



<p>Project: Pennylands Camp 22 - WW2 POW Camp. Respondent: Tom Callaghan - younger brother of Clarke Callaghan, also interviewed. Year of Birth: 1944. Age: 73. Connection to the project: Lived in Pennylands with step dad ex-Polish Soldier and family. Date of Interview: 25th May 2017. Interviewer: Anne Griffiths. Recording Agreement: Yes. Information & Content: Yes. Photographic Images: Yes (Number: 1). Length of Interview: 15:46. Location of Interview: Minishant, Ayrshire. Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n Pro.</p>		
Time (from: mins/secs)	Time Coded Full Transcript	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0.00	Introduction, welcome and information about respondent.	0.00-0:31
	Q1. What was your connection to Pennylands Camp?	
	A1. We moved there in November 1948, just prior to me starting the school in the March the following year.	0:34-0:42
	Q2. Where did you move from?	
	A2. Stewarton. Lainshaw Street in Stewarton.	0:46-0:50
	Q3. Why did you come from Stewart to Pennylands?	
	A3. Mum and dad split up and I don't know how the relationship came to be but we moved here with the man who became known as our step-father Adam Zborowski. He was Polish. He was in the camp in Stewarton.	0:55-
	Q4. Can you remember the number of the hut in the camp?	
	A4. The bottom of the camp I think was 66 and I think the top was 30 or 32. But I don't remember.	1:14-1:23
	Q5. What was the accommodation like?	
	A5. The first one was basically a hut, asbestos roof, chipboard inside and tar on the outside, felt. As you walked in the door to the right we had a big Dover stove where all the cooking	1:25-2:28

	<p>was done. To the left Adam built a kitchen on and he took a sink from one of the wash-houses and built on a kitchen like a lean-to type thing again with asbestos or a tin roof on it. That gave us a kitchen area. That happened I suppose fairly quickly. Straight ahead there was a big room in the middle of the hut which had a big metal stove right in the centre of it with a chimney going up through the roof. There was no ceiling on it if I remember. I think Adam did plasterboard and put a ceiling on the hut as there wasn't a ceiling. Further through was Adam and my Mum's bedroom, it was at the back.</p>	
	<p>Q6. You had the whole of the building, you didn't share it with anyone?</p>	
	<p>A6. No, we didn't share it.</p>	2:32-2:34
	<p>Q7. Why did Adam not go back to Poland?</p>	
	<p>A7. I think because of the Soviet Block, I don't think he had any family left, I think his family all died during the war and he had no reason to go back. Again, I think it was the fear of going back and being under Soviet rule. He was an engineer to trade so I think he had a value I suppose and I've got his record there. He started work as a boiler fireman at Barony but the pits had been nationalised then in 1947 which is what created the interest in this area for work.</p>	2:38-3:17
	<p>Q8. Did you have much contact with the Dumfries Estate people?</p>	
	<p>A8. None at all other than we used to see them drive through very occasionally. It was the Marquess of Bute but I think they lived in Bute more than they did there. The estate was our play area albeit we weren't supposed to be there.</p>	3:23-3:39
	<p>Q9. Were there other neighbours you knew?</p>	
	<p>A9. Not really, we only knew the people who were there like the people in the orchard Sammy Paul, I remember him. One or two others, Geordie Love, Sam, I forget his name, Peter Loy and Billy McConnell, in fact I met him at the last meeting.</p>	3:44-4:16
	<p>Q10. What were people's reaction to you living in the estate?</p>	
	<p>A10. All the other people were fine, they were all honest people, I don't remember any thieves or gypsies or vagabonds among them. They were all nice people, homeless people I suppose. Nice decent people.</p>	4:21-4:36
	<p>Q11. Who did your parents pay rent to?</p>	

	A11. I don't think there was any rent that I can remember because as I say since we were squatters, I'm talking about early doors so I don't know what happened after we moved up to the brick-built hut. So, the answer is I really don't know. I don't recall any rent being paid.	4:40-4:56
	Q12. Was there anyone you contacted if you had a problem with the hut?	
	A12. Adam did a lot of the home maintenance and so on. He was superb. He was a very skilled man.	5:01-5:10
	Q13. What age were you when you moved?	
	A13. When I moved in to the camp? Four and a half. A younger brother who was 2 ½ years younger than me and an older brother again 2 ½ years older than me	5:13-5:26
	Q14. What about friends in the camp?	
	A14. Many friends, can't remember all their names but we had great fun climbing trees and swimming in the river. It was a marvelous place to grow up. We shared facilities, maybe not so much for laundering things but for putting in windows and even gathering scrap. Adam was big on... and we assisted him obviously. When huts were coming down there was metal there we would go and gather the metal up and store it at the side of the new house, get the scrapman down and that gave us a wee bit extra money, I suppose. Adam was superb. He could do plumbing, joinery work. He cut out a wall at the side of the hut, not the hit the stone built, he cut a hole out and stuck a window in that he got from one of the huts and sealed it up with putty or whatever there was no silicone in those days and that gave us light into the hut at the gable end in fact he fitted the toilet just beyond that. He put in an outside toilet.	5:30-6:40
	Q15. How did your Mum get on with the rationing?	
	A15. We had a wee bit of assistance there inasmuch when my granny and grandpa had the shop in Stewarton and they would from time to time bring stuff down. So, we managed fine and having said that Adam was good at catching fish so we would catch pike. You wouldn't eat pike nowadays, we caught pike in the Lugar and ready it, my mother would get a chicken from somewhere, remember it was a hen, my brother knew more about this than I did but apparently and this was down the bottom of the camp, they put me out, and Clarke was encouraged to hold the hen's head while my mother chopped it off! I didn't physically see that but apparently, the hen ran around the floor, still running without a head.	6:50-7:44

