



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

Walter Oliver

They converted some of the army huts into houses. And, erm, none of us were well off up there, but we all looked after each other, so anyway Frank came up with the idea this one day that we were going to get some coal 'cause everybody was freezing in their place. You used to go to Franks, that was just down the road from us and he was married at the time. He had a few kids and that, so I volunteered and I said yeah we'll go down. So we went down to the compound where they had the coal locked up. Everything was ok then but just before we got there it started to snow and of course by the time we got there there was a couple of inches of snow round the place. And, er, Frank crawled underneath the gates and he was passing the coal through to me and I'm putting it in bags, you got a couple of bags and carried them up the thing. Of course the next day the police arrived 'cause we'd left our footprints all around the place in the snow. [Laughs]. So anyway, I went down to Franks and said "What are we going to do, like?" I said "Ma Dad says that the police are coming up" and Frank says "We'll change the treads on our wellingtons". So we're sitting with knives cutting little bits off [laughs], cutting bits off the corners here and there and a hot poker trying to melt them.