



STOBS MILITARY CAMP
HAWICK IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Transcript of interview between Dr Murray Watson and John Common, 29th June 2016
With the kind permission of Dr Murray Watson



Dr Murray Watson

It's the 29th of June 2016 and I am with John Common, who farms in Harbottle in Northumberland, in his son's house in Hawick. John may I start by asking you just to tell me what you remember about being at Stobs Camp.

John Common

Yes, well. It was 1945 after the end of the war. I was a fully trained guardsman down country, I don't know whereabouts exactly, and being fully trained a lot of us were sent to Stobs Camp. And the thing is I was only there about a fortnight because being

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fully trained we were all there and then we moved from there straight to Italy to be soldiers in Italy so I wasn't there very long. But it's a shame I don't remember much about it. I remember that one day or one night we were all taken ill. It had been what we were eating. We were all sick and what a state everybody was in. So I remember distinctly about that. The other thing is I think there were some German prisoners of war at the camp because seemingly one night or evening time they seem to be sort of arrested. They were like breaking into the camp but actually they hadn't been, they were working on the farms roundabout and they were breaking into the camp. I don't know why they hadn't gone to the main gate or whatever but they weren't breaking out. They were breaking in to stay the night of course. So I can remember that, something to do with that anyway. I wasn't trained or nothing at the camp, we were just fully trained soldiers sent to Stobs Camp until we were ready to go to Italy so we moved straight from Stobs Camp to Italy. So I was only there two weeks.