



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

The trains would be part of your life, you would hear the...

Walter Oliver

Oh the trains were great, you could hear them at night, eh, choofen away coming up the line because it was up a hill you see. If they stopped at Stobs Station they had to, you know, build up a bit of steam so you could hear them really hammering away. And then in the wintertime you could hear the snow ploughs going back and... choof choof choof, then thump [chuckles] and go away back again and have another run at it, ah we used to listen to all these noises.

Ian Landles

Where was the station master at Stobs?

Walter Oliver

Aw, there was, er, a bloke called Davidson, er... Willy Henderson was a walker, a track walker. He used to walk the tracks with a hammer. He had a hammer with a long handle on it. And he used to hit the links and he used to also hit the train wheels to see if there was, they could tell by the ring of the steel whether there was any cracks or flaws in them. He was a track walker. Oh, the railway provided a hell of a lot of work up there for people, you know, that... most of the people that lived around about Stobs worked on the railway.