. Some of them did. Provided they got married.	6:28-6:32
	Q19. Did you know any of the soldiers that got married and stayed?	
	A19. Yes, I knew a good 2 or 3 of them, yes. But names I do forget. The miners' rows... there was a passage for the soldiers to go down to bottom of the town and walk right up through the village to say cheerio. A good 2 or 3 shot themselves. Because well, we assume they had information back from home that their parents were dead. And it was no use of them going back. My Dad was able to tell us some of these things because he was speaking to them in their own language.	6:35-7:32
	Closing statement and end of interview.	07:43



Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

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