

Interviewee: David Brown (DB)	Interviewer: Julia McDonald (JM)
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JM: It's Monday the Twenty-third of July Two thousand and twelve, this is Julia McDonald the field-worker, interviewing...

DB: Her dad David Brown.

JM: David Brown. Right dad you know a wee bit about today and I was wanting tae talk to ye mostly about your work as a telegram boy, but you were born in Stranraer?

DB: Yes, down the street.

JM: Down the street.

DB: Nineteen thirty!

JM: Nineteen thirty! So when did you move from Glen Street to Marine Gardens?

DB: About...about Nineteen thirty-one.

JM: Nineteen thirty-one so you can't remember movin' you canny remember Glen street at all?

DB: No no, I'd only be maybe nine months old at the time.

JM: Right, and you were there wi' yer mum...

DB: And wi'...the family Jackie and Olive, the three o' the family, and my mum and dad of course.

JM: And yer mum and dad.

DB: Stayed wi' the gran and granpa.

JM: Oh did you?

DB: They owned the house.

JM: Right.

DB: Aye.

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JM: Oh I didn't know that.

DB: That...previous to us movin' to Marine Gardens ken, the council house.

JM: So...and marine gardens that was for the railway workers' houses is that right?

DB: More or less aye, mm hmm. Well the majority of folk were railway workers. I reckon oot the forty-four houses there was...I would say thirty-five percent were railway workers.

JM: Oh right! And you were upstairs?

DB: We were up the stairs a block...four house in a block.

JM: And they were modern houses or...?

DB: Aye [ ? ] well, they'd be the second housin' scheme in Stranraer, West End previously and maybe Broomfield Gardens.

JM: Uh huh. So did you have an inside toilet and everything then when it was built...

DB: Yes we had that.

JM: Was that new to you?

DB: It would be aye because Glen Street was outside. And also there was nae electricity, it was gas previous we had ye had tae install the electricity yerself, which cost a bit o' money, you know? I 'hink we were in the house maybe five year before we got...

JM: Got electricity?

DB: Aye. And the gas was dangerous because it's no' present day gas, ye had tae keep lightin' the mantles wi' a match! And ye didny know how much power there was in the mantle, ye were settin' the house on fire!

JM: [*Laughs*] So, went to school in Stranraer?

DB: In Stranraer aye, but havin' said that I didny start till I was seven, because I had that accident fallin' off the wall at Marine Gardens, I was in a plaster cast for what, almost two year.

JM: So both your legs broken?

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DB: Five different breaks, hip right roond the side, two breaks in my femur, I don't know I canny remember.

JM: Uh, just remember it was sore?

DB: Aye. I just remember I couldny move!

JM: And did you then when you were...what age were you...you went out to Castle Kennedy for a wee while didn't you?

DB: Oh that was wartime maybe about...just Nineteen forty. After the war we were on the losin' side at the particular time, and they'd be there for maybe what...tae Nineteen forty-four, almost forty-five, nearly all the war years you know?

JM: Uh huh. And that was your other granny?

DB: Aye that was my granny my grandpa and my Aunty Jean. There's seven o' us in a one-bedroomed house, and of course everything was ootside then I mean, nae facilities. I mean the water pump ye had tae go away doon the woods tae this water pump. And then ye had paraffin lights and candles, that was it.

JM: So no electricity no gas?

DB: No nothin' at all, and the stables that my grandfather had, the toilets ye had tae walk away roond the stables, you know? [There'd a'ways be something] under the bed! *[Laughs]*

JM: They worked at the [stairs] didn't they?

DB: Aye that's right aye it's what they call a [?], they did general work aboot the Estate, ken the grounds, plus on a Saturday they did all the chores for the biddies, for the messages they went down and got messages and brought them back out, but Castle Kennedy was just a tiny place then there's nae modern houses like what there is now, it's just a wee hamlet that's all it was.

JM: Was your brother and your sister with you at Castle Kennedy?

DB: Aye the family except my brother and my brother kept the house on in Marine Gardens for the sake o' keepin' it on, you know, 'cause there's nae room, he couldny hae stayed there anyway. And we motored back...durin' the war there's a shortage a scarcity o' teachers, and they, it meant, well maist o' the male teachers were away to the war, so they had to improvise. I was actually at the Academy, but I had tae go to Park School in the mornin', and then go to the Academy in the afternoon. I can remember when we were at Park School maybe playtime, my auntie Jean that's Mrs Gillet, she stayed back tae back wi' the school, and she used tae hand us a great big jeely piece, through the fence, [ ? ].

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And in the mornin'... there's a teacher called Miss Murray, and she stayed in New Luce, and she gave us a lift tae the school, in the mornin', I canny remember I think she was at the Academy, and then we came back by bus, at night time. But we had tae walk right by Castle Kennedy...it's about a mile, and it was gey...in the pitch black, I mean there was six o' them right...although the air force, the aerodrome was there [?] aerodrome, and it was a noisy affair. But it was frightening, walkin' up and doon there ye know, and then the mornin' ye had tae walk away doon there too. And it could be poorin' out they had nae shelter whatsoever. So eventually we moved back in just at the end o' the war back intae the town.

JM: Uh huh. So you spent all your sort of primary or secondary school years out at Castle Kennedy?

DB: Aye at Castle Kennedy. Of course Castle Kennedy wasny, they hadny a proper... well there was nae school at Castle Kennedy then, no.

JM: Uh huh. Oh was there no'?

DB: Naw there's nae school. Well there was a school but it was away, been disused, at the Mark, you know the Mark Farm, doon there but it was...and then the next school was Inch Parks, but Inchparks wasny...they had stopped teachin' then. Otherwise it would hae been the Inchparks. And apparently my mother went to the Inchparks so she did.

JM: Oh did she?

DB: Well my Aunty Jean did.

JM: Uh huh. So what age were you then when you became a telegram boy?

DB: I left the school when I was fourteen, myself and a chap...Jimmy Thorn, now his pal's a blacksmith, I'm quite pally with tae the present day he's the same age as me he's comin' eighty-two...we didny apply but it was the school, the headmaster that got us the job, a Mr Douglas Rae, Doh-ray they called him! And he got us the job, but it was only on a temporary basis, and we didny understand that at the time, and it was pushbikes, great big heavy pushbikes just one gear, and we did tae start off we did the town just the town, and then eventually like later on...I think there's six o' us altogether, but you were treated...aw I mean you'd think yer in the army the way they treated ye were just a kind o' underman. We had a whatdycallit, the messengers room, and the telegraph room, and there's the teleprinter through in the next department that'd be four or five lassies Cathy Lamb was one o' them, and they'd a hatch, and they'd through the hatch up and said, "Boy, messenger, next!" Because ye had tae rush up the window get yer pouch and away roond the street. But ye were restricted in the time that you took, it was just like a time trial on a bike, ye just couldny go out on the bike and walk roond the toon, ye had tae be there at a certain and

