



STOBS MILITARY CAMP
HAWICK IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Transcript of interview between Ian Landles, Andrew Jepson and Reene Currie, 21st April 2016
With the kind permission of Ian Landles and Reene Currie's family

Ian Landles

What did you feel about them lifting all the stones from the cemetery and taking the bodies down to Cannock Chase? Do you feel they should have stayed at Stobs?

Reene Currie

I think they should have stayed at Stobs. I mean they'd lain there from... well my granny used to do the bodies. She used to wash and lay out the bodies, erm, and they'd been there from the First World War you know, so there wouldn't be... aye, they should just have left it as it was. And there was a monument, a huge pillar, just a great... and the stones had been carted from the Slitrig, at the outbreak of the First World War because my uncle Tom carted the stones from the Slitrig and then he went off in the army and he was killed out in France. But it was a huge pillar and it was just rough stone it was quite impressive and it had a big inscription on it you know, saying that here was the... here lay the... it was in German.

Ian Landles

Yes, yes. After the war did any German visitors come to visit the cemetery to see the graves of their sons?

Reene Currie

Rather sadly a family came and they arrived at Stobs I think two days after they'd been shifted. Aye, and it was nice, it was very well kept because it was all surrounded by yew hedging and it had inbuilt seats in the hedging and nice big pillar with the inscription on telling you what it was and it was very well kept and there was, oh just now there would be hundreds of narcissi, the Pheasant Eye narcissi, they were lovely.

Andrew Jepson

So when you were there as a child, do you know who was looking after the cemetery?

Reene Currie

For a while it was my father, because he was the head forester. He looked after it for quite a while.

Ian Landles

Do you know what happened to the actual headstones, were they just buried in the ground?

Reene Currie

I don't know.

Ian Landles

When the bodies were exhumed?

Reene Currie

I really don't know what happened to the headstones. But each grave had its own headstone. [Pause].

Andrew Jepson

Do you remember any names on the headstones, of the soldiers?

Reene Currie

Not really; there was one had committed suicide... [pause] but I can't remember the details of it.