	Q16. Did vans visit the camp?	
	A16. We used to get the fella coming around with big canisters if you like in the back of a van. A fella with a horse and cart did the same thing. They delivered the milk, well they sold the milk and pour it in to your jug, so don't know if it was a pint or two pints, it was a big metal jug that was chipped, so we'd buy milk there. The baker would come, what was his name again, the Electric Bakery, there was a baker van came then a grocer, Hopkins the fruiterers they came with the horse and cart for a wee while so you were well provided for. I remember Billy Buck the barber, he was just across the road.	7:48-8:38
	Q17. What about education. Was there anything at the camp for children?	
	A17. Nothing, no.	8:48-8:51
	Q18. Had you to go to Auchinleck?	
	A18. We had to go to Auchinleck. I don't remember early days buses being on but there were buses on eventually, prior to that you had to walk to school. But then there were buses on, you didn't get a bus home you only got a bus to take you to school, so you had to walk home.	8:53-9:09
	Q19. Did it come into the camp?	
	A19. It came into the camp and turned at the very bottom of that road where it just turned and sat there then we came through a wee slip path if you like.	9:11-9:26
	Q20. Did the children go to both schools?	
	A20. That I don't remember. I only remember that we went to the school at School Road. As we grew older some of the boys went to Catholic school but I don't know if they lived on the camp or not.	9:32-9:46
	Q21. What about social life?	
	A21. There was a cinema, believe it or not. Didn't show films every week or anything but occasionally, it was down the bottom near that roundabout, there was a cinema there now it might have been just one of the huts that had been used I would assume at the time the soldiers were there so they would bring a projector and set it up and have the films and so on and we would see the Pathe News and all that sort of stuff so they were obviously showing something current.	9:48-10:20
	Q22. Would that be the group within the camp?	

	A22. It might have been. I really don't know. He was showing the main films so that was for the benefit of the adults because I remember we, where my mum and Adam at the pictures we were left to our own devices. There was none of this the kids are too young to be left alone in those days. We were always up to mischief!	10:24-10:51
	Q23. For Christmas, Easter etc were there celebrations for these things?	
	A23. Don't remember nothing like that. I don't think, if I can remember rightly there was no such things as public holidays that I was aware of or anything. The one thing I do remember is because Adam was Catholic and my mother was Catholic they did celebrate Christmas so there was always something happening for Christmas. They would make an effort, somebody the first year we were there if I remember right, but I'm sure it was the first year, Santa Claus arrived and I had never seen a man in a red suit with a cotton-wool beard! He arrived and gave us crayons and colouring-in books and an apple and orange or an apple <i>or</i> an orange, something like that. Obviously, that was maybe the camp people getting together and noticed there was someone new moved in No 66 or whatever the hut number was.	11:03-11%&-
	Q24. There was a spirit of 'We're all here together'?	
	A24. Definitely. Which is why people helped one another. If someone was putting their coal in, they got the free delivery of coal but it was dumped in the street so you got help.	12:00-12:16
	Q25. They got their ton of coal?	
	A25. You got 6 or 7 ton a year	12:19-12:22
	Q26. How did most people get to and from the camp?	
	A26. You walked! There was no public transport. You just walked up into Auchinleck or catch a bus in Barony Road coming from Ochiltree to take you wherever.	12:27-12:37
	Q27. Did anybody have a car or a motorbike or a bicycle?	
	A27. One or two people, Geordie Love he had a motorbike, I remember him. I don't think there was many cars though if there were they were few and far between. I know we didn't have a car so and we were in the camp till after the Coronation the reason I remember that is my mum was taken into the sanatorium and Adam couldn't cope with us so he took us up to our dad who was in Dalsalloch and basically dumped us!	12:41-13:13

	Our Coronation mugs went with us which is why I remember that so it must have been '53.	
	Q28. What is your most vivid memory of living in the camp?	
	A28. I think the birds, owls and all that sort of stuff coming in swooping low because as I say there was no light. I'll tell you what it did for me, it's given me exceptionally good night vision I can see great, my wife she can't see in the dark and I can see in the dark so whether it was something you adapted to, I could see perfectly you just need moonlight, some sort of light and as you see down the camp there was nothing, no street-lighting and especially down the estate. That's probably my earliest... as children you were adapting, well at that age I knew nothing else anyway so it didn't matter to me we had no electricity, I didn't miss the microwave oven – all the things we take for granted.	13:23-14:16
	Q29. Is there anything you would like to add?	
	A29. Not really, other than it's a shame that they changed it. That is a shame I did enjoy it and have been down many times and taken family over the past 40 or 50 years down there and I don't think it's a change for the better but that's because it's spoiled my memory if you like. I think it was better as it was, I think it was better left as it was. I enjoy history and enjoy going to see the Parthenon and the Acropolis and all that sort of stuff and I like to see something that is unchanged and I think they've changed it but not for the better from my memory. They should have left the camp. I've got photographs of my grandchildren standing on the foundations of the hut we had at the top and that's great. I used to know the size, whether it's 6 meters by 3 meters or something, the size of the hut so when you look at the accommodation we have nowadays and to think what we crammed ourselves into. It's a shame we've lost it I think, visually it was nice to see and that's the toilet Adam put in and this was the path into the house.	14:20-15:31
	Closing statement and end of interview.	15:46
 <p>Supported by The National Lottery® through the Heritage Lottery Fund Le taic bhon Chrannchur Nàiseanta tro Mhaoin-Dualchais a' Chrannchuir</p>		