come back, irrespective of weather. And then things got worse, it finished up we did a broken shift, and that was on wi' a wee chap called Jimmy Wilson, ye probably remember him? And Jimmy wasny allowed out the town, because it was dangerous in them days for a' the facilities the war was still goin' on but it was getting' easier ye know by Forty-four. Ye had tae go round these army camps at night time, and there's some dicey characters about the army camps, the guys that wereny at the war. As a matter of fact...and ye had yer blackout lights on yer bike, that means a wee scoop, like a scoop o' a [?], and it's supposed tae stop the light shining up in the air, in case the Germans can spot this light doon on the ground a wee torch. Jimmy was petrified he wasny allowed...he was just tae stay in the town he's a wee delicate critter anyway, and normally I was on the back shift wi' him, well I had tae take all the country telegrams, and [ ? ] I carried a baton, about that size, a chair leg I had the [?], and a great big torch, and that was how I got so good on the bike, I wouldny get off, I went up the side o' a wall so I would rather get off the bike. Because you'd be away doon roond the trees and bushes and a' the rest, and the noise, and then ye never knew wi' these guys what was gonny happen, so I never walked wi' a bike and the bike was horrendous I mean the weight o' the bike itsel'. But I delivered...the funniest thing I ever had, just yin particular incident, was a chap called Mr McIntosh he stayed at Garthleary, and this was maybe a job at half-past seven, but he says, "Have ye got time tae gaun tae Garthleary?" I don't know how this man but he must hae won money on some kind o' lottery of some kind I don't know because there's no football coupons or nothin' durin' the war. And I can remember it's a moonlit night, and I was up this back road just near tae [their mess area] just up at the back, and there used to be an old army hut there and there's now the Irish tramp but he was harmless, so I was up this road and I was whistlin' as loud as I could, and the big tall high hedges, and I seen this figure standin' at the side of the bushes, and oh I panicked so I just battered doon the road like a madman. And when I eventually got Mr Mc...a nice wee man he was actually a kinna part-time gamekeeper, he says, "What's wrong wi' ye boy yer affa kinna distressed lookin'?" I says, "Nae wunner," I says, "I'm no goin' back doon that road there's a [bugger]!" [ ? ] They'll tell ye [ ? ] But anyway, he says, "I'll come wi' ye," he says, so he comes, he got the two spaniels in the kennels there's kennels there yet, and he's walkin' doon, wi' a twelve-bore under his arm, and he's walkin' in front o' me and this fella's still standin' he says, "Hey, what's gaun on here what are ye daein'?" And we went richt up and it was a scarecrow! [Laughter] Somebody'd lifted it oot the [field] and put it in the...and it was like the thing! Ken a hat on and the big trenchcoat! He was feared o' it in a'! I got a [ ? ] silly wee things. And also on a Friday, the post office was at Charlotte Street, where the thing is this present day, but the depot, the postmen's' depot was up at St John's Street it was a wooden hut, they called it the depot. So ye had tae transfer...on a Friday we were based in the post office doon the back. Ye had tae go up wi' yer bike on a Friday tae get yer bike inspected, and this particular inspector, a Mr [Crowdie] oh, [ ? ], and ye had tae cycle roond this yard in front o' him, he was watchin' every move ye make..."There's a bit o' dust there." Talk about...it's unreal!

JM: So ye had to polish yer bike as well?

DB: I had tae polish like efter maybe pourin' wi' rain ye still had tae polish it. And what I used tae dae was...I was flier than Mason, I got oil and I covered the whole bike wi' oil and it'd be gleamin', ken!

JM: Gleamin'! [*Laughs*]

DB: "Good condition that, now right round there, yer seat's not properly adjusted." Now wee Jimmy Wilson he couldny ride a bike at a', there's a supervisor and a lady a very nice old lady, Mrs Cross, just like her name suggests but she wasny wi' me but anyhow, Jimmy [ ? ] and Jimmy got the job through Mrs Cross, so I went round by [?] Road and he couldny...his legs wouldny reach the pedals, so they got big blocks o' wood on his pedals, and he couldny sit on the seat 'cause the seat was too high, so we got a bag and we tied the bag round the seat pillar, and they pushed him [ ? ]

JM: Poor old soul!

DB: [ ? ] He should never have been in the place.

JM: No.

DB: But in between yer time, ye didny just sit doon, nothin' [?] ye were in the telegraph room, ye had tae make what they call lead seals, that's strings and a wee bit o' lead for tying the mailbags, and ye kinna clamped them like that. And also ye went up the stair, ye had what they ca'd an addressograph machine, and the addressograph machine was like a printer only it was a hand thing, and [?] this is for stampin' the labels for the bags, for a' over Britain, ken London a' this, Birmingham, and they're [ ? ] great big [ ? ] and ye had tae gaun 'bang bang', one o' us [ ? ] and then ye had tae change the thing on yer [?]. Ye had tae gaun doon the stair tae the dispatch room and check the labels were a' on pegs ye see ye had tae keep them up tae date ken keep on pinnin' them up. So I mean ye had nae time tae yersel' at a', aw naw.

JM: Did you ever get to know what was in the telegrams, or were you to wait for a reply?

DB: Aw, a lot o' times. Ye knew right away. They were closed right enough and we'd...sometimes I would [take] a telegraph and ye could see them comin' up. Well now on a Sunday there was only one girl on the telegraph and myself maybe. And yer watchin' the tape comin' off and she's stickin' it on the thingy, ken?

JM: Oh right so ye were watching her doing it?

DB: In them days there was hardly any phones at a', very very few phones, that's hoo telegrams were so popular. But latterly I got made intae the...ca'd up tae the

army and come back, and I was what they ca' a junior postman, but still on telegrams, so that was me on motorbikes then, and everythin'.

JM: So you did your National Service?

DB: Aye I did National Service.

JM: And you came back to the post office again?

DB: I came back to the post office. I was unemployed for maybe what...three months I was gonny go back tae the army actually, I think my mother was wantin' me tae go back! *[Laughter]* But anyway as I say, I went down on Christmas, and I had a lovely blazer and [?] I had tae get the uniform, in this GPO van I thought I was the cat's whiskers, and then [?] what they ca' big wicker baskets, wi' wheels and yer deliverin' parcels, and ye hud tae run back and forrit every five meenits tae put it back off again, but mainly shops, ken, and then after that I did...aw wait a minute it's a while before I was on the motorbike, I had tae do all this before, for maybe four year, I did Castle Kennedy, on the pushbike, I did the Gala Hill, I did the Spring Back up the Port Road, Castle Kennedy [?] away up in the...crossin' the moors, and then ye get back and yer clabbert fae head tae feet in mud and then ye had tae go roond the toon again wi' this...

JM: The basket.

DB: Aye. But I remember when we just come back I went intae this particular house in [?] Street, there was an old fella called Jimmy Herdsman, and he'd been in the First World War, and Stuarly McCredie in the shop, just where [Alice King] had the scrap yard at one time.

JM: Oh yeah uh huh.

