



STOBS MILITARY CAMP
HAWICK IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Transcript of interview between Ian Landles, Andrew Jepson and Walter Oliver, 5 Sept 2017
With the kind permission of Ian Landles and Walter Oliver

Ian Landles

But you have some memories of the PoW camp though?

Walter Oliver

Look... I do remember some of the Germans, yeah, I remember I used to play on the hill and they used to come out and they used to wave to me to go down, you know, unlike today, you'd be a bit wary, or told not, don't go near them, you know.

Ian Landles

So what age were you?

Walter Oliver

I would only be three, going on four, or something, so, this is it. But they used to, they used to shout on me to go down and take us into dining, well, not a dining room, it was what we used to call the cook-house, go in there and sit us at the table between these two big guys, and one was called Walter. [Chuckles]. I can't remember the other one, but they used to always get me in between them and look after us, you know. A big plate of soup and then a plate of, eh, a plate of dumpling, a bit of custard over the top and then that was lunchtime. And then I used to go back to playing on the hill. [Chuckles]. But they, they used to come up to the house and all, sometimes we'd have two, three, or four of them up in the house at night, German PoWs sitting round the fire.

Andrew Jepson

Would you know how many German PoWs were there?

Walter Oliver

A wouldn't have a clue, there wasn't that many because there was, eh, if you look at that row of huts there, there wasn't that many huts there. You know, there might have been what, maybe eight or ten or something like that. In that area. They were Nissen

huts. They had barbed wire round about them, but, like, you could crawl through the barbed wire, it wasnae policed much then. Nobody sort of bothered with them, because, eh, they were no threat or no danger. I think they were quite happy there. They were getting looked after, an' they got more cigarettes and tobacco than the people round about got!