



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

Was it scary when the guns and the flares were going off?

Walter Oliver

Oh no, Guy Fawkes Night! I used tae get up on ma bed and kneel at the window with my arms on the window sill and watch them, watching all the action. You could see the men at night you know and the very flares going off. And, er, you know, the men all crawling around in the little trenches and what not and, eh, all the guys shouting and yelling. 'Cause we were always told when they were going on night patrols. Then of course the next day we used to go up and look for the bombs that hadn't been exploded and bring them back and ma Dad used tae open them up and get the parachutes out them and get the flares for Guy Fawkes Night, 'cause eh, the used tae scratch the end with a matchbox or something, and then light them, you know, get them fired up. They used to give a big flare off. Eh no, that was great. I used to go up to Penchrise when the planes used to come in; they had little jet planes used to come over, the twin-tailed things, and bomb the Maidens.