DB: And I heard the 'knock knock' and this is the fella [?], "Come in boy come in," I thought I'm feelin' my way intae this thing roond and there he's away lyin' away there in the corner like an au'd tattie box he's lying.

JM: Aww.

DB: A little boy, [where are ye gaun?] I've never had a person in my life who's says, "Thanks very much," and I can hardly see him ken it's [jist] candle. So here I'm comin' out and I had this horrendous pain in my leg, oooh, ken! I gets tae the door and here's a collie dog, [?] and it never let go just... *[Laughter]*

JM: It just bit intae you?

DB: What a mess.

JM: So you just felt the pain you didn't know there was a dog there?

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DB: [ ? ] are split right doon there, and this dog, [ muzzled right intae the thingmy] so I turned round and looked [?] and he shouts, " What are ye daein' boy?" I says, "I'm tryin' tae kill yer dog!" [Laughter]

JM: Well I suppose it's a hazard o' the job isn't it, getting'...?

DB: That was jist yin incident. But the incident I had efter that as I say I got motorbikes. There was six o' us on these motorbikes, and they're absolutely dangerous because we behaved like idiots on them, you know. But when ye went tae the doors there ye more or less kent, from folks expression, and it's worse if ye had tae dae what they ca'd a reply...they did sent telegrams reply paid, so ye said tae folk, "D'ye want tae send a message back," and they've already paid well you put it doon, but maist o' them, maist o' them ye can't [ ? ] them, they're about folk that died, and especially the war, well that was different. There's yin particular, but this is when I was just a young boy ken, near the end o' the war...aye Forty-five, I was still in the...no I couldny hae been no I couldn't, it must hae been after. It was somethin' tae dae wi' Bob Smith, now he'd been a prisoner o' war in Italy, and his mother...he's presumed missin' killed.

JM: Uh huh?

DB: And this was tae say he'd been at prison camp a' they days, so I went tae the [?] that's [ ? ], and his mother gave me a fiver, noo a mother...a fiver in them days was about a hunner pounds.

JM: Aw, that's an awful lot o' money.

DB: Oh it was mair. I wouldny tak it but aw she insisted I took this.

JM: A' because her boy was found alive.

DB: Aye.

JM: Excellent.

DB: Aw no...there was a lot o' different things, on the motorbikes it could take ye a' day tae tell ye about motorbikes.

JM: So but you said you broke both your legs when you were wee. How did you...and you were in plaster for two years. How did that come...to learn to ride a bike that must hae been...?



DB: Well that was part o' the thing my mother wasny in favour o' me bikin' at a', she thought this was...ken, but my father said it's the best thing because he was...well he was in the Saint Andrews Ambulance Association ye ken, part time lecturer and a' the rest, and he kent that physical exercise was the only thing he encouraged me. In fact he used tae massage my legs and that for the muscles.

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JM: Oh did he?

DB: Aye, and he maintained latterly, a while ago, there's a slight difference in yin leg than the other, this was caused by the breakage ken, the bone, aye aye. Oh that was the kinna thing, but I would say the post office helped because they're great big heavy bikes, and if you could ride thon bikes you could ride onything because oh they're horrendous, one gear. Oh I've seen me go up maybe the Tongue, that's Castle Kennedy. Rather than go up the main road which is three mile, ye go doon tae this farm and then ye went up the side o' it and ye left yer bike at the farm and ye walked across the field tae the other. Meikle Tongue and Little Tongue away up the top, but every time ye had tae cross this there's a big bull in the middle o' the field, so there's nae way you could...as soon as it seen ye it come ' boom boom boom boom', so I had tae walk away along the side o' the river, [ ? Black Loch], you know?

JM: Uh huh

DB: And I'd been well goin' up the road because by the time ye walked [all the way] back, and then ye got yer dinner with Mrs Bruce efter that. And also at that particular time, my granny was still in the black stables, so I got a cup o' tea wi' her every mornin'.

JM: That was good! As a boy as well when you were stayin' back at the black stables again, near Castle Kennedy, did you know...did practice get done durin' the war for nurses or somethin' did they no'...?

DB: Aye yes oh they had that, I think they had that in the castle Lady Stair, and a' the kinna ones roond aboot the ones that had been nurses, ken they were a' mostly elderly women, and they needed somebody tae practice and of course I didny bother so my mother volunteered my Aunty Jean anyway. I felt that embarrassed [ ? ] women sittin' aboot clabbert in bandages wi' their arm in a sling and a' this nonsense ken!

JM: Did Uncle Jackie go out there, yes he did?

DB: Aye he's there. He actually got a job, in McDowall's the drapers.

JM: Uh huh?

DB: And he got a brand new bike, my mother bought him a brand new bike. Havin' said that I had tae purchase it mysel' after he was din with it! [Laughter]

JM: You had tae buy it from him!

DB: But...and he backed me up maybe three year. He cycled back and forrit tae the toon, and as I say, and then he got a job on the railway after that, ken he

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started on the railway quite young he'd be about seventeen I 'hink when he joined the railway.

JM: Uh huh. 'Cause was he not in Bletchley durin' the Second World War?

DB: He was Bletchley durin' the war aye.

JM: Munitions trades?

DB: By the time o' it...maybe even before that because he always spoke about the doodlebugs ken the flyin' bombs, and it was ammunition trades that he was drivin'.  
[Laughs]

JM: Aye 'cause he spoke about coverin' the funnel.

DB: There's six men, six drivers [ ? ] when I went doon there, and wee Bob [ ? ], a whole loat o' them, and they actually slept in that railway carriage a converted railway carriage, 'cause they had nae proper digs, [ ? ] I tell you what he kept a number o' a' the numbers o' engines that he drove, he had a diary [ ? ]. No just Bletchley, [ ? ], South o' England, well North o' London I would say, ken.

JM: So then when...what age were you when your neighbour was killed in the Second World War wasn't he the fella across the road?

DB: Oh that was Jim Boyd across the road aye. Well it's his bike I rode, that's where I joined the Wheelers. Tammy Boyd that's the boy's father. Teddy was the other brother he was in the paratroopers he was at Arnhem, he survived the war. I said would ye ride this bike, and it wasny a proper bike it's like what the...Chris Hoy has...it was a track bike, ken, it wasny what you hae.

JM: No.

DB: Nae brakes, well yin brake a hand brake in front but ye couldny yase 'cause it throw ye over the handlebars. And I rode that...and I hadny ony mair brains I rode it for what, aboot four or five...I won twa or three races on it, but it's a great big big big enormous gear, once ye got it wind up it's ok, but when ye had tae go tae a turn in a ten mile race, ye had tae slow doon [and you were never] too quick the pedal [?], aff ye go.

JM: That'd be you catapulted.

DB: And then eventually I got a decent kinna bike, a Flyin' Scot. And I just rode in actual fact I won the best all round, I won the cup, the twenty-five mile cup, I gie it Mrs Boyd across so she could sit in the window ken? She was affa nice she was Southern Irish so she was Aye, she was a great crater.

JM: Oh was she? Was she railway as well then...?

