



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

Do you ever go back to Liverpool?

Jimmy Barnes

Well, very rarely because I was the next, no, I was the third youngest child of nine. I had four brothers and four sisters and I was the youngest brother and I had two sisters younger than myself. Now of course, sadly, it's surprisingly, one brother had lived in Canada, one had been in New Zealand and a sister had been in America. So, the family had been quite scattered you know and we saw very little of each other. We weren't very good communicators either. More or less weddings and birthdays and we more or less got in contact, you know. But now, my brother, my eldest brother, he died. He's buried in New Zealand and my brother that lived in Canada, he'd come back home and . . . sadly we lost him a while after. The first of my family to go was my elder sister, then my eldest brother, then the next oldest brother, then the one below him and the one after him and then I lost my sister about two years ago. She lived in, first she lived in Boston, U.S.A. and then she moved to Rochester which was outside New York. And now, of course, I'm just left with the one sister which was the nearest sister to me, she was just two years younger than me.

Dr Murray Watson

When you first came to Hawick with other marines, did many of them do what you did and stay in Hawick?

Jimmy Barnes

Oh yes. We had, there's about thirty, thirty two I think. Thirty three actually married Hawick girls and they remained in Hawick.

Dr Murray Watson

That was thirty three out of how many roughly?

Jimmy Barnes

Pardon?

Dr Murray Watson

How many people were there roughly at Stobs Camp?

Jimmy Barnes

Oh, there'd be, well there was about five hundred in the battalion. There was a brigade of marines in Hawick actually. It was the Third Battalion and the Fifth Battalion. Then we had our Headquarters in Stobs Castle, Brigade Headquarters. Actually Brigade marines that had come to Hawick, you see. I don't remember just exactly when the Fifth Battalion came but I belonged to the Third Battalion.

Dr Murray Watson

And of the thirty three that got married, did you see them? Did they stay in Hawick like you?

Jimmy Barnes

Oh yes. They all of them stayed in Hawick. There were none of them moved back. There were...

Mrs Barnes

(Some of them were killed as well).

Jimmy Barnes

...from all different parts of England. Some from Portsmouth, Plymouth, London.