



STOBS MILITARY CAMP
HAWICK IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Transcript of interview between Dr Murray Watson and Jimmy Barnes, 29th November 1999
With the kind permission of Dr Murray Watson and the Scottish Borders Memory Bank

Dr Murray Watson

I'm with Jimmy Barnes in Hawick. Jimmy came originally from Liverpool and he was born in 1918. Jimmy can I start by asking you when you came to Hawick and why you came to Hawick.

Jimmy Barnes

Well, I first came to Hawick from Glasgow with the marines and I was stationed at Stobs Camp. That was in 1941 and I remember the camp very well because it was crawling, it was absolutely heaving with rats and I don't know where all the rats came from. I think people, former regiments that had been in the area, had buried some food there. I think this had a lot to do with the large amount of rats that were present. I remember lying on the floor of the hut, this was at Stobs Camp by the way, and the rats used to run across your body during the night . . . and it was freezing cold, well later on it got very cold and we were snowed in. The snow was actually up to the roof of the huts that we were billeted in and it's a good job that the doors opened inwards or I'd have been locked in there for a while. We had to more or less dig our way out. Of course I was young and fit then and it was just a case of strip to the waist and out with the shovel and digging your way out, and that was how I first came to be in Hawick.