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DB: Aye, Tammy was a [pitter], an engineer, aye. Aye nice. And Terry was in the Wheelers tae at one time.

JM: Uh huh. So you weren't allowed to go to the railway then?

DB: No I wisny, as my mum said you've two [ ? ] was a no. And I was determined when I went tae the army, ye'd nae option, ye just ca'd up, and they gie ye an initiative test ye go intae this big hall, maybe about a week after yer in and they gie ye a test and it's somethin' a wean could dae, it identified different things, and they put me doon...ye got a preference, I put doon Royal Engineers Railroad section ken [ ? ] get on the railway ken, 'cause they had their ain thingmy in different perts o' England, pit me, because o', the clerk, they said 'ability as a clerk', and that's why they made me a clerk.

JM: So ye had to go to the signals!

DB: The last thing I wanted tae be!

JM: So did ye sign up for the signals or...?

DB: Naw ye had...called up, ye had tae go. Ye'd nae other option ken.

JM: So when were you...you were in the [?] as well, though what was the...?

DB: Aye but you see I did eighteen months, which maybe no sound long but it's long enough. I did three months I was only home once I was at Cattrick for three months, I got hame for two days. By the time I got home it was time tae go back, ken, tae York...Richmond. And after that I did richt tae the Middle East, I was about a year and three months in the Middle East fifteen months, and then when I come back out, I had tae dae compulsory territories, and it was worse than the army, because ye had a loat o' half-wits wi' ye, guys that had never been in the army and they were in charge o' ye, ken? And also no' only that it was an infantry regiment I was in a core, well a core has usually got trades, while infantry doesny, they're just diggin' holes and a' roond the road. And it was... I had tae dae three and a half year, and that involved, once a month, I had tae go down tae Kirkcudbright, then [Drennan], to the range, the tank range, [all these] nuclear shells doon there so they do, it was a tank range, and ye had tae dae a week out there, and then, also once a year ye had

tae go away for a fortnight, I went doon tae Dorset, and I went away tae Pennan near the moors in Yorkshire, went tae Hawick, so I didny get paid by the post office, and I was beginnin' tae query this somebody says, "Post office you were employed by the post office," and yet once a year [ ? ], but the post office stopped my pay when I was away 'cause the army were supposed tae pay ye's, they didny pay ye at a' ye'd nae pay in the territorials. I'd a better chance o' bein' killed in the territorials than what I had when I was oot a' the time in the East.

JM: When you were in Egypt!

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DB: Aye! [ ? ] hand grenades [ ? ] As I say a lot o' half-wits, ken? And the funny thing wis maist o' the guys...some o' the boys that I was wi' they'd been in Korea and a' I mean they'd seen active service, ken. Well that was active service tae more or less ken, ye got paid a penny a day extra for bein' on active service.

JM: A penny a day! [*laughter*] So way way back then, you can remember durin' the war you can remember the submarines the German submarines comin' in?

DB: Aye fine, yes aye. In the war, they couldny publish it but they said the U-boat fleet has been more or less extinct. Eighty-four o' them! Eighty four o' them was brought intae the loch, [ ? ].

JM: Oh wi' the crew as well?

DB: Aye! Crew were there as well. Oh I think they were glad it was ower. And [ ? ], a prisoner o' war camp, what they ca'd a temporary prisoner o' war camp in the Sheuchan.

JM: At Sheuchan School?

DB: Sheuchan School, was a' barbed wire, and these Germans, ye want tae see them what big handsome lookin' fellies wi' a' their coats and the gear.

JM: Well dressed!

DB: Mair up tae date than what they are present day [?], and [?] ye can see they're quite gled that the war was over, but they used tae...exercise them. What they ca'...part o' the Asian camp, [at the Sheuchan] they kept them there for a week and then sent them doon tae England tae a big camp. But they had tae give them exercise, so durin' the day, they'd walk out past Marine Gardens, maybe as far as Innermessan, and they're a' marchin' in groups ken? And they're singin' German songs ken, and we're standin' gaun 'mmmooohh'!

JM: Makin' gestures to them!

DB: But they were laughin', ken it's a' in good [patter], but [mind] the war was over then. And they had whatdyeca'it the...it's somethin' similar tae the Red Caps but it was nearly [ayways] men they wereny proper army just like a territorial...'blue caps' they ca'd them.

JM: Uh huh, somethin' like a home guard type thing?

DB: [ ? ] Joe Leddie he was there [ ? ] and they're walkin' beside them wi' these rifles, they could o' turned on them and couldny o' done nothin' about them! But they were great ye maybe got...I'd say eighty or ninety at a time in a bunch, they took them oot in groups, but they were thoroughly enjoyin' themselves so they

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were! It feenished up we got quite kind o' friendly we didny [ ? ] we realized they wereny gonny harm us. [ ? ]

JM: [ ? ] they were big enough! Och aye, so can you remember...you canny remember like Winston Churchill bein' up at the Top Station or anythin' like that?

DB: Nah, in them days ye wereny allowed tae talk about any'hing, everything was bad ye ken ye dareny say a wrong word, careless talk would cost lives and a' this kind o' nonsense.

JM: So did ye deliver telegrams tae the likes o' Cairnryan to any o' the ships or anythin'?

DB: Aye aw that was when I was on the motorbikes.

JM: Oh the motorbikes then.

DB: Disposin' o' a' the ammunition. I'd be maybe there ten times a day back and fore.

JM: Really?

DB: Aye, and even at night-time. As a matter of fact I seen maybe four o' us passin' each other, and then we'd say, "Just ho'd on I'll be back on the road wi ye," and the four o' us maybe, five o' us comin' in Cairnryan Road, racin' each other, standin' on the seats o' the motorbikes.

JM: There's photo's o' that somewhere isn't there?

DB: Aye. But havin' said that, the present jetties left the big jetties a' collapsed noo.

JM: Is that North Deep or South Deep?

DB: [ ? ] busy busy place. Well I had tae go doon there and the boats they were yasin' tae dump the stuff, they're a' ex fishin' boats and trawlers, so they're awa' doon below the level o' the harbour, ye had tae climb doon this kinna steel thingmy, and then jump fae yin boat ontae another!

JM: To deliver these telegrams!

DB: Aye ye'd be in the water just tae deliver a telegram!

JM: And so those boats would be loaded with old ammunition and everything?

DB: Live ammunition bombs shells everything, aye.

00:28:22

JM: To go to Beufort's Dyke.

DB: And [practically alongside o' them] there's a landin' craft, just where thingmy's got the present day...

JM: Stena.

DB: Stena, there's a big jetty, went right through there, that was the 'North Deep they ca'd it.

JM: The North Deep yeah.

DB: And there's a landin' craft blew up there.

JM: Oh was there?

DB: And as I say, I think there was fourteen killed. And maistly a' the [?] were.

JM: Oh were they?

DB: Ken they were...they were loadin' it. And half the jetty [?] so they just took the jetty away a'thegither. But it was quite a big jetty. But that's just...nae trace o' it left at a', and gaun past one o' the picnic areas, where the lighthouse is, past there. Funny thing was it was kinna low profile they didny say much aboot it in the papers or anythin', but if ye look away back in the free press...

JM: There's bound to be somethin'.

DB: If gies ye briefly it tells ye a wee incident that happened in such-and-such but fourteen killed.

JM: Oh that's a lot.

DB: Oh an affa thing. But half the time they wereny even getting' oot the loch, they were just shovin' the stuff aff the sides so they were. Terrible! I dinny ken [?] along.

JM: Was it local men on the ships?

DB: There was two or three but, no, well they'd be maybe Glesga area [more] roond this area ken they bought the boats in fae they Clyde they were just wee coasters wee poppers well no poppers, but just trawlers, and there's two or three o' them [wi] men fae Stranraer, wee [Shingy] was wan o' them ken.

JM: Oh was he?

00:29:40

DB: Aye. *[Laughs]* It was him that blew thing up, it's him that [ ? ]. *[Laughter]* So that's the Beaufort Dyke and that's supposed tae be the deepest bit it's a big kinna...looks like a hills a range o' hills. But havin' said that, I 'member things bein' washed up even present day they're still bein' these phosphorous flares and a' the rest. *[Dog whines and David speaks to him]* They did tak' a loat o' the German submarines oot and scuttle them, and noo they're sorry noo they'd be wantin' just as a kinna keepsake or a sort o' memento, well for scrap!

JM: Scrap! Aye even the scrap value o' them. And the likes o'...you didn't go that day when Donny Nelson and a few others had...the wee boys that had went up tae the wall. What's that wall called again Dad?

DB: I didny go on that particular day. It was Ian Breslin, his father was the postmaster.

JM: Was that the boy that was...?

DB: Aye, he'd be one o' Saint Jo's. [ ? ]

JM: What's the name o' that wall?

DB: Oh just up at...? Braid Fell.

JM: Braid Fell.

DB: Aye well [ ? ] be Braid Fell.

JM: And it was a target wasn't it?

DB: It was actually the factory it's a [ ? ]...

JM: Oh so it was all factory...?

DB: Oh it's huge, and that was the only particular bit that was left. But we used tae stand at the end o' the war...durin' the war, watchin' Marine Gardens, and it's these typhoon fighters and bombers comin' in there, and they're lettin' rockets off but no only that they're droppin' what they ca'd Napalm, that's on petrol tanks.

JM: [Did they drop that aye]?

DB: Aye. It looks close when ye see it...when yer up in it, but it's quite a wee distance back up the thingmy. But that place is riddled wi' bombs 'n thingmy. That's hoo the RAF had a bomb disposal unit present they had...[ ? ]. But these Napalms they dropped the pellets out and they hit the ground [ ? ]. That was a fella wis in my class at school he was killed in Korea wi' the same thing.

00:31:27

JM: Same thing?

DB: Tommy Hill 'is name was. And that was the Americans ken that used them, ken just drapped in the wrang bit at the wrang time. But we used tae...machine [ ? ].

JM: Uh huh.

DB: But there's I dinny ken how many...see that's jist a bog up there, for hundreds o' miles, and there's still umpteen bombs must be there yet.

JM: Ah must be. So the boys were just throwin' what they thought was spent shells...?

DB: They...that particular day ye were talkin' [Craig Cappie], I 'hink there's four o' them, I canny jist remember, and the Breslaw boy picked this up whether it was a shell or what, it must hae been a bomb o' some kind 'cause it couldny be a shell, well it could o' been it could o' been a cannon shell oot ken they're quite big, and it just blew up and blew the whole stomach oot him so it did.

JM: I think Donny Nelson got his finger cut just from shrapnel or somethin' as well?

DB: Aye, aye I canny just mind but I don't think...but it was bad enough tae kill 'im anyway. But his dad was...I can mind o' the boy quite a nice lookin' boy, I think they were Irish Southern Irish, his dad was the postmaster, this is before my time, ken, that's goin' back a wee bit.

JM: And so in your post office service as well then ye've worked, just about all round the place haven't you?



DB: Aye, ye had ither duties what they ca'd rural runs where there's actually twelve rural runs, that was ye ken twelve rural thingmys, but I was five year on bikes as I say, but the senior postman he wouldny let ye on tae the bikes at a', they commanded [them], they got about a' the say, you were just a minor, ye had tae wait till one o' them deed or somethin' before ye got a position.

JM: Dead man's shoes!

DB: About five year before I got on tae the...motorbikes saved me. And then my first run was Drummore, I was two...no' on a permanent basis three men on a rota like, and they had a come...I've done all the rural runs, through my time, I like Kirkcolm best of a' because it was my first run, no' my first run, and the only one I didny dae was Portpatrick.

JM: Oh you didn't do Portpatrick.

00:33:26

DB: Although havin' said that wi' the telegrams, I ridden back and forrit on the motorbike, ye covered the whole area.

JM: Aye ye would cover the whole area, so, it was a big area.

DB: But yer restricted yer gaun as far as Glen Luce, no' the [?], ye covered a' that area.

JM: With telegrams?

DB: Wi' telegrams on the motorbike.

JM: That's a big area.

DB: Aye quite a distance ye had tae cover.

JM: What distances did you cover on the pushbike when you were younger?

DB: Aw well that's what I'm sayin', aw that wis nothin'. Used tae go away cyclin' fae what fourteen year old and I went away as far as New Galloway, on the Saturday efternoon went tae the hostel at ken, doon the youth hostel. Cycled fae...ken doon Dalry, across tae here and hame in the same day.

JM: *[Laughs]* That's a fair distance eh!

DB: I mean that's some...and the guys that I was wi' they were jist back oot the army and the navy, and I was only fourteen and they were in their twenties and a' the rest I was just a boy.

JM: And you were cylclin' wi' them.

DB: Well I couldny keep up wi' them, I had an auld wally bike wi' an aul' hub three speed thing, and what they used tae dae [they used tae] say look roond , "Where is he where is he," and they'd see me comin' away in the distance I 'd panier bags and every'hing on, and as soon as I got they just sit doon and waited, then as soon as I got up tae them away they went!

JM: So you never got a rest!

DB: Never got [*Laughs*]

JM: That's how you got good then!

DB: But the company bein' [ ? ] hadny a clue, wi' ken [ I could eat them, ken], after a wee while.

JM: Aye.

00:34:39

DB: But that was a' tae dae wi' the post office actually me on these big heavy bikes, jist constant.

JM: And you mended them as well didn't you?

DB: Aye, I got a job repairin' them like [ ? ]. Even yer van ye had tae dae yer ain punctures.

JM: Oh did you?

DB: Ye had tae dae ye rain maintenance ye had tae change the plugs. Ye had tae go underneath it on a [trolley] and grease.

JM: Uh huh, [ ? ], ye had to paint postboxes didn't you as well?

DB: Aye, painted telephone boxes aye. That wis just a part-time thing you got in between, on the holidays, y'naw? I've had some instances wi' the post boxes. Ye put red paint on soon as aw somebody come in and and then they...ye start talkin' [when the weather was great]. Yin woman come across yin day in the [?] she had a great [?] o' backin' horses, and come in and said, "Jist watch Bessie, jist watch when yer in there," "Aye it's a'right." She come back doon and she had this great big stripe right doon her [Jacket]! [*Laughter*] "Oh it'll no' me'er," she said!

JM: Red paint!

DB: The horses were mair important! Yin particular day, we were in Clackenmore, I'll never forget it, Tom Harvey. Well Tom did the inside which was the easiest bit because ye had a big black formica bit wi' the phone, and that's saved an affa lot o'

paint I did the outside bit, which was difficult, and I was up on the dome o' this box this particular day, jist [at the] crossroads, busy bit, [ ? ] and I seen the gamekeeper comin' doon, Jock Millar, oh an absolute nut he was, ken? Oh mad. And he...two or three trees and [he was lookin' across at me] and...I'm paintin' and [ ? ] BANG! And I pointed tae one o' these [parrots] gaun up on my heid I says, "Whit's gaun on there?"

JM: [ ? ]

DB: Aye! [ ? ] I said, "I'll no say what ye said!" I said, "Wait tae ye see this," I ken he's gonny be comin' roond tae go back hame.

JM: The gamekeeper guy? Aye Jock.

DB: So ah jumped aff the phone boax, and I lay in the middle o' the road, ken! [Laughter] And he come roond the corner, ye've never seen anybody getting' oot a Land Rover so quick, "I've shot ye I've shot ye!"

JM: Did he think he'd shot ye 'cause yer lyin' there!

00:36:42

DB: He thought...[Laughter] This is me jist kiddin' him on, but he [ ? ]. And I can hear this swish o' the [ ? ], aye.

JM: That's close then!

DB: Och the things that happened in the post itsel' was unreal.

JM: So how long were you in the...you were in the post office right from when you were little?

DB: Ah but then ye understand when I was what, mebbe...oh the time I did in Stranraer was maybe twenty-five year...no it widny be twenty-five year...naw but say twenty year in the town, but that wasny [jist the] town that was a' the different...daein a' the different duties. Doin' the harbour, transferrin' boats ontae the boats, it was dangerous job itsel'. Half past four, maybe gaun tae Newton Stewart pickin' up mail tae Carlisle, a' these different kinna...and then I got affered Murray's job at harbour it was a detached duty, and that meant ye worked [in a shop] but you were mair or less ye rain boss. I enjoyed it but it was a big change efter bein' made...ye jist seen the same folk. But the trouble was Arthur didny dae an affa loat, it was jist a wee run. When ah took over, they put they extended it a great big huge bit, so [by the ?] runnin' fae the mainland bay, richt up as far as Portpatrick almost, doon that particular bit o' the coast, ken the wey?

JM: Aye.

DB: Oh it wis some'hin'. Although...and they finished up when I retired, three postmen daein the run that I did.

JM: The one run that you did?

DB: Aye. Oh aye. And also when I was there there was...there was five different sub postmasters and three o' them got the sack for embezzlement!

JM: *[Laughs]*

DB: Four actually, and it was Mr Bruce, [ ? ], a great man, oh he was [ ? ] o' the county, well his daughter-in-law is now. He said, "David I want this post office kept on." Well I says, "Ye canny dae it in the shop." An aul' caravan he got doon the shore and that's what [ ? ] caravan [ ? ] A wee guy came fae Carlisle and they thought my run was far too big, although I managed it in time I had nae complaints and the people wereny complainin'. This guy'd come and tested me a wee fella. Although we were Stranraer, we were under Carlisle [ ? ] Edinburgh, but we're under Carlisle we got wir pay fae Carlisle, come in and he says tae me when I wis gaun roond on the run, and of course what ye dae in that particular case ye gaun tae places yer no in the habit o' gaun tae. Mebbe kinna derelict

00:39:16

places, but then again them places could be occupied durin' the summer, wi' visitors.

JM: To make your run longer?

DB: There's bits where I had tae walk doon Caringarroch Bay and a' the rest...

JM: Uh huh, 'cause you canny take a van?

DB: He says tae me about two o' clock, "Are we just aboot feenished." I said, "We're only half way roond the run! *[Laughter]*"

JM: He was wantin' away home!

DB: So, they come back and they recommendation was, split my run up intae sections, I was gonny lose the whole o'...ninety-five percent o' my run, gonny lose a' my customers and folk that I kent a' my days, send me away doon tae Drummore and back where I started. Now there's nothin' wrong wi' Drummore but there's nae way I was gonny be stuck what I did previous ken? So after that I just said well I'm sixty, I'm no gonny...no' only that there's three postmen younger than me that jist drapped deid wi heart-attacks so I says I want a wee bit pleasure in my retirement!

JM: You do aye!

DB: Well three o' them died quite young ken, aye.

JM: Uh huh. Just after they retired?

DB: Aye...wereny even retired!

JM: Oh were they no'?

DB: No! That's what I'm sayin', there's wee Henry McLaughin Walter Johnston and Benny, fae Castle Kennedy, you know he used tae stay in the station hoose?

JM: Aye.

DB: They a' went quick so they did.

JM: It kept ye fit though?

DB: I don't know how because it's a [healthy and fit] job, I mean yer at it the whole time.

JM: Aye cause Sandhead even walkin' Sandhead was a big...a big run.

00:40:33

DB: Aye, oh aye. Och [?] at Sandhead was unreal. But as I say, ye did but ye wereny allowed in them...be rules and regulations, but ye jist did yer ain thing. In fact I just about did everything but deliver letters! I've had bags o' coal, I've had livestock, I've had bales o' hay, in the back o' the van. Oh ye've nae idea.

JM: Aye 'cause you used to deliver some o' the messages for McKenzies up the road!

DB: Aye McKenzies! The first time I was in Drummore the very first dat I was on I didny ken the routine at a' [?] Jimmy McMillan, he sorted the mail on tap o' the sweeties, on the coonter! [Laughter] ken, and there's folk comin' in and they're pushin' their letters...

JM: ...letters to the side!

DB: [Laughs] Madness! And then they'd a...a wee bit they ca'd the King's [Hole on the Crossway], they used it on the Christmas time...

JM: That's the place wi' the King's [?].

DB: The end's goin' the wrong way that's right aye. But there was nae heatin' and I think it was an earthen [?] I canny even mind, but I can remember, I goes oot the back you know the back doors [?] lyin' wide open, and this wee guy's busy, puttin' boxes and boxes o' messages in. I said, "What's gaun on here?" This was McGraw's

the grocer this was wee...oh a very nice wee...but he didny know he [was just back] in the shop. Oh he says, "This is part o' yer job, deliver groceries!"

JM: Deliver groceries!

DB: I did that fir McKenzie['n a' the rest.] But the folk were very very good. Well it wasny really that when ye finished, maybe half-past two or two o'clock, ye come intae the toon, and it'd take me about an oor tae go roond the shops daein messages for [delivery folk]. Some'hing like that ye need tae ask yer mum.

JM: Uh huh pay the milk or papers aye!

DB: [ ? ].

JM: 'Cause I do remember ye used to send Elaine and I sometimes, tae pay folks gas, or their coal at the Co-op, for folk on yer run as well. They were very trustin'.

DB: I went up one day tae this particular place we didny know...well it's...Andy Frame the wee fella that stayed there, and a great big pet, aw a lamb, it was a Chee...was a very big big sheep, but awfu' pettit. And of course...he repaired motorbikes for [?], so he says, "If I'm no' there, just leave it across what used tae be the old dairy." So I pit this big parcel doon, and go doon the road there's [another byroad] I didny like gaun tae the place onyway, jist no' far fae Betty

00:42:51

McCombe used tae stay, and hears this 'Mehhh!', I looks roond and here's this blinkin' thing lookin' me right in the face! [*Laughter*] I had tae about turn and go away back up the road and what a job I had haulin' it oot.

JM: A big sheep!

DB: Aye, be wantin' tae gaun wi' me. I had tae tak it back!

JM: A pet sheep!

DB: Worse than that there's folk Dyer, [ ? ] Dougie Dyer and the wife a retired joiner awfa nice folk, and their au'd dog ca'd 'Darkie', a big black lab [ ? ]. But he'd walk doon fae the wee hoose every time ah stopped at the road the main road, and he always had tae pee against ma wheel, ken this was part o' his procedure. So here this day, I'd actually left the door open I forgot, jumps in I'm up the road and I'm headin' [ ? ] and I feels this thing on the back ' my neck, and I turned roond and here's the dog lookin' straight...

JM: Ye Brought the dog wi' ye!

DB: ...jumped in, sittin' beside me!

JM: Takin' a run in the van!

DB: Just about went intae a hedge. But the worse [?] I ever hud was a Saturday, and that's no' lang well a wee while before I retired. I was comin'...I was up at the high arable, and Botany Bay as they talk aboot well I keep sayin' they [?] ye, Botany Bay, and this is old Cissy Gibson says, "Davy. Come to see you." I says, "No, I'm gaun tae the fitba." "On ye go then on ye go if that's the way ye on ye go." And I'm comin' up...Eddie Brayan stayed at these two cottages at one time, comin' up the road a mini-van if anything, it lasts a month on the road, because the big high ridges on the road there nae way a mini-van would ever survive.

JM: And go over those country roads no.

DB: The whole bottom was just aboot worn oot it, and in fact they used tae put plate a metal plate tae save the sump, on this thing. And here, I come out and I [?] the [bags] are like that, and Davy McGraw was the [?] he's an absolute nut he was, a big hill and hunter a huge big car, and away in the dip...come ower the brae o' the hill and he's gaun that hard he actually thought he was in thon rally things.

JM: The Dukes of Hazzard, takin' off!

DB: [He's aff] the groond like that and I thought, oh no, I says what dae I dae here I couldny, I braked as hard as I could and I just...'BUJOOM!'. And the next thing I

00:44:57

come tae I was lying away doon and I looked...my front wheel was gone and half the engine was gone.

JM: Oh gracious dad.

DB: And here's this buddy..."Davy, Davy, are ye a'richt?" "No," I says, "I'm dead!" [Laughter] I says, "Whaurs your car," he says, "Upside doon in the field!" [Laughter] A write off.

JM: Oh was it?

DB: Aye, mine was almost was almost a write off too but they put a new engine, but they never gied me it back. He paid it actually within three weeks, it was his fau't. He was doin' aboot sixty mile an oor. And there's nae way he could miss me! I mean I couldny get aff the road and I couldny even get up the bank. So [ ? ], I got a brand new Bedford van, and the very first day I had it on the what they ca' the Black Brae, on this particular farm I'll no' mention the name [ ? ], what an absolute nut he was, and he'd this wee...and I seen him and the road was like gaun along the shore and a' this boulders. And here I sees 'im comin' oot the ferm, and he's lookin' a' roond aboot him, daein every'hing but watchin' the road. I said this guys gonny hit me! Ken

the road was quite wide but it's a' big bricks. So I slammed it intae reverse...made nae diff...he come BAM!

JM: He still hit you, you were in reverse!

DB: Whipped the wing richt aff, and he looked down [*makes sobbing noise*], he couldny speak tae save him. [ and then he run away], so, I'm away back tae his wife, and she's quite a nice biddy, [I used tae ? ] ken, so phoned the garage and I got the head mechanic Jackie Thompson, "Aw," he says, "Jist pit it doon, no problem." I says "Nae way am I puttin' [ ? ] 'cause I'll be held responsible, there had tae be damage, and the mair [crash in the AA, ], they take ye aff the drivin' and pit ye back on the walkin' duty. Practically one guy had three crashes in a week and he's back walkin' within a week! [*Laughter*]. But anyway, Jackie Thompson actually come in and he bought his assistant Flash, Flash Gordon came wi' 'im, and they couldny believe hoo he'd hit me, ye could've passed a double decker bus on the other side.

JM: Well if you were in reverse as well!

DB: Aye reverse and he still hit me!

JM: Tryin' to get away from him!

DB: Jackie said, "Wait tae ye see this." He goes in and he tries the handbrake he'd nae handbrake. He jumped in [?] he couldny hae stopped in ony case, it's a wee Morris pick-up.

00:47:12

JM: And he didn't have any brakes?

DB: Nah! But funny 'hing was, he never paid nothing. But he did pey for the damage tae that thingmy.

JM: Oh did he?

DB: Because he'd [ ? ] maybe six months previous tae that, and he's fu', [ ? ] and he's comin' through my [boat] and he ripped the side oot o' three cars! [*Laughs*] And the [ ? ], and he got away wi' that. Oh he had tae pay for a' the cars right enough but!

JM: So you had a Bedford, you had a Mini?

DB: A Bedford a Mini a Morris Thousand and a Ford I'd probably different...aw no and a [?], six different vans. And they're a stationed roond the back o' the...the only trouble wis I had tae pay my ain transport tae get tae Ardwell which is ten bleedin' mile. But the van stayed roond the back...

JM: Of the shop in Ardwell?



DB: Aye, [ ? there's nae much shunterin'] away up in thingmy. And then latterly the last three year, they decided tae...I was still detached but operated fae Stranraer which I should o' done in the first place, ken?

JM: Aye, so you could take the van from Stranraer in the mornin' with the mail already sorted?

DB: Aye. Well it cost me a fortune I had tae...I think it'd be about five or six different cars I had mysel'. But it's cost me a fortune to run back and forrit, ken? And [ye] had tae pay their ain way. There was an agreement but the done thing wis yer supposed tae mair or less stay at Ardwell, ken the rest o' the year, but there was nae way I was gonny go oot and stay in Ardwell, no no.

JM: But one day it was snow you took my bike didn't you?

DB: Aye I took the bike, och it was [silly].

JM: Determined tae get the mail through!

DB: Another incident that I shouldny really tell ye about I shouldny mention names either, but Jim McMillan, he's some [kid], he used tae be a sortin' clerk, in Stranraer [ ? ] tae, and he'd be...be sortin' the mail on top o' the thingmy.

JM: All the sweeties.

00:49:05

DB: So this particular day, I'd only half an oor tae get fae Drummore tae Stranraer that was true and there's a wee Morris...a wee three wheeled...a wee three speed gearbox, three speed gearbox and rubber wings, they ca'd it the dartboard there was three-oh-one was the number o' it. A wee Morris [Eight], a wee tiny thing, and oh useless, but you could maybe get sixty oot o' it if ye were lucky. But ye'd only half an oor tae get fae Drummore tae Stranraer, [which is quite] a challenge.

JM: That's goin' quite fast!

DB: And also ye had tae stop at Sandhead and pick up mail.

JM: That's goin' awful fast.

DB: So this particular day, two o' clock, Jim McMillan says, "The police wants tae see [ ? ] ken he wants tae see ye." Well this is maybe quarter tae twa, he says, "Ye couldny give me a lift intae the town?" "Oh," I said, "Aye, but understand ye'll be sittin' on a bag of a kinna..."

JM: So there was only one seat in the van then?

DB: Aye only one seat.

JM: For the driver.

DB: Ye had a kinna partition behind you with kinna mesh wire, stop the mail fae comin' on tap o' ye and flattenin' ye!

JM: Hittin' ye in the head, aye!

DB: So [he] said, "I'm gaun intae the police station tae change my uniform." "Oh," I says, "Well that's ok," but I says, "You realize I'll be tootin' on a wee bit?" "Don't worry about it," he says. So here [I'm] comin' along the [?] Bay the strait what they ca' the [?] or the Balgowan Strait. And I'd be up tae aboot sixty by this time, and I can distinctly remember, it was a Vidor battery van, you know like you've heard o' Vidor Battery van, in front o' me, and it was tootin' on, so I was want tae pass it, and we're comin' up tae near the [?] ken?

JM: That's the end o' the street i'n't it?

DB: Aye, just [?]. He says tae me, "See when ye pass this guy?" I says, "Aye?" "Slow down." I says, "Whit for!" "I'm gonny have him for speedin'!" I says, "What!" I says, "What d'ye think I'm daein!" [Laughter] I says, "Listen, if ah stop, ye can stand there for I'm no' waitin'!" He never spoke a word the whole [time?], he was fair hoppin' mad, but onyhow...

JM: Stopped for speedin' by a postman!

00:51:04

DB: Aye! So roonabout a fortnight efter, the same thing. What had actually happened I remember a' this, I think a blizzard had come on I was wi' [?] Clark he'd [been away at the very top] the very back shore, and [McColl's bank] Clarky had a puncture o' a' things, [?]. So I goes up, and he says, "Have ye lost any'hing?"

JM: Is this the policeman yeah, [?].

DB: I said, "Oh as far as I ken this is ma spare wheel," somebody must hae come out and must hae [pit it what was covered in sna' and] handed it intae the police station, and it was ken, painted red and 'GPO' stamped on it. I said, "Definitely no' mine!" [Laughter] I thought he was gonny hit me! He's a decent sowel so he was, aye.

JM: Aye?

DB: Ach somebody says I 'hink he's still...no I think he died...I'm no' just sure. But many a laugh ye used tae get.

JM: Aye. Well dad I think maybe that's that, thank you very much indeed for tellin' us all your stories, I hope to goodness I've pressed the record button!

DB: Could o' telt ye about five hunner mair I could o' kept ye here a' day wi a' the things..the lighthouse and a' the yins...

JM: What about the lighthouse?

DB: Oh well Mr Leslie, well you can't [ ? ] oh that was Leslie this was Mr Sinclair previous to him.

JM: What lighthouse is that? Is that Corsewall or...?

DB: Corsewall, aye, [I had a couple o' yins at Drummore tae but he was, ?, Mr Sinclair]. He says. "I'm goin' away for a fortnight holidays, understand..." He says...he was the head keeper. He says, "[ ? ] it's up tae yersel'" he said these, the two other keepers. So here was a horrible couple arrived fae Isle o' Man, Mr and Mrs [?], nae family or nothin', and of course [ ? ] and his wife a great big big powerful built woman. So I goes in [?] that day, knocks on the..."Come in Davy, ye wantin' a cup o' tea?" "Naw," I says, "I'm ok," and I gie them the mail. And this opens across the passageway, and they say, "I beg your pardon," she says, "What do you think you're doing?" This is to me. I says, "Whit?" "My husband is second in command, just bring the mail across here to me." [ ? ] swiped gaun [*Makes grunting noise*].

JM: Shoved you out the way.

DB: Pushed me tae the grund [? she gaun] BOOM! This woman gied away back...

JM: Oh did she hit her!

DB: Oh she didny half hit her. BOOMF! [Wummin's] lyin' on the ground!

JM: You've been pushed to the ground and...

DB: "Hoo are you talkin'...?" And the sad thing was they had three weans, and they were moved...Mr Sinclair, I had tae tell them he said, "Davy tell me the truth, I'm gonny [?]." "Well," I says, "She antagonized the woman onyways." And he says...no a particularly nice woman, he says, "That's beside the point," he says! But onywey, they got moved maybe a month or twa, otherwise they still could hae been there.

JM: Did you no' say somethin' about the lighthouse guy, did he not fall off paintin' the lighthouse?

DB: Aye that a fella called [Arbor Legg], now an awfa nice big big...

JM: Arbor Legg?!

DB: Albert.

JM: Oh Albert! Arbor Legg! *[Laughs]*

DB: He'd be about...eighteen stane, well built. And in them days, they used the boson's chair, ken that wee...

JM: Tae the lighthouse?

DB: Aye. And now ropes, well [?] ropes had been corroded wi ken the rods through the time? And I can remember comin' away, and he'd be about halfway doon the lichthoose, and I peeped the horn and he's gaun like this wi' the brush tae me. [Ye must o' recollect man fallin' fae the lighthouse aw naw] and this was [?], and come doon and the seat, the wooden seat he was sittin' in, hit the stane dyke wa', and catapult him intae the marsh there wasny a scratch on him.

JM: Oh did it!

DB: And there's nothin' but rocks on the marsh, and he landed in between where there's nae rocks.

JM: Good grief he was lucky.

DB: Forty-five fit it's a fair height.

JM: Oh it isny half. And Corsewall's quite a tall lighthouse as well.

00:54:52

DB: It's taller than actually, it's actually taller than the Mull o' Galloway, the Mull o' Galloway it sits high, that could be about another twenty fit maybe mair, Corsewall, it's just 'cause it's in a low...

JM: It's sittin' low down, it's a taller lighthouse.

DB: I'd better switch this off now dad, thank you very much indeed, and I shall press the button.

*[They discuss switching machine off]*

00:55:23